

2011 CBSG Annual Meeting - Prague and other CBSG News

The CBSG Annual meeting was conducted in Prague, Czech Republic from 30 Sept - 2 October with 74 people from 21 countries. Dr. Ivan Rehak and Martin Munzar and their staff put on a perfect event for CBSG and WAZA. At the CBSG meeting the focus was on intensive management of populations and the "One Plan" approach for integrated species conservation planning. Working groups addressed aspects of these and related topics. Gerald Dick, EO of WAZA convened a working group to discuss and strategise education in the Decade of Biodiversity. Other working groups included revised IUCN technical guidelines for *ex situ* management, paradigm shifts needed in the conservation community, needed tools and processes for intensive population management.

This meeting also marked the changeover of IUCN SSC Specialist Group Chair from Robert Lacy to Onnie Byers. After eight years of dedicated service to CBSG, Robert Lacy stepped down as CBSG Chair in October 2011. Bob was selected as CBSG Chair after the death of Dr. Ulie Seal. Bob had big shoes to fill but he did it well and in his own style. He opted out so that he would have time to work on the projects requiring his computer skills, such as intensive management of populations, continued evolution of VORTEX, etc. Onnie Byers has been an employee for CBSG for many years and a good friend of CBSG South Asia. She was CBSG Executive Director for many years, and her enthusiasm and generosity has made her a very popular officer. Onnie is, as expected, very excited about the new opportunities ahead for CBSG. Bob Lacy a contributor to the technical growth of CBSG for decades will remain an integral part of it and will continue to contribute greatly to our work in his new role as CBSG Science Advisor.

The Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation is always a high point of the meeting. This year William Conway, a renowned conservationist was the very deserving recipient. Bill's doctor recommended he not fly so Bill was visited personally and given the citation, medallion & our admiration. Bob Lacy delivered the moving citation which is included later in this overview.

Other CBSG News

Release of PMx 1.0

The population management and planning software program PMx has been officially released and is available for download at: www.vortex9.org/PMx/PMx.html. PMx expands upon the demographic and genetic analytical tools provided by the PM2000 program, and includes new features such as stochastic projections, increased breeding and group management options, and options for evaluating inter-population transfers. Training courses using the new software have begun and will continue in 2012.

Recent CBSG Workshops

Western Chimpanzee PHVA for Sierra Leone - Sierra Leone is home to the second largest wild population of the Endangered Western Chimpanzee, *Pan troglodytes verus*. Over half the chimpanzees live outside protected areas, often with local communities and accompanying threats. Chimpanzee numbers are declining due to a variety of serious threats. Sierra Leone Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, invited CBSG and CBSG Europe conducted a Western Chimpanzee PHVA workshop in May 2011 leading to a National Chimpanzee Conservation Action Plan.

PVAs for Brazilian Species - In the past few months CBSG Brasil has been involved in several Population Viability Analyses (PVAs). In May they assisted in facilitation and modelling for a Puma PVA in Atibaia, Sao Paulo. Also since July CBSG Brasil has been working on a population viability model for bush dogs (*Speothos venaticus*) with the help of CENAP/ICMBio and 12 field researchers. Finally, a two-day meeting was held in September to use population viability models to evaluate and make recommendations for a reintroduction program for populations of the endemic endangered red-billed curassow (*Crax blumenbachii*) in the Atlantic forest.

Human-Elephant Coexistence in India and Thailand

Six workshops were conducted on human-elephant coexistence in elephant areas. Three were held in 3 villages near Coimbatore June-July 2011 sponsored by International Elephant Foundation. Three more occurred in August 2011 in Kanchanaburi, Thailand in collaboration with Elephant Conservation Network sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife Service, Columbus Zoo, and Cologne Zoo. Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO)/CBSG South Asia were primary resource persons and organizers for all six workshops.

History of Zoos Symposium - In May CBSG participated in a two-day symposium at Chester Zoo titled "From Royal Gifts to Biodiversity Conservation: The History and Development of Menageries, Zoos and Aquariums". The symposium provided a comprehensive overview of history and development of living wild animal collections across the world. It marked the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Society for the History of Natural History SHNH. Many CBSG members were present and gave presentations at the conference, a joint collaboration between SHNH, Chester Zoo, Linnean Society of London, Bartlett Society and WAZA. CBSG's paper, "From Captive to Conservation: CBSG and the evolving role of zoos" will be published in the Symposium proceedings.

Training Activities - Recent

CBSG has conducted several training activities on population management and population modeling software.

- Studbook and Pop. Management Workshop, Cisarua, Indon.
- Studbook training (SPARKS 1.6) 17 Indonesian PKBSI studbook keepers
- PMx Population Management Training, Australasia
- PMx Population Planning Workshop, Beijing, China
- Vortex training course for European wildlife agencies, etc
- Small Mammal Field Techniques Training by ZOO, WILD CBSG South Asia and Bat & Rodent networks.

Upcoming training courses for CBSG

PMx training for JAZA (Tokyo, Japan) in February, Vortex training in Mexico in August, PMx and Vortex training courses in the US in 2012.

Recent Publications

Intensively Managed Populations for Conservation Workshop Report, 2011 (Available on the CBSG website.)
Towards sustainable population management. WAZA Magazine (Vol 12): Articles by CBSG members and other conservationists. (Available for download from the WAZA website (links to PDF) (www.waza.org)).
Status and Distribution of Freshwater Biodiversity in the Western Ghats, India Report (Available on the IUCN website).