

## **CBSG North America Activities Report**

CBSG North America came into being in early March 2013. It is hosted by the St. Louis Zoo and co-convened by Anne Baker, Ph.D., retired Director of the Toledo Zoo and currently an Adjunct Research Associate at the St. Louis Zoo; and Philip Nyhus, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Colby College. Geographically, CBSG North America includes Canada and the United States of America.

The mission of CBSG North America is to increase the effectiveness of species conservation efforts by:

- facilitating and promoting collaboration among conservation stakeholders: North American zoos and aquariums, the IUCN/SSC Specialist groups, conservation NGO's, the academic community, and government entities;
- assisting in the assessment of risks to threatened and endangered populations;
- increasing awareness of the PHVA process and facilitating its use in conservation planning;
- expanding participation of North American zoos and aquariums, the academic community, wildlife agencies, SSC taxon specialist groups, and other interested parties in the work of CBSG;
- providing training in facilitation and modeling for species risk assessments and conservation planning;
- providing assistance to the CBSG staff that supports their efforts to develop and test new conservation management tools;
- working collaboratively with other CBSG regional networks.

Much of the initial work of CBSG North America has focused on getting the network up and running. One of the co-conveners participated in the CBSG Regional Network meeting held in Minneapolis in March and as an observer in a USFWS Recovery Planning Workshop for Sonoran pronghorn antelope in June. CBSG North America will moderate a symposium at the AZA Annual Meeting in September entitled "New and Evolving Tools for Conservation Planning and Assessment of Intensively Managed Populations" that will focus on the PHVA and metamodeling processes. The St. Louis Zoo, CBSG, and CBSG North America will be hosting a Facilitation and Communication Training Course in early December.