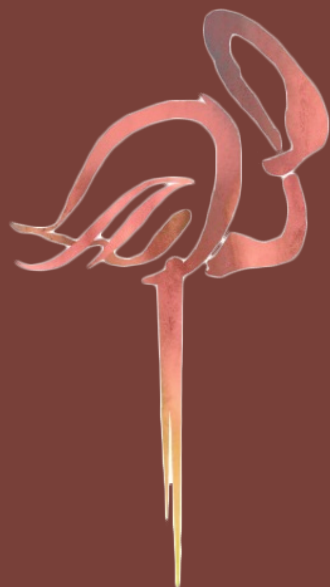




3rd International Flamingo Symposium 2014

5-9 October 2014
San Diego, CA



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Participants of the 3rd International Flamingo Symposium held 5-9 October 2014 in San Diego, California, USA.

About the Symposium

From 5-9 October, 2014, scientists and managers from around the world gathered in San Diego, CA, at the 3rd International Flamingo Symposium to present their findings and discuss future research directions and conservation of flamingos. Such gatherings do not occur frequently; the most recent international flamingo symposium took place in 1998 in Miami, FL, and the first one in 1973 in Slimbridge, UK. The 3rd International Flamingo Symposium, hosted by Sea World San Diego, brought together over 100 specialists from 18 countries doing research and conservation in the field on wild populations, as well as zookeepers and captive collection managers.

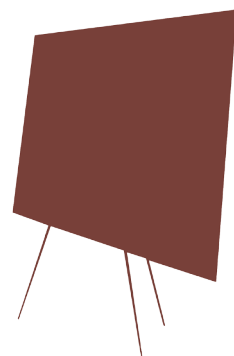
100 Specialists, representing 18 countries





The symposium program opened with a Keynote Address by Dr. Onnie Byers, Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, where she promoted integrated species conservation planning, considering all populations, whether in-situ or ex-situ, of the species. Over two days there were 35 presentations and 20 posters on all aspects research, management, and conservation of the six flamingo species, from the effects of climate change on wetlands in Africa, the economic value of flamingos for the tourism industry in Mexico, and the evolutionary relationships of flamingos along with how to encourage flamingo breeding in captivity and how to best pack flamingo eggs for transport. On the third day, participants gathered in workshops and round-table discussions on research techniques, collections management.

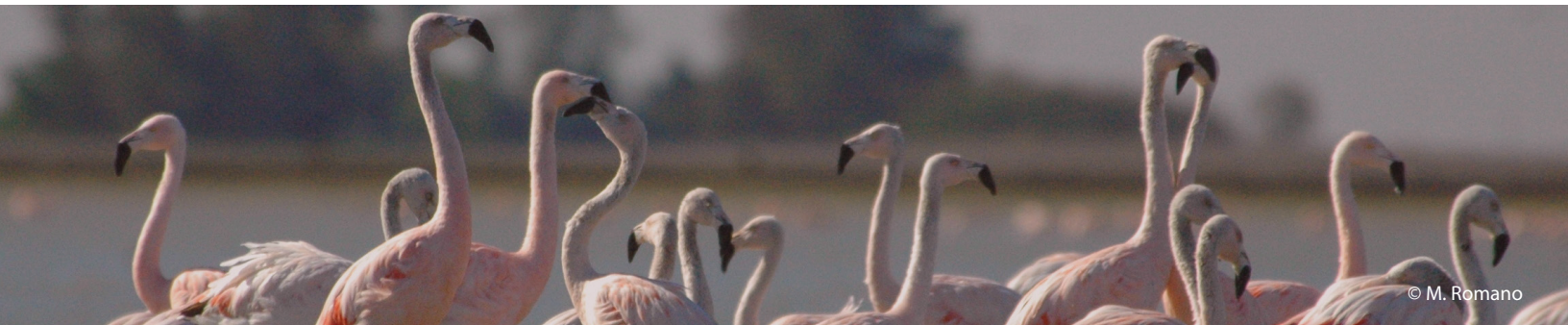
35 Presentations
and
20 Posters



One goal of the symposium was to increase collaborations among people working on wild populations and habitats around the world, and the international zoo community. In this regard the symposium was extremely successful in that collaborations were immediately catalysed, with several zoos pledging support for field research and conservation projects. The Flamingo Specialist Group announced an upcoming request for proposals for the **Small Grants Fund** to support field-based conservation projects, and the International Flamingo Foundation announced the establishment of the **Brooks Childress Memorial Award** that will honor groups or individuals who have made significant contributions to advancing flamingo conservation plans.

Two regional workshops were held in conjunction with the Symposium. On 5 October, a meeting with representatives from 11 countries organized by Cathy King of Weltvogelpark Walsrode, Germany, was held to discuss priorities for the Lesser Flamingo in **Africa**. The group identified the need to conduct a comprehensive, simultaneous survey to obtain reliable population estimates so they can be monitored as habitat changes. The group discussed survey methods for such a census. Because 75% of the world's Lesser Flamingos breed in Lake Natron, which continues to be under threat, monitoring and ensuring it's conservation is also a priority. Furthermore threats and actions that were included in the 2008 Lesser Flamingo Single Species Action plan were reviewed and adjusted.

The symposium organizers gave two awards recognizing "A lifetime of dedication to flamingo conservation and research" on behalf of the international flamingo community to Drs. Alan Johnson and Adelheid Studer-Thiersh.





The 6th **West-African and Mediterranean Greater Flamingo Network** held their 6th regional workshop on 9 October, organized by Arnaud Béchet of Tour du Valat, France.

The meeting gathered partners of the network coming from Tunisia, Mauritania, Italy, Spain and France together with guests from the symposium. The workshop started by a round table on conservation issues at national sites, and was followed by discussions on faced problems such as PVC ring losses, negative trends in resightings from some Mediterranean countries, hybridization with alien Flamingo species, and other issues. A project on MHC and microbiome diversity in the Greater flamingo was also introduced. The full report can be accessed here :

<http://www.flamingoatlas.org/downloads/6thMediterraneanWorkshopReport.pdf>

Whether concerned with protecting nesting colonies and wetland habitats, or focused on nutritional needs in captivity and exhibit design, all gathered at the symposium shared an interest in ensuring that flamingo populations persist into the future.

The Flamingo Specialist Group Small Grants Fund will support field-based flamingo conservation projects.

The Brooks Childress Memorial Award will recognize groups or individuals who have made notable contributions to flamingo conservation.

Congratulations to Dr. Alan Johnson and Dr. Adelheid Studer-Thiersh for their awards recognizing *A lifetime of dedication to flamingo conservation and research.*





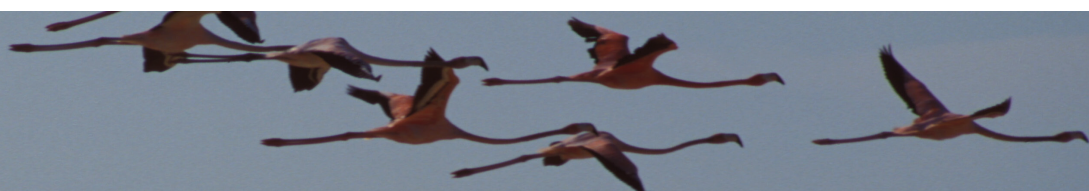
Keynote Presentation

Engaging Zoos in Species Conservation through the One Plan Approach

Onnie Byers

Chair IUCN Species Survival Commission-Conservation Breeding Specialist Group

There are 70,294 species on the IUCN Red List and 20,934 are threatened with extinction. An increasing number of these are dependent on continuing management for their survival. For these species, it makes little sense to conduct separate and independent conservation planning efforts based on whether these interventions take place in the wild, in increasingly managed parks and reserves, or in zoos. The One Plan approach proposed by the IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) promotes integrated species conservation planning, which considers all populations of the species, inside and outside their natural range, under all conditions of management, engaging all responsible parties and all available resources from the very start of any species conservation planning initiative. The One Plan approach aims to establish new partnerships; ensure that intensively managed populations are as useful as possible to species conservation; increase the level of trust and understanding among conservationists; accelerate the evolution of species planning tools; and ultimately lead to achievement of Target 12 of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan: the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained. Cross-disciplinary and cross-sectorial collaboration is essential if we are to successfully address the complex problems facing biodiversity. The real value of zoo and aquarium managers to species conservation can only be realized by working in collaboration with wild population managers, and vice versa. While each strives for the viability of a particular population, too seldom are they working together to maximize the conservation benefits to the species. When existence in the wild is threatened, a planning process that includes all populations of a species, inside and outside their natural range, would be a tremendous enhancement to species conservation. The IUCN Guidelines on the Use of Ex situ Management can assist in determining how best an intensively managed population can contribute to species conservation. To fulfil their potential to species conservation, zoos will need to realign their collection planning strategies. Currently, only 23% of terrestrial vertebrate species in ISIS zoos are threatened. Flamingo collections are above average with 36% of individuals in zoos representing threatened species. However, <1% are Andean flamingos, the most threatened of the six flamingo species. There are many factors, other than threat status, that influence decisions regarding collection planning but zoo and aquarium must strive to devote their spaces to the species that most need them. The One Plan approach is a working model of how the benefits of conservation collaboration can be fully realized. The name One Plan approach has joined many efforts of integrated conservation and united them under the same title. The results are conservation programs that mobilize the full suite of skills and resources available to species in trouble, giving them a better chance at a future in the wild.





Participant Voices

The 3rd International Flamingo Symposium was extremely successful in meeting our goals. Our post-conference evaluation survey showed that:

95%

rated the conference overall as very good to excellent.

90%

of respondents agreed we were very successful at convening a broad range of flamingo specialists.

88%

of respondents agreed we facilitated exchange of ideas between in-situ and ex-situ researchers and managers.

95%

of respondents felt they would likely collaborate with people they met at the conference.

Below is a selection of quotes from our evaluation:

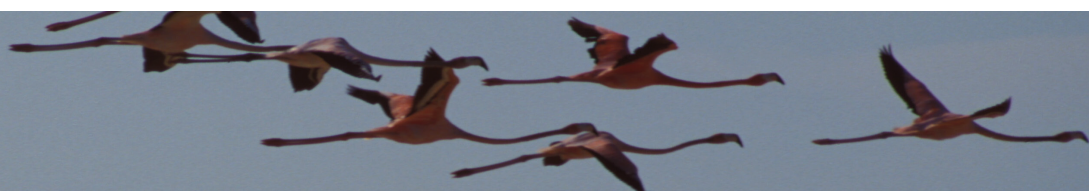
"An excellent symposium... More please! It was a lovely mix of wild and captive talks and research. The organization was brilliant and the range of activities and presentations was very engaging. Top notch work."

"Very well put together, refreshing to have the exchange between ex-situ and in-situ researchers..."

"Very important venue for global efforts in ex situ and in situ flamingo management. Perfect opportunity for understanding current global challenges of and efforts toward wetland habitat conservation."

"Very glad I was able to be apart of this experience!!"

"This was an elite group covering a very specific topic. I think this is what made it such a productive gathering... The contacts made at this meeting should serve flamingo conservation well moving forward."





In memory of Dr. Brooks Childress, Former Chair of the IUCN/
Wetlands International Flamingo Specialist Group

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Lead Sponsor Lesser Flamingo: \$10,000 +



Puna Flamingo: \$5,000-\$10,000



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Peter Shannon

Chilean Flamingo: \$100-\$499



Dr. Pam Yochem

