

IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group Strategic Meeting and Annual Meeting held at Disneyland's Boardwalk Resort Conference Center



About half the attendees visible in a photo of the CBSG Strategic Meeting. It is conducted bi-annually at the annual and mid-year meeting. Below: Onnie Byers, CBSG Chair, facilitates the meeting.



Costa Riccan government zoo closure

After formalities of introductions and announcements, the first topic taken up was a Report on the policy of Costa Rica regarding zoo closure. Yolanda Matamoros related what steps she has taken to deal with this bizarre situation. The government plans to take the animals and release them into forested areas. This is not a good solution as the animals are accustomed to captivity and they will find it difficult to survive in the wild.

Next session included updates including the Global Conservation Network, CBSG North America, the Regional Networks meeting held in January this year, Communications and Species Conservation Planning. Co-chairs of the new CBSG North America related some of the activities of the newest CBSG Network.

There was a report from the Branding Task Force led by Jo Gipps and Elizabeth Townsend. Later there was a discussion on CBSG's contributions to the IUCN SSC / Global Species program Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Several collaborations were discussed including RARE, IFAW, *Ex Situ* Guidelines, CBSG's Climate Initiatives and Recovery Planning. In the afternoon the Strategic Framework Discussion and also Rethinking Conservation Goals on Rotoroa Island. The meeting wound up traditionally by discussing the Next "BIG IDEA" and calling for success stories before the meeting was adjourned.

A welcome reception hosted by SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment for CBSG at 6pm in the amazing "Discovery Cove". SeaWorld has created an marvellous and educative environment. "Cast" members from Disney led us around the facility after everyone ate entirely too much and had a great time.

CBSG Annual Meeting Highlights, 2013

The theme of the meeting was "Facilitating a Climate Change Movement" and much of the meeting was devoted to this topic. CBSG's Climate Change initiatives included the following topics pertinent to Climate Change:

- Focusing the energy of the CBSG community on solutions to the growing threat of climate change (Onnie Byers)
- CBSG Science Advisor: Metamodel Manager meets Climate Change Crisis (Bob Lacy)
- 10:00am – 10:30am Break: Marvin Gardens Lobby
- 10:30am – 12:00noon Plenary Activity: Climate Change "Story Training" (Phil Aroneanu)
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Facilitating a Climate Change Movement (Phil Aroneanu, Co-founder 350.org)
- EAZA's Pole to Pole Campaign (Lesley Dickie)
- AZA's Climate Change Initiative (Debi Luke)
- Carbon Offset Initiative (Gerald Dick)



Left : Lena Linden seems delighted by these lovely birds. Birds of many kinds enjoyed the treats keepers gave us to feed them.

- Structured Brainstorming: The CBSG Community's Response to Climate Change
- (Greening Your Portfolio, Greening Your Institution, Educating Your Multiple Constituencies, Capturing Your Climate Change Creativity)
- Plenary Session: Introduction to Meeting Format, Instructions, and Working Group Topics
- Greening your Portfolio (Phil Aroneanu, Onnie Byers)
- Climate Change Education/Interpretation (Lesley Dickie, Debi Luke)
- Greening your Institution (Gerald Dick, Jo Gipps)



Afterwards there were some descriptions of projects using the One Plan approach.

- The Aquariums of the Future: One Plan Approach (Brad Andrews)
- Prioritizing for Conservation: Zoos Saving AZE Species (Onnie Byers, John Fa)
- An Institutional Application of the One Plan Approach to Conservation Planning (Christoph Schwitzer, Bryan Carroll)
- A Data Management Application of the One Plan approach: Linking *In Situ* and *Ex Situ* Data Management for Conservation (Karin Schwartz)
- Horizon Scanning for Zoos and Aquariums (Markus Gusset)
- Collaborating to Improve Species Recovery Planning (Madelon Willemson)
- CBSG North America (Anne Baker, Phil Nyhus)
- Working Groups then Free Evening



Following day featured

- C2S2 (Robin Sawyer)
- EAZA's shark squalene initiative (Lesley Dickie)
- Amphibian Ark: 5 years of Progress Since Year of the Frog (Ron Gagliardo, Lena Lindén)
- Working Groups rest of the day with lunch and breaks.



Last day

- Announcement of 2014 Annual Meeting (B.S. Bonal, Central Zoo Authority, India)
- TED Talk
- **Working Groups**
- 10am Break Available: Marvin Gardens Lobby
- **Plenary Session with Working Group Reporting Presentations and Discussion:**
 - o An Institutional Application of the One Plan Approach to Conservation Planning
 - o A Data Management Application of the One Plan approach: Linking *In Situ* and *Ex Situ* Data Management for Conservation
 - o Horizon Scanning for Zoos and Aquariums
 - o Collaborating to Improve Species Recovery Planning
 - o CBSG North America

Closing Remarks

Following the meeting was a free afternoon at Disney's Animal Kingdom followed by a Reception at Caravan Stage & Farewell Dinner at Harambe Village,

Happy Birthday to Editor !



During lunch on 12th October, the writer was struck with shock and awe when the whole CBSG meeting attendees stopped eating, delivered a (cup) cake complete with candle and sang Happy Birthday to me. The "cake" was a little short, being a cupcake (a rather substantial cupcake, but it did the job and I ate it all! Thanks to CBSG for remembering my 69th BD.