

2008 Annual Report



**Transforming passionate
commitment to wildlife into
effective conservation**

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OUR MISSION

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

By:

- developing innovative and interdisciplinary methodologies,
- providing culturally sensitive and respectful facilitation,
- promoting global partnerships and collaborations, and
- fostering *ex situ* contributions to species conservation,

CBSG transforms passion for wildlife into effective conservation.



A CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM



I write this letter in the midst of the worst global economic crisis since World War II. Nonetheless, I am filled with optimism. This positive outlook, apparent in the pages of this Annual Report, stems from the realization that CBSG's supporters are even more loyal and committed than we knew, and that the creativity and productivity of our Regional Networks, volunteers, and conservation partners continue to blossom even in the face of economic uncertainty.

CBSG has always had extraordinarily loyal donor support but, in 2008, as the reality of the extent of the economic crisis was looming, we braced for what could have been a significant decrease in the level of contributions. So, it is with both gratitude and pride that we share with you the financial statement for the year (page 23), which indicates that we ended the year on a positive note while continuing slowly to build our reserve to meet future conservation challenges.

CBSG's Regional and National Networks were as productive as ever last year. The stories in this report are only a few of the remarkable projects conducted by the teams of conservationists around the world working on behalf of CBSG. From efforts to protect red-headed wood pigeons in Japan to primates in Northeast Brazil, from native arboreal plants in Costa Rica to giraffes in Niger; our committed volunteer Networks continue to create positive conservation change in spite of unpredictable funding.

This economic climate may seem like a less than ideal time to launch a major new initiative but, in fact, the opposite has proven to be true. Our mass collaboration and social networking tools initiative, launched in 2007, saw great progress in 2008. That effort is now coming to fruition with the launch of CBSG's on-line member portal and the use of web-based technologies for conducting virtual conservation planning workshops. Climate change modeling (highlighted on page 6) is another one of CBSG's exciting new initiatives.

In addition, we are moving forward with several existing initiatives, including a renewed strategic emphasis on *ex situ* population management tools and a rededication to developing innovative, integrative tools for species conservation planning (see page 4). These strong programs, along with continued responsible budgeting, will be our emphasis for the current and coming year.

As we reflect back on the challenges of 2008 and look toward the exciting opportunities ahead, we pause to thank you, our generous and loyal supporters, for making it possible for us to continue our enduring commitment to conservation efforts worldwide.


Dr. Onnie Byers, Executive Director



RENEWAL AND RECOMMITMENT

The year 2008 ended a quadrennium for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Over the past four years, CBSG made substantial and vital contributions to the work of the IUCN and its many partners working on behalf of species conservation. We can highlight only a few of our activities in our annual reports, but over the quadrennium CBSG led 68 species conservation workshops, worked with hundreds of conservation partner organizations, ran 31 training workshops in conservation methods, helped 26 organizations develop their own organizational conservation strategies, produced 72 documents guiding conservation efforts, involved over 100 colleagues from around the world in each of our annual meetings, led the creation of the Amphibian Ark, and – through all this activity – helped to secure a safe future for hundreds of species.

The IUCN renews itself at each quadrennial World Conservation Congress. All of its commissions, working groups, and programs are effectively disbanded, to then be reauthorized under new mandates, terminated if their work is done, or restructured as needed. CBSG has been reauthorized as a Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) for the next four years, and we are proud of the recognition that our work has received in the IUCN. That does not mean, however, that we will be unchanged or unchanging. One of the important activities of the SSC over the past few years has been the development of new guidance on strategic planning for species conservation. The SSC has made great progress on assessing the status of the world's biodiversity through its Red List Assessments and related efforts. Yet we all recognize that conservation does not consist of documenting extinctions and declines, but rather of doing something about it. The CBSG philosophy and tools and workshop approaches that led to the successes described in our Annual Reports were a model for much of what is becoming the IUCN's "gold standard" for developing strategies that will save species. We are working with the SSC to identify what efforts by CBSG and other components of the SSC will be needed to implement new approaches to species conservation planning.

Our ability to keep making a difference for wildlife, and do more each year, depends on the involvement of our membership, support from our Conservation Council, activity of our Regional and National Networks, dedication of our staff, coordination with other components of the IUCN, and collaboration with our many conservation partners. We will be asking more from all of these parts of CBSG, because the conservation needs, our responsibilities to address those needs, and the opportunities to have positive impacts are all increasing. To help achieve a higher level of concerted conservation activity, we are developing new web-based collaboration tools, ways to coordinate and empower our networks and to make our expertise more available to those who seek our help.

Thank you for your help in empowering CBSG to be an increasingly effective force for wildlife conservation.



Robert C. Lacy

Dr. Robert C. Lacy, Chairman



A NEW OPPORTUNITY IN SPECIES CONSERVATION PLANNING

Throughout our history, CBSG has played diverse and important roles for the SSC, IUCN, the zoo community, and the *in situ* wildlife conservation world. We have been, and continue to be, leaders in both the use of ex situ strategies for conservation and in risk assessments and conservation planning for species in their native habitats.

The conservation of individual species in their natural habitats – from mosses and beetles to cycads and whale sharks – remains a primary focus of biodiversity management around the world. CBSG has over 20 years of experience with in situ species conservation planning. We have conducted 129 Population and Habitat Viability Assessments for species ranging from mountain gorillas to goblin ferns, in locales from Poland to Papua New Guinea. In fact, the PHVA workshop process has become CBSG's signature product. So, why are we now talking about species conservation as a 'new initiative'? Because an exciting collaborative opportunity is emerging that will help us create an even more effective species conservation planning process to help conservation biologists save our planet's wildlife.



Expansion and Collaboration

CBSG has been involved for the past few years in helping our parent organization, the IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC), develop a more complete and thoughtful approach to species conservation planning. As a result, conservation planning, and the coordination of this work within its over 100 taxonomic Specialist Groups, has become SSC's priority. A new Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee will be established which will report directly to the SSC Steering Committee, and a new Species Conservation Planning Unit within the IUCN's Species Programme has been proposed to help make the Sub-Committee's ideas a reality. All parts of the SSC network are being encouraged to contribute their particular expertise to this essential initiative to safeguard the species of our world.

CBSG's experience in conservation planning makes it a key resource for these new SSC entities and provides us the opportunity to support their work. Our existing capacity overlaps significantly with that envisioned as part of the SSC's species conservation planning effort. However, in order to most effectively contribute to this effort, we must expand our own repertoire to encompass new ideas and methods and to produce products aimed at governments as well as wildlife and land managers. The effort needs to build on what has been done before, and significantly expand the base of volunteer experts working together to guide the SSC and others in species conservation planning.

Our Role

The CBSG community is ready and willing to build our capacity to take on this expanded functionality and to meet the demand of the wider conservation community. CBSG is recognized as a trusted, independent, and skilled organization for facilitating conservation planning. We must build on our achievements by assisting the SSC in its desire to raise the profile and expand capacity for species conservation strategic planning, by offering our trained staff, regional network structure, and experience in practical application of both biological science and social process to complex conservation problems.

Our next step is to convene a critical strategic planning meeting in early 2010. In that meeting, CBSG's global team of facilitators and invited participants from the SSC and other leading conservation NGOs will share and evaluate the components of diverse species planning processes. The product of this analysis will be a tool kit that defines these various process design elements and the conditions under which each might be most appropriately applied, not only by CBSG but by conservation practitioners worldwide.



CONSERVING THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

We read about it almost every week in newspapers and magazines. It is the subject of frequent special presentations on radio, television and the Internet. And the scientific evidence supporting the experts' claims is irrefutable. Our climate is changing, and our planet's biodiversity will suffer as a result. The Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia may become functionally extinct within just a few decades as warming sea waters combine with declining water quality to kill large patches of coral throughout the reef. And recent predictions suggest that a rise of just a few degrees in global temperature could destroy nearly half of the Amazon rainforest.

In response to these grim predictions, conservation biologists around the world are now focusing more attention on the urgent problem of climate change and its impact on species in the air, on land, and under the sea. We here at CBSG have also taken up this challenge. Working with colleagues from the Chicago Zoological Society, University of Adelaide, and other partner organizations, we are examining ways in which we can incorporate information on climate change and its effects into our proven methods for predicting risk of endangered species population extinction. Our current approaches to predicting this risk through population viability analysis – typically involving the use of computer software called *Vortex* – are not adequate for incorporating the information becoming available on future climatic trends for a given region of forest, savannah, or ocean. However, one of our ongoing research efforts may unlock the key to this puzzle.

For more than a decade, we have been developing and using metamodels – groups of discipline-specific models that are digitally

linked together in order to provide a more insightful and effective tool for predicting wildlife extinction risk in complex situations. This new type of modeling environment is perfectly suited to help us explore the biological impact of a changing climate. Using this technology we can study how to link predictions of future climate with tools that simulate how a species' demography and ecology will respond to this evolving environment.

Objectives of the Project

- Gather together experts in climate science, wildlife biology, and simulation modeling technology to design the most effective tool for predicting the response of endangered species to future climatic trends. This will involve multiple meetings focused on specific aspects of the overall project, followed by integrative meetings designed to synthesize modeling components into a unified whole.
- Construct metamodels that link software for climate projections with simulation models of wildlife population dynamics. Early testing of the new software will lead to the creation of initial case study applications that will prove the utility of this integrated approach.
- Apply metamodels of climate change and wildlife population viability in endangered species conservation planning workshops. We will confer with other SSC Specialist Groups and similar organizations about the value of this predictive approach, and help to design and implement workshops across a diversity of species and habitats.

Using this technology, wildlife managers and other stakeholders will be able to make more informed decisions about optimal species management strategies with integrated information across multiple scientific disciplines.





Significance of Project for Conservation

One of the most important goals of our metamodeling research initiative has been the creation of social mechanisms for engaging stakeholders from a diversity of disciplines in the species conservation planning process. In fact, one can very reasonably argue that this should be a primary focus of conservation biology in general. We firmly believe that our work on incorporating new science on climate change into species risk assessment methods, firmly rooted in the fledgling field of metamodeling, will help us bring together people from across disciplines and across the planet. And we hope that, through our work, the stories in your morning newspaper will be a little more hopeful.



PLANNING FOR ARUBA'S FUTURE



Aruba Conservation Facts

- Aruba is a small Caribbean island (32km x 9.7km) on the South American continental shelf approximately 28km off the coast of Venezuela.
- There are approximately 100,000 permanent residents on the island. However, the island's economy is largely based on the 1.2 million tourists who visit the island annually.
- Aruba is home to many endemic species, including a rattlesnake, gecko, whiptail lizard, parakeet, burrowing owl, vesper mouse and several cacti.
- Introduced species such as the common boa are jeopardizing Aruba's unique ecological balance.

"Conservation is a people problem. The WildAruba program brought all the stakeholders for wildlife on Aruba together to discuss the future of nature on the island. Ideas were discussed, consensus was developed, and actions have already been undertaken. The final report compiled by the participants has become a significant tool in the conservation planning on the island."

—R. Andrew Odum, Curator of Herpetology, Toledo Zoological Society

The Situation

Over the past 20 years, the growing human population on the island of Aruba has tremendously increased pressure on its wildlife and natural environment. Although a conservation movement on the island has resulted in the formation of a national park and other protected areas, the lack of environmental legislation and enforcement has allowed development and environmental degradation to continue largely unchecked. The lack of a systematic examination of the environmental and wildlife issues facing Aruba has resulted in disorganized conservation efforts that have not always been efficient or successful.

The Process

In 2007, a group of Aruban citizens, scientists, and government officials began creating a comprehensive conservation plan to preserve Aruba's nature. The First National Congress for the Preservation of Aruban Wildlife (WildAruba) had three distinct elements: a demonstration of environmental teaching techniques; a symposium on Aruba's wildlife; and a CBSG-facilitated action planning workshop that included over 70 participants representing 40 stakeholder groups with interests in Aruba's nature and its preservation. These participants prioritized conservation issues for the island and developed strategies to address the major concerns, resulting in the production of a conservation action plan for Aruba.



The Results

This process represents one of the few, and perhaps only, instances in which a conservation action planning workshop was conducted for an entire country with the involvement of the majority of its stakeholder groups representing environmental, governmental, and business interests. The most critical goal in the plan is the creation of a single environmental management entity to oversee, manage, and protect Aruba's natural resources and wildlife. Some actions have been implemented as a result of WildAruba. One of the most significant is the protection of bats, an essential component of the ecosystem as critical pollinators for Aruba's keystone cactus species.

SAFEGUARDING THE DEVIL FROM EXTINCTION



Tasmanian Devil Facts

- Previously native to Australia, the Tasmanian devil now lives only in Tasmania and is the largest surviving marsupial carnivore since the thylacine became extinct last century.
- During social interactions while breeding or feeding in groups, devils may sustain injuries from bites. This is thought to be the main form of transmission for the devastating Devil Facial Tumour Disease.
- Biologists believe that devils play a significant role in excluding introduced foxes, which have decimated native fauna on mainland Australia.

“This four-day workshop instilled deep and diverse perspectives into a series of recommendations that, within a year, are being implemented. Such robust outcomes seemed unlikely in the beginning.”

– Paul Andrew, Save the Tasmanian Devil Steering Committee

The Situation

The Tasmanian devil, *Sarcophilus harrisii* – known for its tenacity and immortalized in cartoons and stories – is in danger of disappearing in the wild as a result of an emerging transmittable cancer known as Devil Facial Tumour Disease. In 2007, the Tasmanian Government proposed a strategy for building a disease-free insurance population of devils, which would combine intensively managed captive populations, less intensively managed populations in large enclosures, and well-protected wild populations. In 2008, CBSG was invited to facilitate a workshop aimed at further developing this strategy toward implementation.

The Process

Wildlife agency staff, field researchers, captive specialists, fundraisers, and aboriginal community representatives met to create a detailed plan for managing each of the three types of populations. Discussions were informed by *Vortex* models developed for each population type. These separate management options were then integrated into a comprehensive insurance management plan. CBSG Disease Risk Assessment tools were used to analyze the risks of disease transmission resulting from the various management scenarios presented.

The Results

This workshop brought together a diverse group of *in situ* and *ex situ* devil managers and researchers to produce a comprehensive action plan based on consensus priorities. Implementation of this plan already has begun, with four of the 13 priority actions completed and others in progress. Importantly, enclosure trials for less intensively managed populations are underway, and significant government funds have been committed to this management option. CBSG has been invited to assist in an ongoing collaboration, providing guidance on further metapopulation planning and as an independent assessor of population performance.



HELPING ELEPHANTS AND PEOPLE COEXIST



Asian Elephant Facts

- Conservation experts classify the African elephant (*Elephas maximus*) as vulnerable and the Asian elephant as endangered.
- Asian elephants are found in 13 countries, with 50% of the population living in India.
- Loss of habitat is currently the most significant problem facing elephants worldwide.
- Having been deprived of habitat and food by development, Asian elephants are entering villages and agricultural fields to find food in kitchen gardens and fields.

“Rather than one-off temporary solutions to human-elephant conflict, this innovative programme offers a sustainable solution (compromise) to allow humans and elephants to live with respect alongside one another. Already there are requests to implement such an educational programme in further elephant holding countries. Your workshops have become legendary.”

— Edwina Kinsella-Bevan, Conservation Programmes Manager, Elephant Family

The Situation

As the human population increases, so does the demand for land. When new settlements occur in elephant habitat, elephants invade villages and destroy crops, and humans retaliate. Losses occur increasingly throughout Asia for both humans and elephants, but ultimately it is elephants that will pay the price of extinction over these battles for land and resources.

The Process

CBSG South Asia partnered with the Zoo Outreach Organisation to create a Human-Elephant Coexistence Education Program, which trains key individuals to educate local people about the value of elephants as a keystone species; their historical, religious and social significance; the critical need for their conservation; their behavior patterns and needs; and the causes and repercussions of their conflicts with humans. Zoo Outreach Organisation employed CBSG workshop processes and principles of conflict resolution to develop a unique program for each of four South Asian countries.



The Results

After completing workshops in just one of the planned four countries, other Asian organizations have requested similar workshops. Evaluation exercises and participant comments suggest that a change in behavior and attitudes had taken place as a result of the training. Participants in the workshops are already conducting exercises using the concepts put forth in the Human-Elephant Coexistence workshops. Additional training workshops are scheduled for Bhutan, Sumatra and Thailand.

CONSERVING CHILE'S LARGEST PARROT



Chilean Conure Facts

- Distribution of this species is highly fragmented, and breeding colonies are isolated from each other.
- These birds are classified as Endangered by Chilean legislation, and trade is restricted under Appendix I of CITES.
- This species is the representative bird in the Central Chile semiarid region, an area that is nominated as one of 25 hotspots for biodiversity.

“The results and recommendations from the workshop allowed us to draw an accurate panorama in which we would be able to clearly identify the main threats to the species, and joint actions among different agencies were delineated to work toward the recovery of the species.”

— Gonzalo González Rivera, Conservation and Education Coordinator, Zoológico Nacional, Chile

The Situation

The Chilean Patagonian conure (*Cyanoliseus patagonus bloxami*) is the most desired Chilean parrot in the pet trade. This endemic subspecies is threatened by habitat destruction and disruption, hunting, and overcollection. Although these conures are protected by the Chilean government, wild populations are still declining. To address this decline, Zoológico Nacional and the Servicio de Agricultura y Ganadería invited CBSG to conduct a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) to develop a sound conservation plan for the species and its habitat.

The Process

Thirty participants representing 10 institutions attended the PHVA workshop, where they combined their knowledge of the species to develop actions to solve problems previously identified by the participants. The inclusive methods used by the workshop facilitators encouraged key participants to share non-published information about the population, which revealed that there were more individuals remaining in the wild than the previous census had noted. Despite this, subpopulations are still endangered and are in need of conservation action.

The Results

Since the workshop, there have been advances toward the conservation of the species and the generation of new scientific information to inform management decisions for the species. Participants have created an education program for local communities living near nesting areas highlighting the importance of the species in the ecosystem and the impact of taking chicks from nests; initiated genetic research on the subpopulations to understand better the population dynamics and gene transfer; and begun work on an *ex situ* conservation center and program.



PLAYING CAT AND BIRD ON CHI CHI JIMA



Red-headed Wood Pigeon Facts

- Red-headed wood pigeons inhabit Chi Chi Jima (“father island”) and the smaller adjacent islands of Haha Jima (“mother island”) and Muko Jima (“bridegroom island”). A second population may exist on the island of Iwo Jima (“sulfur island”).
- Wood pigeons typically produce only one chick per year, possibly limited by competition for food and other resources with invasive species such as Norway and black rats and domestic goats.
- Feral domestic cats are trapped on Chi Chi Jima and make the 25-hour boat trip to Tokyo, destined for adoption.
- About 2000 people live on the tiny remote island of Chi Chi Jima (24km²) – an island known for superb diving and whale watching, as well as the launch point for recent expeditions that filmed and ultimately captured a giant squid.

“ This is the very first time that I could visualize what is happening to the red-headed wood pigeon. Since then I have become more interested in the conservation of this species.”

– local Chi Chi Jima participant

The Situation

The red-headed wood pigeon (*Columba janthina nitens*) is a Critically Endangered subspecies of Japanese wood pigeon endemic to the remote Pacific islands of Ogasawara. Threatened by small population size (perhaps only 40 birds remain in the wild) and the impacts of invasive species such as domestic cats and rats, this rare bird faces real risk of extinction. A CBSG-led PHVA workshop provided the opportunity to evaluate the status and risks to both the wild and captive populations and bring all stakeholders together to review past conservation efforts and develop a comprehensive conservation plan for this subspecies.

The Process

CBSG, biologists, government officials, and NGO representatives first met in Tokyo to refine a Vortex model for the wood pigeon. The group then traveled 25 hours by boat to the island of Chi Chi Jima, 1000km south of Tokyo, to join local residents and NGOs for the largest PHVA workshop ever held (119 participants). CBSG population modelers provided feedback to the working groups to help them identify the primary threats to the wood pigeon, prioritize potential conservation actions, and define the conservation role and management strategy for the existing small captive population.

The Results

Participants agreed that the highest priority for conservation action is to conduct an effective long-term domestic cat control program, which requires significant involvement and cooperation from the local community. Existing cat control efforts have been expanded since the workshop, along with the implementation of other recommended actions. Effective removal of this threat would help facilitate the development of a sustainable captive population through the periodic influx of wild pigeons as new genetic founders, which may provide an insurance population against severe decline or decimation in the wild.



PROTECTING THE LAST GIRAFFES OF NIGER



Niger Giraffe Facts

- The giraffes of Niger are genetically unique: they are the last representatives of this subspecies.
- Various governmental and non-governmental organizations have already succeeded in bringing back the subspecies from an all-time low of fewer than 50 individuals in 1996 to the current population of about 200 individuals.
- The West African giraffe has recently been listed as Endangered by the IUCN Red List.

“This type of prospective approach, centralizing the knowledge of all the people concerned, was extremely interesting. The professionalism and attentiveness of the facilitators made for an efficient confrontation of opinions, sometimes very different, enabling friendly dynamics based on thoughts and the exchange of ideas, intense and useful. A great week for the giraffes!”

– Dr. Isabelle Ciofolo, Ethologist, Niger

The Situation

In the 19th century the distribution of the West African giraffe subspecies *Giraffa camelopardalis peralta* still covered a large part of the Sahel region of West Africa. Today, the last surviving animals are restricted to an area of about 84,000ha in the Kouré region of Niger. This is an unprotected area with a population of more than 45,000 residents in 30 villages. Threats to this giraffe population include: habitat degradation and loss due to firewood collection and agricultural activities; poaching; giraffe-human conflicts; road kill; and potential disease risk through close contact with domestic livestock.

The Process

Staff from CBSG Europe and CBSG Brasil were invited by the Programme Régional Parc of Ecosystèmes Protégés en Afrique Soudano-Sahélienne (ECOPAS) and the Government of Niger to facilitate a PHVA on the last population of West African giraffes. The PHVA was one of the final steps in the process of developing a long-term conservation strategy for the giraffe in Niger. In classic CBSG-facilitated workshop style, 40 participants representing the different stakeholder groups worked in small groups regularly reconvening in plenary sessions to discuss and integrate their progress. Discussions on how to best prepare for potential catastrophes, and the population simulation model results, highlighted the need to establish other giraffe populations outside of the Kouré as insurance against potential catastrophes.



The Results

It became very clear in this workshop that the fate of the last population of West African giraffes is closely linked to the fate of the human populations in the giraffe zone. Projects promoting the sustainable livelihood, health, and education of the local people are key to the long-term conservation of giraffes. Both the output of the multi-stakeholder working groups and model results will serve as the basis for the development of a long-term action plan for the Niger giraffe scheduled in 2009.

2008 ORGANIZATIONAL AND SPECIES CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOPS AND SPONSORS

The First National Congress for the Preservation of Aruban Wildlife

AIB Bank; Amigoe; Amsterdam Manor; Antraco Aruba Group; Awe Mainta; Bon Dia Aruba; Caribbean Overseas Ltd.; Casa Del Mar; CATC; Alex Cybul; Divi Resorts; Fanpa; La Cabana; La Linda; Memo; Moomba Beach; Parke Nacional Arikok; Playa Linda; Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties; Poster Uno; Price Waterhouse Coopers; Professional Pest Control N.V.; Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino, Diario; Radisson Hotels & Resorts; RBTT; Solo Di Pueblo; StimAruba; Talk of the Town Hotel & Beach Club; Toledo Zoo; The News; Valero; Waico N.V.

Biodiversity Alliance Strategic Planning

Cleveland Zoological Society; Biodiversity Alliance

Butler's Garter Snake Incidental Take Agreement for Wisconsin

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

CBSG South Asia & Reintroduction Specialist Group Joint Annual Meeting

Chester Zoo; Knowsley Safari Park; Forest Department of Gujarat; GEER Foundation

Conservation Breeding of Endangered Carnivores

Taipei Zoo

Conserving Salamanders in the Appalachian Region

Smithsonian National Zoological Park

Fat Threeridge Mussel PVA

Fat Threeridge Mussel Recovery Team; US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Indonesian Gibbon Conservation Planning

Perth Zoo; The Silvery Gibbon Project

Metamodel Development Meeting

Chicago Zoological Society

Population Viability Analysis Workshop for Endangered Brazilian Primates

Chico Mendes Center for Biodiversity Conservation; CBSG Brasil

Prioritization of Costa Rica's Native Arboreal Plants

CBSG Mesoamerica

Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Meetings (6 Meetings)

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program; US Army Corps of Engineers; USFWS



A large, gnarled tree with a thick trunk and bare branches against a clear blue sky. The tree's trunk is dark brown with some lighter, textured patches. The branches are intricate and spread out, some showing small green leaves. The background is a solid, clear blue sky.

Organizational and Species Conservation Planning

The unique combination of CBSG's process design tools in concert with our knowledge-based facilitation skills can be applied to a wide variety of conservation planning needs. CBSG works with wildlife agencies, conservation organizations, zoological parks, and similar organizations to develop strategic conservation plans for individual species, protected areas, or conservation organizations. From strategic planning for national wildlife refuges to developing zoo conservation master plans, CBSG leads stakeholders through the exploration of issues and the development of goals to guide future actions.

In 2008, CBSG led 17 Conservation Planning Workshops in seven countries, involving a total of 389 people from 274 organizations.

The CAMP Workshop Process

The Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) workshop is a rapid, broad-based evaluation of a selected group of species that occupy a particular country or region. The diverse expertise among workshop participants is applied to the IUCN's quantitative Red List system to categorize each species' degree of endangerment, based on estimates of the threats to these populations and their habitat. Through this process, the CAMP helps to establish priorities for global and regional species conservation, emphasizing the wise use of limited conservation resources. A computerized database is used to assemble and summarize all available information, and allows CAMP data to be queried and analyzed by all interested parties. Workshop reports include basic recommendations for conservation research and management activities.

2008 PHVA WORKSHOPS AND SPONSORS

Chilean Conure PHVA, Chile

Ministerio de Agricultura-Sag; Zoológico Nacional de Chile

Great Green Macaw PHVA, Costa Rica

SeaWorld-Busch Gardens

Mangrove Finch PHVA, Galapagos, Ecuador

Charles Darwin Foundation; Darwin Initiative; Fogo Switzerland;
Galapagos National Park, Ecuador

Red-headed Wood Pigeon PHVA, Japan

Ministry of the Environment, Pro Natura Fund

Tasmanian Devil PHVA, Tasmania, Australia

Taronga Zoo

West African Giraffe PHVA, Niger

European Commission Development Fund

The PHVA Workshop Process

Population viability analysis (PVA) has been widely recognized as an important tool to quantify the impacts of human activities on the risk of extinction of wildlife species or populations. Historically, this tool has often been used within a narrow biological focus, largely ignoring important information from other disciplines and perspectives that can enhance the input to the PVA as well as expand the utility of the resulting recommendations. Our Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop process directly addresses this critical issue. We combine traditional PVA methodologies with structured tools for issue formulation and problem solving across a broad range of disciplines. Through this integration, stakeholders develop more effective recommendations for species conservation action, including the identification of personal responsibilities and timelines to ensure that the recommendations can become reality.

In 2008, CBSG led 6 PHVA Workshops on 6 species in 6 countries, involving a total of 286 people from 163 organizations.



Training in Conservation Techniques

CBSG offers training courses in a variety of skills that build capacity and promote effective conservation. Facilitation course participants learn to apply methods in group dynamics, facilitation, structured problem solving, and communication and collaboration. Courses in risk assessment and population modeling provide an overview of population biology and conservation planning, focusing on the use of simulation methods for evaluating the risk of population extinction under various management strategies. Training also is available in *ex situ* population management principles and techniques, including studbook and population analysis software. Other types of conservation-related training courses are offered periodically to meet the specific needs of organizations or regions.

In 2008, CBSG led 11 Training Workshops in six countries, involving a total of 188 people from 73 organizations.

2008 TRAINING WORKSHOPS AND SPONSORS

Amphibian Educator Training, Bhutan

SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund

Human-Elephant Coexistence Training (4 Workshops)

USFWS-Asian Elephant Conservation Fund; Elephant Family; Twycross Zoological Gardens; Columbus Zoological Garden; Schonbrunner Tiergarten

Population Management/Facilitation Seminar, Indonesia

Taman Safari Indonesia, Indonesia

Rapid Translocation Training for Hoolock Gibbons, India

Chester Zoo; USFWS—Great Ape Conservation Fund

Studbook/Population Management Training, Singapore

Singapore Zoo

Studbook/Population Management Training, Osaka, Japan

JAZA; Osaka Municipal Tennoji Zoo

Studbook/Population Management Training, Tokyo, Japan

JAZA; Tokyo Zoological Park Society

Vortex Training, Belgium

CBSG Europe; Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp



ABOUT CBSG

The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) is a global volunteer network of over 500 conservation professionals, coordinated by a headquarters staff of six, assisted by nine Regional and National Networks on six continents. This network is dedicated to saving threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide. CBSG is recognized and respected for its use of innovative, scientifically sound, collaborative processes that bring together people with diverse perspectives and knowledge to catalyze positive conservation change. CBSG is a part of the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN – The International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and is supported by a non-profit organization incorporated under the name Global Conservation Network.



www.iucn.org

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) brings together states, government agencies, and a diverse range of non-governmental organizations in a unique world partnership that seeks to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world in conserving the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.



http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/about_ssc

The Species Survival Commission is the largest of IUCN's six volunteer Commissions, with a global membership of 8,000 experts. SSC advises IUCN and its members on the wide range of technical and scientific aspects of species conservation and is dedicated to securing a future for biodiversity.

History

Since its inception in 1979, CBSG has assisted in the development of conservation plans involving over 190 species through more than 340 workshops held in 67 countries. CBSG has collaborated with more than 180 zoos and aquariums, 150 conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs), 60 universities, 45 government agencies, and 30 corporations. By applying unique conservation tools, and training others in their use, CBSG contributes to the long-term sustainability of endangered species and ecosystems around the globe.

Our Approach to Conservation

CBSG promotes effective and comprehensive conservation action, by emphasizing the exchange of information across diverse groups to reach agreement on the important challenges facing humans and wildlife. Our interactive, participatory workshops provide an objective environment, expert knowledge, and thoughtful group facilitation designed to systematically analyze problems and develop focused solutions using sound scientific principles. This process enables workshop participants to produce meaningful and practical management recommendations that generate political and social support for conservation action at all levels – from local communities to national political authorities. Rapid dissemination of these recommendations allows them to be used almost immediately to influence stakeholders and decision-makers, and maintains the momentum generated at the workshop.



CBSG Headquarters Staff

Robert Lacy
Chairman

Philip Miller
Senior Program Officer

Virginia Lindgren
Administrative Assistant

Onnie Byers
Executive Director

Kathy Traylor-Holzer
Senior Program Officer

Elizabeth Townsend
Administrative Assistant

CBSG Networks

Regional Networks take CBSG tools and principles deep into the local institutions of a region or country, allowing stakeholders to work with our basic conservation techniques and adapt them to meet their own needs. This level of freedom to shape a Network according to the needs of the culture, society, and services of the individual country is a requirement for success. Regional and National Networks of CBSG are not just desirable but necessary due to the sheer magnitude of the problem of biodiversity loss on this planet, as well as the diversity in environment, culture and social systems, economic conditions, policy and governance, and philosophy in different countries and regions.

CBSG Network Convenors

CBSG Australasia
Caroline Lees & Richard Jakob-Hoff
Auckland Zoo/New Zealand Center for Conservation Medicine

CBSG Indonesia
Jansen Manansang
Taman Safari Indonesia

CBSG South Asia
Sally Walker
Zoo Outreach Organisation

CBSG Japan
Hiroshi Hori
Nasu World Monkey Park

CBSG Southern Africa
Yolan Friedmann
Endangered Wildlife Trust

CBSG Brasil
Arnaud Desbiez
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

CBSG Mesoamerica
Yolanda Matamoros
Simon Bolivar Zoo

CBSG Europe
Bengt Holst
Copenhagen Zoo

CBSG México
Amy Camacho
Africam Safari

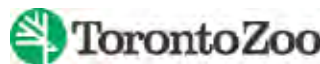


CBSG DONORS

\$50,000 and above



\$20,000 and above



\$10,000 and above

Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria
Nan Schaffer
San Diego Zoo
White Oak Conservation Center

\$5,000 and above

Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Evenson Design Group
Forestry Bureau of the Council of Agriculture, Taipei
Linda Malek
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
Toledo Zoo

\$1,000 and above

African Safari Wildlife Park
Albuquerque Biological Park
Alice D. Andrews
Allwetterzoo Münster
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Auckland Zoological Park
Audubon Zoo
Bristol Zoo Gardens
British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Calgary Zoological Society
Central Zoo Authority, India
Chester Zoo
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
Colchester Zoo
Conservatoire pour la Protection des Primates
Copenhagen Zoo
Cotswold Wildlife Park
Detroit Zoological Park
Dickerson Park Zoo
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

El Paso Zoo
Everland Zoological Gardens
Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
Fort Worth Zoo
Fota Wildlife Park
Gladys Porter Zoo
Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens
Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Kansas City Zoo
Laurie Bingaman Lackey
Los Angeles Zoo
Marwell Zoological Park
Milwaukee County Zoo
North Carolina Zoological Park
Ocean Park Conservation Foundation
Paignton Zoo
Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park
Parco Natura Viva
Perth Zoo
Philadelphia Zoo
Phoenix Zoo
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
Prudence P. Perry
Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey
Robert Lacy
Rotterdam Zoo
Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp
Royal Zoological Society Scotland – Edinburgh Zoo
Saitama Children's Zoo
San Antonio Zoo
San Francisco Zoo
Schönbrunner Tiergarten – Zoo Vienna
Sedgwick County Zoo
Swedish Association of Zoological Parks & Aquaria
Taipei Zoo
The Living Desert

Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens
Twycross Zoo
Union of German Zoo Directors
Utah's Hogle Zoo
Wassenaar Wildlife Breeding Centre
Wilhelma Zoo
Woodland Park Zoo
Zoo Frankfurt
Zoo Zürich
Zoological Society of Wales – Welsh Mountain Zoo
Zoologischer Garten Köln
Zoologischer Garten Rostock
Zoos South Australia

\$500 and above

Aalborg Zoo
Akron Zoological Park
Banham Zoo
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo
Givskud Zoo
Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens
Katey and Mike Pelican
Kerzner International North America, Inc.
Knuthenborg Park and Safari
Lincoln Park Zoo
Lisbon Zoo
Little Rock Zoo
Nordens Ark
Odense Zoo

Oregon Zoo
Ouwehands Dierenpark
Riverbanks Zoo and Garden
Wellington Zoo
Wildlife World Zoo, Inc.
Zoo de Granby
Zoo de la Palmyre
Zoo Madrid – Parques Reunidos

\$250 and above

Alice Springs Desert Park
Apenheul Zoo
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
Bramble Park Zoo
Brandywine Zoo
David Traylor Zoo of Emporia
Ed Asper
Edward and Marie Plotka
Lee Richardson Zoo
Mark Barone
Racine Zoological Society
Roger Williams Park Zoo
Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure
Sacramento Zoo
Tautphaus Park Zoo
Tokyo Zoological Park Society
Topeka Zoological Park



\$15,000 and above



\$100 and above

African Safari – France
 Aquarium of the Bay
 Chahinkapa Zoo
 International Centre for Birds of Prey
 Lincoln Children's Zoo
 Lion Country Safari, Inc.
 Miami Metrozoo
 Miller Park Zoo
 Steinhart Aquarium
 Steven J. Olson

\$50 and above

Alameda Park Zoo
 Darmstadt Zoo
 Oglebay's Good Children's Zoo
 Safari de Peaugres – France
 Stiftung Natur-und Artenschutz in den Tropen
 Touroparc – France

2008 Sponsors of CBSG Participation in Conservation Workshops and Meetings

Amphibian Decline and Veterinary Medicine Meeting

CBSG Mesoamerica

Brazilian Conference of Mastozoology

Chico Mendes Center for Biodiversity Conservation

Conference on India's Conservation Breeding Initiative

Ministry of Forest and Environment, Government of India

Envirovet

University of Illinois; White Oak Conservation Center

International Expert Workshop on CITES NDFs

CITES; CONABIO

International Tapir Symposium

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA); European Association of Zoos and Aquaria;
 Tapir Taxon Advisory Group

IUCN/SSC Specialist Group Chairs Meeting

IUCN Species Survival Commission

Metamodel Development Meeting, Chicago, USA

Chicago Zoological Society

Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting

CBSG

Tiger Species Survival Plan Masterplan Meeting

AZA

Wildlife Conservation Society/Zoological Society of London/AArk Amphibian Symposium

Amphibian Ark

World Conservation Congress

Chicago Zoological Society; IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group; Royal Zoological Society of Scotland



CBSG Steering Committee and GCN Financial Board (as of December 31, 2008)

Brad Andrews*

SeaWorld/Busch Gardens, USA

Edward Asper

African Safari Wildlife Park, USA

Evan Blumer

Columbus Zoo/The WILDS, USA

Jeffrey Bonner

Saint Louis Zoo, USA

Jerry Borin**

Columbus Zoo/The Wilds, USA

Paul Boyle

Association of Zoos and Aquariums, USA

Amy Camacho

Africam Safari, México

William Conway*

Wildlife Conservation Society, USA

Mark Craig

Sydney Attractions Group, Australia

James Cretney

Marwell Zoo, UK

Arnaud Desbiez

Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Brazil

Gerald Dick

World Association of Zoos and Aquariums,
Switzerland

Lesley Dickie

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria,
Netherlands

Lee Ehmke*

Minnesota Zoo, USA

Nathan Flesness*

ISIS (International Species Information System), USA

Yolan Friedmann

Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa

Suzanne Gendron

Ocean Park Conservation Foundation,
Hong Kong

Jo Gipps*

Bristol Zoo Gardens, UK

Hiroshi Hori

Yokohama Zoo/Nasu World Monkey Park, Japan

Heribert Hofer

Leibniz-Institut für Zoo und Wildtierforschung,
Germany

Bengt Holst*

Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark

Jim Jackson*

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, USA

John Knowles**

Marwell Zoological Park, UK

Willie Labuschagne

Management of Nature Conservation,
United Arab Emirates

Robert Lacy**

Chicago Zoological Society, USA

Lena Maria Lindén

Nordens Ark, Sweden

Jansen Manansang

Taman Safari Indonesia, Indonesia

Yolanda Matamoros

Simon Bolivar Zoo, Costa Rica

Mike Maunder

Al Ain Wildlife Park and Resort, United Arab
Emirates

Gordon McGregor Reid

Chester Zoo, UK

Theo Pagel

Zoologischer Garten Köln, Germany

George Rabb

Chicago Zoological Society, USA

Bill Rapley

Toronto Zoo, Canada

Alex Rübel

Zoo Zürich, Switzerland

Christian R. Schmidt

Switzerland

Lee Simmons*

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, USA

Rebecca Seal Soileau

CBSG, USA

Mark Stanley-Price

Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, University of
Oxford, UK

Beth Stevens

Disney's Animal Kingdom, USA

Miranda Stevenson

British and Irish Association of Zoos
and Aquariums, UK

Yasumasa Tomita

Tokyo Zoological Park Society, Japan

Sally Walker

Zoo Outreach Organisation, India

Chris West

Zoos South Australia, Australia

Frances Westley

University of Waterloo, Canada

Dan Wharton

Chicago Zoological Society, USA

Robert Wiese

San Diego Zoo, USA

Jonathan Wilcken

Auckland Zoo, New Zealand

David Wildt

National Zoological Park, USA

* Member of GCN Financial Board and CBSG
Steering Committee

** GCN Financial Board Member only



**Statement of Activities and Changes
in Net Assets for the Year Ending
December 31, 2008**

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Support and Revenue:			
Contributions	US\$793,804	US\$55,601	US\$849,405
Workshops and Contracts	61,930	–	61,930
Other Program Service Fees	2,645	–	2,645
Sales Revenue (Net Cost of Goods Sold of \$27,611 in 2008 and \$7,992 in 2007)	(13,053)	–	(13,053)
Investment Income (Loss)	(63,013)	–	(63,013)
Other Income	3,160	–	3,160
Net Assets Released from Restrictions			
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	39,445	(39,445)	–
Satisfaction of Time Restrictions	7,000	(7,000)	–
Total Support and Revenue	831,918	9,156	841,074
Expense:			
Program Services	607,736	–	607,736
Support Services:			
Management and General	93,616	–	93,616
Fundraising	64,247	–	64,247
Total Support Services	157,863	–	157,863
Total Expense	765,599	–	765,599
Change in Net Assets	66,319	9,156	75,475
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	309,867	46,445	356,312
Net Assets - End of Year	US\$376,186	US\$55,601	US\$431,787

**Statement of Financial Position
at December 31, 2008**
ASSETS
Current Assets:

Cash	US\$405,540
Contracts Receivable	–
Prepaid Expenses	7,938
Total Current Assets	413,478

Investments	118,257
Property and Equipment - Net	756
Total Assets	US\$532,491

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS
Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	3,437
Accrued Salaries	9,720
Accrued Vacation	13,761
Deferred Workshop Revenue	–
Funds held for Other Species	
Conservation Organizations	73,786
Total Current Liabilities	100,704

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	376,186
Temporarily Restricted	55,601
Total Net Assets	431,787
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	US\$532,491

Notes to 2008 Financial Statements

The finances to support the work of CBSG and related species conservation activities are held and managed by the Global Conservation Network (GCN), a USA 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. CBSG manages the financial aspects of AArk activities as part of our commitment to AArk's success. GCN had an overall surplus of about US \$75,500 for the year in 2008. Our unrestricted activity (general operations) accounted for approximately US \$66,300 of the increase with the remaining US \$9,200 increase related to restricted activity. As of December 31, 2008, we had an unrestricted net asset reserve of US \$376,000, or more than eight months of operating expenses. Two components make up the temporarily restricted net asset reserve at year end; US \$25,200 is for the Amphibian Ark Fund and about US \$30,400 is for 2009 CBSG commitments. The information on this page was taken from the 2008 audit. Copies of the full audit can be obtained by contacting the CBSG office.

2008 Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation

Ulie Seal's great passion and talent was his creative thinking about how new science could be most effectively applied to solving the problems of wildlife conservation. His contributions were amplified many times over by his further ability to recognize, encourage, and collaborate with others who were also making such innovative contributions. Fittingly, CBSG has chosen to honor Ulie, the founder and first Chairman of CBSG, by creating the Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation. The contributions of recipients of this award need not have been through work connected with CBSG, but do reflect CBSG values of creative thinking that results in improved conservation action.



The 2008 Ulysses S. Seal Award was presented to Sally Walker of the Zoo Outreach Organisation, and Convenor of CBSG South Asia. For more than 30 years, Sally has worked tirelessly to expand, educate, and connect the conservation community in South Asia, creating several organizations such as the Zoo Outreach Organisation and the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation (SAZARC), which provides a means for zoo personnel in South Asia to learn more advanced methods of zoo management. She also founded the first CBSG Regional Network, and seven Taxon Networks in South Asia, modeled after IUCN taxon Specialist Groups. Her work has connected thousands of conservation professionals in South Asia, and provides education and resources to local people, changing attitudes and behaviors in communities that have a direct impact on the populations of threatened species throughout the region.



Ulysses S. Seal Award Winners

- 2003 Nathan Flesness, International Species Information System, USA
- 2004 Frances Westley, University of Waterloo, Canada
- 2005 Georgina Mace, Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Centre for Population Biology, Imperial College, London, UK
- 2006 Jonathan Ballou, National Zoological Park, USA
- 2007 Paul Pearce-Kelly, Zoological Society of London, UK
- 2008 Sally Walker, Zoo Outreach Organisation, India

Sustainability

We are proud to partner with Mohawk Fine Papers and B&G House of Printing in California to bring you our 2008 Annual Report. This report was printed on Mohawk Options Smooth Digital with i-Tone 100% PC White, which contains 100% PCW (post-consumer waste), FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified, and made with 100% Windpower. Only the exact number of Annual Reports required were printed.

In our continuing efforts to reflect sustainability within our own organization, please visit the CBSG website, which features the electronic version of the Annual Report, and new pages of resources focused on the topic of sustainability.

This paper selection preserves

- 1.36 trees for the future
- 579 gallons (2,192 liters) of wastewater flow
- 965,600 BTUs energy.



Printed on 100% Post-Consumer Fiber

Special Acknowledgements

Evenson Design Group – www.evensondesign.com

The design of this Annual Report and other materials was donated by Evenson Design Group (EDG), a full service graphic design firm located in Culver City, California. Since 1976, EDG has worked with small to enterprise-level clients creating many successful solutions for brand identity, packaging, corporate collateral, environmental signage, exhibit design, and web/multi-media projects.

Linda Malek is a strategic planning, business development, and marketing specialist based in southern California. She currently donates her expertise to CBSG as we enhance stakeholder communication and increase targeted development efforts, and has directed EDG in the design of this Annual Report and other marketing and development tools.

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Josh Kapfer

Kristin Leus

Virginia Lindgren

R. Marimuthu

Phil Miller

Akira Murayama

Sanjay Molur

R. Andrew Odum

Jorge Rodriguez

Lee Simmons

Roger Smith

Rebecca Spindler

Taipei Zoo

Waverley Traylor

Kathy Traylor-Holzer

Sherman Wong

