

Conservation Breeding Specialist Group IUCN SSC 2012 Annual Meeting in Melbourne, Australia

2012 CBSG SSC IUCN Annual Meeting

The 2012 Annual Meeting events in Melbourne, Australia began on 4 October with a Strategic Committee Meeting and the meeting itself on 5-7 October. It wound up by noon with a trip round the zoo with WAZA members, an Australian "barby" and the presentation of the Hediger Award to previous Chair, Dr. Robert O. Lacy.

This year's meeting benefited from the input and expertise of 102 participants from 19 countries, representing zoos and aquariums, field conservation, SSC specialist groups, government organizations, the scientific community, and academia. Memorable plenary talks and dynamic working group sessions highlighted the importance of integrating the One Plan Approach to species conservation planning into all facets of their work. They added new activities like a participatory World Café session and the use of TED talks to help inspire new ideas. On the last night, during the dinner at Melbourne Zoo with WAZA, Onnie Byers presented former chair Bob Lacy with the 2012 Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation (reported in October ZPt).

Working Groups were conducted from 2 - 4 hours for 1 or 2 days, depending on the time needed. The themes of the working groups were:

- Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis: an introduction and mini-training workshop
- Integration of structured decision making approaches into species conservation planning practice
- Embedding nature conservation in national policy
- Conservation Welfare
- Frozen Ark
- Australian Mammal's extinction: needs and costs of ensuring captive populations and other IMPs
- CBSG Climate Change Action Planning
- Keeping tools alive: Ensuring a Future for CBSG Innovation

The next CBSG 2013 Annual Meeting will be held at Disney in Orlando, Florida.

For working group reports, photos, and a full report of the Annual Meeting, please look for their newsletter, CBSG News, on their website <www.cbsg.org>.

CBSG, WAZA at the World Conservation Congress

At the end of each quadrennium, IUCN hosts the World Conservation Congress, the world's largest conservation event.

The 2012 WCC in Jeju, Korea, was an incredibly intense meeting with more than 8,000 people participating and 150 events held per day. One of the many highlights for CBSG was our workshop, held in collaboration with the SSC Species Conservation Planning Subcommittee and a session on the Green List.

CBSG's session introduced their One Plan Approach to species conservation planning to the IUCN community. Christoph Schwitzer (Bristol Zoo, UK) described their philosophy of integrated conservation planning for a species both inside and outside its natural range, and under all conditions of management, engaging all responsible parties and all available resources. This was followed by an example of the OPA in action (video).

It was an excellent opportunity to share ways to enhance global collaboration and communication in species conservation planning, accelerate the evolution of species conservation planning tools, and contribute significantly to achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.



CBSG and WAZA members pose for a photo with Simon Stuart, Chair of the SSC IUCN at the World Conservation Congress



Group photograph of CBSG Meeting in Melbourne, Australia, 2012

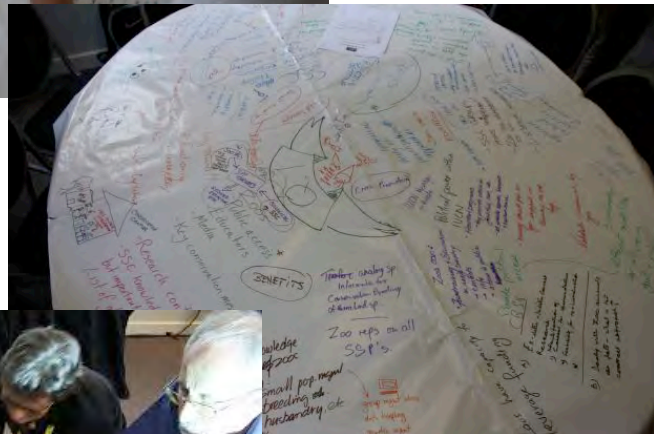


Above: CBSG always invites a range of good speakers to give an up-to-date review of what's happening in the world of wildlife and environment.



Left: Participants discussing topics using the new "World Cafe" activity to focus thinking and insure all ideas are captured.

Right: World Cafe allows participants to write their issues and brainstorm on the tablecloth. There are several tables with tablecloths. Each group gets about 10 minutes to discuss and then they move to another table and topic.



Left: B. S. Bonal, Member Secretary of the Central Zoo Authority of India takes a moment away from the intense concentration going on to give a sassy smile to the camera.