

## CBSG Mid-year meetings : Regions meeting and Steering Committee

Every year WAZA and other international zoo organisations conduct mid-year meetings to stay up to date with the progress and processes of their members. Usually these meetings are held in Bern, Switzerland where WAZA has its administrative office but this year the meetings were conducted in Melbourne, Australia where the South East Asian Zoo Association SEAZA and the Australian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria ARAZPA were having their once-in-three-years joint meeting and where the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy was to get its global launch.

This year there was a meeting of CIRCC on the 28th April, a WAZA Council meeting on 29th April, an IADISC meeting on 29th and 30th April, a CBSG Regional Networks meeting on 30th April and a CBSG Steering Committee meeting on the 2nd April. The Report of the Regions and Steering Committee meeting are combined herewith.

### Regional Network Reports

**Bengt Holst, CBSG Europe reported a new human resource, e.g.** Kristin Leus of Antwerp who is a 1/3 member CBSG Europe. They are now working to develop a second team. Working with CBSG Brasil on the Lion tamarin PHVA which will be the third workshop on this taxon group. The first workshop in Europe will be the European mink PHVA later this year and a speckled frog workshop is planned for 2006. Excellent cooperation with EAZA has been forthcoming. There is a plan for CBSG Europe to cooperate with Jersey in continuing the annual facilitation training course there. CBSG Europe is planning a GIS workshop for European zoos in fall of 2005.

**Yolanda Matamoros, CBSG Mesoamerica:** Galapagos penguin PHVA was finally conducted in 2005 and report will be available in another month. **CBSG Mesoamerica** has been asked to conduct an additional four workshops in Galapagos. Reptile CAMP report is almost completed. Lost jaguar PHVA files have been located and the report is being completed. Conducted an invasive species forum in Costa Rica 2 weeks ago and another is scheduled for June. Cuban cetacids workshop funded by Suzanne Gendron.

**Hori Hiroshi, CBSG Japan:** Founded in 1997 and has been working on small projects and funding other groups workshops but now planning Okinawa rail and Japanese golden cat.

**Sally Walker, CBSG South Asia:** responding to a discussion on CBSG's continued relevance to zoos which has become an issue, Sally commented that Regional networks can assist CBSG in staying connected to its zoo constituency. CBSG South Asia does this via the SAZARC meetings that are all held in conjunction with regional CBSG meetings. CBSG South Asia and RSG South & East Asia holds a regional meeting just before SAZARC and has done since 2000 (CBSG South Asia and RSG S&E Asia since 2004). Records training (ISIS/ZIMS) planned for zoos will be held in conjunction with the next SAZARC conference. They did an action planning session at the

SAZARC meeting for WZACS which was facilitated at various stages in its history by CBSG. ZOO/CBSG South Asia also have a very active and extensive education programme which leans heavily on CBSG process workshops and related material as it is the most current information. CBSG South Asia also conducted a freshwater biodiversity CAMP using WWF's GIS maps to develop distribution maps for each species and this was very successful. Hoolock gibbon PHVA held in Bangladesh funded by the USFWS great ape fund. Since the workshop, a trapper brought 5 Hoolock gibbons to a zoo and was about to be presented with a medal as a reward for this effort but because of the workshop people were aware that these threatened species should remain in the wild and these animals were confiscated and returned to the wild and are being tracked. Working in Afghanistan to the extent possible in hosting Kabul Zoo personnel to field and zoo training and SAZARC and will publish 5000 copies of Mammals of Afghanistan in Dari, local language of Afghanistan. Planning to take some field techniques training to Afghanistan if possible. Publishing many primate materials using new scientific drawings by Stephen Nash of all the South Asian primates. This material which will include a poster and several types of booklets and descriptions will make it possible for zoos with mixed up subspecies to begin to sort them out.



The CBSG Steering Committee discussed several issues such as donor increases, grant applications, the evolution of the CBSG Mission Statement, a marketing plan for CBSG, and other issues.

Several concepts which were introduced at the 2004 CBSG Annual meeting in Taipei were discussed in more detail, such as increasing CBSG's capacity, a biocomplexity initiative, a training initiative and a field project prioritization initiative.

The theme and format of the 2005 Annual meeting was discussed. The meeting will be held this year in Syracuse, New York. At this meeting the theme will be related to conservation medicine. The selection process for the Annual U.S. Seal Award was discussed and a selection review team appointed.

The venue for next year's mid-year meeting was decided as South Africa on the occasion of the PAAZAB Regional Conference.

The precarious position of many of the world's amphibians was discussed after a copy of a PowerPoint presentation was handed around describing a virus which is killing many frogs. Simon Stuart had made a plea for zoos to get involved in the Amphibian Crisis by helping to salvage some of the species which are currently under threat from the ravaging virus. It was decided to hold another meeting at the conference about this topic.

The meeting adjourned with no other business proposed.