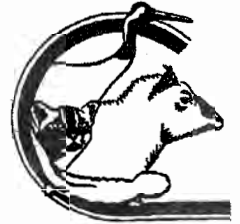


CBSG, SSC, IUCN ANNUAL MEETING
YOKAHAMA, JAPAN
JAZDA AND CBSG, JAPAN



The Annual CBSG Meeting was held in Yokohama, Japan this year from 9 -11 October 1998. Due to the distance and unfavourable economic climate in much of the world, the attendance at the meeting was very much in favour of Japanese zoo directors and other wildlife workers. The Working Groups -- with the exception of the Invertebrate Working Group -- focused primarily on Japanese problems and potential.

A very nice touch was added to the meeting by the CBSG, Japan regional network which made tee-shirts with the CBSG, SSC logo on the front and all of the CBSG regional networks on the back. Most of the regional networks were represented at the CBSG meeting.

REGIONAL REPORTS

India and CBSG, India Report given by Sally Walker

India was represented at the CBSG meeting by Sally Walker, and Sanjay Molur. Sally Walker gave the India Report on behalf of Mr. Sharma as well as the Report for CBSG, India. Sanjay Molur gave a Report on the IUCN Red List Review Meetings which had been held in March and October of this year, as well as the Report of CBSG, Sri Lanka on behalf of Ansem de Silva, Convenor. Those Reports may be of more interest to our readers and are being included here. Reports of the Working Groups have been drastically condensed and follow other Reports. It is a tradition of ZOOS' PRINT to publish the Reports for India which have been given at International meetings, particularly if no official has been able to attend.

Indian Zoo Directors' Association — IZDA

The IZDA held its Annual Conference in January of 1998 in Bombay. Mr. K. L. Velodi, Superintendent of Bombay Zoo is the new President of IZDA, replacing Mr. S. K. Patnaik. Mr. Patnaik is now Chief Wildlife Warden of his state. Also zonal coordinators were elected for different regions of India to promote better communication and cooperation among zoos in India. In July the southern regional zoo directors held a meeting in which important issues were discussed such as confiscated animals, overcrowding in zoos and training for the region. The second edition of the Indian Zoo Yearbook has been brought out as well as a compendium of research articles of Indian zoo, wildlife, and veterinary personnel.

It was truly gratifying to see how seriously the Japanese government and press took this meeting of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group. The major newspaper of the city ran a full two page spread about the meeting and extensive television interviews with attendees were shown on Japanese television. The meeting was clearly a major event for Japan and surely promoted the cause of conservation of wildlife.

Central Zoo Authority

Mr. S. C. Sharma has received a promotion to the post of Inspector General, Wildlife but has held additional charge of Central Zoo Authority. The post of Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority has remained vacant but by the beginning of December it should be filled. Central Zoo Authority has closed many substandard zoos and given notice for other to be closed if they do not come up to standard. Also a High Court decision recently in favour of Central Zoo Authority's request to close down several travelling zoos or mobile menageries. This has resulted in a large number of very unfit zoo animals from these facilities being offloaded onto larger zoos. Some of these these zoos — one for every region in the country — have been designated as Rescue Centres and given assistance by Central Zoo Authority.

The meeting was very well organised by the Japanese Association of Zoological Gardens which is a firmly established and powerful organisation in Japan. The turn out of zoo directors and other personnel was more than 150 for this meeting alone. Considering that Japan is not a very large country compared to India and has very little wildlife as such, it was difficult to refrain from comparing this turnout with Indian zoo directors meetings in which a scant 20-30 is considered a very good attendance. This is not intended to be a slur on the Indian zoo directors, all of whom, it is suspected would be happy to attend a zoo directors' meeting. It is definitely a criticism of the administrative and bureaucratic atmosphere of this country which is responsible for the inability of government servants to attend such meetings, either in India or abroad.

CZA has given grants totalling several million rupees to zoos for upgrading basic facilities to bring these institutions into line with the norms and standards which were set by the Zoo Act of 1991. The Zoo Act itself has been amended this year with the passage of a new set of Amendments to the Wildlife Protection Act which are anticipated to come through at any

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India



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Indonesia



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Mexico



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Sri Lanka



time. Now, it will be necessary to take permission from the Central Zoo Authority before starting a new zoo. Also this year a long pending National Zoo Policy was released from the Cabinet Committee and is in place. This National Zoo Policy even in Draft form was the impetus for the formulation of the Zoo Act.

The Central Zoo Authority and Technical committee have been reconstituted as of February 1998 with politically influential people as members. Former members with technical expertise have been taken on as Consultants.

CBSG, India

Since Berlin meeting last year CBSG, India has conducted 4 CAMP Workshops, completed 9 CAMP Reports, undertaken 2 Training seminars on CAMP Workshops and Red List criteria, organised new networks and Special Interest Groups, provided advisory services to zoos, and created a website.

CAMP activities — 3 CAMP workshops since last meeting on Mammals of India and Freshwater fishes of India – these were the last workshops in the series of biodiversity assessment workshops undertaken in 1997. Also a series of workshops for the Madhya Pradesh State Non-Timber Forest Products Association and the Indian Institute for Forest Management were begun first by assessing 40 Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) of Madhya Pradesh state. NTFP's are usually thought to be not endangered and the CAMP results demonstrated that some species were indeed threatened and require management.

Nine CAMP Reports were produced — two of Medicinal plants, Soil Invertebrates, Amphibians, Reptiles, Mangroves, Mammals, Fish, NTFP and summary reports which are on display at both CBSG table and CBSG, India table. We also have brought out a booklet of species summaries of all our CAMPS since 1995 with status and criteria used to derive the status.

Two CAMP training modules were conducted in connection with international workshops held in India, one at the FRLHT Medicinal Plants conference and another at a South East Asian training course on participatory forest management at the Indian Institute for Forest Management. Upcoming in 1999 are four CAMPS for Corals of India, Large bodied spiders of India, Dragonflies of India and Orchids of the W. Ghats

Also the Indian Institute for Forest Management, Govt. of India, the NTFP Association of Madhya Pradesh and the Forest Department of Madhya Pradesh have requested a series of CAMP for species of NTFP's for the state of MP – about 1000 species in total. If this is done we think it will create an initiative in many of the other Indian states.

Other activities -- Sanjay Molur represented CBSG and Asia at IUCN Red List Scoping workshop and Regional Red List Review Process. Short reports were made on the following Special Interest Groups of CBSG India : Education SIG, Red Panda SIG, Orchid SIG, Reptile SIG, Invertebrate SIG, Amphibian SIG, and the Elephant Special Interest Group. CBSG Sri Lanka was given support and advice by CBSG, India. Also the long pending Coimbatore Zoo is now Nilgiri Biosphere Conservation Park and an important project of Zoo Outreach Organisation / CBSG, India which provides advisory services for the zoo. The zoo has got their land and will start construction in January 1999.

CBSG Sri Lanka Report - presented by Sanjay Molur on behalf of Anslém de Silva

CBSG Sri Lanka was started on 18th October 1997 at the University of Peradeniya, Kandy, Sri Lanka, convened by Dr. Anslém deSilva. CBSG Sri Lanka has several active working groups, e.g.

Veterinary Working Group -- Chair: Vijitha Kuruvita, Professor of Veterinary Medicine and the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Medicinal Plants Working Group -- Chair: Lyn de Alwis, Consultant to the Zoological Survey Sri Lanka and Principal Coordinator and Project Executor of the WWF Project on Medicinal Plants of Sri Lanka.

Elephant Working Group -- Chair: Dr. Jayantha Jayawardane, Elephant Orphanage.

Marine Invertebrates Working Group -- Chair: Chin How Cheong, the General Manager of Ceylon Grain Elevators.

Invertebrates Working Group -- Chair: Channa N.B. Bambaradeniya of the Dept. of Zoology, University of Peradeniya.

Endemic Fish Breeding Working Group -- Chair: M.P.B. Meegaskumbura of the Dept. of Zoology, University of Peradeniya.

A working group on birds will be formed soon.

Activities till date:

1. Four new stamps depicting endemic reptiles was launched during the inauguration of the CBSG Sri Lanka.
2. Publication of Abhijanana, ("breeding " in Sinhala, the language of Sri Lanka), Journal of CBSG Sri Lanka
3. Publication of a News Bulletin on invertebrates.
4. Publication of news bulletin by the endemic fish breeding working group.
5. Workshops and symposia on invertebrates were conducted.
6. Many research projects (conservation and breeding oriented) on amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, endemic fish and birds are in progress.
7. Plans to establish a research and conservation breeding center for endangered amphibians and reptiles

Future activities of CBSG Sri Lanka

1. CAMP workshop for Amphibians and Reptiles of Sri Lanka from 26 to 30 November 1998.
2. CAMP workshop for medicinal plants of Sri Lanka in 1999.
3. PHVA workshops for Asian Elephant and Sri Lankan leopard before 2000.
4. 4th World Congress of Herpetology in Sri Lanka, 2001

Report on the IUCN Red List Criteria Review Meetings, 1998, by Sanjay Molur, CBSG, India

Zoo Outreach Organisation/ CBSG India conducted and facilitated a series of Conservation Assessment and Management Plan workshops in 1997 in which a total of 1500 taxa were assessed according to the IUCN categories of threat. Based on this experience, I was invited to attend the IUCN SSC Red List Scoping Workshop in London in March (2-3) 1998 as a member of the IUCN Red List Review Committee.

The 2-day meeting in London in March this year was an exercise in addressing the comments, criticism and compliments from all over the world on the IUCN Red List categories and to discuss the various issues raised by the users of this system around the world according to broad divisions. Three working groups were formed at the meeting to deal with issues pertaining to (1) Listing procedure and documentation, (2) Criterion A and generation length and (3) The categories and criteria. All the suggestions and complaints from the Indian biologists who had attended the CAMPs were also included in the list.

In the first group (Listing procedure and documentation), issues such as regional application, threshold values, assessment of non-endemics, categories of lower risk among others were identified as most contentious and needed further elaboration. Similarly the second group dealing with Criterion A or population reduction criterion talked about the difficulties in the current system with respect to generation length and reduction in time-window, threshold values and taxa specific considerations, linking past and future declines, linking criterion A to population size, separating short term trends from natural fluctuations, guidelines for projection into the future, species under management, relationship between population declines and habitat structure and confidence limits on declining population data. The third group dealing with categories and criteria basically looked at the validity of the Red List in the context of its actual purpose, range area thresholds, problems of scale, skewed meta-population structure, extremely restricted populations and parity of criteria B and C. General issues were discussed those pertaining to purpose of the Red List, universality of the criteria thresholds, generation lengths, marine fishes, criterion E, data quality and deficiencies among others.

The scoping workshop was not to come up with concrete solutions to any of the problems, rather to put the entire problem into perspective. It was recommended by the end of the workshop that the Red booklet is to be redrafted, to have separate workshops dealing with specific issues such as range-area thresholds, possible alterations to criterion A, extinction risk assessment of marine mammals and regional application of the categories.

In October (2-5), 1998 the Regional Application Working Group (RAWG) met at Montreal along with the Canadian Wildlife Service meeting on whether to change over to the IUCN categories from their 20 year old system of national assessment. The Regional Application Working Group met for a day to deliberate the difficulties of applying the IUCN categories at the regional or national level and to find an interim solution to the problem. The choices of modifications to the categories were finally reduced to 4 points of discussion, namely (a) the use of criterion A only, (b) the use of criterion E only, (c) assess the taxon globally and then adjust the category for the country or region, and (d) assess using the IUCN categories at the regional level and then adjust the category according to the implications of population dynamics.

The first 3 choices were soon discarded because of their narrow application. The fourth choice was thought of as the best at this point of time since it looked at the effects of immigrating propagules on the population of a taxon from outside of the range of assessment. It was therefore thought best to apply the IUCN categories within a geographical context of assessment and then based on the effect of immigrating propagules adjust the category to reflect the risk

as close to truth as possible.

Once the assessment was made at the regional level, the status of a taxon would be indicated as:

EN	(CR)	VU	60%
Downgraded assessment after immigration	Regional assessment using global criteria	Global assessment (if available)	Proportion of the global population

Reports of Working Groups in the CBSG Meeting

Behavior/Environmental Enrichment Working Group

The objective of the Behaviour/Environmental Enrichment Working Group was to activate animal behavior by arranging the environment of enclosures in accordance with the characteristics of the animal species. This was the first time in Japan that a committee had examined environmental enrichment. In keeping with the CBSG spirit, it was decided that the following approach will be carried out based on everyone making their best efforts at each site.

Carnivore Working Group Report

The objectives of this working group were: 1. To discuss the facts regarding artificial breeding of cheetahs and clarify causes of their deaths from disease; 2. To discuss a strategy to preserve genetic diversity in captive red panda. 3. To discuss research on Tsushima wildcat *Felis enptilura* raised in captivity to clarify its ecology.

Cheetah : There are 69 cheetahs in Japanese zoological facilities. Some of the recommendations about cheetahs in Japan concerned are research to reduce deaths due to kidney failure, presently in progress in cooperation with universities should be accelerated, and prevention and treatment methods should be established quickly. Artificial breeding programmes in several zoos were evaluated.

Red panda : Objectives of the Red Panda programme are the Maintenance of genetic diversity in animals in captivity which can be addressed by 1. Movement of individuals based on pedigree management, 2. Establishment of artificial breeding techniques. There are 218 Red pandas registered in Japan which is about half the number in captivity.

Tsushima cat : Objectives of the Tsushima cat programme are Preservation of populations in captivity using 1. Rapid introduction of females from the wild population and 2. Establishment of techniques for breeding in captivity. The problems and specific measures to be taken were discussed in the group.

Genome Resource Banking Working Group Report

The Problem Points of this working group were collection and storage of samples; gene banking; implementation of research/study; procurement of research funds; ownership rights to gametes; establishment of an organization for organ storage. Action to Resolve Problems was discussed.

Invertebrate Working Group Report

Main issues discussed by the Working Group were as follows:

1. *Regional Working Groups* : The working group focused its discussions on the ongoing need to further develop the regional working group support network. This action remains a key priority if the group is to fulfil its conservation remit. Currently well developed regional groups are in existence for Europe, North America and India. The meeting welcomed the news that regional groups are currently in the process of being established for the ARAZPA region and for Africa/Middle East (?). It was agreed that all efforts should be made to support their further development. The current situation in Japan was discussed and it was agreed that to a large extent existing databases such as maintained by the Japanese Communication Group of Insectaria and the Japanese Association of Zoological Gardens and Aquaria have the potential to provide the support data needed for developing an effective regional group. The work of Tama Zoo in compiling a significant database of living invertebrate collections in Japan was reviewed and acknowledged. The meeting also discussed the current lack of regional group coverage for the Central and Southern American region. It was agreed that efforts should be made to gather as much data as possible on invertebrate workers and facilities within this region. Yolanda Matamoros agreed to gather what data is known. A similar gap was identified for the countries within the SEAZA region. Addressing this gap was agreed as being a priority action need over the coming year.

2. *Regional directories* : Progress towards the completion of the regional directories of invertebrate specialists and organisations was reviewed. The completed directory of India was reviewed and it was agreed that methodology employed by Zoo Outreach Organisation provided valuable model for other regions. The recent questionnaire to all EAZA members was also reviewed and agreed to be useful guide for similar surveys in other regions.

3. *Marine Invertebrates* : The group agreed that the conservation needs of marine invertebrates would be best covered by the hopefully improved future participation of aquarium specialists within CBSG.

Marine Mammals Working Group

In the Marine Mammals Working Group discussions were held on the following 4 topics to clarify the problems of keeping cetaceans in captivity, with the aim of improving the breeding and raising, including the training, of cetaceans.

Health care: A number of factors are important in maintaining the breeding activity of cetaceans. There must be sexually mature females present; the ratio between the sexes must be appropriate; the mammals must be kept healthy. However, unfortunately, looking at the average length of time that cetaceans are kept in captivity in Japan and at the mortality rate, it is clear that the measures that have been taken thus far are not enough. In particular improvement is needed in the quality of the trainers who take care of the mammals. The JAZGA has made efforts to improve trainer quality by holding study and training sessions and by publishing an mammals care handbook, but greater efforts are needed to induce trainers to seek self - improvement.

Handling: touching, and swimming with, dolphins on the mammals was discussed. It is necessary to determine the present situation.

Artificial insemination: in Japan there have been examples of successful drawing and preservation of semen, and one example of sperm injection.

Reintroduction Working Group Report

The concept of reintroduction to the wild held by Japanese is quite broad and includes reinforcement. In this Working group, it was proposed to limit the topic to reintroduction. A topic was proposed on the reintroduction of native Japanese freshwater fish to the wild.

The following points should be considered in connection with reintroduction to the wild:

1. The purpose of the reintroduction to the wild should be clearly formulated.
2. It will be essential to understand the advantage of the reintroduction to the wild.
3. Care should be taken to prevent pathogens acquired in captivity to be brought into the wild.
4. Genetic analyses should be carried out.
5. The awareness and cooperation of local residents is essential.

Ungulate Working Group Report

The ungulate working group discussed problems and potential for the following species : Malayan tapir, Mountain tapir, Japanese serow, Black rhinoceros, White rhinoceros, Indian rhinoceros, African elephant, Hartman mountain zebra

Storks, Ibises, and Spoonbills Working Group Report

Oriental White Stork, Black-Faced Spoonbill, and Crested Ibis, used to live in Japan in many numbers and are now threatened. Current status, problems of identification, health, husbandry and particularly inbreeding were discussed. It was decided to prepare husbandry manual for Oriental White stork by spring 1999. There is only one captive population of the Black-faced spoonbill at the Tama Zoo. There are many problems similar to that of Oriental white stork.

Crested Ibis : there is only one captive bird in Japan at Sado Ibis Conservation Center and no other zoos in Japan have the bird, despite decades of investment of time and effort for breeding, using related species. Ways and means of obtaining birds for Japanese zoo from other captive populations were discussed as well as husbandry and health problems.

Education Working Group

The Education Working Group focused on problems of Zoo Education in Japan, e.g. The group selected

1. how to provide education to different generations and target audiences;
2. how to train zoo and aquarium personnel in charge of education in advanced educational skills;
3. how to develop a consensus among Japanese zoo personnel that education should be a priority objective of zoos and aquariums. Actions to be taken included dissemination of the report to zoos and policy makers, contacting the Ministry of Education specifically about curriculum studies, a system for training personnel in charge of education in zoos and aquariums should be undertaken, research on visitors attitudes and effectiveness of educational techniques (Pedago-psychological research) in zoos and aquariums should be taken up, the importance of providing facilities in the form of a building and equipment for education should be stressed; a data base of educational software for zoos and aquariums should be compiled; the setting up of an Educational Planning and Management committee in each zoological institution should be encouraged; an increase in budget allocation for education programmes should be given.