

First Joint Meeting of CBSG, S. Asia & IUCN SSC, RSG, S & E Asia

The first Joint Meeting of the two IUCN SSC disciplinary specialist groups was held on 8-9 December 2003 at the National Zoological Gardens, Sri Lanka. The meeting was scheduled so that participants of the South Asia Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation could attend. The meeting was indeed very well attended by South Asian zoo directors. Fred Launay, Chair, IUCN SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group attended along with his Executive, Mickey Soorae.



Brig. Perera, Fred Launay and Sally Walker participate in the traditional lighting of the lamp.

The meeting consisted of an opening session and welcome by H.A.N.T. Perera, Director of the Colombo Zoo and the lighting of the lamp by the Director, Fred Launay, RSG Chair and Sally Walker, Convenor, CBSG, South Asia. The meeting consisted of a number of presentations from various speakers from Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh. There were also presentations by RSG on the various guidelines. There was also a brainstorming session on the last day and this resulted in various issues and concerns being raised.

In 2002 the SSC IUCN Re-introduction Specialist Group reorganised itself by appointing taxonomic and regional representatives. One of the regions identified for the task of monitoring reintroduction activities is the South and East Asian region including India eastwards to Japan, which includes the regions of South Asia, South East Asia and Far East Asia. RSG, S & E Asia is based at Zoo Outreach Organisation which also hosts CBSG, South Asia. Sanjay Molur, Dy. Director, Z.O.O. and Founder /Secretary W.I.L.D. was appointed Chair Reintroduction Specialist Group, S&E Asia region.

As its first major activity, RSG South and East Asia organised a joint meeting with another IUCN SSC disciplinary SG, CBSG South Asia, at the National Zoo, Dehiwala on 8-9 December 2003 in connection with three other workshops organised by ZOO/CBSG, SA and other organizations. These were a meeting of the South Asian Zoo Association (1-5 Dec), a founding meeting of an intended Sri Lankan Invertebrate Net-working Group, a

P.H.V.A. for Sri Lankan Star Tortoise and C.A.M.P. for Sri Lankan chelonians. One

objective of the meeting was to exploit the opportunity of meeting people from other countries with a

stake in confiscations and reintroduction. A review of reintroductions in the region accompanied a form of a training, consisting of an explanation of RSG Guidelines for Reintroduction including the Primate Guidelines by Dr. Fred Launay and for Disposal of Confiscated Animals by Mickey Soorae.



Confiscations and Reintroductions: This workshop was also a first step towards organising meetings of CBSG with RSG S & E Asia frequently throughout the region, taking advantage of other meetings in which members and other wildlife actioners gather. In this first meeting the Convenor of CBSG, South Asia, Sally Walker, reviewed the tools and processes of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, after which RSG Chair, Dr. Fred Launay and RSG Executive Officer, Pritpal Soorae shared "dos and don'ts" of confiscation and reintroduction as per RSG Guidelines, highlighting the impact of various types of confiscations and reintroductions globally. Following that, participants contributed case studies from their experience in-country.

Participants from Nepal and India discuss with Fred Launay, Chair RSG and Sanjay Molur, Chair RSG S&E Asia



1st day of first CBSG/RSG meeting.

The meeting was well attended with invitees from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, zoo personnel from Sri Lanka, SAZARC members and invitees to the PHVA CAMP workshop which was to follow. Fred Launay gave a very high quality presentation on Reintroduction in general which held all attendees riveted to the screen. Later in the morning we had presentations from our invited people on reintroduction projects in process or planned.



**Group Photo
CBSG RSG Joint Meeting
Sri Lanka**

Presentations of case studies by participants

- Anslem de Silva — Reintroductions of Sri Lankan herpetofauna.
- Manoj Misra — Asiatic Lion reintroduction update
- Satya Priya Sinha — Indian Rhino reintroduction in Dudhwa
- Mukesh Chalise — Reintroduction in Nepal
- Qadir Mahal — Reintroductions in Pakistan
- Razzaque Miah — Examples from Bangladesh
- C. Srinivasulu — Reintroductions in Andhra Pradesh
- Wolfgang Dittus — Primate reintroductions in Sri Lanka
- S. Bhupathy — Overview of reptile reintroduction in India

This continued into the afternoon. Fred Launay also gave a talk on the confiscation guidelines.

2nd day of RSG – Mickey Soorae gave a presentation on the Primate Guidelines. Some primate biologists had wanted specialized guidelines for primates of the RSG guidelines. They were made from the basic guidelines

and reviewed by a team of 13 people, many of whom were zoo oriented. Mickey made the point that the emotional focus people had on primates made reintroduction much more difficult as they could not be objective. Sally Walker commented that the RSG guidelines really provided a great deal of help to people all over the world and it was notable that the captive breeding, asking Fred Launay if he thought such an item would be useful. Fred replied that such guidelines would actually be very useful not just for zoos and foresters with projects but would also make reintroduction go more smoothly. S. Walker will follow this up with IUCN SSC CBSG. There was much more discussion followed by a commitments session by participants, organisers and resource persons.

One of the most important lessons learnt was that reintroductions are longterm, expensive exercises and not a solution for disposing live confiscated animals. A very strong point was that reintroductions are not a means of disposing surplus stock of animals and that zoos and captive-

breeding institutions should not see this as away out. Reintroductions must be driven by the availability of suitable habitat and need before the species in question can be sourced.

For more information about CBSG or RSG, you can check their websites, <www.cbsg.org> and <www.rsg.org>.



CHESTER

This meeting was supported largely by Chester Zoo/ North of England Zoological Society, the sponsor for the Reintroduction Specialist Group, South & East Asia.

Other sponsors for travel of resource persons and participants were SOS Rhino and Scan-Sen - Akvriet, Sweden

RSG Commitments

Zoo Outreach Organisation has a tradition of requesting participants of workshops to make personal commitments to do something on their own time to use the information they received in the workshop to make the world a better place. The commitments of the CBSG/RSG participants follow:

RSG Commitments

B. S. Bonal: Organising RSG meeting for Wildlife managers and zoo personnel in India at Delhi Zoo

Abdur Razzaque: Discuss RSG issues with zoo people in Bangladesh; get wildlife and livestock departments together to initiate programmes to check high breeding rates in select wild animals

Abdul Qadeer: I will reintroduce Blackbuck into the National Parks

Uzma Khan: I will gather information on stock of indigenous species in captivity and formulate management plans

M. M. Qazi: I will discuss guidelines with zoo colleagues and share the same with wildlife authorities and policy makers

R. K. Sahu: Reintroduction plan for langurs from cities with high density populations of langurs

Manoj Mishra: I will support RSG work in India

Satya Priya Sinha: I will support the alternative site in Dudhwa NP for Rhino reintroduction, and spread the information to forest department staff

Tariq Ayub: As an authoritative officer I will appreciate the complexities of zoo, wildlife and conservation issues in Pakistan

Mukesh Chalise: I will disseminate information, guidelines of RSG, and work on conservation of Blackbuck

Ravi Aryal: I will create more awareness among the forest department about RSG; and be a RSG Watch Dog in the country.

Renuka Shah: I will help plan Reintroductions to be made more scientifically following RSG guidelines

Mafizur Rahman: I will disseminate RSG guideline and initiate a rescue centre

A. Saha: I will manage excess stock efficiently

Jayanthi Alahakoon: Reintroductions from zoo following guidelines and conduct follow on monitoring of the reintroduced animals

Karthik Shankar: I will provide information on marine turtles

Sanjay Molur: I will compile case studies and issues in the region and documenting successes and failures; work jointly with Mikey in compiling the same

Chelmala Srinivasulu : I will, secretorially and physically, help Zoo office in this aspect

Mickey Soorae: I will put everyone on mailing list, special issue of RSG Newsletter on the region

Fred Launay: Guide and help Sanjay and Mickey to develop a Regional Programme Package, formulate and provide strategic inputs

Sally Walker: Combine a CBSG/RSG meeting every year in a different South Asian country with SAZARC; make RSG meetings and workshops an integral part of the CAMPs and Training organized by my networks.

Also I will discuss with the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group the possibility of developing Guidelines for Captive Breeding along the same lines as the RSG Guidelines.

CBSG RSG Meeting Participants list – National Zoo, Sri Lanka

Organisers and Resource Persons

- Brig. H.A.N.T. Perera, Director, Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka
- Mr. Frederic Launay, Chair, IUCN/SSC Re-introduction Specialist Group
- Pritpal S. Soorae, Executive Officer, IUCN/SSC Re-introduction Specialist Group
- Sally Walker, Convenor, CBSG, South Asia Founder, Hon.Dir., Zoo Outreach Organisation
- Sanjay Molur, Chair, RSG, South & East Asia Dy. Director, Zoo Outreach Organisation
- B.A. Daniel, Co-chair, IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group

Participants

- Mr. Anslern de Silva, Chair, ARROS, Amphibian and Reptile Research Organisation of Sri Lanka
- Mr. Muhammad Tariq Ayub, Director General, Wildlife & Parks, Punjab Wildlife & Parks Dept. Lahore, Pakistan
- Dr. Muhammad Lateef, Curator, Zoological Gardens, Pakistan
- Dr. Ravi Sharma Aryal, Cites/Wildlife Lawyer, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Mr. R.K. Shreshtha, Director, KMTC/Central Zoo, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Md. Shahzaman Khan, Nutrition Officer, Dhaka Zoo, Bangladesh
- Md. Abdur Razzaque Miah, CBSG, South Asia - Bangladesh *Ex situ* Representative, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Dr. Bishan Singh Bonal, Director, National Zoological Park, N Delhi
- Mr. Abdul Qadeer Mehal, Director Wildlife and Parks Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan
- Dr. R.K. Sahu, Zoo Superintendent, Kamala Nehru Zoological Garden, Ahmedabad Zoo
- Mr. Muhammad Mansoor Qazi, Director, Karachi Zoo, Pakistan
- Dr. Ellen Dierenfeld, Zoo Nutritionist, St. Louis Zoo, Missouri,
- Ms. Uzma Khan, Senior Education Officer, WWF-Pakistan
- Md. Mafizur Rahman, Curator, Dhaka Zoo, Bangladesh
- Dr. Arabinda Kumar Saha, Deputy Curator, Head Rangpur Zoo, Bangladesh
- Dr. Ganga Wijesinghe, Veterinarian, Dept. of National Zoological Gardens, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Satya Priya Sinha, Project Coordinator, SOS Rhino Project, Dudhwa National Park
- Dr. Raju Vajubhai Vyas, Zoo Inspector, Sayaji Baug Zoo, Baroda,
- Dr. S. Bhupathy, Senior Scientist, SACON, Coimbatore
- Wolfgang Dittus, Smithsonian Primate Project, Kandy, Sri Lanka
- Dammika Malasinghe, Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka, Dehiwala,
- Renuka Bandaranayake, Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka
- Ramenji Jayalet, Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka
- Arunthathy Ponnusamy, Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka
- Dr. Jayanthi Alahakoon, Veterinary Officer, Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka
- Dr. Yasantha Mapatuna, Researcher, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Mukesh K. Chalise, Reg. Secretary for Asia/IPS Natural History Society of Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Channa Rajapakse, Researcher, Golden Palm Civet, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
- Ms. Deepthi Wickramasinghe, Herpetologist, Department of Zoology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Mr. Manoj Kumar Misra, Founder, PEACE Institute, New Delhi
- Dr. Wipula Yapa, Department of Zoology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
- W.L.D.P.T.S. de A. Goonatilake, Department of Zoology, University of Colombo, Colombo
- Manori Nandasena, Department of Zoology, University of Colombo
- Dr. Chelmala Srinivasulu, Department of Zoology, Osmania University, Hyderabad