



# CBSG News

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2000 Annual Meeting

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*Newsletter of the  
Conservation Breeding  
Specialist Group,  
Species Survival  
Commission,  
World Conservation Union*

## **CBSG Membership Renewal Time**

Every three to four years, in coordination with the IUCN global assembly, all appointments to SSC Specialist Groups, including the chairpersons, are automatically terminated. The Chairman of the SSC is elected by the General Assembly of the members. David Brackett has been re-elected to chairman of SSC and has agreed to serve another three-year term, which will be his last. The Chairpersons of the Specialist Groups are subject to reappointment by the Chair of the SSC at his discretion, in consultation with the staff of the SSC and the Executive Committee of the SSC. There is no limit on the number of terms that a Chairperson of a Specialist Group may serve. I have been asked and have agreed to serve another term as Chairman of CBSG. I in turn am delegated the responsibility of nominating the members of CBSG for formal appointment as members of SSC in CBSG by the Chairman of the SSC.

Accompanying this issue of *CBSG News* are a letter of nomination to membership to CBSG and SSC, a form requesting specific information for inclusion in the SSC and CBSG databases, and a survey questionnaire requesting information on your role as a volunteer in CBSG and the SSC. ***If you choose to continue as a member of CBSG, it is essential that you complete the form and mail it to CBSG in the enclosed addressed envelope.*** If you fail to return this form, you will be dropped from the roles as a member and will no longer receive either the SPECIES magazine of the SSC or the CBSG newsletter.

CBSG is using a modification of the SSC survey to gather information from our widely dispersed group. There are about 900 members in 90 countries, making it impossible for us to meet as a group. It is our intention to use the information gathered to assist in increasing the effectiveness of CBSG by better understanding what you value most highly in your participation in CBSG, which of your needs may be addressed through CBSG participation, and what you might be willing to do. One action may be to further develop CBSG networks in each region.

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I appreciate your cooperation in completing this membership profile, and also returning it to the CBSG office in the same envelope with the membership form, by fax, or by email ([office@cbsg.org](mailto:office@cbsg.org)). Please answer the questions with a tick (✓) where possible, but some questions require a narrative answer; please provide extra narrative wherever you wish. Please complete this form and return it along with your acceptance Membership Record Form to the CBSG Office *no later than 15 June 2001*.

Enclosed you will also find a trilingual document entitled "Welcome to the Species Survival Commission". This provides important information about IUCN and SSC. If you wish to know more about IUCN or SSC, a comprehensive set of documents is available at: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/memonly/memint.htm>. You will also find a brochure about CBSG. Additional information can be found on the CBSG web site at: [www.cbsg.org](http://www.cbsg.org).

I hope that you will accept this invitation and look forward to working with you in the CBSG.



Ulysses S. Seal, CBSG Chairman

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### ***From the Editor***

This issue of *CBSG News* contains summaries of regional and special reports given at the 2000 CBSG Annual Meeting held in Palm Desert, California, USA in October 2000. Also included are summary reports from the various working groups convened during this meeting. Approximately 100 CBSG members attended the annual meeting, bringing together people from around the globe to discuss the various aspects of conservation of our planet's biodiversity. The CBSG network continues to contribute to this conservation process. CBSG conducted and/or participated in 74 workshops and meetings since the last annual meeting in 1999, and this year's agenda continues to be demanding. These projects are made possible by the 146 donor institutions and organizations, the CBSG strategic associates and program coordinators, and by the 963 individuals in 93 countries that comprise the membership of CBSG. We thank you for your support.

### ***2001 CBSG Annual Meeting***

The 2001 Conservation Breeding Specialist Group Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Perth Zoo and will be held on beautiful Rottnest Island, Australia. Meeting dates are 19 – 21 October 2001. The agenda will again include regional reports as well as working groups focused upon taxa and issues of conservation concern.

All CBSG members should receive meeting invitations shortly. For more meeting information, contact Merri Blakemore at Perth Zoo (email: [merri.blakemore@perthzoo.wa.gov.au](mailto:merri.blakemore@perthzoo.wa.gov.au)). We hope to see you in Australia!

*CBSG News* is published by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission, World Conservation Union. *CBSG News* is intended to inform CBSG members and other individuals and organizations concerned with the conservation of plants and animals of the activities of CBSG in particular and the conservation community in general. We are interested in exchanging newsletters and receiving notices of your meetings. Contributions of US \$35 to help defray cost of publication would be most appreciated. Please send contributions or news items to:

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**CBSG Mission Statement**

The mission of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group is the conservation or establishment of viable populations of threatened species.

The goals of CBSG are to:

1. Organize a global network of people and resources.
2. Collect, analyze and distribute information.
3. Develop global conservation breeding programs.
4. Integrate management programs for captive and wild populations.



## Transponders Working Group Report

### Support for CITES Resolution

The working group strongly urges the implementation of CITES Resolution 8.13 (Rev) adopted in 1992, that states:

- “a) Parties, where possible and appropriate, without excluding the use of other methods, adopt the use of implantable transponders bearing permanent, non-programmable, unalterable and permanently unique codes for the identification of live animals.
- b) Parties take into account the findings of the IUCN/SSC’s CBSG regarding the frequency, size, sterility and method of placement of the transponder.
- c) Microchip transponders be implanted where consistent with the well-being of the specimens.
- d) The location of the implanted transponders in each animal group be standardized according to the advice from the IUCN/SSC’s CBSG as detailed in the standards drafted by CBSG in 1990 and amended in 2000. Specialist groups with concerns about the needs of particular species should contact CBSG for consideration of modifications in the recommendations.”

The working group recognizes that the precept of permanent “marking” with transponders is limited by both the availability of transponders and the timing of when the individual was marked, in order to be effective for the uses outlined in CITES Resolution 8.13 (Rev.). So, we recommend that:

- a) Authorized suppliers must be registered and a system must be instituted which links specific transponder ID numbers to said suppliers.
- b) The accuracy of “tracking” identified individuals is limited temporally such that no information can/should be assumed prior to the time of implantation.

The working group also strongly recommends that the ISO Central Secretariat be contacted and strongly urged to resolve and/or make recommendations regarding the current problems of varying standards of systems and compatibility problems, including the need for a reliable transponder reader that can evaluate multiple commonly used systems.

### Standardization of Implantation Sites

The working group recommended the following implantation sites (changes and additions to the 1990 guidelines are noted in *italics*).

#### Fish:

*Large (>30cm): left base of dorsal fin*

*Small (<30cm): coelomic cavity*

#### Amphibians:

Lymphatic or coelomic cavity



#### Reptiles:

Lizards, sm. (<12.5cm snout to vent): *coelomic cavity*

Lizards, large (>12.5cm snout to vent): *lateral left body side anterior to inguinal region*

Chelonians: *leg left hind limb socket or leg* (alternative methods may need to be considered for chelonians less than 10cm in length)

Crocodylians: *left side anterior to the nuchal cluster or left hind leg.*

Snakes: *left side dorsal to vent*

#### Birds:

Left pectoral muscle or thigh, except:

*Ratites: in pipping muscle (in chicks) or in lateral left neck if adults.*

*Vultures: left base of neck.*

#### Mammals:

*Behind the left ear or to the left of the spine between scapula, except for:*

*Elephants: left tail fold*

*Hyrax: left lumbar area*

*Loris: left lumbar area*

*Carnivores: For some species (e.g., cheetahs in southern Africa and Mexican wolves in North America) microchips have been placed at the left tail base, so that area should be checked.*

As in the previous report, we recommend that all other implants (e.g., MGA implants) that include microchips be placed on the right side of an animal in order to avoid confusion with identification implants.

When possible, implants should be placed in a shallow, intramuscular position in order to reduce the chances of migration. To reduce the chances of a “lost” chip through the injection site, consideration should also be given to using medical glue (or suture) to close the implant site.

Due to complications with tracking individuals in databases, transponders should not be re-used and should be destroyed when they are no longer in use for identification of the original recipient.

### **Standardization of Systems**

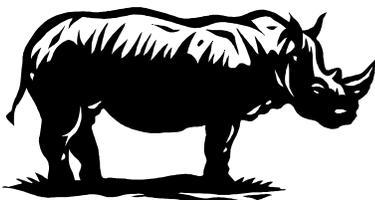
Currently, we recognize that the technology available through the Trovan company is the most widely used and recommended by regional zoological organizations. **We recommend that the Trovan system continue to be the global standard** (in spite of challenges of product availability in North America due to patent lawsuits by competing companies).

We also recognize that multiple systems are currently in use, that transponder technology is evolving, and that in the future other systems may offer advantages that are unforeseen at the present time. This working group and regulatory agencies should be prepared to evaluate and possibly change the recommendations for implementation of those systems as the systems evolve.

### **Central Database**

We recommend that CITES identify a central database for recording transponder information in regard to appendix-listed species moving in international trade. This database should be accessible by regulatory agencies involved in this trade. For the zoological community, we recommend that transponder numbers, implantation site, microchip manufacturer data, and individual animal identification be recorded with the International Species Information System (ISIS). 🐾

*Submitted by Eric Miller, Working Group Convenor.*



## **CITES Working Group Report**

At the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Gigiri, Kenya, the following decision was directed to the CITES secretariat:

*“To seek nominations from Parties of Appendix I species that are critically endangered in the wild and/or known to be difficult to breed or keep in captivity for consideration by the Animals Committee for inclusion in Annex 3 of resolution Conf. 8.15 (Rev)”.*

CBSG has been invited by the CITES secretariat to attend the upcoming Animals Committee meeting in December 2000 and to assist the Animals Committee in resolving issues involving captive breeding and transponders.

The task of this working group was to assist CBSG in producing the requested list of Appendix I species that are Critically Endangered and difficult to breed or keep in captivity. To accomplish this, we will research which species have been bred to or beyond the second generation in captivity. This can be done through review and analysis of:

- a. ISIS historical data
- b. Available studbook data and CAMP publications (and other information available from TAG chairs, Specialist Groups and other resources)
- c. International Yearbook data
- d. Literature search

For all remaining species we will make decisions based on specific species and/or institutional criteria. Species criteria are: diet or habitat specialist; taxonomic uniqueness; reproductive potential; genetically impoverished; disease vulnerability; and life expectancy. Institutional (human resources) criteria include: natural history unknown; financial limitations; technological limitations; not historically kept; and population size/limits.

The proposed report will include the status in the wild, status in captivity, and analysis of any breeding or maintenance difficulties.

The next steps are to:

1. Send an urgent request to all regional organizations to review all Critically Endangered species on Appendix I.
2. Production of report by EAZA.
3. Submit report to CBSG for their use at Animals Committee meeting. 🐾

*Submitted by Köen Brouwer, Working Group Convenor.*