

CBSG Steering Committee Meeting Notes, 1 October 2009

Steering Committee Members: Brad Andrews, Evan Blumer, Jeffrey Bonner, Amy Camacho, Bill Conway, James Cretney, Arnaud Desbiez, Nate Flesness, Jo Gipps, Heribert Hofer, Bengt Holst, Lena Linden, Yolanda Matamoros, Gordon McGregor Reid, George Rabb, Christian Schmidt, Lee Simmons, Rebecca Soileau, Miranda Stevenson, Yasumasa Tomita, Sally Walker, Dan Wharton, Jonathan Wilcken *Observers: Onnie Byers, Frands Carlsen, Luis Carrillo, Susie Ellis, Alejandro Grajal, Bob Lacy, Kristin Leus, Virginia Lindgren, Linda Malek, Phil Miller, Kanako Nishimoto, Jorge Rodriguez, Elizabeth Townsend, Kathy Traylor-Holzer, Kris Vehrs, Kevin Zippel*

Amphibian Ark update

Chytrid is still a major threat to amphibian populations and understanding of the fungus continues to evolve. However, chytrid is continuing to spread in places we hoped it would not show up. A good news is that chytrid appears to have been in Asia since 1901, so it may not be so devastating in Asia as elsewhere it has been.

Recent AArk events and stats:

- Since 2004, AArk has conducted 24 training courses in 13 countries, with 1,000+ students trained in husbandry
- 16 countries and regions have been prioritized and the IUCN has agreed to incorporate AArk prioritization into the Red List process.
- 95 of the estimated 500 species that need to be brought into captivity have been.
- AArk has a seed grant program to support amphibian conservation.
- A new AArk membership drive has seen many people sign up for AArk info and newsletters.

Re-structuring of CBSG Committees

Advisory Group

CBSG has an excellent Steering Committee and our regional networks manage operations very well, but there is a gap in monthly mid-range guidance. A small Advisory Group has been created to fill this mid-range guidance gap. The group --Jon Ballou, Jeffery Bonner, J. Gipps, H. Hofer, Bengt Holst, P. McGowan, P. Medici, F. Westley, and J. Wilcken--had its first electronic meeting.

Steering Committee/Strategic Committee

The Steering Committee and the Strategic Associates have been combined into a new group called the Strategic Committee to provide long-term strategic thinking and direction for CBSG.

Regional Networks Meeting Update

Bengt Holst gave a brief update on the CBSG Regional Networks meeting held day before with Regional Network convenors and CBSG staff discussing possible restructuring and earlier proposal of splitting CBSG into *ex situ* & *in situ* groups. Instead there is a new Species Conservation Strategic Planning Subcommittee.



CBSG Steering Committee Meeting Briefing Packet

1 October 2009
St. Louis, Missouri, USA



This new structure will provide new support for much of our work on species conservation planning. The Regional Networks concluded that the SSC restructuring will be a benefit to all.

Ulie Seal Award

Lena Linden, Founder and Director of Norden's Ark, Sweden was selected as the 2009 Ulie Seal award recipient.

CBSG Mission Map

How does CBSG achieve its mission? A Draft CBSG mission map had been created. A red circle in the middle is the CBSG mission statement. The other circles are the goals of CBSG's mission. The boxes are items that do and will help CBSG achieve these goals and thus its mission. Participants added project and work items or thought processes that they do and feel is part of CBSG. Participants prioritized the goals in terms of which CBSG needs to do more, the same, or less. The final map is next page. See the web version for colour ... its easier.

Success stories

At the end of every Steering Committee meeting, participants share their recent success stories.

Bill Conway shared that WCS had been able to help create 2 new, substantial National Parks in Patagonia. These parks were created after many years of hard work, and WCS will be looking at another area next trip to Patagonia. Also, a Sea and Sky atlas and synthesis were produced to help

combat the overexploitation of the Patagonian Sea by local fisheries, which all operate on corruption. Twenty-four Argentine and international organizations were brought together to create 2 huge books, full of maps, photos, etc. These books are getting a lot of publicity. This was a first in Patagonia in terms of cooperation and books' level of detail. WCS has been able to get a large piece of property in Brazil to help protect jaguars.

Amy Camacho noted that having Arnaud Desbiez with us after his illness was a success story in and of itself. He was near death with malaria.

Yolanda Matamoros talked about the ways CBSG Mesoamerica had found funding for people to follow up action plans generated in meetings, specifically,

- Green Macaw PHVA. Loro Parque and SeaWorld provided funding to carry out the action plans.
- Mangrove Finch PHVA held in Galapagos Islands. Analysis of information gathered was needed. Financed by Darwin Initiative so the action plans from the PHVA meeting.
- Jaguar PHVA financed by Volcafe which will now be producing a special blend of coffee, called Café Jaguar, and some profits from its sale going towards financing the follow up on the action plans.

Christian Schmidt talked about Frankfurt Zoo's recent successes in breeding black rhinos and their increased communications with representatives in South Africa to reintroduce the black rhino there.

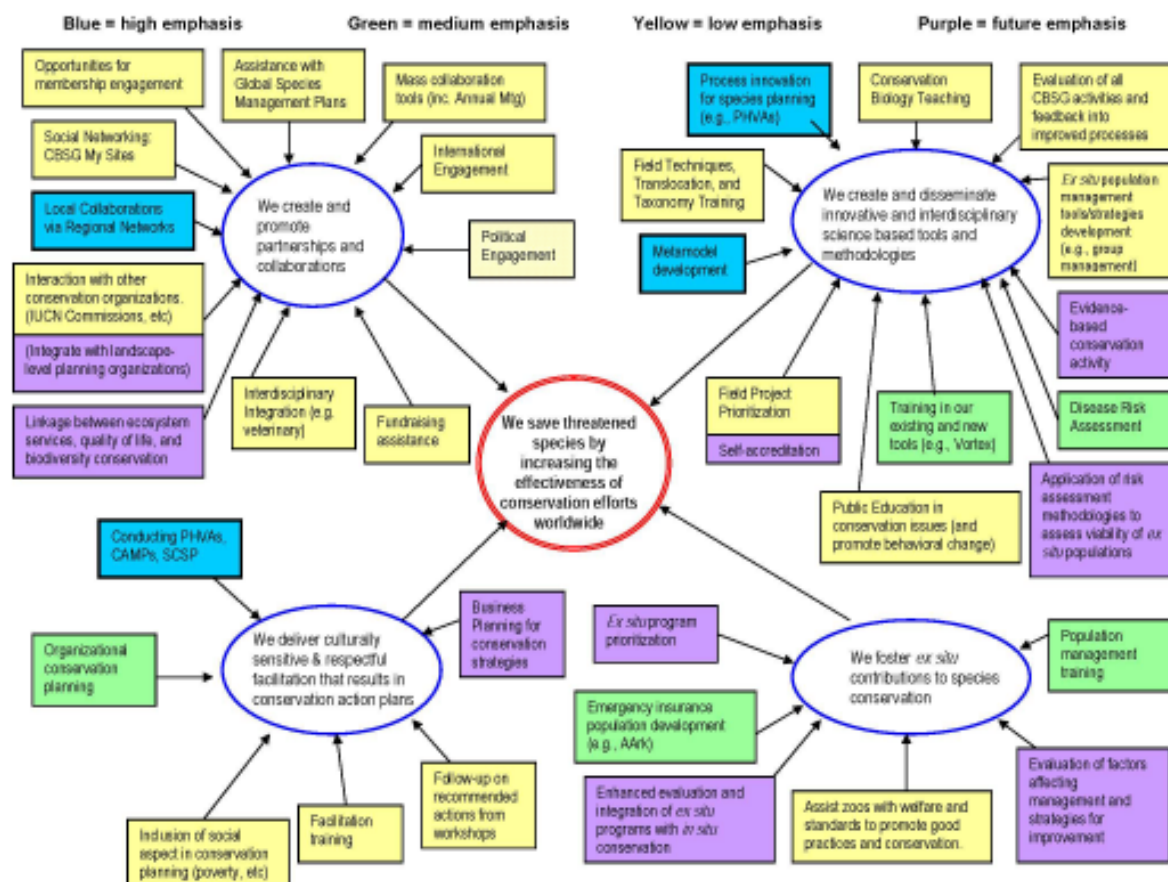
Yasumasa Tomita highlighted CBSG Japan's work to help save the Ogasawara red-headed wood pigeon attracting heavy involvement by locals at the PHVA held in 2008. An action was to reduce the domestic cat population on the island. Local people caught and shipped cats to Tokyo for adoption. Five chicks raised in sanctuary and there were more births this year than ever before.

Susie Ellis noted that the greater one horned rhino's IUCN Red List status had been reduced, and CI making headway in translocating rhinos to Sumatra to help increase number of rhinos there.

Gordon McGregor Reid talked about a conference held on re-establishing fish populations. Habitat fish populations found in the Rhine River have been drastically declining, partly due to pollution and part to hydropower plant turbines along the river in which fish get caught in and killed. Colleagues have been breeding fish to reintroduce into the Rhine--2.5 million fish had been reintroduced. Conservationists and engineers working to strategically shut off turbines at certain times and places along the river. Excellent example of collaboration and stakeholder involvement. The hydropower plant engineers were brought into the process and given their wholehearted cooperation.

Lee Simmons talked about the new population of greater bamboo lemurs that was found, though it is

CBSG Mission Map



uncertain whether or not this population may be a distinct, new species of bamboo lemur.

Jonathan Wilcken highlighted recent successes in increasing the Critically Endangered New Zealand kakapo parrot populations by 30% through very intensive population management and support. Bob is in communication with representatives in NZ about a modeling workshop for better genetic management of the breeding program.

Heribert Hofer talked about conservation efforts in Germany to get rid of lead in hunting ammunition, which kills birds that eat carcasses shot by hunters and were full of lead pellets. Hunters were invited to participate in programme discussions and research which lead to a commitment by hunters and ammunition makers to stop using lead in ordinance.

Lee Simmons commented that the US went lead-free years ago, and compliance by the hunting community has been quite good.

Sally Walker reported on a break resulting from 9 years work by their Bat Network, CCINSA, on getting threatened fruit bats removed from the Vermin category of Indian WL legislation. A Ministry visitor invited to one of their training workshop told them to promote ecological studies and produce a scientific paper proving that fruit bats are ecologically crucial to fruit crops and other benefits. The Madurai Kamaraj University bat unit, where the field techniques training had been conducted, followed up on this. This research is complete and a scientific paper recently published in a respected British Journal, so the next step is to use it to get

government to drop fruit bats from the Vermin list and list threatened species on Schedule I.

Luis Carrillo talked about recent events that had come about as a result of the Cracid PHVA in Guatemala. Africam Safari has a large collection of cracids, and it working on a captive breeding program for them. In order to fund more field research, the Cloud Forest Fund was established. Surplus birds from zoos with breeding programs are given to other institutions in exchange for funding being sent to support field research.

Brad Andrews spoke of SeaWorld's recent efforts in marine mammal reproduction. A new repro lab was recently set up in San Diego and, with their new technology, a 7th bottle-nosed dolphin was reproduced through gender predetermined artificial insemination.

Alejandro Grajal noted that little money could support effective conservation. In Zimbabwe, there is an increase in the poaching of rhinos. Chicago Zoological Society worked with local guards at a rhino reserve in Zimbabwe and provided them with bicycles and walkie-talkies. They were able to catch 8 poachers, and there have been no more rhinos poached since then and new rhinos born.

Lena Linden highlighted Nordens Ark's reintroduction work. Nordens Ark has been able to successfully reintroduce fire-bellied toads and great grey owls into the wild. They have also reintroduced 123 peregrine falcons into the wild over the past 8 years, and have been able to successfully accomplish the main goal of their efforts, which was to reconnect 2 existing populations of peregrine falcons.

www.cbsg.org

Welcome to CBSG

CBSG's Mission is to save threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide. Through:

- innovative interdisciplinary methodologies,
- culturally sensitive and respectful facilitation,
- empowering global partnerships and collaborations, CBSG transforms passionate commitment to wildlife into effective conservation.

2009 CBSG Annual Meeting

The 2009 Annual Meeting was hosted by the St. Louis Zoo. It began on Thursday, 1 October 2009 with an evening icebreaker and concluded with a farewell dinner/WAZA icebreaker and the presentation of the 2009 Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation on Sunday, 4 October 2009. Check CBSG website for working group reports, CBSG News, downloadable presentations by Professor Barry Brook's on Climate Change Status presentation and transcript from the 2008 CBSG Annual Meeting in Adelaide.

CBSG is a Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN

IUCN

The World Conservation Union



SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION

