

Announcements



Aaron Garcia

Small Mammals in Mexico

In April 2018, the IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group (SMSG) is holding their first action planning workshop in Mexico.

SMSG is an expanding global network of specialists on the world's 2,800+ species comprising of rodents, shrews, moles, solenodons, hedgehogs and tree-shrews. Mexico is exceptionally important for small mammal conservation, with high numbers of endemic, globally threatened, and severely restricted range species, such as Nelson's small eared shrew, San Cristobal shrew, Sclater's shrew, Chiapan climbing-rat and Tumbalá climbing rat.

CPSG's Luis Carrillo has been invited to facilitate the meeting and provide guidance on the action planning process. The 20 participants include staff from SMSG, National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), academic institutions, and NGOs. Red List data will be used to develop a comprehensive listing and ranking of priority species. Prioritization methods will include ZSL's EDGE model, AZE trigger species, and those most suitable for captive breeding and for each of the highest priorities the most urgent research and conservation actions will be determined. The workshop also aims to assess how effective the current protected area network is at representing globally threatened small mammals. Based upon the results of the workshop, we will identify projects and assemble teams of researchers that will focus on mobilizing action for the priority species.

Africam Safari is hosting the 4-day workshop. We hope that this event will serve to generate momentum within the Mexican mammalogy community, including in zoos, to guide research and conservation efforts and would like to disseminate the results of this workshop to all interested parties.



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Communication and Facilitation Skills for Conservation Managers Course

CPSG, in partnership with other leading international conservation organizations, will be delivering a professional training course designed to enable conservation managers, scientists, and students to manage group decision-making processes more effectively from 16-20 April, 2018 at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Virginia.

Collaboration is difficult to achieve and requires a certain set of interpersonal and process skills to be most effective. This course is designed to achieve this, building your competencies around listening, conflict resolution, team development, problem-solving and collective group decision-making. By the end of the course you should feel better equipped to manage internal meetings, difficult inter-personal discussions and design multi-stakeholder planning workshops. The course will be led by Jamie Copsey (CPSG), along with Dr Susie Ellis ([International Rhino Foundation](#)). [Click here to learn more and to register.](#)

Workshops

Planning for the Critically Endangered Formosan Pangolin in Taipei

In December 2017, over 70 pangolin experts from 13 countries gathered in Taipei for four days of intensive discussion on the conservation of the Formosan pangolin (*Manis p. pentadactyla*). This PHVA workshop was hosted by Taipei Zoo and was organized in collaboration with the IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group (PSG), Taiwan Forest Bureau, and the Endemic Species Research Institute. CPSG provided expertise in facilitation and PVA modeling with assistance from Taipei Zoo staff. This is one of a series of regional and national conservation planning initiatives underway by the PSG with assistance from CPSG.



Taipei Zoo

Taiwan is now thought to be the main stronghold of this Critically Endangered species. The viability of the Formosan pangolin is therefore important not just within Taiwan, but to global pangolin conservation efforts. Importantly, Taiwan now provides one of the few places where this species can still be studied under relatively natural conditions. As wildlife trade drives the disappearance of pangolins from other parts of the world, pressure on the Taiwanese population may increase and ongoing vigilance is essential.

The 2017 workshop reviewed progress since the 2004 Formosan Pangolin PHVA, which resulted in the first ever pangolin action plan. Significant changes since then include measures to reduce the negative impacts of road construction; six new lowland protected areas; initiatives to encourage eco-friendly farming practices; and a citizen science program focused on road kill monitoring.



Taipei Zoo

While there is no evidence that pangolin populations in Taiwan are declining, and may even be increasing in some areas, a general lack of information poses a challenge to ensuring long-term population health. Actions were developed to address the main knowledge gaps, which include species' habitat needs and the relative impact of threats from human sources, such as land conversion, agriculture, road kill, hunting and attacks from stray dogs.

The PHVA was preceded by a one-day PVA model development meeting followed by a one-day international conference on the One Plan Approach to conservation planning. This included a mix of formal presentations and practical exercises centering around the roles and challenges of *ex situ* pangolin rescue centers that fed into the PHVA discussions.

Teaming up for Translocation Training



John Ewen

In December 2017, CPSG teamed up with the **IUCN SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group (RSG)** and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) to deliver the second in a series of training courses on planning conservation translocations. The course was hosted by ZSL, in London with generous support from the zoo, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, and Calgary Zoo. Participants learned how to apply the IUCN guidelines on translocation planning to their own species recovery projects. Topics covered ranged from stakeholder engagement through to Structured Decision Making and how to account for uncertainty within conservation plans.

Jamie Copsey, CPSG's Director of Training, co-developed the course with colleagues from partner organizations and gained as much from the course as participants, "It was fantastic to see such a driven group of conservation professionals 'roll up their sleeves' and spend four days working out how to apply decision-making theory to the practice of species recovery projects. It was inspiring to work with some of the world's leading experts in planning conservation translocations and to bounce ideas off each other as to how best to help conservation practitioners do their jobs even more effectively. I can't wait for the next opportunity to bring us all together again!"

In 2018, CPSG will partner with RSG and other organizations again to deliver the four-day training course alongside the 2nd International Wildlife Reintroduction Conference, to be hosted at Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, in October. To find out more contact Jamie (jamie@cpsg.org) or visit the website <https://www.reintro.org/about-the-workshop/>.

Saving Parrots in Brazil

Parrot species are found throughout a variety of ecological settings and have evolved different life history traits. In the genera *Amazona*, parrot species diversity is especially great in Brazil. Unfortunately, threats such as habitat loss, hunting, and the wild bird trade have driven several species to poor conservation status. Brazilian endangered parrots suffer from the threats of illegal trade and habitat loss. Parrots in severely pressurized or impacted habitats (e.g. the Atlantic Rainforest), include *Amazona vinacea*, *A. brasiliensis*, *A. rhodocorytha*, *A. pretrei*, *A. farinosa* and *A. aestiva*. In order to minimize threats and deal with this situation, the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for the Conservation of Amazona Parrots of Brazil was published in 2010. Since then, all the important stakeholders involved in parrot conservation are engaged in this general plan to save parrots from extinction.



After the first five years of the NPOA implementation several goals were achieved, however, threats continue to persist. In 2016, a new five-year cycle for the plan was established. Understanding the actual distribution of the species is crucial to overcome difficulties and increase conservation success.

A one-day Species Distribution Modeling (SDM) workshop took place on December 7th, 2017 as part of the Annual Meeting of the NPOA for in Curitiba, Brazil. Specialists worked together validating and improving the preliminary distribution models for four parrot species (*Amazona pretrei*, *A. vinacea*, *A. rhodochorytha* and *A. brasiliensis*) modeled by Katia Ferraz of CPSG. Further model inputs and model use were discussed, aiming to influence conservation decisions for the species. A *VORTEX* PVA model will be developed for these species in 2018, incorporating SDM information and threats in the population models. Specialists agreed that SDM results will improve their efforts in the field and also the population risk assessment.

Wildlife Takes Flight in Brazil

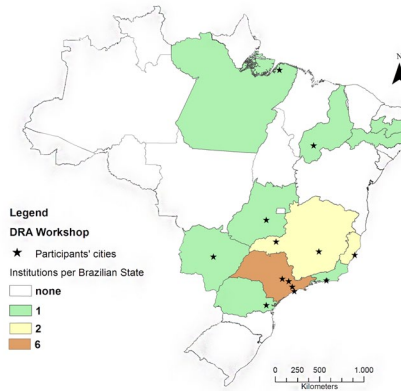
In November 2017, the São Paulo Zoo Foundation (FPZSP) hosted the first CPSG Train-the-Trainer workshop based on the Disease Risk Analysis (DRA) process and tools jointly published in 2014 by the IUCN Species Survival Commission and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). CPSG Brasil, CPSG Australasia, FPZSP, and Auckland Zoo collaborated with North American colleagues associated with the Species Conservation Toolkit Initiative (SCTI) to organize and facilitate this event.

The four-day workshop involved 29 participants representing 18 institutions from 11 Brazilian states. Participants were selected on the basis of relevant expertise (veterinary or biological), active involvement in the study or management of wildlife diseases, interest in application of the DRA process to their work and in training others in the process.

Brazil has a wide and growing range of wildlife-related disease issues impacting biodiversity conservation, domestic animal and public health. The Wildlife DRA process and tools provide a systematic, multi-stakeholder and science-based approach to the identification and assessment of wildlife-associated disease risks and their mitigation. Using three pre-prepared case studies based on current Brazilian wildlife disease concerns, the workshop took a 'teach-practice-apply' approach. Two case studies were used to teach and practice the DRA methodology and the final two days applied the learning to a third case (disease transmission from domestic dogs to wild canids) for which a full DRA workshop is planned in 2018. Instructional videos on the capabilities and application of the disease risk assessment modeling tool "Outbreak" prepared by Dr. Bob Lacy, with assistance from Sara Sullivan and Dr. Phil Miller, were viewed by participants prior to the workshop and followed up with a Q&A session via a satellite connection to Bob and Phil during the workshop.



Paulo Gil/Acervo FPZSP Participants in the Symposium on Wildlife Health- New Paradigms and Approaches



Map showing State and Institutional Representation



DRA Training Workshop Participants

Paulo Gil/Acervo FPZSP

Participants enthusiastically embraced this process, listing no less than twenty-four potential Brazilian topics to which it could be applied. Workshop evaluations revealed significant improvements in understanding the DRA process and confidence in its use and all participants ranked the workshop as good to very good.

The workshop was preceded by a two-day event entitled "Symposium on Wildlife Health – New Paradigms and Approaches." This event included 15 speakers on topics ranging from the Brazilian Wildlife Health Information System, disease risk management for reintroductions, epidemiological surveillance of bats, and neotropical primates focused in yellow fever and *in situ* and *ex situ* interactions in wildlife disease research. The symposium brought together 106 participants representing 37 institutions from 14 Brazilian States and provided an excellent opportunity for networking and exchange of information.

Both events were supported by the Parque Zoológico de São Paulo, Instituto de Conservação de Animais Silvestres (ICAS), Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB), São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), Auckland Zoo, CPSG Brasil and CPSG Australasia.

A New Future for Saint Louis Zoo's WildCare Institute



The Saint Louis Zoo's WildCare Institute's (WCI) mission is to create a sustainable future for wildlife and for people around the world. They achieve this by taking a holistic approach to trouble ecosystems by addressing three key ingredients in conservation success: wildlife management and recovery, conservation science, and support of the human populations that coexist with wildlife.

Over 50 people worked enthusiastically and intensively over three days to define an ideal future for the Saint Louis Zoo's WildCare Institute and, based on that vision, they set goals to help realize it and identified detailed actions to achieve their goals. Themes discussed in the strategic planning workshop, held on February 6-8, included: defining and expanding Saint Louis Zoo's conservation initiatives, evaluation of the conservation centers and of the WCI as a whole, finance and marketing for conservation, integration of WCI within the greater Zoo community, partnerships, and WCI and Center succession planning.

Drs. Onnie Byers and Anne Baker from CPSG designed and facilitated these meetings. Among the attendees were 10 representatives from local, national and international conservation organizations and universities. These experts – Shelly Grow, Vice President of Conservation and Science from AZA, Dr. Jon Paul Rodriguez, Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), Renee Bumpus, Senior Director of Wildlife Conservation Programs at the Houston Zoo, Dr. James Miller, Senior Vice President of Science and Conservation at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, Dr. Allison Alberts, Director of Research and Conservation at San Diego Global, Dr. Patricia Parker, Des Lee Professor of Zoological Studies and Interim Director of the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at University of Missouri-St. Louis, Dr. Jonathan Losos, William H. Danforth, Distinguished University Professor of Biology at Washington University in St. Louis and Director of the Living Earth Collaborative, Karen Fifield, Chief Executive at Wellington Zoo (New Zealand), Dr. Arne Lawrenz, Director of Wuppertal Zoo (Germany), and Jill Allread, CEO at Public Communications Inc.- generously shared their knowledge and experience with the group and infused new ideas and perspectives into the conversation.

The workshop was very productive and the plan generated will not only set the direction for WCI for the next 4-5 years but will result in the blossoming of a strong conservation culture across Saint Louis Zoo.