

Conservation Breeding Specialist Group Mid Year Meeting ... an informal report Sally Walker

The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group has been conducting their annual mid-year meetings and annual conference at the same or close by venue just before the event of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. CBSG and WAZA have many common interests and help one another whenever possible and appropriate. Sometimes WAZA asks CBSG to convene a working group on a particular topic that interests WAZA. Also CBSG jumps on board with WAZA to work on projects of mutual interest.

CBSG began its Mid-year meeting with updates. The CBSG Regional Networks Meeting provided much food for thought with some of the next steps figured out by the group during the Networks meeting. The Chair desired for the Regional Networks to i. engage in CBSG's global initiatives, ii. to help increase the diversity in CBSG membership, looking out for members outside the zoo and aquarium community; iii. Regional Networks to help implement the One Plan approach into workshops. We did not explicitly say this was a target for other Networks besides North America; iv. The One Plan Approach to be put into a paragraph of standard text for ease of understanding; v. Sanjay to make AZE posters for each CBSG Regional Network

Task Forces got an opportunity to give short reports about their work, e.g. i. Structured decision-making, ii. Branding; and iii. Conservation Welfare.

Global Species Management Plans were discussed.

There was a discussion on Coordination of Climate Change Initiatives in the CBSG Climate Change Movement, the Pole to Pole Campaign of WAZA and the Climate Initiative Campaign of AZA. Discussion of the CC Initiative continued after lunch as well.

The 2013 CBSG Annual Meeting was reviewed by Onnie followed by the AZE Initiative. AZE, the Alliance for Zero Extinctions, is gaining momentum. Now there are several projects in India. Sanjay Molur is associated with AZE which enables CBSG South Asia to also be involved. Onnie highlighted the importance of AZE which has a very rational and potentially successful technique for saving species.

The meeting ended with Success Stories. Sally Walker gave a "failure story" about her 10 year trial to solidify the South Asian Zoo Association (SAZARC). Before the SAZARC meeting, there would be a 1-2 day CBSG meeting. After ten years of conferences which were enjoyed by attendees from throughout South Asia, there was no mechanism for raising funds for the zoo people except through Sally and the Zoo Outreach Office. Sally explained how she would eventually pull victory out of the jaws of defeat by creating National

Associations in the countries of South Asia. Other success stories were told and the meeting was adjourned.

PHOTO 1 - CBSG Members from USA, England, and Italy, have dinner in Nyon, Switzerland before the CBSG meeting the following day. Another group of CBSG members were at a nearby table. Photos by Sally Walker

PHOTO 2 - Ancient church in downtown Nyon. The quaintness of Nyon, Switzerland is very charming. CBSG WAZA meeting attendees stay in Nyon and take a train to Gland where the IUCN office is based. Its a hard life.

