

2012 Annual Meeting in Melbourne



This year's meeting benefited from the input and expertise of 102 participants from 19 countries, representing zoos and aquariums, field conservation, SSC specialist groups, government organizations, the scientific community, and academia. Memorable plenary talks and dynamic working group sessions highlighted the importance of integrating the One Plan Approach to species conservation planning into all facets of our work. We added new activities like a participatory World Café session and the use of TED talks to help inspire new ideas. Onnie Byers presented our former chair Bob Lacy with the 2012 Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation. Thanks to all who attended, and we hope you plan to join us next year for the 2013 Annual Meeting at Disney in Orlando, Florida!

For working group reports, photos, and a full report of the Annual Meeting, please look for our newsletter, *CBSG News*, in January 2013.

Fabiana Lopes Rocha Joins the CBSG Brasil Network

B.S. in Veterinary Medicine, 2002; M.S. in Ecology and Conservation, 2006.



I am a Brazilian wildlife veterinarian passionate about ecology and parasitology. For my master's degree, I studied the spatial ecology and habitat selection of three medium-sized carnivores in the Pantanal Wetland. I am finishing my Ph.D. in parasite biology, which focuses on the role of wild carnivores in the transmission cycles of *Trypanosoma cruzi* and *Leishmania spp.* in three areas of Brazil. My work includes capturing and monitoring wild carnivore species as well as laboratory diagnostics at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation. I am also a member of the Brazilian Institute of Conservation Medicine (Tríade), an NGO that promotes interaction among human, wildlife, and ecosystem health. During my work in Pantanal (2003-2006), I met Dr Arnaud Desbiez of CBSG Brasil. In 2007, he invited me to attend a facilitation course in São Paulo, where I was first introduced to CBSG. In 2010, I was invited to participate as facilitator in a PHVA workshop of several fish species of São Francisco River. I am very interested in integrating species conservation planning and disease risk assessment.

Meet CBSG Brasil's other new addition, Katia Ferraz, in the upcoming December eUpdate.

CBSG eUpdate: October 2012

Contributors: Onnie Byers, Phil Miller, Fabiana Lopes Rocha, Jorge Rodríguez, Kathy Traylor-Holzer

Editor: Emily Wick

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Yellow-Shouldered Blackbird and Shiny Cowbird PHVA // Kathy Traylor-Holzer

The yellow-shouldered blackbird (*Agelaius xanthomus*) population has declined by more than 50% since 2004, leaving fewer than 400 individuals in southwestern Puerto Rico. While many factors such as habitat conversion contributed to this decline, a primary threat stems from brood parasitism by the invasive shiny cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*), which reduces blackbird reproductive success.



Photo: Mike Morel/USFWS

From 28-31 August, CBSG facilitated a PHVA workshop in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico to create a management plan for the yellow-shouldered blackbird with the help of complex metamodeling tools. In preparation for the PHVA, CBSG and experts on the biology and management of both species met twice in Puerto Rico and collaborated electronically to create Vortex population viability analysis (PVA) models for both species. These single-species models were linked to create a two-species metamodel, which allows assessment of the impact of shiny cowbird population abundance and management on yellow-shouldered blackbirds.

In addition to the threat posed by shiny cowbirds, the workshop participants identified climatic factors, human activities, and other species interactions that jeopardize the viability of this Endangered blackbird species. Several high priority goals were identified that target improving blackbird reproductive success (e.g., increased foraging habitat, improved artificial nest structures), reducing sources of mortality, and reducing the impact of invasive species, including the shiny cowbird. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources plan to implement many of the recommended management actions by the next breeding season. For CBSG, this project represents a milestone in two-species metamodel development to better address the challenges of managing harmful invasive species.

IUCN World Conservation Congress // Onnie Byers

At the end of each quadrennium, IUCN hosts the World Conservation Congress, the world's largest conservation event. The 2012 WCC in Jeju, Korea, was an incredibly intense meeting with more than 8,000 people participating and 150 events held per day. One of the many highlights for CBSG was our workshop, held in collaboration with the SSC Species Conservation Planning Subcommittee and a session on the Green List. CBSG's session introduced our One Plan Approach to species conservation planning to the IUCN community. Christoph Schwitzer (Bristol Zoo, UK) described our philosophy of integrated conservation planning for a species both inside and outside its natural range, and under all conditions of management, engaging all responsible parties and all available resources. This was followed by an example of the OPA in action ([video](#)). It was an excellent opportunity to share what we believe will enhance global collaboration and communication in species conservation planning, accelerate the evolution of species conservation planning tools, and contribute significantly to achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Other significant WCC news:

- Mr Zhang Xinsheng was elected IUCN President.
- Simon Stuart was reelected Chairman of the SSC.
- John Robinson (WCS) was elected to IUCN Council.
- The IUCN Strategic Plan and the SSC/Global Species Program Strategic Plan for 2013-2016 were approved. CBSG will use these plans to guide our work over the next four years.
- Bob Lacy was formally announced winner of the 2012 George Rabb Award.
- George Rabb was honored by the IUCN president for his contribution to IUCN.



CBSG members and colleagues gathered for a photo with SSC Chairman Simon Stuart.

For more on the Congress, visit <http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/>

XVI Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation // Jorge Rodríguez

In 2011, CBSG Mesoamerica was invited to facilitate a PHVA workshop for Caribbean manatee populations. This workshop was organized to follow up on actions proposed in the 2004 Costa Rican Manatee PHVA. Several participants wanted to present the 2011 PVA results at events in the region to gain broader support for the PHVA's management actions. Toward that end, Stefan Arriaga from Tabasco University, Mexico, presented the PHVA summary (written by Jorge Rodríguez) at the XVI Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation in Panama City, Panama, from 17-21 September. Dr Arriaga, who has been actively supporting CBSG Mesoamerica and CBSG Mexico, also gave the 20 attendees an introduction to how CBSG contributes to species conservation worldwide. PHVA participants will continue to seek out similar opportunities to share the workshop results to further contribute to manatee conservation efforts in the region.

Eastern Barred Bandicoot Conservation Planning Workshop // Kathy Traylor-Holzer

Habitat loss, drought, and especially predation by introduced red foxes resulted in dramatic declines in the mainland subspecies of the Eastern barred bandicoot (EBB) (*Perameles gunnii*), finally leading to extinction in the wild by 2002. Efforts to recover EBBs with periodic releases into multiple release sites have met with limited success. CBSG facilitated a conservation planning workshop for recovery team members and other experts on 30 September to 2 October at the Melbourne Zoo to discuss future management options as part of an integrated conservation plan for EBBs. A primary focus of this workshop was to discuss and assess potential future meta-population management strategies for demographic rescue and retention of genetic diversity in the face of both climatic catastrophes (i.e., drought, fire) and invasive predators (e.g., red foxes, cats). Potential inbreeding impacts are also a concern, as the *ex situ* source population is estimated to be derived from no more than 19 founders. Initial Vortex models are being refined to incorporate all of these impacts. These models will help guide the recovery team in working toward the vision identified at the workshop: to maintain multiple genetically viable population strongholds for EBBs with limited management and improved conservation status.

Photo: Zoos Victoria



Upcoming Activities



Western Pond Turtle PHVA // Phil Miller

The western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), found in parts of Oregon, Washington, and California, has been classified as Endangered since 1993, when the wild population in Washington state declined to 150 animals. Habitat degradation, disease, and predation by invasive bullfrogs were identified as primary threats to the species. For the past 20 years, Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo—in collaboration with Oregon Zoo, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service—has led a head-starting program in which turtle eggs are collected from the wild, hatchlings are reared over the winter in controlled conditions, and juveniles are released back into wild habitats. As a result of this intensive recovery effort, researchers estimate the population in Washington to be at least 1,500 individuals.



Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife

Project managers are interested in a new and comprehensive evaluation of the project to, among other goals, assess threats to the species with the best available scientific information and tools. To initiate and inform this effort, the Woodland Park Zoo invited CBSG to design and facilitate a PHVA workshop with members of Washington's Western Pond Turtle Recovery Team and associated species experts and stakeholders. The workshop will be held 13-15 November 2012 in Olympia, WA.

Workshop on Conserving Prairie Endemic Butterflies of Minnesota // Phil Miller

Native tall-grass prairie once covered about one third of the state of Minnesota. Less than 1% of that native prairie remains today, threatening many wildlife species that depend on this fragile habitat. The Minnesota Zoo is developing a program to study prairie butterflies of Minnesota and the upper Midwest and promote their conservation. The zoo has asked CBSG to provide guidance in the use of population viability models to explore demographic drivers of butterfly population growth and to identify the best management strategies to minimize risk of local extinction. In early 2013, a workshop will be held at the Minnesota Zoo, where species experts will gather to assemble existing information, discuss conservation status, and develop specific objectives and success criteria for this imperiled species.