

## CAZA Conservation Committee Meeting (Mar 4<sup>th</sup> 2022) Meeting Minutes

### Attendance:

1. Amy Chabot (African Lion Safari)
2. Janel Lefebvre (African Lion Safari)
3. Ginger Elliott (African Lion Safari)
4. Evan Metler (African Lion Safari)
5. Jessica Steiner (WPC/CSI)
6. Jeff Mitchell (Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo)
7. Kendra Ross (Lead Keeper at Safari Niagara)
8. Emiko Wong (Montreal Biodome)
9. Stephen Petersen (Assiniboine Park Zoo)
10. Menita Prasad (Greater Vancouver Zoo)
11. Cheryl Laite (Little Ray's Nature Center)
12. Gheylen Dagnfous (Montreal Biodome)
13. Chantal Routhier (Granby Zoo)
14. Amelie Mathieu (CCBF)

### Topics of Discussion

1. **Snake Integrated Collection Assessment and Planning Workshop (Snake ICAP) presented CSI**
2. **World Caribou Day presented by CCBF**

#### 1. Snake ICAP- Presented Jessica Steiner- CSI-([jessica@wildlifepreservation.ca](mailto:jessica@wildlifepreservation.ca))

Link to Snake ICAP:

[Canadian-Snakes-Integrated-Collection-Assessment-and-Planning-Workshop-Final-Report-2021.pdf \(canadianspeciesinitiative.ca\)](#)

Link to CSI website: [Canadian Species Initiative](#)

- All 39 Canadian snake taxa were assessed for potential ex situ conservation action, regardless of their current ex situ status. An information sheet was prepared for each taxon that included a summary of the species Canadian and global status, threats and ex-situ and in situ conservation projects.
- Eight ex-situ strategies were identified as opportunities for snake conservation in Canada

Ginger Elliott (African Lion Safari)

- Constructed a summary/ graphic of the eight ex situ strategies that were identified in the ICAP as well as the classification. (See attachment)

Stephen Petersen: Wanting further information about targeted recommendations based on location.

## **2. World Caribou Day- Presented by Amelie Mathieu- CCBF- [caribouconservationbreeding@gmail.com](mailto:caribouconservationbreeding@gmail.com)**

Why? To raise awareness for caribou & their conservation status. Unite caribou advocates and professionals

When: June 6<sup>th</sup> 2022

Slogan: A brighter future for caribou

Theme 2022: Getting to know caribou

Objectives:

- Familiarize the public with caribou
- Raise awareness for their decline
- Fundraise
- Education about wildlife conservation

Areas of Focus- Presented by Evan Metler- African Lion Safari- [emetler@lionsafari.com](mailto:emetler@lionsafari.com)

1. General Information about caribou
  - o Ex. Physical adaptations
2. Online and in person resources
  - o Regional maps, keeper talks, educational talks

How can CAZA help?

1. Celebrate it!
  - o Resources will be on the CCBF website ([ccbf.ca](http://ccbf.ca))
2. Assist with Material Development
  - o Help develop activities
  - o Assist in developing education materials (in person and online)
  - o Signage
  - o Other?

Questions/ Thoughts from the CAZA conservation committee

Resources that were recommended to check out for reference material:

- [Helpingrhinos.org](http://Helpingrhinos.org)
- Polar bear international

Cheryl Laite- Emphasize what populations are struggling and why. Have information for the different populations of caribou.

Jeff Mitchell and Amelie- Discussed genetically valuable individuals that can not be transferred due to regulations.

Stephen Petersen- Will pitch it to communication personnel at Assiniboine Park Zoo.

Please contact Amelie Mathieu or Evan Metler if you have any ideas or questions about caribou day!

## World Caribou Day

On March 4<sup>th</sup> 2022, Amélie Mathieu was invited to the CAZA Conservation Committee to introduce and describe the work of the Caribou Conservation Breeding Foundation (CCBF). CCBF is a non-profit organization that has committed itself to the conservation of Caribou species in Canada by consulting wildlife experts and raising awareness of threats to viable populations. CCBF coordinates both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* recovery efforts, focusing on habitat protection and restoration, as well as insurance populations and breeding programs. CCBF is interested in Caribou populations and genetics among CAZA members, and encourages communication with them regarding ex-situ populations and research.

Amélie announced that on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2022, CCBF will be facilitating the first World Caribou Day, with a focus on “Getting to know Caribou”. This will include educating the public on general information about Caribou, such as antler information, sexual dimorphism, physical adaptations, and the different subspecies of caribou and their conservation threats. CCBF has enlisted the help of artist Abigail Roscoe, who will be creating activity sheets and informative guides that are to be available on the CCBF website.

CCBF has also called on CAZA members and their facilities to help promote, develop, and host World Caribou Day. CAZA members can promote CCBF, the website, and their materials, or help to develop and engage guests on site with pop-up activities emphasizing Caribou conservation facts and adaptations.

Interested members will be put in contact with Evan Metler, Education Coordinator at African Lion Safari, and Lianne Thompson, of CCBF. A meeting between Evan Metler, Lianne Thompson, Abigail Roscoe, and the interested members will be arranged once further details are in place. The meeting will focus on how to integrate CAZA members with the resources Abigail is creating, and how CAZA members can take part in or assist with World Caribou Day.

For more information, please reach out to:

Evan Metler, Education Coordinator at African Lion Safari [emetler@lionsafari.com](mailto:emetler@lionsafari.com)

Lianne Thompson, Caribou Conservation Breeding Foundation  
[caribouconservationbreeding@gmail.com](mailto:caribouconservationbreeding@gmail.com)

Amélie Mathieu, Veterinarian and Co-Founder of Caribou Conservation Breeding Foundation  
[a.mathieu.vet@gmail.com](mailto:a.mathieu.vet@gmail.com)

## **Introducing the Integrated Collection Assessment and Planning (ICAP) workshop on Canadian Snakes**

At our March Conservation Committee meeting, Jessica Steiner, of Wildlife Preservation Canada, introduced committee members to the Canadian Species Initiative (CSI). CSI is a collaborative effort to bring IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) strategies to Canadian conservation efforts. CSI's inaugural workshop in early 2021 focused on identifying *ex situ* conservation roles for Canadian snakes using an Integrated Collection Assessment and Planning (ICAP) process.

The ICAP Workshop, which is a globally recognized multi-stakeholder assessment and planning effort, brings together the full complement of knowledge, skills, and strengths to identify effective conservation actions (Traylor-Holzer et al. 2019). The ICAP Workshop for Canadian snake species brought a diverse group of over 60 in situ and ex situ regional experts including zoo staff, government and First Nations representatives, academics and other species experts from across Canada, the United States and Mexico. Together they assessed potential ex situ activities within Canada for the 39 native snake taxa and made recommendations for achievable *ex situ* measures that will provide tangible conservation benefit for at-risk snakes.

We will be discussing the results of this report and potential areas for action at our next Conservation Committee meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 2:00PM EST.

To find more information about the Canadian Species Initiative and their work as the Canadian arm of CPSG please visit <https://canadianspeciesinitiative.ca/>

The complete ICAP for Canadian Snakes can be accessed on CSI's website:

<https://canadianspeciesinitiative.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Canadian-Snakes-Integrated-Collection-Assessment-and-Planning-Workshop-Final-Report-2021.pdf>

For more information, please reach out to:

Jessica Steiner, Conservation Programs Director, Wildlife Preservation Canada, Guelph, ON  
[jessica@wildlifepreservation.ca](mailto:jessica@wildlifepreservation.ca)

Ginger Elliott, Research and Conservation Programs Assistant, African Lion Safari, Cambridge, ON  
[gelliott@lionsafari.com](mailto:gelliott@lionsafari.com)