

Report of CBSG South Asia Aug 08-Sep 09 included in CBSG Briefing Material

6th Annual meeting of CBSG/RSG South Asia, 9-15 February 2009

The Sixth Annual meeting of CBSG / RSG South Asia took place by the sea in Mt. Lavinia area of Sri Lanka which is near the National Zoo. Organised by Zoo Outreach Organisation and hosted by the National Zoological Gardens, Dehiwala, Sri Lanka and Ministry of Sports and Public Recreation, Government of Sri Lanka. Resource persons came from UK and USA and participants from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan (for the first time), and Sri Lanka. Mike Jordan, representing the IUCN SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group for Europe and Central Asia, gave a presentation entitled *Considerations in Releasing Animals - some IUCN Fundamentals* and also a case study of the *Southern Ground Hornbill Reintroduction*. Miranda Stevenson, Director, BIAZA, representing IUCN SSC CBSG covered CBSG with an outstanding presentation that described CBSG in context of IUCN and CBSG activities for the past year.

Following these presentations Sally Walker and Sanjay Molur facilitated a brainstorming session for topics to be discussed at working groups, using CBSG Ground Rules for Group Interaction. There were a number of stimulating suggestions but these were prioritized to Small Mammal Reintroduction, Global Climate Change, and Human/Animal Conflict. The reports of these groups have been circulated in April ZOOS' PRINT Magazine at www.zoosprint.org under left column Back Issues and Newsletters. These feature CBSG and RSG South Asia Newsletters, Working Group reports of the meeting and a special review of CBSG South Asia's work multiple collaborators to establish a systematic and safe protocol for translocation of small wild populations of Hoolock Gibbon to viable habitats.

9th Annual Conference for South Asian Zoo

Association : CBSG India was a major instigator for SAZARC, the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation and meets annually just before the SAZARC Conference, and SAZARC inspired CBSG South Asia. This year the training theme was Zoo Legislation Part II. Training topics were "fine tuning" of legislation, accreditation and inspection of zoos. Resource Persons, Kris Vehrs of AZA, Miranda Stevenson of BIAZA and Mike Jordan of ATMOS gave detailed presentations on the theme and related zoo husbandry issues, alternating with country-focused Working Groups to discuss how to proceed further in each country case, and every afternoon, training in Zoo Inspection, using the National Zoo of Sri Lanka as a guinea pig followed by a presentation from a different staff member each day about all the different facilities, old and coming up, of the National Zoological Gardens. The National Zoo and the Ministry of Sports and Public Recreation went overboard in their gracious hospitality. SAZARC participants were given the

option of staying for a tour which covered Hikkaduwa Marine Sanctuary, Ft. Galle, Bundala National Park (Wild elephants, crocodiles, birds, and at night tiny marine turtles being helped to dig out so they make to the ocean before suffocating. Five species of marine turtles lay eggs on that single beach. For more detailed report please see May issue of Zpt magazine at www.zoosprint.org.

Local sponsors: Ministry of Sports and Recreation, Sri Lanka; Department of National Zoological Gardens, Sri Lanka. **External Sponsors:** Chester Zoo/North of England Zoological Society, UK; The Benindi Fund, UK; Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, UK; Knowsley Safari Park, UK; SSC IUCN Conservation Breeding Specialist Group; World Association of Zoos and Aquariums; Twycross Zoo, UK; Paignton Zoo, UK; Walt Disney World, USA; Apenheul Primate Park, Netherlands.

ZOO/CBSG South Asia staff and network activity in South Asia & globally - Sept 08- Sept 09:

- **World Conservation Congress**, IUCN World Congress, October 08, Barcelona. (*Travel sponsored by IUCN*).
- **2nd Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium**, Nov 08, Penang, Malaysia. (*Travel sponsored by Penang butterfly farm, Penang*).
- **Natl Conf. Recent Trends in Climatic change/ Coastal Bio-resources** 11-12 December 2008. Trichur, Kerala.
- **Conservation Educator Workshop** in Bangalore from 18-19 December organized by ATREE.
- **08 CBSG and WAZA Adelaide meetings :** CBSG Steering committee, CBSG Annual Meeting and WAZA Annual Conference, October 08. (*Travel sponsored by Chester Zoo and CBSG*)
- **09 Mid-Year Meetings of CBSG & WAZA:** Steering Committee, Amphibian Review, WAZA Council and WAZA Strategic Futures workshop, Mar 09. (*Travel sponsored by CBSG*).
- **IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Meeting** held at Bristol, June 09. (*Travel sponsored by IUCN*).
- **IUCN SSC AESG - Human-Asian Elephant Conflict Workshop, Beijing**, China 10-11 July 2009. (*Travel sponsored by USFWS*).
- **Society of Conservation Biology SCB Annual Conference 09** and special Symposium on South Asian Primates, 12-18 July 2009, Beijing, China (*Travel sponsored by USFWS*).
- **Annual SEAZA Conference**, Seoul, South Korea, 5 - 9 August 09. (*Travel sponsored by Chester Zoo*)
- **IUCN SSC Red List Steering Committee**, 15-16 Sept.09, Zoological Society of London, London (*Travel sponsored by IUCN*).
- **Alliance for Zero Extinctions (AZE) Steering Committee**, 30 Sept, Washington, D.C. (*Travel sponsored by Conservation International*).
- **IUCN project COUNTDOWN 2010** -- CBSG, South Asia and some taxon network joined CD 2010 in order to brand and motivate our network

member NGO's to join and brand some of their education and conservation projects with the CD 2010 initiative. Amphibian and Hoolock Gibbon calendars were made for 09/10. Countdown 2010 has displayed their commitments on their website and given a CD2010 profile for the whole South Asian region.

• **SCB Membership Project** : Society for Conservation Biology has a special rate for membership for academics from developing countries. This rate, \$10.00, includes web access to four important conservation journals. In most South Asian countries the effort required to exchange local currency plus send it to a foreign organization is immense, although the amount is not much. Our office has made a widely publicised offer to do the paperwork for anyone who wants to join and will reimburse the \$10.00 payment in local currency.

Workshops and Projects organized by ZOO/CBSG, South Asia

• **Human Elephant Co-existence**, 9 HECX Educator Workshops a series of workshops in conflict resolution conducted in India, Nepal and Bangladesh by ZOO/CBSG South Asia and other collaborators. *Sponsored by USFWS and other sponsors Elephant Family, Twycross Zoo, Columbus Zoo, Schonbrunn Zoo, Vienna.* Trainers B.A. Daniel, R. Marimuthu, Sally Walker, Heidi Riddle.

• **Part II Wild to Wild Translocation Scoping Workshop** featuring Hoolock Gibbon held in Assam, Jan 09 (Fred Launay, Mike Jordan, Cecilia Kierloff, Jayantha Das, Sally Walker, Sanjay Molur). *Sponsored by USFWS, Chester Zoo and CBSG SSC IUCN.*

• Eastern Himalaya Freshwater Biodiversity Assessments Training workshop, a project of **IUCN SSC Freshwater Biodiversity Program** was conducted in collaboration with ZOO/CBSG South Asia in Nepal in July 2009 where Sanjay Molur was a trainer in IUCN Red List. ZOO/CBSG South Asia are part of the Assessment initiative and will assist with mentoring and later organizing and conducting an IUCN Red List assessment workshop for FWB South Asia. *Sponsored by IUCN.*

• **JoTT founded** - ZOO's PRINT Journal morphed into **Journal of Threatened Taxa** in January 2009 with new mandate, layout, website www.threatenedtaxa.org. It has been very enthusiastically received by conservation academics and field persons worldwide. *Sponsored by Chester Zoo.*

• **ZOOS' PRINT Magazine & ZOO ZEN** completed 24 years of regular monthly publication. Now web-based as well as printed. Circulated free to needy zoos. www.zoosprint.org. *Sponsored by UFAW and CBSG.*

CBSG Taxon Networks working from ZOO office are based on the processes and principles of CBSG and all works done with aim of conducting Training, PHVAs, CAMPs, Education, Conservation, Conservation Planning, etc., using the CBSG tools to

promote and deliver effective conservation in the region. All the networks circulate current news, announcements, opportunities and articles of interest to all the members via email. The networks and some of their activities follow:

• **CCINSA/RISCINSA may join to become Small Mammal Network**– The two newsletters of CCINSA and RISCINSA have merged into one newsletter called Small Mammal Mail. July 2009 issue can be found at www.zoosprint.org under newsletters. Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia conducted a **bat taxonomy and echolocation training** at Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, India and a **field techniques training workshop for bats and rodents** on 5-11 September in Wangdue, Bhutan. (All sponsored by Chester Zoo and Bat Conservation Int'l).

• **Amphibian Network of S. Asia**: In 2009 ANSA continued participation in the AArk education programme distributing educational materials for IZE and IZE South Asia members and other educators. Fresh materials including hundreds of AArk caps, t-shirts and literature were brought out for use in special global and national amphibian oriented events for 08/09. Sponsored by Sea World Conservation Fund.

• **South Asian Reptile Network**: will take the lead in a project under ZOO & WILD of the CEPF Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund to conduct the IUCN SSC Red List Global Assessment for Reptiles in South Asia in 2010. Sponsored by CEPF.

• **South Asian Primate Network** - PSG SAPN representing IUCN SSC Primate SG. Training in Wild to Wild Translocation as mentioned above. Developed and distributing primate education materials.

• **Invertebrate Network (ICINSA) and Sub-networks (Pollinator Network and Aquaric Invertebrates)**: ICINSA supplies members of the greater network and its sub-networks support of literature on their specialty, opportunity for rapid publication in **Journal of Threatened Taxa**. Also a project from the Invertebrate Conservation Centre, ZSL to develop a teaching manual on climate change with strong focus on challenges for invertebrates. All invertebrate networks and salary of B.A. Daniel, network convenor are supported by the Invertebrate Conservation Centre, London Zoo. ZOO continues to fundraise for field work on distribution of Theraphosid spiders in India sponsored last two years by Oregon Zoo. Also Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund CEPF has approved a grant for studies on Theraphosid spider diversity, distribution and habitat use in PA landscape level in a portion of Western Ghats, Karnataka, India.

• **Educator Network SAN-IZE** — A total of nine workshops on Human Elephant Coexistence HECx have been conducted in three countries as reported above. One country, Sri Lanka, from the project with USFWS is to be conducted. Two more grants from USFWS will cover 3 workshops in Sumatra (possibly in 09 and 3 in Thailand in 2010-

11). SANIZE office is providing consultancy to Nilgiri Biosphere Conservation Park for design of signage, interpretation, and other educational products.

Some Education materials developed in the current year were:

- Teaching Manual on Getting along with Elephants and on Dancing (Sloth) Bears.
- Education Packets and other items on Climate Change, Dancing Bears, Hoolock Gibbon, Elephants (Human Elephant Coexistence), Monkeys (Conflict Resolution), Amphibians and common wildlife spp.
- Produced
 - Count Down 2010 Posters on Hoolock Gibbon and Amphibian Crisis,
 - Activity-based colouring books for Amphibians and Bats and Drama kits plus,
 - Guideline books for Using Drama in Public Education for: Amphibians, Asian Elephant, Bears, and Hoolock Gibbon.

Some Projects for future 2010 with funding status

- IUCN Red List assessment in Himalayan

Freshwater Biodiversity workshop, South Asia, venue to be announced (*funded by IUCN*).

- IUCN SSC Global Assessment Programme, South Asian Reptile Assessments (*funded by CEPF*).
- IUCN Assessments of fresh water biodiversity in Western Ghats and in Eastern Himalaya (*funded by IUCN*).
- Population and habitat Viability Assessment Workshop for Asian Elephant and Training on MIKE: Systematic Monitoring of Elephants using Dung DNA –(USFWS and partners) venue to be confirmed (*funded by USFWS and partners*).
- PHVA for Red Panda, Red Panda Management Group & National Trust for Nature Conservation, Nepal, Fall 2010 (exact venue in Nepal to be confirmed (*confirmed*)).
- Three sets training workshops in Human Elephant Coexistence, Sri Lanka, Sumatra, Thailand (funded by USFWS and partners) 2009-2010.
- Two refresher workshops (follow up) on Human Elephant Coexistence HECx to be held in Nepal and Bangladesh (*funded by USFWS and partners*) 2010.
- Annual CBSG RSG South Asian and SAZARC Feb/ March 2010 in Nepal (*confirmed*).

Annual Report of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Gordon Reid

WAZA Members and Associates,

At the WAZA Annual Congress to be held in Saint Louis 4-8th October 2009 I come to the end of my Presidency. Being President has been a most varied, enjoyable and fulfilling experience but it is now time to hand over to my very capable and distinguished colleague Dr Mark Penning. Mark is Chief Executive of the S. African Association of Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR) and its allied aquarium & leisure attraction Ushaka Marine World.

WAZA Council and Committees

The WAZA Council has seen the departure of serving members. We thank them for their dedicated service, while at the same time welcoming several new Council and Committee Members. After being elected at the Budapest Conference in 2007, it sadly became necessary for Dr Laura Mumaw to step down as my Vice President (and the President-elect) in 2008. This was because she had left her position at Melbourne Zoo for a prestigious opportunity elsewhere, outside of the zoo and aquarium world. The Nominating Committee, led by Dr Karen Sausman, proposed Dr Mark Penning for Vice President (and President-elect) and Council agreed with this excellent proposal. This left one vacant position among the Council Members at large. Hence, in January 2009 (in accordance with the WAZA By-Laws), Sally Walker was proposed by the Nominations Committee and Council ratified her to fill this gap.

You will recall that the 63rd Annual Conference of WAZA was held 19-23rd October 2008 in Adelaide,

Australia. The Conference was superbly hosted on behalf of Zoos South Australia by Dr Chris West, Chief Executive, and ran concurrently with the International Zoo Educators (IZE) Conference. New Members of the Membership Committee elected at the Adelaide Conference are:

Cesare Avesani (Parco Natura Viva, Italy); Kenichi Kitamura (JAZA, Japan) and Fanny Lai (Singapore Zoological Gardens, Singapore). For the Ethics and Welfare Committee, six new Members were ratified, namely: Chris West (Chair, Zoos South Australia); David Jones (North Carolina Zoo, USA); Theo Pagel (Cologne Zoo, Germany); Amy Camacho (Africam Safari Puebla, Mexico); Clifford Nxomani (National Zoo, Pretoria, South Africa) and Hideyuki Takahashi (Ueno Zoo, Japan). Last but not least, four new Members were ratified to be appointed to the Finance Committee: Jerry Borin (Chair, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, USA); Jörg Junhold (Leipzig Zoo, Germany); Olivier Pagan (Basel Zoo, Switzerland) and Fanny Lai (Singapore Zoological Gardens, Singapore).

The results of the 2009 WAZA Council ballot were issued in July. As indicated above, the next WAZA President will be Mark Penning and his President-elect is Jörg Junhold - with Jo Gipps, Ryzsard Topola and Chris West remaining on Council. Newly elected Council Members are: Lee Ehmke (Minnesota Zoological Gardens, USA); Rick Barongi (Houston Zoo, USA); Joanne Lalumière (Granby Zoo, Canada) and Cesare Avesani (Parco Natura Viva, Italy).

