

CBSG UPDATE



February 2008

Member Updates

CBSG News

The newest issue of *CBSG News* is now available on the [CBSG website](#). This issue contains working group reports from the 2007 CBSG Annual Meeting in Budapest.

2008 CBSG Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will be held in Adelaide, Australia on 16-19 October. For more details, please visit the [Annual Meeting website](#) (a link is also provided from the CBSG website). We hope to see you all in Adelaide!

CBSG Member Survey

We will be sending an online survey to all of our members this week. Your input is very important to CBSG, and we hope you will take the time to participate in the survey.



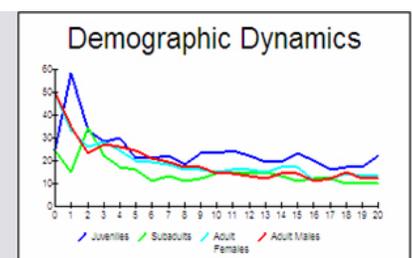
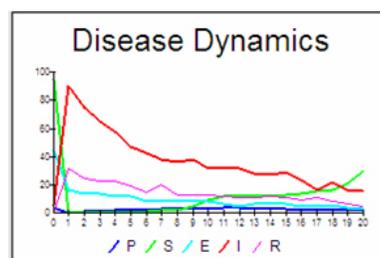
Recent Workshops

International Conference on India's Conservation Breeding Initiative

At the 2007 CBSG Annual Meeting, Dr. Brij Sharma, Member Secretary of the Central Zoo Authority of India, described an ambitious and praise-worthy plan for India's zoos to establish conservation breeding programs for many threatened Indian species. Sixty-one candidate species have been identified, although initial efforts will likely target a smaller number. An international conference was held in New Dehli, India, in February 2008 to initiate this process, which will likely result in major changes for India's zoos and promote collaborations both within India and globally on behalf of species conservation. About 50 zoo directors and other senior officials from about 20 countries discussed the status of *ex situ* and *in situ* populations of candidate species and opportunities for collaboration, and made recommendations that will guide the next steps of this process.

Metamodel Development Meeting

As part of our long-term Biocomplexity research project, a group of CBSG staff and other collaborators gathered recently at the Brookfield Zoo to continue development of a suite of what we call "metamodels". These metamodels are individual computer simulation programs that link together to provide a more realistic and informative picture of the risks faced by small populations of endangered species. In addition to Vortex, our popular software for conducting population viability analysis, other components of this suite include: Outbreak, a model of wildlife disease epidemiology; Spatial, a simulation of animal movement across a landscape; and a prototype module that simulates the complex social breeding structure of golden-headed lion tamarins in Brazil. We have succeeded in creating our first functioning metamodels, and we are very excited about the future of this project. Stay tuned for more details!



Red-Headed Wood Pigeon PHVA

The Japanese red-headed wood pigeon (*Columba janthina nitens*) is confined to the isolated Ogasawara Islands, about 1000km southeast of Tokyo, Japan. The larger islands have been colonized by humans for more than a century, and domestic cats have become a major threat to the native pigeons. Estimates indicate that fewer than 100 birds remain in the wild, scattered among a handful of islands. A captive population exists among zoos on mainland Japan, but is too small to be of significant conservation value.

A PHVA for this species was held on Chichi-Jima island, in January 2008. Nearly 120 people participated in the full three-day workshop. Modeling focused on factors affecting the demographic rates of the wild population as well as the genetic and demographic needs of the small captive population and how it may best serve as an insurance population should wild birds decline to a critically low number. A working group discussed an effective feral cat control program, with the participation of both the scientific community and local island inhabitants. CBSG Japan did an outstanding job of organizing and hosting this workshop, which was an important contribution to the long-term conservation of this species.



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Indonesian Gibbon Conservation Workshop

Seven gibbon taxa are distributed across Kalimantan, Java, Sumatra and the Mentawai Islands of Indonesia, all of which were recently reassessed as Endangered using IUCN Red List criteria. In February 2008, CBSG facilitated a conservation and management workshop for all Indonesian gibbon species in Sukabumi, West Java, in conjunction with the Indonesian Primatology Association and PHKA (Indonesian Forestry Department) and funded by the Perth Zoo. This workshop built upon past primate workshops and conservation assessments and developed a framework to guide future conservation efforts for gibbons in Indonesia, both *in situ* and *ex situ*.

Population Management and Modeling Training in Indonesia

In mid-February, CBSG staff conducted a two-day seminar at Taman Safari Indonesia in conjunction with CBSG Indonesia and CBSG Japan. About 35 representatives from zoos, forestry and academia participated in discussions on *ex situ* population management, studbook management, population viability analysis, and facilitation skills. Additional time was spent working with Noviar Andayani (Vortex modeling) and Ligaya Tumbelaka (population management training) from CBSG Indonesia as part of our continuing efforts in capacity building among our CBSG national and regional networks.



Upcoming Workshops

Studbook and Population Management Training

In late March CBSG and CBSG Europe will conduct a three-day training course at the Singapore Zoo as part of its Zoo Biology curriculum for zookeepers, curators, records staff, and regional studbook keepers. Topics will focus on records, studbooks and *ex situ* population management.



Amphibian Conservation Update

Amphibian Ark

Click on the Amphibian Ark logo to visit their website for updates on amphibian conservation efforts worldwide.



amphibian ark
2008 YEAR OF THE FROG

Amphibian Biology and Conservation

It is widely understood that 30% of amphibian species are threatened with extinction. South Asia is home to more than 350 species of amphibians, many of which are threatened by habitat loss and disease. In December 2007, CBSG South Asia staff helped the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust conduct an Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation course in Periyar, India. The seven-day course brought together 30 participants from 5 countries, studying global and regional diversity, status, prioritization, threats, diseases, husbandry, education and research techniques. The objective of the course was to identify and network serious amphibian biologists in various organizations of the region to be prepared to take quick action to conserve amphibians if the need arises.



Mexican Amphibian Prioritization Workshop

In February 2008, CBSG Mexico staff conducted a workshop to set conservation priorities for many of the amphibian species native to Mexico. This workshop brought together amphibian researchers from throughout Mexico, and the participants prioritized the species that are classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable. There are 363 amphibian species native to Mexico, and 60% of those species are endemic to the country. Mexico has the second-highest number of threatened amphibian species of any country in the world.