

CBSG C.A.M.P. COMES TO SRI LANKA

One of the important missions of the Zoo Outreach Organisation is to promote the tools and processes of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, or CBSG of SSC, IUCN. CBSG has developed a wide range of conservation exercises that are both systematic and scientific as well as flexible. ZOO convened a regional network of CBSG, that is, CBSG India and has used this grass roots network to carry out some of the practical and useful conservation workshops developed by CBSG. ZOO has added its own local adaptations to make the processes more appropriate for tropical countries but the development of these processes was done by CBSG.

CBSG India was a pioneer satellite of CBSG and several others have come up since as reported in the earlier pages. CBSG Sri Lanka is unique in that it is a genuine "third generation" CBSG, as it emerged from its relationship with another regional network, e.g. CBSG India. CBSG India would like for all the countries of southern Asia in particular to develop such networks but is concerned that such networks do not dilute the integrity and discipline of techniques pioneered by CBSG. In November we had an opportunity to see the first "third generation" in action and to assist them with their first CBSG process workshop.

CBSG Sri Lanka conducted a CAMP Workshop for Reptiles and Amphibians of Sri Lanka from 26 - 30 November 1998 in Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Dr. Anslem de Silva, the moving force behind ARROS, Amphibian and Reptile Research Organisation of Sri Lanka, is Convenor of CBSG Sri Lanka and the organiser of the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Assessment and Management Plan Workshop. Anslem collaborated with several local organisations and a variety of international ones (including India) to make the first CAMP a success.

The Sri Lankan branch of IUCN, which has been developing a national prioritisation strategy, attended the first day and explained their methodology of prioritisation. They will use the CAMP results to compare with the kind of information they are obtaining from literature and postal surveys so that the best methodology for country assessments of biodiversity can be evolved.

Field biologists with Amphibians and Reptiles as their special interest from all over Sri Lanka attended the workshop. A special character of Sri Lanka is the very large number of NGO's involved in field studies and conservation activities. This was reflected in the workshop by such organisations as the Turtle Conservation Project, the Young Zoologists Club, and the Wildlife Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka. The Colombo Zoo was also represented by two biologists. Altogether there were more than 40 field biologists present.

Dr. John Wilkinson, International Coordinator of the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force, SSC, IUCN, attended the workshop and facilitated the Amphibian Working Group. In his talk in the Inaugural function, he pointed out that this was only the second country in the world to conduct a full conservation assessment of all its amphibian fauna, the first being India.

The entire CBSG India team was present -- Sally Walker, Sanjay Molur and B. A. Daniel as well as the DAPTF, South Asia Co-chairs, Sushil Dutta and Sanjay Molur.

The workshop lasted for five full days with participants arriving at 8 a.m. and working up to 7 p.m. All of the amphibians of Sri Lanka could be assessed and all of the endemic reptiles. The chart below shows the numbers of different status.

There were many sponsors which made the workshop possible, e.g. Philadelphia Zoo, Columbus Zoo, FRAWG, British Airways Assisting Conservation (which contributed John's flight), UFAW (contributed Sally's flight), Zoo Outreach Organisation, and of course the local sponsors -- the University of Peradeniya, ARROS and even Anslem de Silva personally.

The Workshop participants were particularly satisfied to hear that the CAMP is a "process", that they would get an opportunity to comment on the Draft Report and that another workshop would be organised in a few years time after additional studies had been done on data deficient species and the gaps in information filled.

A more detailed Report on the Sri Lanka workshop will appear in a subsequent issue of ZOOS' PRINT.

Status	Amphibians	Reptiles
CR	1	12
EN	10	25
VU	11	26
LRnt	7	13
LRlc	19	4
DD	6	18
NE	2	1
Total	56	99

Key to IUCN Red List Categories

CR -- Critically endangered -- facing an *extremely high risk* of extinction in the wild in the immediate future as defined by the criteria.

EN -- Endangered -- not Critically endangered but facing a *very high risk* of extinction in the wild in the near future as defined by the criteria.

VU -- Vulnerable -- not Critically endangered or Endangered but is facing a *high risk* of extinction in the wild in the medium term future as defined by the criteria.

LR -- Lower risk -- a taxon is Low Risk when it has been evaluated and does not qualify for any of the threatened categories or those described below.

DD -- Data deficient -- when there is inadequate information to make a direct or indirect assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status.

NE -- Not evaluated -- when it has not yet been assessed against the criteria.

