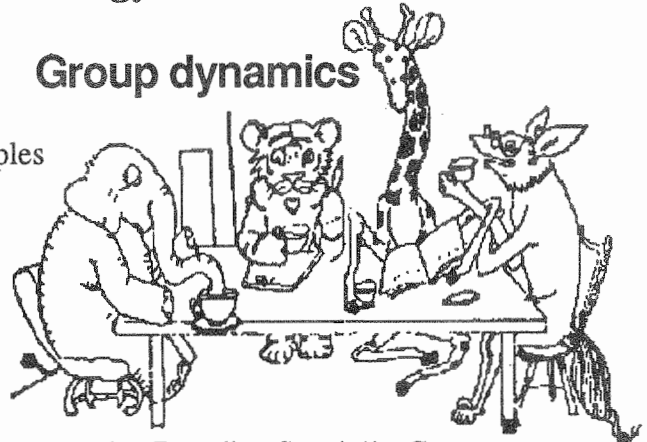

Training in Small Population Biology & CBSG Processes

Immediately following the PHVA was a Training in Small Population Biology and the CBSG Processes, which aimed to teach not only the theoretical principles of small population dynamics but also the practical principles of small group (human) dynamics to address the lacunae in communication and cooperation which sometimes besets individuals in the different fields and disciplines who are required to work together to achieve conservation goals.

Group dynamics



The Workshop Faculty : Dr. U. S. Seal, Chairman, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, SSC, IUCN who taught Group Dynamics, Workshop Process tools, the CAMP Process, Categories of Threat, Extinction rates, etc. Dr. Jon Ballou, Population Biologist, National Zoo/Smithsonian taught Small Population Dynamics, Demography, Conservation Genetics, Vortex mechanics, and Captive Breeding Conservation. Dr. Helen Stanley, Scientist, Institute for Zoology, London Zoological Society taught Conservation Genetics from a molecular biology perspective, uses of molecular biology in conservation, taxonomic differentiation, parentage, etc. Sally Walker taught process elements involved in organising & conducting a PHVA.

The unique feature of this Training was that every subject and session was followed by a "hands on" practical working session in which participants used the skills described to do an actual exercise. The practical sessions included a Demography exercise making a Life Table using a computer programme developed by Dr. Ballou, practice in achieving consensus in a group, and directing group work towards completion of a specific task. Participants in the Training "planned" a P.H.V.A. for the Kanha population of Barasingha in Bhopal from start to finish, conducted a C.A.M.P. Workshop on a broad spectrum of Indian mammals, and -- as a group -- brainstormed methodology for following up P.H.V.A. and other workshops.

In the practical sessions, each participant was asked to act as Group Facilitator and Group Reporter at least once to gain practice in their newly acquired skills.

As a point of interest, evaluations at the end of the Training revealed interesting differences between the managers and researchers. According to the evaluation, all the field managers and "on the ground" personnel who took the training felt that learning to work with other people was "extremely important" to their work and that the practical work in learning "people skills" was extremely valuable. The researchers and scientists nearly all indicated that this aspect was marginally or "not at all" important to their work and that this part of the course was not useful.

The Training in Small Population Biology and the CBSG Processes will be expanded and improved over the next few months and offered again in another part of India for different target groups. The Process (or practical) part will be enhanced and the theoretical segment reorganised to better "tell the story" of how all the different disciplines are utilised for conservation.



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