

CBSG & its Regional Networks ... an Overview: Regional Convenors Meet to plan 2013-2016

Sally Walker*

The following article is a report of the recent workshop held in Minneapolis, Minnesota for CBSG Staff and CBSG Regional Networks. I am using this as an opportunity to introduce or reintroduce CBSG to our readers and give those who are not members (most of you) an opportunity to know about this amazing IUCN SSC Specialist Group and to become a member of the South Asian Regional Network of CBSG. Becoming a member will not cost you anything but time, and you can even make a choice about that! If you sign on as a member, we will send you a range of conservation documents which may be of interest to you and an addition to your e-conservation-library.

This article is meant to be interesting as well as informative with information about real people who run the CBSG office, and the CBSG Regional Networks. If you are interested in becoming a Member of CBSG South Asia after reading about CBSG and its partners and activities, please send us an email with your basic information in it, such as ...

Full Name:

Email:

City & Country:

Profession:

The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group is one of the disciplinary (as opposed to species) specialist groups of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN. CBSG meets a minimum of twice a year in addition to the range of workshops, trainings in between the mid-year meeting and the Annual Meeting. These two meetings take place at a different place every year and always before the World Zoo and Aquarium Association's Mid-year Council Meeting and its Annual Conference.

CBSG, despite its name, is not just about conservation breeding ... it is about everything conservation ... whether protecting wild places and environments, developing scientific tools to assess the probability of extinction of critically threatened species, or training people around the world to use those tools, or participating in meetings and workshops aiming to resolve conflicts (not human/animal conflict...) and then human/human conflict, institution/institution conflict, etc. Conflict Resolution was one of the favorite activities of CBSG by Dr. Ulysses S. Seal, long term Chair of CBSG and Dr. Seal was one of the best in actually resolving conflict (and also generating it, from time to time).

Briefly, CBSG began as the Zoo Liaison Committee, an entity within IUCN which in the 70's morphed into the Captive Breeding Specialist Group, one of the numerous SGs of IUCN. Its task was to "meet the need for interface between the captive breeding and academic and field conservation groups then represented by IUCN's taxon-based specialist groups". Dr. Seal was made Chairman of CBSG in 1979 and grew the group wisely and steadily for over two decades, until his death.

I was introduced to Dr. Seal and his Executive Director, Dr. Thomas J. Foose before I actually knew there was a specific



Left to right : Emily, Elizabeth, Mike, and Onnie (Chair of CBSG). Not sure who the finger belongs to and certainly not sure what it implies! All photos by Sally Walker.

group called CBSG (or for that matter a group called IUCN). I was new to international conservation and got involved while trying to track down ISIS (then called International Species Inventory System) and came in touch with Nate Fleisness who was working with Seal and Foose. On one of my obligatory trips to USA (e.g., when I couldn't get my Indian visa renewed) I visited Minneapolis to see the zoo and connect with the ISIS office. Dr. Seal, of course had been the instrument to start ISIS when he realized that there were no zoo animal records in any of the zoos of the United States worthy of the name "scientific". He had been conducting research on wolves and upon checking records for a variety of species via zoo records. To make a long story short, when he saw the "excuses" for animals records most zoos had, he set about to rectify the damage by creating the International Species Information System, acronym ISIS, pronounced I - sis (2 syllables) and NOT I.S.I.S. (4 syllables) as many Indian zoo people do.

Being a newbie zoo girl then, I did not grasp that ISIS was not the whole show in the underground offices hosting ISIS and CBSG. It was all ISIS to me ... until I attended a CBSG meeting in Copenhagen in 1990. I discovered this by asking Ulie and Tom IF they were going to attend a certain "zoo meeting" in Copenhagen (still not familiar with the name or acronym). They laughed at me without charity and said "of course we going ... we **ARE** the meeting!" It seems Ulie Seal was the Chair of this new IUCN SSC specialist group and Tom Foose was Executive Director! Nate was Director of ISIS. It was embarrassing, but how do we learn, after all!

Following this experience and the meeting (which I also attended, also dragging Mr. Pushp Kumar and Dr. Jacob Cheeran (famous zoo director and veterinarian in India) I was hooked and totally un-shy about getting involved. I asked Ulie to make me a Member of CBSG (not so easy then--it was almost an elite and academic group as per IUCN SSC) and he agreed ... on experimental basis I am sure. The next year when CBSG annual meeting met in

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Singapore, and I was still a member I took ten (10) Indian zoo directors with me. Ulie and Tom both urged those present to become more involved and do more “networking” for CBSG. I then approached Ulie and proposed creating a Network in India for promoting CBSG, which I associated with networking. He didn’t skip a beat but requested a “plan” and when he received my plan, he agreed ... again, on experimental basis.

Forgive me for all the personal highlights but it happens that the first CBSG Network began right then with CBSG, India. Over the years, other CBSG members in different countries and regions requested permission and established their own networks. By 2000 CBSG India had morphed into CBSG South Asia with 7 countries. Today there are CBSG networks in several continents and countries, and Captive Breeding Specialist Group been changed to Conservation Breeding SG. That is the background for this article and the recent CBSG Regional Network Meeting, held in Minneapolis at a comfy hotel in a part of Minneapolis with multiple good eating places within walking distance!

CBSG has been conducting Regional discussions via different types of conference calls which were not always successful in pulling in everyone, due to various technical problems. It was easier to get the Chairs of the Regional Networks to come in person to this meeting than to get them all on skype or a conference call. More fun too.

So on 1-3 March 2013 the following Regional CBSG Networks and their Chairs met:

CBSG Headquarters: Onnie Byers, Chair; Phil Miller & Kathy Holzer, Conservation Scientists, and Elizabeth Townsend and Emily Wick Administrative Officers.

CBSG Australasia: Caroline Lees, Richard Jakob-Hoff

CBSG Brazil: Arnaud Desbiez

CBSG Europe: Bengt Holst, Frands Carlsen, Kristin Leus

CBSG Mesoamerica: Yolanda Matamoros, Jorge Rodriguez

CBSG Mexico: Luis Carrillo

CBSG North America: Anne Baker

CBSG South Asia: Sally Walker, Sanjay Molur

CBSG Southern Africa: Mike Jordan

Two networks could not attend, e.g.

CBSG Indonesia and
CBSG Japan



Ha! The “Finger” (see preceeding photo) was obviously Arnaud!

First Day

After a night’s drinking, eating and talking at Onnie’s house, on the first day there were the usual starting activities, such as Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Agenda for CBSG 2013-2016. The idea was that we would meet, discuss opportunities and problems, and each plan our next four years of activities. This was a multi-tasking event in that it helped to integrate the networks more closely with CBSG HQ and with one another, and also provide new ideas and a forum for each individual network’s future plans.

Topics of discussion on day one covered the Global CBSG Initiatives currently emerging, a discussion of CBSG’s role in Species Conservation Planning Subcommittee and also with other IUCN Specialist Groups.

Although Japan was not represented in person a suggestion from one of the members to include other countries and create CBSG, East Asia, a very good idea.

Onnie gave each person time to tell the story of their introduction to CBSG, always interesting and even amusing!

Onnie (Byers-Chair of CBSG SSC IUCN) – was doing PhD work at the University of Minnesota, collecting tiger semen. Ulie was immobilizing the tigers, and Onnie met him and his wife. Onnie went to DC for her post doctoral studies and then worked for Minnesota Zoo which was not exactly the work she wanted. She approached the CBSG offices and asked what was needed to work for CBSG. Susie Ellis, a CBSG Programme Officer told her that all you needed was good social skills. Onnie then talked to Ulie, and the rest is history.

Anne (Baker - Convenor, CBSG North America)

– first met Ulie when she was curator of primates at Brookfield Zoo. She was trying to figure out how to not have so many primates, and Ulie was working on contraceptives. She linked up with Ulie and began a program of animal contraception. Her first CBSG activity was the Global Primate Action Plan. Recently she “retired” and swiftly took on the establishment of CBSG North America ... quite a challenge.

Mike (Jordan - Convenor, CBSG, South Africa)

– got involved with CBSG through Sally whom he met at a conference at Paignton Zoo, where they discussed CBSG. Mike had given a presentation on rodents which caught Sally’s attention. Next thing he knew, he was in India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan doing small mammal field techniques training. ZOO is trying for a workshop in Afghanistan for Mike but its not going well.

Elizabeth (Townsend, CBSG Office)

found a job posting on the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits website. She is sure she got the job because she happened to work at Onnie’s favorite restaurant and went to the same University as Onnie. Her work belies that!

Emily (Wick, CBSG Office) has been with CBSG one year and remembers coming for 2 interviews. She was prepared for the typical questions, but found the interview was more like a conversation than an interview. She liked that and when she was offered the job, quickly snapped it up.

Richard (Jakob-Hoff, CBSG

Australasia)– met Ulie in Auckland in 1990 at a regional zoo association

conference. Ulie had come to promote CBSG, and Richard was impressed with what he had to say and asked how he could get involved. He went to his first PHVA on Sumatran rhino and elephant, and was blown away. Ulie said one thing he had learned was to never take credit for himself, but to always give it to others. Richard loved that philosophy and wanted more of these very profound experiences.

Luis (Carrillo, CBSG, Mexico) worked at Africam Safari in 2001 when they organized a scarlet macaw PHVA which turned out to be (according to Luis) the weirdest and worst workshop he had endured. It was the first time he met Ulie and tallest guy ever seen in life (Phil). Then Onnie and Kathy came for facilitator training, and Luis attended the Horned Guan PHVA which was good and Luis has been involved with CBSG at Africam Safari for a long time.

Kristin (Leus CBSG Europe) due to her love of wild pigs in 1996, Kristin was invited to the babirusa PHVA. There she met Phil, who had this cool program called Vortex. Ulie was there, and he said he liked Kristin's Scottish accent. She asked Ulie what she needed to do in order to become a member. Someone suggested she go to a facilitation course, where she learned more about CBSG "geeky stuff" then became part of CBSG Europe.

Frands (Carlsen CBSG Europe) knew about CBSG from writing his master's thesis. In 1990, he had the chance to attend the CBSG Annual Meeting in Copenhagen. There he met Ulie and, as happened when people met Ulie, Frands wanted to be part of CBSG. In 1997, he went to the Uganda chimp PHVA. He remembered sitting on a bus with good crowd of people, including Jane Goodall, and he wanted to be part of it.

Bengt (Holtz, Chair, CBSG Europe) met Ulie in 1990 while arranging the WAZA Conference and CBSG Annual Meeting. He didn't know anything about CBSG except that they needed a meeting space. In 1997, Bengt participated in the lion tamarin PHVA, and joined in many CBSG meetings after that. He was amazed by how the meetings were run and, in 2002, suggested the formation of CBSG Europe. At about this same time, Ulie became ill. Bengt feels privileged to have seen him again before he passed, and feels like he got a last blessing for CBSG Europe. Bengt

also thanked Sally for supporting the establishment of CBSG Europe, which is now 10 years old.

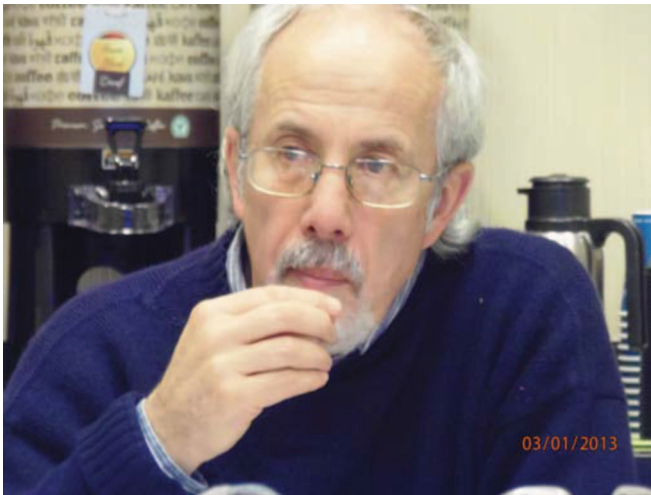
Phil (Miller – CBSG SSC) finished his PhD in 1994 and was looking for a job. An advisor was going to a Felid TAG meeting, and Phil asked the advisor to help him. Ulie was there, and the advisor talked to Ulie, who was looking for a population biologist. Ulie called Phil and Phil asked if Ulie was looking for anyone. Ulie said yes, there was a PHVA for the Houston toad coming up, and he wanted to know if Phil would come and run some risk assessment. Phil went to the PHVA, which was essentially a job interview. Phil was up all night running models took the job! Despite being new, the meeting was exciting and cool, and Phil wanted to do it again. Ulie had confidence in Phil, and that led Phil to become the outstanding Pop Biologist that he is today.

Yolanda (Metamoros, CBSG MesoAmerica) met Ulie in 1992 in Guatemala at a Mesoamerican Zoo Association Meeting. Ulie needed someone to translate for him, and Yolanda was asked to do it. This is how her friendship with Ulie began and the work that has changed her life completely. She was elected president of the Mesoamerican Zoo Association at same meeting and the Association and CBSG Mesoamerica are one, and can do and have done many things together.

Jorge (Rodriguez, CBSG, MesoAmerica) met Ulie and Phil at the jaguar PHVA in Costa Rica. He was a translator at that meeting and went to several more workshops. There he saw Vortex and thought it was cool. He attended a Vortex training course in Puebla, and realized it was not actually that easy, but still thought it was cool, and continues to learn about it.

Sally (Walker, CBSG, South Asia) – got to hold a tiger cub at Mysore Zoo, and that determined the rest of her life. She started volunteering at Mysore Zoo and founded the Society, Friends of Mysore Zoo in 1980 at the request of the Mysore Divisional Commissioner, and Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) in 1985 by request of the Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of India. Meeting Ulie was a wonderful, great experience on a visit to Nate Fleisness, Director, ISIS while trying to get ISIS free for Indian zoos. Ulie unwisely asked what she was doing and he never got a chance to speak the rest of the day. At the CBSG Annual Meeting in Copenhagen in 1990, Sally asked





Richard Jakob-Hoff, CBSG Australasia ponders discussion in CBSG regional networks meeting.

to be a member of CBSG and a year later at the Singapore meeting requested permission to create a CBSG India. She started CBSG South Asia in 2000.

Sanjay (Molur, CBSG, South Asia) met Sally through a friend selling fax machines. He went for an interview, and ended up spending the day working with Sally. He had no zoo experience but Sally was intrigued by his brazen remarks and arrogance, and gave him a job, featuring CBSG India work. She also gave him a PHVA briefing book and this was his introduction to CBSG. He met Ulie soon after at the first PHVA organised by CBSG, India ... for Manipur deer. Later when CBSG India organised 3 PHVAs (Lion-tailed macaque, Asiatic Lion, Indian Rhino) back to back and from one end of India to another, Sanjay learned MUCH more about CBSG and its conservation tools that led him to many other conservation skills.

Caroline (Wilkin, CBSG Australasia) – was working in the invertebrate house at London Zoo. Part of her job was to clean out cockroaches and ants, and there was one room full of snails that she was not allowed to go in. She was asked to help at a meeting, and remembers a dark room full of experts and covered in paper. Her job at the meeting was to get citations and to go find the papers and, over the course of the meeting, she learned about why she was not allowed in snail room! It was the 1994 Partula Snail CAMP workshop. This was the first time she met Ulie. While at ZSL, she found that, every 3 months or so, they would receive a massive bag of documents with CAMPs and PHVAs. She would go through some of them, and she found them interesting and really wanted to go to a PHVA. Fifteen years later, she went to her first PHVA, the Tasmanian Devil PHVA in 2008.

Arnaud (Desbiez, CBSG Brazil) first met Ulie when he was a zookeeper in France. He went to a CBSG meeting, where Ulie was shouting to a room of people, talking in acronyms. Arnaud had no idea what he was saying. Ulie said there was no need to work on species X because it was going to go extinct anyhow! Arnaud was shocked and horrified that he would say this. Ulie dominated the room. It wasn't until years later in Brazil that Arnaud took a Vortex course. Arnaud went to the maned wolf PHVA, and found it to be a great, collaborative workshop, and he had such a good time. There was great energy there, and he was excited to be part of CBSG.

Kathy (Holzer, CBSG Office) – met Ulie in 1984. Kathy had always wanted to be a wolf biologist, and was in North Dakota doing research. Ulie was also working on wolves and Kathy argued wolf behavior and biology with him before realizing who he was; they had good intellectual banter. Later, she began working at the Minnesota Zoo, where she worked with Ulie and his wife. They would all drive up north and work with wolves, drawing blood for research. Kathy remembers having to write up a paper, and Ulie very generously offering the use of his home computer. In 1990/1991, Kathy joined the conservation world at the Minnesota Zoo, and attended a primate CAMP. This was her first CBSG experience and introduction to the CBSG process.

Regional Network Operations Reports

This section is about the networks' locations, host organizations, structures, primary functions, to show how they operate.

CBSG Southern Africa (Mike Jordan)

The CBSG Southern African network is located at Pretoria, South Africa hosted by National Zoological Gardens of South Africa (NZG) which is the largest zoo in South Africa, and host also to PAAZAB, the African Zoo Association.

Mike Jordan is convenor. He is employed by NZG and is a member of the IUCN SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group. His staff, Kerry Morrison and Harriet Davies who are employed by Endangered Wildlife Trust EWT. There is no formal membership of this network. The primary functions focus on partnership building with PAAZAB and the zoo community. CBSG Southern Africa has also been working to develop a relationship with central and provincial governments in South Africa, and with NGOs in the region on species conservation planning, prioritization, and PHVA review. Mike feels that the potential for CBSG Southern Africa is huge. There is a great lack of conservation planning for small species; there is huge potential here.

CBSG Europe (Bengt Holst)

CBSG Europe is located in Copenhagen, Denmark and Antwerp, Belgium and hosted by Copenhagen Zoo which is very supportive of CBSG activities. Bengt is Convenor, and Frands Carsen and Kristin Leus work with him. Together they cover five different languages, which helps meet the challenges in Europe. There is no specific membership in



Phil, Bengt, Franz and Luis in discussion.

Europe, besides the CBSG members that are in Europe. They tried creating a CBSG Europe membership, but it did not work well.

CBSG Europe strives to promote CBSG in Europe, and works very closely with EAZA. This can sometimes cause confusion in that it is hard to know which hat people are wearing sometimes (CBSG Europe or EAZA), but ultimately this is a strength. The CBSG Europe office considers itself to be a resource center. They do a lot of trainings in CBSG tools: Vortex, conservation planning, facilitation, etc. The Conservation Database, housed at EAZA, is run by CBSG Europe. This is a database of *in situ* conservation projects that are linked to EAZA zoos. There was an attempt to make this database global, but participation outside of Europe has been lacking.

CBSG North America (Anne Baker)

CBSG N.America is a very new CBSG network, located in Main USA and hosted by St. Louis Zoo. Anne shares the convenorship with Phil Nyhus. They are planning to put together an advisory group of about 12 people, from government entities, the academic community, zoo associations, PhDs and post-docs. There is no membership as such but there is a proposal that any current CBSG member in North America would be a member of CBSG North America. Anyone that CBSG North America would like to invite to be a member would most likely become a CBSG member as well.

CBSG North America is still in the planning stages. It would have a focus on activities in the US and Canada. CBSG North America would work to increase the effectiveness of species conservation efforts, to promote collaboration, to increase the awareness of the PHVA process, and to promote the One Plan approach. Goals for the next year are to get up and running; to meet with various people in the US and Canada, in zoos and in governments, to talk about how CBSG can help them and how they can help CBSG's efforts.

CBSG Australasia (Caroline Lees)

CBSG Australasia is located in Auckland, New Zealand and hosted by Auckland Zoo with Caroline Lees and Richard Jakob-Hoff sharing the convenorship.

CBSG Australasia has a core team of 6-8 members and a wider network of 6-8 as well as and a broader interest group of 20-30 but no formal "membership" as such. Their primary focus is on 4 themes: 1. Disease risk assessment (DRA) tools and updating the DRA manual, 2. Small population management, 3. Mass collaboration tools and 4. Evaluation tools. They have primarily been working with government wildlife agencies and with zoos. Training is a big thing for them, and training courses have been a great fund generator for CBSG Australasia, through charging training fees as well as professional fees for other workshops and projects. CBSG Australasia has done a number of training courses.

CBSG Mexico (Luis Carrillo)

This CBSG Network is located in Cuernavaca, Mexico hosted by Zoofari which is a private zoo park. Luis Carrillo is Convenor and Gracia Syed, Juan Cornejos and Stephan Arriaga are upcoming facilitators and modelers. They have no formal membership. One of the primary functions of CBSG Mexico is to catalyze conservation action in Mexico, with a focus on conservation program development and assessment; collections and pop

management; disease risk assessment; and collaboration with other CBSG Regional Networks. Luis is working to highlight and strengthen CBSG Mexico's relationship with zoos and wildlife managers, as well as with AZCARM, universities, and NGOs.

CBSG Mesoamerica (Jorge Rodriguez)

Located in San Jose, Costa Rica, this network is hosted by AMACZOOA, Fundazoo led by Yolanda Matamoros (convenor) Jorge Rodriguez, and Randal Arguedas. Other support from Fundazoo, Simon Bolivar Zoo, AMACZOOA members, SENASA, field biologists, UCR, UNA, Promar, CCT, University of Tabasco. No formal membership. Primary Functions are to conduct species conservation planning workshops, PHVA and CAMPs. They give Presentations on the PVA process and Vortex and do Strategic planning.

CBSG Brazil (Arnaud Desbiez)

This network is located in Campo Gande, Brazil and does not have a formal host. Arnaud Desbiez (convenor), Fabiana Lopes Rocha, Katia Ferraz run the network with no members. Its primary functions are Species conservation planning was the initial focus of CBSG Brazil. At its founding in 2004, CBSG Brazil received a lot of support and guidance from CBSG Europe and CBSG HQ. CBSG Europe was a mentor. CBSG Brazil also runs facilitation courses, Vortex courses, and red listing courses. CBSG Brazil's strengths are the enthusiasm and commitment of those involved with CBSG Brazil's activities, and those involved are highly trained and experienced. CBSG Brazil's weaknesses are that it currently has no institutional support. Those involved with CBSG Brazil do not have a lot of time to spare, either. Arnaud also feels that CBSG Brazil lacks a long term vision and strategic approach. CBSG Brazil could also work more on *ex situ* population management.

CBSG Brazil works frequently with ICMBio. They do not have a formal partnership with them, however; ICMBio uses CBSG methodologies but does not give recognition to CBSG. This is a problem. CBSG Brazil has also, in the past, worked with the Brazilian government on red listing. CBSG Brazil has also not received any credit for these efforts. It is a similar story with many of the PVAs CBSG Brazil has been invited to work on.

CBSG South Asia (Sally Walker)

CBSG South Asia is located in Coimbatore, India and hosted by Zoo Outreach Organization and its partner Wildlife Information Liaison Development (ZOO & WILD). Sally Walker and Sanjay Molur share the convenorship.

Sally was the first CBSG member to start a network. She had asked Ulie permission since he and Tom Foote had stated they wanted to see more "networking" among members and other conservationists in the countries and regions. The network was limited to India, (CBSG, India). It was immediately popular and inspired a CBSG Sri Lanka and a CBSG Nepal. After some time, when these satellite network did not function well, Sally organised CBSG South Asia consisting of Nepal and Sri Lanka as well as the other countries in the region. This was in 2000 and the regional network was very active, particularly in conducting Annual Meetings in different countries.

From the beginning CBSG, India had members so that many people could participate without burdening the central office of CBSG. Membership rose and fell but now there are about 150 member including 40 CBSG SSC IUCN Members.

In the same year that CBSG South Asia was created, Sally founded a South Asian Regional Association for zoos. Almost every year there was a regional Zoo Association conference the first two days were devoted to a CBSG meeting based on the CBSG SSC IUCN model. These were very effective meetings.

CBSG South Asia works along with and through the Zoo Outreach Organisation and the Wildlife Information Network as well as the other 10 networks shared by these two organisations, e.g. CBSG, RSG, Primate SG, Invertebrate, Bats, Rodentia, Reptile, Amphibian, Educator, and Climate Change. It is always difficult to allocate credit for the multiple activities of these networks as well as 3 sub-networks of the Invertebrate Specialist Group. We have also run into the same difficulties as Arnaud in conducting workshops and training, as other NGO's and government do not want to share credit. ZOO and WILD have always worked on multiple projects and bring CBSG tools, philosophy, and training techniques into whatever we are doing. As such we lose track of ownership and sometimes do not credit CBSG adequately which is deeply regretted.

The CBSG Regional Networks Meeting, 1-3 March 2013

The introductions and operational descriptions of the CBSG Regional Networks laid the groundwork for working through the next four years. The Meeting Goals below described what the meeting was intended to achieve, e.g.,

- re-energize and inspire each other and to reaffirm our commitment to CBSG.
- develop a shared direction for the future of the organization.
- get a shared understanding and agreement of what is expected from a regional network (the core essence, around which there will be flexibility).
- identify the goals of each network for the new quadrennium, and develop a plan for achieving them.
- benefit from each region's experience and learn from each other.

CBSG Plans ... 2013 – 2016

Aichi Biodiversity Targets and IUCN SSC Strategic Plan targets have been highlighted as those that CBSG could make a contribution. The targets give CBSG a framework and structure for the next 4 years.

Aichi Target 12

By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained. Target 12 is an exceptionally large and important target.

Red Listing

New ideas on Red List and Red List Training were recorded and it was decided to discuss with IUCN officials responsible for the IUCN Red List how CBSG could play more of a role.

At least three scientific papers published by 2016 demonstrating that *without conservation measures, the status of species would be much worse than it is now.*

Global CBSG Initiatives

One Plan Approach (Kathy)

The idea of the One Plan approach is to integrate the *ex situ* community into conservation efforts. The One Plan approach for species looks at all the different ways we can increase viability in a population. If we help to develop *ex*

situ management skills and expertise, we can realize the value of the *ex situ* community and link with the *in situ* community.

Climate Change Movement (Onnie)

Onnie explained the three facets of CBSG's climate change initiatives: Bob Lacy's polar bear/ringed seal project Exploration of using PHVA for urban systems like New York CBSG climate change movement in zoos and aquariums and the partnership with 350.org.

Zoo/AZE Partnership (Onnie)

It is hoped that we can clearly state that the zoo community helped achieve Aichi Target 12. CBSG and AZE are currently exploring a role for CBSG in convening people/zoos around AZE species and developing a program. Some work associated with CBSG, South Asia is already taking place in India with AZE.

Structured Decision Making (SDM) (Caroline)

Caroline presented the structured decision making tools being considered for incorporation into a CBSG workshop process. Phil and Caroline saw overlaps between the methods of structured decision making and CBSG's facilitation methods, and they are working to determine how this might improve/add to already existing CBSG processes.

It can be complicated to know how well we understand this method of structured decision making and how we can adapt their process (which takes 3-5 different workshops to complete) and its benefits into something more like the traditional PHVA. Will need to figure out how much work needs to be done ahead of time, how much virtual work to do, etc.

Regional Network Plans with Goals and Needs of the Regional Networks

CBSG Southern Africa

Need to build the functional network more—another 3-4 people with skills for use in CBSG activities could be actively involved.

Expand activities more outside the Republic of South Africa. Opportunities but also limitations outside SA and within SA. Onnie will put Mike in touch with Jeff Muntifer. There is a very open climate for working in other countries. Links have been made but activities will now be identified in Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mosambique, Botswana. Work with PAAZAB members. Other interactions taking place in South Africa are African Rhino SG, African Invertebrate SG, Vultures, Cranes, Flamingo, Lagomorph, Reintroduction etc.

CBSG Mesoamerica

Recruit conservation stakeholders and researchers (go to Mesoamerican cons biology society meetings) to make links. Training needs: vortex training and red list understanding and training. Publish.

CBSG Mexico

Become a non-profit organization within Mexico
Develop a MOU with the Mexican Priority Species Office
Recruit and train more staff (Need: training and financial assistance) CAMP and Red List methodologies., DRA, PMx Projects - once trained, conduct (need govt support and appropriate SG Support)
Assessments of reptiles and medicinal plants
Mex wolf release program DRA
Assessment of Mex priority species
Publish

CBSG Europe

Continue tasks on request

Look into small population management and expand what work to non-zoo organizations.

Develop the necessary tools to do this work in the non-zoo community. Frands to continue his role the climate change movement group/campaign. Strengthen bonds between national conferences (which are important political instruments), which will help us influence IUCN activities in Europe. Make an action plan based on the SSC strategic plan.

Recruit new people for the regional office (GIS expert, Red List expert, facilitator, another Vortex modeler). Publish.

CBSG Brasil

Be adopted by an institution and create a vision for the network.

Get *ex situ* population management expertise in the region DRA training workshop (Richard will help).

Continue to work with colleagues from other networks Publish.

CBSG Australasia

Formalize an income stream through training; provide 2 training courses/year targeting conservation NGOs and wildlife agencies. Courses offered: facilitation training, captive population management, and DRA

Offer strategic planning for captive component of recovery plans. Will develop and strengthen formal relationships with individual zoos and with the NZ component of the Australasian Zoo Association.

DRA Manual rolled out globally and train-the-trainer workshops provided both face-to-face and virtually.

In order to forge closer links with SSC SGs, consider a face to face meeting of SG chairs in Australasia.

Conduct one virtual workshop.

Conduct 2 One Plan Approach events for the next 4 years. Tidy up network finances and membership. Publish.

CBSG South Asia

Identify and prioritize AZE species and sites using CBSG processes.

Freshwater species and ecosystem assessment and conservation policy for India.

Amphibian conservation prioritization with AArk

Freshwater fish conservation assessment (began the FFSG in South Asia). Need to incorporate disease risk here also

Working with Indian government on red list training at national level.

Offer red list training course to CBSG HQ and network staff. Continue publishing Journal of Threatened Taxa.

Meeting of SSC members in South Asia will be organized by India. Organize a side event for CBSG members and work to promote CBSG in the region.

Needs: Training in the region for Vortex and facilitation.

CBSG North America

Get up and running.

Make contacts.

Produce a work plan for introducing CBSG NA to the various stakeholder groups.

Explore interest in the NA community for training.

Identify 2-5 species that would benefit from the OPA so that these can act as models.

Kihansi spray toad reintroduction paper published.

Take some of the pressure of CBSG HQ for innovations in tool development and advancement of thinking.

Wants facilitation training in St Louis this year!



Group photo of CBSG Regional Networks Workshop, 2013. Photo: Anon