

CBSG News

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:

CBSG News

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Specialist Group attended the CBSG Facilitator Training Course and went from there to Chester Zoo for his training. Chester was conducting harvest mouse monitoring during that particular time, an extremely advantageous experience for Nameer and our network.

Conservation

The IUCN SSC Rodent Specialist Group Chair, Dr. Giovanni Amori, participated in the CAMP and Network Working Group, which made a discussion and decision to create taxon-based South Asian Action Plans for non-volant small mammals as assessed in the CAMP by the regional network and specialist group members more meaningful. Dr. Amori gave good direction and a strategy to put this plan into action.

CAMP workshops, with the Data Entry Program and other CBSG tools, processes and philosophy, are particularly useful in regions where we are trying to build a better conservation community. In some countries, this is being done practically from scratch, and in particular for non-charismatic and neglected taxon groups.

The primary sponsors of our small mammal work are Knowsley Safari Park (entire non-volant small mammal network and activities), Chester Zoo (volant small mammal network and many activities), Bat Conservation International, Columbus Zoo and Riverbanks Zoo (several training and education projects). 🦎

Submitted by Sally Walker and Sanjay Molur, CBSG South Asia

Saving Rhinos with Science at the Cincinnati Zoo

In September of 2001, a Sumatran rhinoceros at the Cincinnati Zoo became the first of her species to reproduce in captivity since 1889. Currently, this same Sumatran rhino is pregnant again and due to give birth sometime this summer. This pregnancy is the first the female has carried naturally to term without being provided a hormonal supplement. If successful, she will be the first Sumatran rhino in history to produce two calves in captivity. Good news like this could not come at a more critical time in the conservation of Sumatran rhinos – fewer than 300 remain in the wild. Sumatran rhinos are primarily threatened due to poaching for the rhino’s horn, which some cultures believe has medicinal properties.

At Cincinnati Zoo’s Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW), Dr. Terri Roth has been developing the scientific tools and processes for successful rhino breeding. “Sumatran rhinos are probably the most difficult species to breed and maintain in captivity,” said Dr. Roth. “Scientific breakthroughs at CREW have given hope to the effort to save the species, but



accomplishments haven’t come easily. This second pregnancy is proof that the science of breeding Sumatran rhinos has been developed at the Cincinnati Zoo, and the first birth was not just a one time wonder.”

The Cincinnati Zoo contributes to the survival of Sumatran rhinos in the wild as well by partnering with the International Rhino Foundation to support Rhino Protection Units and *ex-situ* breeding efforts in Southeast Asia. The Cincinnati Zoo Education department also developed a school guide to increase rhino awareness locally. To read more about Cincinnati Zoo’s Sumatran rhino breeding program, visit www.cincinnati-zoo.org. 🦎

Submitted by Terri Roth, Cincinnati Zoo