



Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, South Asia *Newsletter*

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

CBSG, South Asia is hosted by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. Website : www.zooreach.org Email : zoocrew@vsnl.net

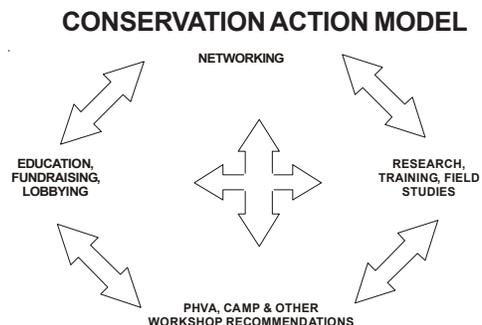
CBSG, South Asia is a regional network which evolved from CBSG, India and other CBSG national networks operating inefficiently in South Asia. CBSG, South Asia is more effective as a regional network organising workshops and other activities in different countries of South Asia, using members to help with various works. CBSG, South Asia is hosted by and operates in association with the Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) and Wildlife Information Liaison Development (WILD), both of which initiate and coordinate several taxon and disciplinary networks covering South Asia and based on IUCN SSC Specialist Groups. The taxon and disciplinary networks are based upon the SSC Specialist Groups and the manner of operation of the groups is based on CBSG principles. This method and combination of groupings helps cover many subject areas and actions with a small organisation, minimal funding and much hard work.

In making reports and allocating credit for almost any activity it seems incomplete to do so without including CBSG, as their tools, processes, vitality, mandate and mission underpin so much of our direction, philosophy and expertise. CBSG and what it represents as communicated and practised by Dr. Ulie Seal has been grafted onto our very core, almost since inception in 1985.

Although CBSG, South Asia has 125 members as such, all the members of our other networks (including Reintroduction Specialist Group, South and East Asia, South Asian Network of International Zoo Educators, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and all the taxon networks associated with IUCN Specialist Groups that we support (invertebrate, amphibian, reptile, bat, non-volant small mammal, and primate are or will be conducting CAMPs, PHVAs, conservation planning, in-house Red List assessments, and use of the output to catalyse field studies, lobbying, and education programmes. Therefore, we consider all of our 1000 plus network members of these 8-9 networks also as members of CBSG South Asia. CBSG South Asia works for all South Asian countries and we include Afghanistan in our South Asian map, because we wish it to be so.

Our suite of organisations and networks have evolved a Conservation Action Model or blueprint using the CBSG tools, processes and other, compatible skills applied to all conservation activities. The model is dynamic, stochastic and accordingly, can start at any point and go to any point from any other point.

We have illustrated our model borrowing from the well-known Extinction Vortex diagram, although our movement is not one directional to extinction, but multidirectional resulting in continuous expansion and propagation of new ideas and progress. This Report includes all activities in which CBSG tools, processes and compatible skills are used, or which use the output of CBSG processes, or which were initiated by or with the help of Late Chair CBSG, Dr. U. S. Seal, and late Programme Officer, CBSG Dr. Thomas J. Foose.



Obituary

Thomas J. Foose, 61, expired suddenly on May 17th at his residence in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. He was currently holding the post of Programme Director for the International Rhino Foundation IRF of which he was a founder.

Tom authored many scientific publications on zoo management, population management, wildlife management, etc. A graduate of Princeton University in 1969 he obtained his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Chicago in 1982 for studies on Indian Rhinoceros. He was Director of Conservation for the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (1981 to 1990). During this time he, along with Dr. Ulie Seal, developed the first organised species management programme. This was called the Species Survival Plan program SSP and the first was for Siberian tigers in 1983. SSPs and similar programmes all over the world are how regional zoo associations manage their wild animals.

From 1990 to 1992, Tom served as Executive Officer of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group. In a very short time Tom made a big impact on the science of conservation through shaping CBSG tools to include using computer simulated modeling, global risk assessments, identification of species management and research recommendations, etc. Throughout his career in conservation his efforts to facilitate cross-organizational global conservation made possible many species action plans which global zoo experts and field biologists from around the world had a part in writing.

Tom also served as Curator, Philadelphia Zoo for some time and thus brought a very practical perspective to integrated conservation. He was also IUCN SSC's Asian Rhino and African Specialist Groups Programme Officer for several years. Whatever organisation he worked with — zoos, AZA, CBSG, IRF, ARSG Tom encouraged people to work for conservation instead of career. His dream was for a global zoo - wild programme in which all zoos would help save species by cooperating with one another with the help of the new conservation sciences, some of them developed by or with the help of Tom himself. The above factual material I poached from the obituary on the International Rhino Foundation Website, so that I would get the facts right. But the rest is my very personal tribute to Tom because he was a personal friend, fan and supporter as well as a trusted and valuable professional colleague.

Tom's employment at CBSG took place (fortunately for me) when I began working as a volunteer (very green, meaning ignorant, not environmental), and just learning there was an active zoo community in the world. I came into contact with Tom, Ulie Seal

and CBSG through interest in ISIS, the International Species Information System which had been developed by Dr. Seal and shared office space with CBSG at Minnesota Zoo. I guess Tom particularly noticed me because he had lived and studied in India and had fond memories of the people and the country, and because I was interested in Indian zoos.

There were not too many people interested in Indian zoos as potential conservation contributors in 1985. Tom tended to think positively about this aspect of conservation and impressed me from the beginning with the importance of cooperation between zoos.

Tom and Ulie were in the process of developing what has turned out to be an incredible set of conservation processes, ... for analysis, assessment, action, teaching, lobbying, legislation, etc. PHVAs and CAMPs will be most familiar to our ZOOS' PRINT readers but there were others such as G-CAPs, Global Captive Action Plans, later known as G-CARS Global Captive Action Recommendations because "Plans" offended people in the zoo world.

Tom was a "behind the scenes" kind of guy. He was shy and somewhat insecure about his effect on people and even his own abilities, none of which was justified. He and Dr. U. S. Seal worked together on the conservation sciences which went into the CBSG processes and created tools for the zoo world to participate in conservation effectively and scientifically.

Today, only 25 years later, zoos have progressed so much that even some senior zoo personnel seem to have forgotten that zoos were not so much involved in conservation till more recently. Even "good" zoos used to talk the talk before they could walk the walk in conservation. There was not much real conservation going on but Ulie and Tom working together took zoos to a completely different place.

Tom had a particularly difficult job which was to put unpopular (but correct) ideas in front of zoo people and convince them to go along. Tom often got the blame for some of the most unpopular ideas. In fact, Tom had drafted a first global zoo strategy several years before the 1993 document came out. In Tom's version, which was published as a newsletter-sized draft document, in time for one of the Endangered Species Conference held in Jersey, it was suggested — probably for the first time in print — that zoos make a commitment or pledge to give a minimum of 1% of their zoos' income to field conservation. When this document made its appearance, all hell broke loose, partly because it looked more like a *fait accompli* than a draft but primarily because the idea of giving 1% of a zoo's

income to field conservation was then too much ahead of its time! Today zoos give millions of dollars world wide to field conservation projects, not only without a whimper but with tremendous pride and satisfaction.

Tom visited India several times after his Ph.D. work, once at my behest to teach population biology at a Central Zoo Authority zoo directors' training course. Tom could express very difficult concepts in such a way that people of different backgrounds could understand, so the lectures at the course should have been very well received by the zoo directors. He explained all the concepts using Indian rhinoceros as an example which was simply wonderful. The idea was to get Indian zoo directors on board the concept of zoo cooperation in conservation. This was Tom's primary interest for all countries.

Tom Foose and Ulie Seal together provided encouragement and support for CBSG, India which was my project. Both Ulie and Tom, impressed with the number of Asians at the meeting just suggested at the Singapore CBSG meeting that there should be more "grass roots" activities. (I had brought 10 Indians with some help from Tom personally — I think he provided the last air fare out of his children's Christmas budget but he helped raise much of the rest from zoos !) Thus I took this "grass roots" comment very seriously and wrote Ulie asking him if I could start a CBSG "network" for India, using CBSG name (CBSG, India), CBSG logo (but with Indian animals), CBSG everything — quite presumptuous from such an amateur but they agreed. Tom was a constant support in suggesting ways of approach and how to deal with different problems that came up. Tom's role in CBSG, India was huge. When he left CBSG I was bereft because he did so much to encourage me. After some time Judi Mikolai and later Onnie Byers took over giving me confidence and all kinds of other help.

Tom was so much fun to know. He had interesting personal habits that made him a fascinating specimen for study as much as any taxon. He loved clothes and was so very particular about what he wore. It was all understated so not all of his associates would have noticed. I wouldn't have except that I spent a lot of time with him and developed my own style in dress, if not the quality that Tom went for. Once we shopped in London and Tom purchased an expensive waistcoat of dark, forest green, which was his "signature colour". I commented that I was surprised he did not have one since he loved that colour so much and he replied "Oh, but I do. I have three more." His other colours were variations of beige, white, and green. He had a rule that he never wore blue. Without meaning to I adopted this habit and even today, when shopping for clothes I will

automatically refuse any item of clothing that is blue. Now that Tom is no more I will continue doing this more consciously as a sort of personal gesture.

Tom was addicted to Coca Cola (not any of the varieties just original Coca Cola, although later he might have substituted Diet Coke). Once while he was in Assam the Government of India banned Coca Cola and all the bottles in the shops were confiscated and taken back to the bottling plant and locked up. Tom convinced one of his helpers or colleagues to assist him in breaking into the plant and they got caught. I can't remember more about this but it was a mess that could have got Tom kicked out of India. Maybe it did and I just forgot that part of the story.

Tom had a wonderful sense of humour, the kind I really like ... dry, mild, sarcasm and black humour but never gross. He appreciated my sense of humour also ... in fact I think 90% of the basis of our friendship is that he always laughed at my jokes.

Tom also inspired me because he took care of his mother in her last days. He moved from a more comfortable and connected city to Waynesboro to take care of the house, coordinate her caregivers and take on part of the burden so she would not have to go to a rest home. He was very loyal to her and she passed away under her son's care. I am doing this now but probably not be had I not been impressed by Tom's actions.

Tom never forgot the zoos as a potentially valuable tool for conservation. In the last two years I was providing some advice and encouragement for an exchange of animals between Indian zoos and USA zoos to regularise their age and sex ratio and increase or maintain genetic diversity. The exchange was very long and complicated but was about to fructify when he passed away.

My hope is that Tom Foose will never be forgotten and particularly that his last project be carried out. I hope the Indian Rhino Foundation and Central Zoo Authority will continue to pursue the project of cooperation to improve captive management of the Great Indian One-horned Rhinoceros in memory of Tom as well as for their mutual benefit.

Tom soldiered on under many burdens and was a person of great courage and integrity. One might have had to know him well to understand this because he made everything look easy. The conservation community is a much poorer place without Tom Foose. I very much hope his achievements will come to light in a larger way through his death.

(A similar Report was also submitted for the IUCN, SSC, CBSG Mid-Year Steering Committee Meeting, South Africa, May 2006.)

New websites Launched

Threatened Taxa Monitoring System for South Asian Fauna, Flora and Fungi. (Sponsor: Zoo Outreach Organisation) (www.southasianntaxa.org)

Project Pterocount South Asian Bat Monitoring Programme (www.pterocount.org)

Pteropus giganteus Population Monitoring Project (Pterocount)

Workshops/ Conferences conducted in current half-year

CBSG RSG Joint Meeting: CBSG, South Asian/RSG South & East Asia, Coimbatore, 28-30 November. No. of participants: 42. Number of countries the participants represented: 6 (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and U.K.) The annual joint meeting of IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group and the IUCN SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group was organized at Karl Kubel Institute at Anaikatti, Coimbatore from 28-30 November. Attendance from far-ranging states as Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, and Assam in India as well as from the countries Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka made for diverse experiences and an exciting meeting. Pre-announced Working Group themes were:

- South Asian perspective on Rehabilitation Guidelines for IUCN SSC RSG,
- Troubled Translocations – with particular regard to primates, and
- Substandard Zoos.

The CBSG/RSG meeting was wholly sponsored by the Chester Zoological Gardens but some participants traveled on funds contributed by SAZARC sponsors (see below).

SAZARC – South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation

6th Annual Conference – Coimbatore from 1-5 December. Training in ISIS/ZIMS & Primate Taxonomy

No. of participants: 32 Number of countries the participants represented: 8 (Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, South Africa and U.K.)

The purpose of the 2005 SAZARC Training was to introduce zoo data management and the most recent changes in South Asian primate taxonomy to South Asian zoos, to help them improve their existing system and prepare for the ISIS/ZIMS programme. Trainers were Karin Schwartz for Records Management, Aasim Turk for ZIMS and Sanjay Molur for Primate Taxonomy, Visiting

Resource Persons, Brendan Whittington-Jones - war torn zoos of Baghdad and Kabul; Dave Morgan - pan-African zoo improvement programme, and Mike Jordan speaking of the diversity and decline of the world's non-volant small mammals.

On the subject of primate taxonomy 67 zoos in the region of South Asia, according to their information, hold at least 1522 primates which are identified using old taxonomy of 15 species. (CZA, 2004; SAZARC, 2004). There are in fact, 45 species and subspecies of South Asian primates according to PSG review which made many changes in taxonomy. All South Asian Zoos are holding these taxa without certainty of their provenance. The target audience for the training was the heads of major zoos of South Asia (or their deputies) and selected curatorial and veterinary staff of some zoos. This training was well presented and is being followed up by the zoos, according to many reports coming in.

Working groups for SAZARC participants dealt with a complex set of inter-related issues addressing

- how zoos in South Asia could contribute to *in situ* conservation

- how SAZARC could address the issue of needy, unaware and/or unprincipled zoos

- SAZARC perspective on CBSG statement and WAZA decision to address this zoo issue.

Sponsors: *Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, Chester Zoo, Lord Robin Russell/Woburn Safari Park, Paignton Zoo, Twycross Zoo, Thrigby Hall, EAZA, Apenheul Primate Park Conservation Trust, St. Louis Zoo, North Carolina Zoo, Disney's Animal Park, Cleveland Metro Park Zoo, ISIS, Schombrun Zoo, Koln Zoo, Allwetter Zoo, Metro-Toronto Zoo.*

Regional Sponsors: *Le Shark, National Zoo of Sri Lanka, WWF, Pakistan, Coimbatore Zoological Park Society, Annapoorna Restaurant, Zoo Outreach Organisation.*

Training workshop in Field techniques for the study of Volant and Non-volant small mammals, Randenigala, Sri Lanka

from 29 October to 3 November, 2005. Resource persons: Dr. Mike Jordan, Curator of Higher Vertebrates, Chester Zoo and Dr. Paul Racey, Regius Professor, University of Aberdeen, U.K. were the main resource persons of the workshop. *Sponsors: Chester Zoo, U.K., Bat Conservation International, U.S.A., Knowsley Safari Park, U.K* No. of Participants: 35, No. of countries represented: 2 (Sri Lanka, India, United Kingdom)

Teachers for Tigers - Advanced Technique Refresher Courses

i) at Bhopal held from 06-07 October 2005 collaboration with Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board. No. of Participants: 17

Sponsor: Wildlife Conservation Society
ii) at Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens,
Mysore, Karnataka, India
No. of Participants: 12.
iii) at Dhaka Zoological Gardens, Bangladesh
iv) Conservation Educator Workshop, Coimbatore,
Tamil Nadu, India - advanced interns and
participants reviewed and evaluated WCS and
ZOO learning material and conducted strategic
planning for education and outreach programmes.
No. of Participants: 26.
Sponsor: Wildlife Conservation Society

Taxon Networks :

all taxon networks are based on the processes
and principles of CBSG and all works done with aim
of conducting conservation exercises such as
PHVAs and CAMPs

IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group & Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

- Chair, has been invited to be a member of ESG
(External Support Group) for the GEF (PDF-B)
Project "Conservation and Management of
pollinators for sustainable agriculture, through an
ecosystem approach" of G.B. Pant Institute of
Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora,
Uttaranchal, India.

- Membership drive; • assisted Mysore Zoo with
Invertebrate Display;
- Assessed more than 20 selected invertebrate
species as an in house species assessment to
include in IUCN Red list and provided consultancy
to Zoos in south India for invertebrates.
- Bugs 'R' All, Newsletter of Invertebrate
Conservation and Information Network of South
Asia, Vol. 8, No.1 July 05 .

Sponsored by Zoological Society of London, UK

Rodent, Insectivore, Lagomorph, Scandents Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (RILSCINSA)

- New Scientific Chair selected, D r. Sujit
Chakravorty, Ret. Scientist, Zoological Survey of
India, Calcutta.
- RILSCINSA Member Directory published and
uploaded on website.
- Rat-a-tattle, Newsletter of Rodent, Insectivore,
Lagomorph, Scandents Conservation and
Information Network of South Asia, Vol. 5, No. 1,
May Issue.

Sponsored by Knowsley Safari Park

Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia CCINSA

- Chiroptera field techniques training with Rodent
conducted in Sri Lanka by November 05.
- Network of members increased.
- Selected new Scientific Chair, D r. Sripad Kandula.
- Member Bat directory – updated and uploaded on

the web [http://www.zooreach.org/Networks/
Chiroptera](http://www.zooreach.org/Networks/Chiroptera)

- BAT NET, Newsletter of Chiroptera Conservation
and Information Network of South Asia, Vol. 7,
Jan-July 06.

Sponsored by Chester Zoo.

- Requested by Bat Conservation International to
be their official representative in South Asia with 3
year grant.

IUCN SSC PSG South Asian Primate Network

- June 05 - authored with a group of people in
India an "Action Plan for the Control of Commensal,
Non-i human primates in Public Places" which is
being considered for adoption by the Ministry of
Environment, Government of India.

- Organised CBSG/RSG meeting in November 2005
with focus on non-human primates.

- Organised SAZARC meeting in December 2005
where South Asian Primate Taxonomy training and
collection planning sessions for sorting out SA
primates in SA zoos.

Sponsored by Primate Action Fund IUCN SSC PSG

Amphibian network representing DAPTF, South Asia.

Frog Leg, Newsletter of DAPTF, South Asia,
Vol 12, August 05 issue. Publication of South
Asian Amphibian CAMP pending. Network
sponsored by Zoo operating fund.

Reptile Network of South Asia SARN

Reptile Rap, Newsletter of South Asia Reptile
Network, No.7, August 05 issue. Global Reptile
Assessment GRA in collaboration with Global
Assessment Programme GAP now tentatively
planned for December 2007. Network sponsored
by ZOO operating fund.

Education

All ZOO educational material is created using
output from CBSG process workshops

MOU with Wildlife Conservation Society for
coordinating Teachers for Tigers, HELP, New York
Internship and other WCS projects including
evaluation of projects, educator training in other
taxa, etc.

Wildlife Week/Animal Welfare Fortnight/World Environment Day

Supplied 41,000 packets to 136 organisers for
Wildlife Week, Animal Welfare Fortnight and for
World Environment Day celebrations.

SAN- IZE. South Asian Educator network in collaboration with the International Zoo Educators Association (IZE)

- Kept in touch with all countries and invited to
workshops

- Prepared nominations for scholarship for IZE
meeting in South Africa October 06

- Planned new materials and activities for the
region

Visit to the African Zoo Association Annual Conference and other events

Sally Walker

The African Association of Zoos and Aquariums used to be called the Pan African Association of Zoo & Aquariums PAAZAB. A few years ago they changed their name but kept the acronym PAAZAB.

The African Zoo Association office is in South Africa where it has been for a very long time, although its local venue changes with Directors. Currently Dave Morgan is Director. Dave is very active in the international meetings and is how CBSG, South Asia and SAZARC became acquainted with him. Dave visited our 2005 SAZARC Annual Conference as a special guest last year and gave an excellent presentation on their WOZA Africa programme, which is their own zoo help programme. PAAZAB clearly is doing a good job as evidenced by their new zoo standards which was put into law for South Africa on recently and the cooperation and camaraderie exhibited at the meeting. We have many things in common so it seemed a good thing to reciprocate their courtesy and visit their Annual Conference. It was great to see Brendan Whittington-Jones, the wildlife manager who volunteered at Bagdad and Kabul Zoos at PAAZAB conference where he gave a presentation on the war torn zoos as in his visit to SAZARC. SAZARC President, R. K. Sahu was provided with funding for the conference but could not get a visa in time. There were a plethora of other meetings taking place at the same venue : CBSG Steering Committee, WAZA Conservation Committee, WAZA CIRCC meeting and (my personal "add on") Working Groups for Zoo Improvement Project.

A highlight of the CBSG Steering Committee meeting was an action packed presentation by Yolana Freidman, Convenor of CBSG, Southern Africa of the works achieved and problems faced in the last three years. Yolana hasn't been able to get away to attend CBSG meetings due to scheduling conflicts so it was good to catch up with her activities. No one suspected she had been idle, however, and we were confirmed in our belief that she had achieved many conservation in her region.

The theme of the meeting was "Implementing the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy" and there were a host of persons from the Core Drafting committee there to give presentations. In addition there were scientific presentations from different zoos throughout Africa. Not all countries were represented ... there are over 50 countries as opposed to the 7-8 of South Asia, and some of them are so far away that it costs as much to fly from there as to fly from India to USA !

As a member of the drafting committee (my responsibility was Chapter 7, Politics and Partnerships) was asked to give a presentation also. I cleverly zipped through some implementing principles and morphed into my substandard zoos rant. It was

well received ... better than I anticipated, and there was a decent turn out for the two session working group. The working group attendees tended to quality rather than quantity. We had eight people who all had an important aspect of this issue to represent. This was a very diverse group of people, mostly from South Africa consist-ing of several directors of institutions.

- Esther van der Westhuizen and Matty Pretorius of Butterfly World Tropical Garden were uncomfortable with the conflict between law enforcement and zoos ; they wanted suggestions or a via media for talking to law enforcement agencies.
- Andrew Seguya, Uganda Wildlife Education Centre, wanted a mechanism for preventing the mushrooming of animal facilities and to prevent bad zoos from being started at all. advanced facilities could be pre-empted where possible.
- Thompson Phakalane, Conservation Officer, National Zoo has a mandate to coordinate the zoos of Africa for conservation and help substandard zoos in the process.
- Bernard Harrison of BH and Friends has had experience with SEAZA in inspecting and suggesting improvements for needy zoos.
- Rynette Coetzee, Nature Conservation wanted "ammunition" for changing attitudes of the legislative authorities to be less hostile to all zoos. Her mandate is create policy for closing bad zoos.
- Louise Gordon, Education, Johannesburg Zoo wanted guidelines as to what we consider to be a substandard/needy zoo and how to educate the public and zoo staff about it.
- Sally Walker, ZOO/SAZARC, wanted to hear what Africans though of the substandard zoo initiative and to have them respond to the Draft document developed in Bern.

There was some general discussion and then the group went through the Draft document from Bern and made several good suggestions. There was a question and answer session in which Bernard and Sally shared experience with the African zoo persons, suggesting specific approaches, websites for standards and legislation and case studies. Naturally India is the ultimate case study having inspected and assisted with government funds many zoos which needed improvements, closed over 100 zoos and placed the animals adequately.

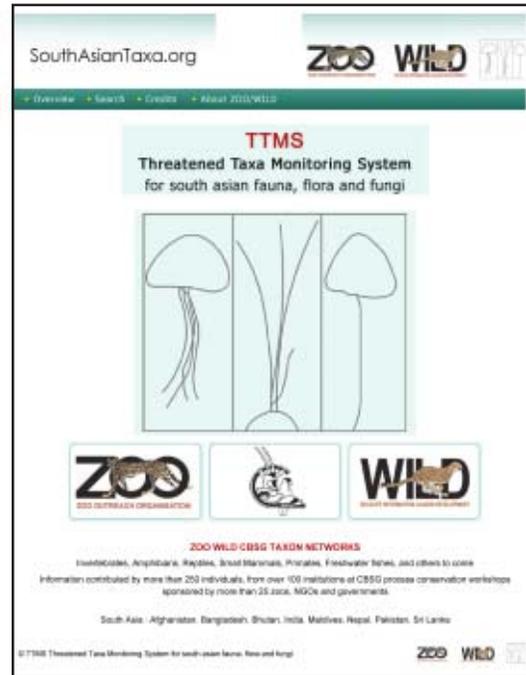
Arrangements at the PAAZAB conference were excellent with the New England Zoo hosting and the Venue, a few miles away, on the beautiful Gonubie Beach. There was good sponsorship indicating excellent local support. A highlight of the meeting was an afternoon when all participants got a helicopter ride over the ocean and beach front ... from right in front of our hotel.

CBSG, South Asia CAMP Data put up on new website
Threatened Taxa Monitoring System for South Asian Fauna, Flora and Fungi
(www.southasiantaxa.org)

In order to provide an easily accessible and retrievable data set, primarily for the output of our Conservation Assessment and Management Plan Workshops (CAMP), ZOO, WILD, CBSG, South Asia have developed a website with the following characters :

1. standard, taxonomically correct, current, systematic regional checklists of all taxa of fauna, flora and fungi of South Asia
2. national checklists for the eight South Asian countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
3. global assessment of taxa (species and subspecies) for all endemics of South Asia
4. regional assessment of taxa for all non-endemics in South Asia
5. national assessment of taxa for all non-endemics in every country of occurrence in South Asia
6. compilation of information from experts in the region and apply IUCN Red List Criteria for in-house assessment status of taxa
7. development of distribution maps
8. analysis of information for the region and for every country
9. compilation of drawings and photographs for every taxon
10. compilation of information for global assessments for IUCN Red List
11. creation of a mechanism for local and regional experts to update distribution information and maps
12. concise and accurate assessments of South Asian taxa made available on the web
13. provision of most up-to-date distribution information and maps for all taxa
14. a system for monitoring the status of selected taxon groups in the coming years
15. a web site dedicated to achieving all of the above
16. a single database for effective summaries and analyses
17. a system to compliment global assessment efforts by IUCN
18. a source of reliable taxonomic and conservation information for faunal, floral and fungal taxa of South Asia in one place

been initiated after successfully assessing the status of 1982 South Asian taxa, including both flora and fauna, over the last 10 years. The TTMS will be evaluated as often as possible by various outside experts and agencies. The usefulness of the system will be measured by the comments received and by the number of hits on the website over the long term. Check it out.



The system will be available for all experts to contribute and update regularly under specific guidelines. An in-house team of database managers and outside experts will be involved in compiling the information to constantly review information and update. Information will be provided in the required format to the central IUCN SSC Red List office for inclusion in the global red list. The system is intended to be aid in monitoring the status of taxa in the wild in South Asia. It has



South Asian Bat Monitoring Programme *Pteropus giganteus* Population Monitoring Project

Overview

The South Asian Bat Monitoring Programme aims to create awareness about bat conservation issues, involve and educate biologists and nature-lovers in studies about the biology of bats, and establish a conservation action plan. The Programme will initially focus on one species, the Indian flying fox (*Pteropus giganteus*) as it is the most known and recognizable bat species in South Asia.

The Program is based on a collection of volunteers from a broad range of backgrounds who have identified *Pteropus* roosts in their area and have committed to studying the roost and obtaining population information on a regular basis. It consists entirely of volunteers and is the first such network to monitor the population of a species in South Asia. The information from all these sites will be compiled and analyzed for trends in the population of *Pteropus giganteus*, identify key threats to roosts and provide recommendations for their conservation.

Background

Little is known about the population status of *Pteropus* or any other bat species in any country of South Asia. While we have a good idea of the number of species, and limited information about their distribution, the actual number of individuals of each species remain an unknown.

It is difficult to assess whether a species requires any conservation measures without reliable population estimates. That is, unless one cannot show that a population is declining or under threat of decline, one cannot create a plan to conserve it.

Although there are anecdotal accounts which indicate that populations and roosts of many bat species are decreasing, there is no hard evidence. There is thus an urgent need to assess the populations of bats and to monitor them on a regular basis to determine population trends.

Bat populations face some of the same threats that other species do, including direct disturbance by humans, habitat loss, and limited roosting sites.

Pteropus giganteus, the Indian flying fox, is an ideal first candidate to study population trends because it is :

- the only large pteropodid on the subcontinent & easily identified
- visible during day
- large and easy to count
- often roosting near humans
- often easy to acquire historical information about roost from locals (like age of roost, behaviour of the animals and population trends)

Objectives

- To establish an organised group of individuals that monitors *Pteropus* roosts and provides information on population size as well as threats.
- To have a significant number of participants throughout South Asia
- To establish long term data on roost size, fidelity, etc.
- To collate this information and analyze the data for trends in populations
- To make this information readily available for dissemination to all interested parties
- To create a conservation plan for *Pteropus* based upon the information collected

Methodology

The methodology requires three simple steps

- Locate and describe the roost site
- Count the number of bats at this roost
- Provide information via the printed or online form

Information Required

(Minimum) - These items essential and necessary.

- Species
- Date
- Location (State, District, Taluka, Village)
- Roost Size
- Protocol used to count bats: Exact or Estimate [explained under (Additional)]
- Observer's Name
- Observer's Address

(Additional) - The following are very useful, but not absolutely necessary. Participants are encouraged to provide as much information as possible, without making the task of monitoring too difficult.

- GPS Location of roost site (Degrees-Minutes-Seconds or UTM)
- Number of roost trees
- Roost tree species (common or scientific name)
- Height of roost (range)
- Photographs of the roost (showing details as well as surrounding area)
- If roost is remote, directions from nearest village
- Distance to nearest forest and directions
- Threat information (e.g., disturbance, killings, habitat loss)
- Protection information (e.g., temple, sacred groves, sanctuary)
- Notes and comments (include any anecdotal information about history of roost)
- Observer's Email and Phone number

More details on the protocols and reporting on the website.

Next page : how to participate →



Volunteers needed

The Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (CCINSA) along with Dr. Shahroukh Mistry, USA, have embarked on a project that involves identification and monitoring of fruit bat (*Pteropus giganteus*) colonies/roosts all over South Asia. The project will be an ongoing one with regular monitoring of colonies to understand the dynamics, population trends and various other aspects of the region's largest bats.

If you or any one of your colleagues or friends are interested in joining this exciting project, please write with your name, address, occupation, interest in this subject, and the geographical area you would like to participate in monitoring fruit bats.

We already have a few volunteers who have started work in different parts of South Asia. South Asia is a large region and we need many more people. Write to us at the earliest to be part of this long-term, first of its kind project.

Enroll

If you wish to join Project PteroCount as a Volunteer, please fill in your details Name, Organisation, Address, City, State, PIN, Country, Phone, Fax, E-mail, Comments (if any) and also write about your interest, experience and why you wish to volunteer. You can find this form on the website under Volunteers Needed <www.pterocount.org>, send it by e or snail mail or fax to our office. Email : sanjaymolur@rediffmail.org; fax : 422 2563269 or POB 1683, Peelamedu, Coimbatore 4.

PTEROCOUNT.ORG **ZOO WILD CCINSA**

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Project PteroCount

South Asian Bat Monitoring Programme

Pteropus giganteus Population Monitoring Project (PteroCount)

Overview
The South Asian Bat Monitoring Programme aims to create awareness about bat conservation issues, involve and educate citizens and nature-lovers in studies about the biology of bats, and establish a conservation action plan. The Programme will initially focus on one species, the Indian flying fox (*Pteropus giganteus*) as it is the most known and recognizable bat species in South Asia.

The Program is based on a collection of volunteers from a broad range of backgrounds who have identified *Pteropus* roosts in their area and have committed to studying the roost and obtaining population information on a regular basis. It consists entirely of volunteers and is the first such network to monitor the population of a species in South Asia. The information from all these areas will be compiled and analyzed for trends in the population of *Pteropus giganteus*, identify its threats to roosts and provide recommendations for their conservation.

Background

- Little is known about the population status of *Pteropus* or any other bat species in any country of South Asia. While we have a good idea of the number of species, and limited information about their distribution, the actual numbers of individuals of each species remain unknown.
- It is difficult to assess whether a species requires any conservation measures without reliable population estimates. That is, unless one cannot show that a population is declining or under threat of decline, one cannot create a plan to conserve it.
- Although there are anecdotal accounts which indicate that populations and roosts of many bat species are decreasing, there is no hard evidence. There is thus an urgent need to assess the populations of bats and to monitor them on a regular basis to determine population trends.
- Bat populations face some of the same threats that other species do, including direct disturbance by humans, habitat loss, and limited roosting sites.
- *Pteropus giganteus*, the Indian flying fox, is an ideal first candidate to study population trends because it:
 - is the only large pteropod on the subcontinent and is easily identified
 - is visible during day
 - is large and easy to count
 - often roosts near humans
 - is often easy to acquire historical information about roost from locals (like age of roost, behaviour of the animals and population trends)

Objectives

- To establish an organized group of individuals that monitors *Pteropus* roosts and provides information on population size as well as trends.
- To have a significant number of participants throughout South Asia.
- To establish long term data on roost size, fertility, sex.
- To collate this information and analyse the data for trends in populations.
- To make the information readily available for dissemination to all interested parties.
- To create a conservation plan for *Pteropus* based upon the information collected.

Methodology
The methodology requires three simple steps

- Locate and describe the roost site
- Count the number of bats at this roost
- Provide the information via the printed or online form

Information Required
Essential - The following items are essential and necessary:

- Species
- Date
- Location (State, District, Taluka, Village)
- Roost type
- Precise (and to roost bats: Exact or Estimate (see below))

Did you know ? . . . ZOOS' PRINT JOURNAL is indexed / abstracted in so many publications ?

See the evolution of "our" (meaning yours and ours) South Asian monthly scientific wildlife journal.

2001 (5)

BIOSIS/ Biological Abstracts, Zoological Records, CAB Abstracts, Elsevier BIOBASE/ Current Awareness in Biological Sciences, Veterinary Records

2002 (5)

BIOSIS/ Biological Abstracts, Zoological Records, CAB Abstracts, Elsevier BIOBASE/ Current Awareness in Biological Sciences, Veterinary Records

2003 (6)

BIOSIS/ Biological Abstracts, Zoological Records, CAB Abstracts, Elsevier BIOBASE/ Current Awareness in Biological Sciences, Veterinary Records, Indian Science Abstracts.

2004 (6)

BIOSIS/ Biological Abstracts, Zoological Records, CAB Abstracts, Elsevier BIOBASE/ Current Awareness in Biological Sciences, Veterinary Records, Indian Science Abstracts.

2005 (29)

BIOSIS/ Biological Abstracts, Zoological Records, Elsevier BIOBASE/ Current Awareness in Biological Sciences, Veterinary Records, Indian Science Abstracts, Index Fungorum, Bibliography of Systematic Mycology, Nutrition and Food Science, Veterinary Science Database, Biology Browser and the following CAB Abstracts: Animal Breeding Abstracts, Ornamental Horticulture, Forestry Abstracts, Tropical Diseases Bulletin, Helminthological Abstracts, Horticultural Science Abstracts, Review of Agricultural Entomology, Agro forestry Abstracts, Review of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants, Veterinary Bulletin, Protozoological Abstracts, Review of Medical and Veterinary Entomology, Review of Medical and Veterinary Mycology, Review of Plant Pathology, World Agricultural and Rural Sociology Abstracts, Abstracts on Hygiene and Communicable Diseases, Index Veterinarius, Plant Breeding Abstracts, Animal Science Database, Grasslands and Forage Abstracts.

Current Members of CBSG, South Asia : Regional Network of IUCN SSC CBSG

CBSG South Asia evolved from CBSG, India which was the first "network" of CBSG. Dr. Ulie Seal and Dr. Tom Foose both commented in the 1991 Singapore Zoo hosted IUCN SSC CBSG meeting that more "grass roots activity" would be welcome. From those comments, ZOO founder and new CBSG member surmised that more local network would be useful and welcome. Dr. Seal agreed to try it and Dr. Foose gave a great deal of practical help. Both were satisfied with the result and other CBSG networks came about. Today there are many, and each works a bit differently.

CBSG South Asia inducts members for the regional network from the vast array of conservation specialists and enthusiasts in the region, knowing that CBSG SSC IUCN has to limit their membership to a few hundred (now CBSG global membership stands at 500). This listing includes all the people who are currently voluntary members of CBSG, South Asia. Soon we will be sending a letter requesting a confirmation of members desire to continue.

CBSG South Asia members can be conservation experts or conservation enthusiasts. They are occasionally called upon to share their expertise or enthusiasm by volunteering to give information, time, and or energy to one or several of the activities of CBSG, South Asia. If you are involved in conservation and want to be a member, please see our website for the network information and email us at zoocrew@vsnl.net stating your wish for a form for CBSG, South Asian membership.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. Md. Abdul Fazil, E.O.
Kabul Zoo
Deh Mazang, Kabul
fazil_saidal@yahoo.com

BANGLADESH

Dr. Nitish C. Debnath,
Principal, Chittagong Govt.
Veterinary College Pahartali,
Chittagong 4202
principalcgvc@yahoo.com

Md. Waliur R. Akand, Zoo
Officer, Dhaka Zoological
Garden
Mirpur 1, Dhaka 1216
mwrakand@yahoo.com

Dr. N. C. Banik, Dept. Director
Dhaka Zoo
Mirpur 1, Dhaka 1216
ncbanik53@yahoo.com

Dr. M.M. Feeroz, Associate
Prof. Dept. of Zoology,
Jahangirnagar Univ. Savar,
Dhaka feeroz@juniv.edu

Md. Salim Iqbal, Vet. Surgeon
Dhaka Zoological Garden
Mirpur 1, Dhaka 1216
salim87@bangla.net

Md. Anwarul Islam, Prof. of
Zoology
Dhaka Univ.
Ramna, Dhaka 1000
E- mail: mahrukh@dhaka.net

Ms. Shimona A. Quazi,
Director
Eco Consultants
Rd. 25, House 51, Block A
Banani, Dhaka 1213
shimona.quazi@gmail.com,
shimonaq@yahoo.com

Mr. Md. Abdul Huq, Prof.
Dept. of Animal Science
Mymensingh 2202
lpp-bau@royalten.net.bd

Md. Abdur Razzaque Miah
Home # 48, Rd. # 5,
Dhanmondi, R/A Dhaka
shisukdhaka@hotmail.com,
rajakanya.SR@gmail.com

BHUTAN

Mr. Karma Jordan, Ranger Mini
Zoo and Animal Rescue
Centre, Dept. of WL/Forestry,
Pling Bhutan
karmapling@yahoo.com

INDIA

Mr. K.N. Banerji, CCF
Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailem TR
Srisailem, Sunnipenta Kurnool,
AP 518 102

Dr. K. Ilango, Syst.
Entomologist
Fresh Water Biological Station,
ZSI, 1-1-300/B, Ashok Nagar
Hyderabad, AP 500 020
kilangozsi@rediffmail.com

Dr. G.S. Solanki, Reader
Department of Forest Ecology,
Biodiversity, & Environmental
Science. Mizoram Univ.,
Tanhril campus,
Aizawl, MZ 796 009
gssolanki02@yahoo.co.in

Mr. M. Firoz Ahmed, WL. Biol. &
Head, Herpetological Research
and Cons. Div., AARANYAK-
Evergreen, 50 Samanwoy Path
Guwahati, AS 781 028
aaranyan@vsnl.net

Mr. Mrigen Barua, C/o Assam
State Zoo Dr. R.G. Baruah Rd.,

Guwahati, AS 781 005
mrigenbarua@rediffmail.com

Dr. A. Chakraborty, Dept. of
Vet. Pathology Khanapara,
P.O. Box 7 Guwahati, AS 781
022
apurbachakraborty@fastmail.fm

Dr. Dilip Chetry, Biologist
Primate Research Centre, (NE
India), House No.4, Ananda
Nagar, Byelane-3, Adabari,
Guwahati, AS 781 012
chetryd@rediffmail.com,
primateconservation@rediffmail.com

Dr. Goutam Narayan, Project
Manager, Pigmy Hog
Conservation Programme NE
Centre, 2D Nirvana Enclave,
Basisthapur Bylane No: 3,
Guwahati, AS 781 028
gn@ecosystems-india.org,
goutam.narayan@gmail.com

Dr. Murali Pai, Rg. Manager
WTI, CWRC, Kaziranga, Borjuri
Bokakhat, AS 785 612
muralipai@rediffmail.com,
cwrc@sancharnet.in

Dr. B. K. Talukdar, AARANYAK
"Ever Green" Samanwoy Path,
P.O. Beltola, Guwahati, AS 781
028
bibhab1@sancharnet.in or
bibhab@onlysmart.com

Dr. Y. P. Sinha, Retd. Scientist
ZSI, 11 D, Rajendra Nagar
Patna, BH 800 016

Mr. G.K. Dubey, Sr. Vet. Officer
Maitri Baag Zoo, Sector 8,
Bhilai, CT 490 008
dubeyganesh@hotmail.com

Dr. J.H. Desai, Vadodara, GUJ,
390002

Dr. T. Kalaichelvan, Zoo
Supervisor. Maitri Baag Zoo
Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai, CT
490 006 -
tkchelvan@rediffmail.com

Mr. S. S. Diwan, 302,
Chandralok, Opp: K.G.
Hospital, Karelibaug Baroda,
GJ 390 018

Mr. N.V. Kataria, DCF
Bhavnagar Division GJ
gj116@ifs.nic.in

Mr. P.P. Raval, DCF Gir Lion
Sanctuary & NP P.O. Sasan-
Gir Judagadh, GJ 362 135

Dr. R. K. Sahu, Zoo Supt.
Kamala Nehru Zool Garden
Kankaria, Ahmedabad 8, GJ
ahmedabadzoo@icenet.net

Dr. r. Raju Vyas,
505 Krishnadeep Apartments,
Mission Rd., Fatehgunj
Vadodara, GJ 390002
razoovyas@hotmail.com

Dr. Gladwin Joseph, ATREE
659 5th A Main, Hebbal
Bangalore, KA
gladwin@atree.org

Dr. r. Ajith Kumar, Co-Director
National Centre for Biol. Sci. P.
Box 6501, G.K.V.K. Campus
Bangalore, KA 560 065
ajith@ncbs.res.in

Dr. Mewa Singh, Prof. Univ. of
Mysore Mysore, KA 570 006
msingh@psychology.uni-mysore.ac.in

Dr. R. Sukumar, Director CES, IIS, Malleswaram, Bangalore, KA 560012
rsuku@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Dr. G. Umapathy, Scientist Lab for the Cons. of End. Sp. Uppal Rd., Hyderabad, KA 7
guma@ccmb.res.in

D r. D.K. Ved, Scientist FRLHT, Yelahanka, Bangalore, KA 560 064
dk.ved@frlht.org

Dr. Mir M. Mansoor, Chief WL. Vet & Biologist, Wildlife Vet Div., P.O. Box 802, J&K State Srinigar, J&K 190 001
mmnsur@yahoo.com

Dr. Jacob V. Cheeran, 135, Nehru Nagar Trichur, KL 680 006
jacob@cheerans.com

Mr. P.O. Nameer, Asst. Prof. KAU, Dept. of Wildlife Science Thrissur, KL 680 656
trc_nameer@sancharnet.in,
nameer.ommer@gmail.com

D r. M.P. Nayar, The Greens Trivandrum, KL 695 006
errc@vsnl.net

Dr. K.G. Mohanan Pillai, Retd. Tech. Off. to CWW 'LAKSHMI', TC 3/945, Arasummoodu, Kulathoor P.O. Thiruvananthapuram, KL 695 583
kgm_pillai@yahoo.com

Dr. M. Sivadasan, Dept. of Botany P.O. Box 673635 Calicut, KL 673 635
dmsivadasan@rediffmail.com

Mr. C.S. Yalackki, Cons. of Forests (Wildlife) Northern Region Palakkad, KL
cfwlpkd@sancharnet.in

Dr. R.J. Rao, School of Studies in Zoology, Jiwaji Univ. Gwalior, MP 474 011
soszool@rediffmail.com

Dr. Gopinathan Maheswaran, Scientist, Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, S.B. Singh Rd. Mumbai, MH 400 023
gmaheswaran@yahoo.com

Dr. Asad R. Rahmani, Director Bombay Nat. History Society Hornbill House, S.B. Singh Rd. Mumbai, MH 400 023
bhns@bom3.vsnl.net.in

Dr. J.C. Daniel, Retd. Scientist BNHS, Hornbill House, S.B. Singh Rd. Mumbai, MH, 23
lashvini@dte.vsnl.net.in

M r. S. S. Thakur, 666/1, Bhoi-Ali, Raviwar Peth, Talegaon Dabhade Pune, MH 410 506
sanjaythakur12@rediffmail.com

Mr. Joydeep Bose, Project Off. GTF, A-269, Defence Colony DL 110 024
jbose100@hotmail.com

Mr. Bipul Chakrabarty, Scientist, Central Zoo Authority, Barrack No.4, Bikaner House, Shajahan Rd., DL 110 011
bichakra@yahoo.com

Dr. Ravi Chellam, Prog. Officer UNDP, 55 Lodhi Estate, P.O. Box 3059, DL 110 003
ravi.chellam@undp.org

Dr. C. Srinivasulu, Scientist CEMDE, School of Env. Studies Univ. of Delhi, DL 110 007
hyd2_masawa@sancharnet.in

Dr. Brij Kishor Gupta, Scientist Central Zoo Authority Barrack No.4, Bikaner House, Shajahan Rd., DL 110 011
brijkishor68@yahoo.com

Mr. R.P.S. Katwal, Chairman CZA Tech. Comm., Adl. DGF (WL), Ministry of Envir. & Forests, Parayavaran Bhavan, CGO complex, Lodi Rd., DL 3
katwalrpsk@nic.in

Mr. Ashok Kumar, Vice Chm. Wildlie Trust of India A-220 New Friends Colony, DL 110 065
wildhaathi@yahoo.com

Mr. M. K. Misra, Director PEACE Institute 178F, Pocket IV, Mayur Vihar, Phase I DL 110 091
misramk@del3.vsnl.net.in

Mr. Kartick Satyanarayan, Chairman & Field Worker, Wildlife S.O.S. D-210, Defence Colony, DL
kartick@wildlifefos.com,
wsos@vsnl.com

Mr. B.R. Sharma, Memb. Sec. Central Zoo Authority Barrack No.4, Bikaner House, Shajahan Rd., DL 11
sharmabrijraj@hotmail.com

Mr. S.C. Sharma, D/1-48, Ravindra Nagar ,DL 110 003

Mr. D.M. Singh, Director National Zoological Park Mathura Rd., DL 110 003
delhizoo@vsnl.net

Dr. N. V K. Ashraf, National Prog. Coordinator Wildlie Trust of India A-220 New Friends Colony DL 110 065
shaimu133@eth.net,
ashraf@wildlifetrustofindia.org/

Dr. L.N. Acharyo, H No. M-71, Housing Board Colony,

Baramunda Bhubanewsar, OR 751 003

Dr. S. K. Dutta, Head Dept. of Zoology, North Orissa Univ.Sriram Chandra, Vihar Takatpur, Baripada, OR 3
sk_dutta@yahoo.com,
dutta_sushilkumar@rediffmail.com

Mr. S. K. Patnaik, Member CZA Technical Committee Plot No.81, Fishery Lane, Post: Budheswari Bhubaneswar, OR

Dr. L. A. K. Singh, S. Research Off. Govt. of Orissa (Wildlife Wing) O/o. CWW Prakruti BhavanNeelakantha Nagar Baripada, OR 757002
bid_lashvini@sancharnet.in

Dr. S. K. Sinha, Director Nandankanan Zoological Park Bhubaneswar, OR 751 007
sk_sinha00@yahoo.com

Dr. A. K. Chhangani, Indo-US Primate Project, Dept. of Zoology, J.N.V. Univ. Jodhpur, RJ 342 001
chhanganiak@yahoo.com

Mr. Harry V. Andrews, Director Madras Crocodile Bank Trust Mamallapuram, TN 603 104
E- mail: mctindia@vsnl.net

Dr. A. Manimozhi, Biologist Arignar Anna Zool. Park Vandalur, Chennai, TN 48
aazp@vsnl.com,
manimozhi_64@yahoo.co.in

M r. N. Baskar, Biologist Arignar Anna Zool. Park Vandalur, Chennai, TN 48
aazp@vsnl.com

D r. B.A. Daniel, Scientist Zoo Outreach Organisation P.O. Box 1683, Peelamedu Coimbatore, TN 641 004
icinsa@vsnl.net,
badaniel@zooreach.org

Dr. R.J. Ranjit Daniels, CARE EARTH No.5, Shri Nivas, 21st St.Thillaiganga Nagar, Chennai, TN 600 061
careearth@usa.net

D r. V. Kalaiarasan, Director Chennai Snake Park Trust Raj Bhawan Post, Guindy Chennai, TN 600 022
cspt1972@md5.vsnl.net.in

Dr. Sripathi Kandula, Scientific Chair CCINSA / Reader Madurai Kamaraj Univ. School of Biological Sciences Madurai, TN 625 021 E- mail:
sribat@rediffmail.com

Mr. N. Krishnakumar, CF Res. Circle, TN Forest Dept. 3rd Floor, Forest Block, D.M.S. Compound, 259, Anna Salai Chennai, TN 600 006
forestre@vsnl.com,

krishforbio.hotmail.com

Dr. G. Marimuthu, Prof. Dept. of Animal Behaviour & Physiology, School of Biological Sciences, Madurai Kamaraj Univ. Madurai, TN 625 021
gmari@sancharnet.in

Mr. Sanjay Molur, R.V., Dy. Director Zoo Outreach Organisation Box 1683 Peelamedu, Coimbatore, TN 641 004
herping@vsnl.net.in

Dr. V. Ramakantha, Principal State Forest Service College P.O. Box 1130 Coimbatore, TN 641 002
v_ramakantha@hotmail.com

Mr. G. Rangaswamy, Secretary Coimbatore Zoological Park Coimbatore, TN 641 004
nbrpark@eth.net

Mrs. Nandini Rangaswamy, Treasurer, Zoo Outreach Organisation Coimbatore, TN 641 004
nbrpark@eth.net

Dr. Manju Siliwal, Research Associate, ZOO & WILD 29 / 1 Bharati Colony, Peelamedu, Coimbatore TN
4manju@zooreach.org,
manjusiliwal@rediffmail.com

Dr. S. Paulraj, Divi. Forest Off. Hosur Forest Division Hosur, TN 635 110
dfohosur@yahoo.com

Ms. Sally Walker, Director Zoo Outreach Organisation Peelamedu, Coimbatore TN 4
sallyrwalker@aol.com

Mr. N.C. Bahuguna, CCF MOEF Regional Office (CZ), Kendriya Bhandar, 5th Floor, Sector - H, Aliganj, Lucknow, UP 226 020
ccf@moefrocklo.org

Mr. Salim Javad, Dept. of Wildlife Science Aligarh Muslim Univ. Aligarh UP 202 001
jaisal@vsnl.com,
salim_javed@hotmail.com

D r. Sant Prakash, Dept. of Zoology Dayalbaugh Ed. Institute Agra, UP 282 005
sa_ntprakash@yaoo.co.in

Dr. N.P.S. Chauhan, Wildlife Institute of India Chandrabani Dehradun, UT 248 001
lashvini@dte.vsnl.net.in

Mr. B. C. Choudhury, S. Reader & Head, Dept. of Endg. Species Mgt., WII P.O. Box No.18, Chandrabani Dehra Dun, UT 248 001
bcc@wii.gov.in

Dr. A. K. Gupta, CCF (P& D)
Govt. of Tripura, Aranya
Bhawan, Gorkha Basti, P.O.
Kunjaban, Agartala, TR 6
akphayre@yahoo.com

Dr. S. Ainul Hussain, Reader
Wildlife Institute of India P.O.
Box 18, Chandrabani Dehra
Dun, UT 248 001
hussain@wii.gov.in

D r. Vinod Khanna, Scientist
Zoological Survey of India Sai
Drishti 151, Ashok Vihar,
Salawala, Dehradun, UT 1
drvkhanna@sancharnet.in

Dr. G.S. Rawat,
Wildlife Institute of India
P.O. Box 18, Chandrabani
Dehradun, UT 248 001
wii@wii.gov.in

M r. Vinod Rishi, Directorate of
Forest Education, P.O. New
Forests Dehradun, UT 248
006

Mr. S.P. Sinha,
C/o Wildlife Institute of India
P.O. Box 18, Chandrabani
Dehradun, UT 248 001
sinhasp@yahoo.com,
sinhaSP@hotmail.com

Mr. P.R. Sinha, Director Wildlife
Institute of India P.O. Box 18,
Chandrabani Dehradun, UT
248 001 E- mail:
dwii@wii.gov.in

Dr. S. Chakraborty, Retd ZSI
IA-28, Sector - III, Bidhan
Nagar
Kolkatta, WB 700 097
sujittrinazsi@yahoo.co.in

Mr. Susanta Bhattacharyya,
Scientist
Zoological Gardens Alipore,
Kolkatta, WB
calzoo@onlysmart.com

Dr. T. Chakraborty,
Salt Lake
Kolkatta, WB 700 091
sowhap@rediffmail.com

Mr. A. K. Das, Director Nirman
Tower, 284/1 A Netaji Subhas
Chandra Bose Rd., Flat- 1B,
Bansdroni Kolkatta, WB
700047

Mr. Kaushik Deuti, Scientist
Zoological Survey of India New
Alipore Calcutta, WB 700053
kaushikdeuti@rediffmail.com

Dr. R. P. Mukherjee, Scientist
Zoological Survey of India
Kolkata, WB 700 064
pkbanerjee6@rediffmail.com

Mr. T. K. Roy,
Him. Employers & Nature
Lovers
P.O. Proddhan Nagar
Siliguri, WB 734 403

Mr. T. Ramakrishna, Retired
IFS, 95, Sagar Society, Rd.
No:2, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad
AP 500 034

NEPAL

Dr. Ravi Sharma Aryal, CITES
Law Expert
Rudramati Marg, Kalopul,
Kathmandu
raviaryal@wlink.com.np

Dr. M. K.Chalise, Reg. Sec. for
Asia, IPS Natural History
Society of Nepal
GPO Box 8402, Kathmandu
mukeshjanak@hotmail.com

Dr. Tirtha M. Maskey, Dept. of
National Parks & Wildlife
Conservation P.O. Box 860,
Kathmandu
tmaskey@gmail.com

Ms. Rachana Shah, Cons. EO
Central Zoo/KMTNC

Jawalakhel, P.O. Box: 3712
Kathmandu
rshah@centralzoo.com.np,
czoo@wlink.com.np

Mr. A.P. Sherpa,
KMTN
P.O. Box 3712, Conservation /
Central Zoo, Kathmandu
angzsherpa@hotmail.com

PAKISTAN

Dr. K. Javed Baig, Curator Zool.
Sci. Div. Pakistan Museum of
Nat. History, Garden Avenue,
Shakerparian Islamabad,
44000
khalidjbaig56@hotmail.com

D r. M. M. Qazi, Director
Karachi Zoo and Safari Park B-
157, Block 10, Gulshane-E-
Iqbal, Karachi
muddassir74@yahoo.com,
wlb@sat.net.pk

Dr. Aamir Ismail Rizvi, Vet.
Off., Karachi Zoo, Karachi
drairizvi@hotmail.com

M r. Richard Garstang, Cons
Advisor, WWF - Pakistan,
Ferozepur Rd., Lahore
rgarstang@wwf.org.pk,
garstang@aol.com

Dr. Uzma Khan, Sr. EO Cons.
Div., WWF-Pakistan Ferozepur
Rd., Lahore ukhan@wwf.org.pk,
khan4@hotmail.com

Mr. Abdul Qadeer Mehal,
Director, Wildlife and Parks
Punjab Wildlife Dept., 2-Sanda
Rd., Lahore
aqmehal@wol.net.pk

Mr. Naeem Ashraf Raja, Sub.
Div. Forest Off. 99/2
Kamalabad Rawalpindi 46000
naeemashrafraja@yahoo.com

SRILANKA

Mr. Rohan Pethiyagoda, Wildlife
Heritage Trust 95 Cotta Rd.,
Colombo 8 rohanp@slt.lk

Dr. Jayanthi Alahakoon, Vet.
Surgeon, Nat. Zool. Gardens of
Sri Lanka, Dehiwala
pinnawela@yahoo.com,
zoosl@slt.lk

Brig. Hant Perera, Director
Dept of National Zoological
Gardens, Dehiwala
zoosl@slt.lk

Mr. A. De Silva, 15/1,
Dolosbage Rd. Gampola- CP
kalds@slt.net.lk

Mr. Saman Senanayake,
Provincial Environmental Chief
Ministry "Malibawa"
Kurunegala petanwp@slt.net.lk

M r. Jayantha Jayewardene,
Biodiversity & Elephant 615-
32 Rajagiriya Gardens, Nawala
Rd., Rajagiriya, SL
romaliff@eureka.lk

Dr. Ruchira Somaweera,
Faculty of Sci., Univ. of
Peradeniya Peradeniya, Sri
Rajagiriya
ruchira_somaweera@yahoo.com

U.S.A.

Dr. Kushal Habibi, Wildlife and
Biodiversity Cons. Consultant
12113, Shining Star Lane
Clarksville MD 21029
vze6rtav@verizon.net

Dr. Dave Ferguson, Retd.
USFWS
2 Box 224, Round Hill
Virginia 26142 0224
dave_ferguson@fws.gov

M r. Adit Pal, Architect 108 W.
Jay Street Ithaca, New York
14850
aditpal@yahoo.com

Events participation for CBSG, South Asia office

Sanjay Molur attended the 12th meeting of IUCN biodiversity Assessment Sub-committee in Charlottesville, West Virginia in May and also spent time at Conservation International office reviewing GMA and GAA output. As a result of the report of the 2002 Amphibian CAMP can now be published and the GRA (reptile assessment) could be scheduled.

R. Marimuthu is participating in an Internship and Advanced Training at Wildlife Conservation Society at Bronx, New York in June. This will help him better develop educational activities linking SAN-IZE with CBSG, South Asia.

Sanjay Molur and B.A. Daniel will attend, by invitation, an Advanced Training in VORTEX, the tool used in PHVA

workshops. This is to be held in Mexico. After the PHVA they are likely to stay back in the country and assist with a CBSG Primate CAMP workshop for Mexico's primates.

Sally Walker and Sanjay Molur will attend the Annual CBSG meeting in Leipzig, run working groups and stay for 'WAZA representing SAZARC and ZOO both of which are members.

Sanjay Molur has been asked to assist Phil Miller in running two CAMP workshops in Japan in 2007.

Manju Silliwala has received two important grants for her group's studies of Large Bodied Spiders in different parts of India.

June 2006

Encyclopedia on the Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh with help from CBSG members — Report on Visit to Bangladesh, May 2006

Nameer Ommer

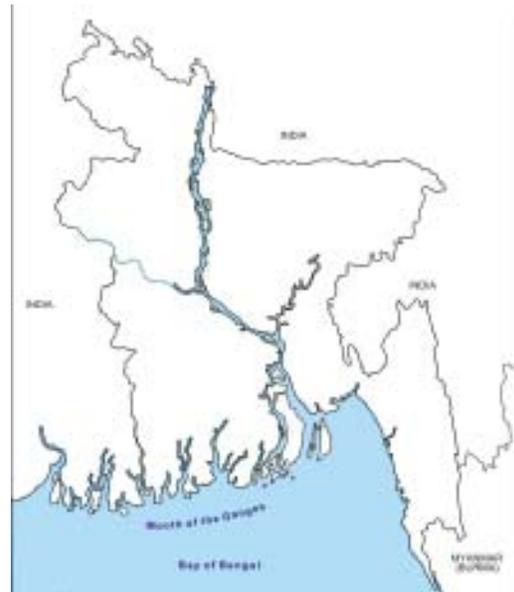
Note : The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh has launched a project on compiling a multi-volume "Encyclopedia on the Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh". The project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), through the Government of Bangladesh. Dr. Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, is the Chief Editor of this project and also the Principal Secretary to the Bangladesh Prime Minister. CBSG Member Prof. Anwar-ul-Islam, Zoology Professor of Dhaka University, Bangladesh, is the Managing Editor. There are 20 Editors working on different groups, who in turn are assisted by about 30 Research Assistants. The Encyclopedia has 28 volumes, as detailed below.

CBSG South Asia member, Dr. Nameer Ommer was invited as a trainer for this project for a month recently. His responsibility was to train the Research Assistance on various aspects of scientific writing, data compilation, conduct of field surveys to authenticate the unpublished data, preparation of a taxonomic publication such as a monograph, a checklist etc. as well as present several lectures classification of the vertebrate fauna (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fishes) of Bangladesh, IUCN red listing, CAMP process, CBSG South Asia networks and the status of vertebrates of Bangladesh. We are very proud that Nameer, who has been in association with ZOO/CBSG, South Asia for many years was selected for this important task. Here is his report.

I had the pleasure of being invited as a trainer for the Encyclopedia on the Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh with a broad mandate for hands-on training, lectures, preparation of MS, etc.

Early in the assignment I conducted a 'hands on training' on various survey techniques to study the vertebrate fauna at Sunderbans National Park, Bangladesh from 20th to 25th of May 2006. As part of this training we conducted transect survey (for birds and large mammals), pug mark census techniques for large carnivores, camera trapping for carnivores (including small carnivores), Sherman trapping and mist netting for the small mammals (rodents, insectivores and bats) etc.

En route to Sunderbans we also had excellent opportunities to observe the cetaceans. The two species of marine mammals that we saw were the Gangetic River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) and Irrawady Dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*). The former is an Endangered species while the latter is a Data Deficient animal. We were cruising to the Sunderbans through the River Meghna, which is formed after the confluence of River Ganges (known as Padma in Bangladesh) and River Brahmaputra (known as Jamuna in Bangladesh). We were heading towards the estuarine delta that this river and its tributaries have formed with the Bay of Bengal, in the Southern tip of the Bangladesh, to form the largest mangrove forests in the world, the Sunderbans. The distribution of these two species of cetaceans is of great interest. The *Platanista gangetica* though is a freshwater dolphin (family Platanistidae) was tolerating the salinity level to some extent as we could see them even on the second day of our journey to Sunderbans, and we were informed by the boat crew that the water there is brackish. However, the *Platanista gangetica* could not be



seen at the river mouth where we anchored the boat for two days. There we could see only *Orcaella brevirostris* (family Delphinidae).

During the course of the field exercises at Sunderbans, we saw *Callosciurus pygerythrus* (Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel), which is a new record for Sunderbans. The Reza Khan's "Mammals of Bangladesh" says "it is seen in Bangladesh, but NOT IN SUNDERBANS", moreover this squirrel has not been found below 200ml and the present sighting from Sunderbans Mangroves hold

*** Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Wildlife Sciences, College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur. Kerala. India and South Asian Coordinator, *in situ*, CBSG**

significance as it is a new habitat and a new altitudinal record for *Callosciurus pygerythrus*. The bird transects at Sunderbans was also very productive. Altogether we did three transects for birds and recorded about 100 species, including the rarities such as Masked Finfoot, Ruddy Kingfisher, White-collared Kingfisher, Brown-winged Kingfisher, Lesser Adjutant, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon to name a few.

Apart from the lectures I also had to write on the "Species Profile" on about 40 species of small mammals (bats, rodents and insectivores) of Bangladesh and I did this work after the lectures.

It was a great opportunity for me to be associated with such an important project like this.

Bangladesh is going to be the first South Asian country to have a national Encyclopedia on Flora and Fauna. It has been a great learning experience to me too.

Acknowledgements

I take this opportunity to place on records my deepest sense of gratitude to Ms. Sally Walker and Sanjay Molur for suggesting my name as the consultant. I would also like to thank Prof. Anwar-ul-Islam for being instrumental in me selecting for the programme. I also thank the Vice-Chancellor and Registrar of Kerala Agricultural University and the Associate Dean, College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University for permitting me to take up this responsibility.

Encyclopedia on the Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh

Vol No and Inclusion

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Bangladesh Profile |
| 2 | Bacteria, Actinomycetes, Fungi, Cyanobacteria |
| 3-4 | Algae, Lichens |
| 5 | Bryophytes, Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms |
| 6-12 | Angiosperms |
| 13 | Index Volume (Flora) |
| 14 | Protista/Protozoa to Coelenterata, Ctenophora, Annelida and Echinodermata |
| 15-16 | Helminthes (Platyhelminthes, Nematoda & minor invertebrate phyla) |
| 17 | Arthropoda - I: Crustacea, Merostomata, Myriapoda and Arachnida |
| 18 | Arthropoda - II: Insecta I (Apterygota, Odonata, Orthoptera, Phthiraptera) |
| 19 | Arthropoda - III: Insecta II (Homoptera, Hemiptera, Thysanoptera) |
| 20 | Arthropoda - IV: Insecta III (Lepidoptera and Diptera) |
| 21 | Arthropoda - V: Insecta IV (Coleoptera and Hymenoptera) |
| 22 | Mollusca |
| 23 | Lower Chordates and marine fish |
| 24 | Freshwater fish |
| 25 | Herpetofauna |
| 26 | Birds |
| 27 | Mammals |
| 28 | Index (Fauna) |

Editors involved

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 44 contributors |
| Prof. Zia Uddin Ahmed |
| Prof. Moniruzzaman Khondker |
| Prof. ZN Tahmida Begum |
| Prof. Moniruzzaman Khondker |
| Prof. ZN Tahmida Begum |
| Prof. Abul Hassan |
| Dr. M Matiur Rahman |
| Prof. Syed MH Kabir |
| Prof. Mnowar Ahmed |
| Prof. Syed MH Kabir |
| Prof. Mnowar Ahmed |
| Prof. Syed MH Kabir |
| Prof. Abu Tweb Abu Ahmed |
| Prof. Syed MH Kabir |
| Prof. Mnowar Ahmed |
| Prof. Syed MH Kabir |
| Prof. Mnowar Ahmed |
| Prof. Syed MH Kabir |
| Prof. Mnowar Ahmed |
| Prof. Abu Tweb Abu Ahmed |
| Prof. AK Aatur Rahman |
| Prof. AK Aatur Rahman |
| Dr. Enam Ul Haque |
| Dr. Enam Ul Haque |
| Dr. Enam Ul Haque |

Mid-year discussions at Bern

One of the functions of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group is to assist the zoo community in its efforts in conservation of wild animals in the long term. CBSG's presence around the world in national and regional networks has made it possible to understand the many and varied problems of zoos as they manifest in different regions and countries.

CBSG serves the zoo community as an objective facilitator and catalyst of activities which are sometimes not seen so quickly by those who are actually managing zoos. CBSG, through forward looking individuals like Dr. U.S. Seal and Dr. Tom Foose, has helped bring issues and responsibilities of zoos to their attention simply by being outside the day to day functioning and able to take a long view. Often it has happened that an activity which started in CBSG gradually migrated over to WAZA, or IUDZG as it used to be called. A primary example of this was the Conservation Coordinators Committee which was started by Tom Foose in CBSG but ended up in IUDZG and WAZA as CIRCC, the Committee for Inter-Regional Cooperation in Conservation.

Recently some issues raised in CBSG meetings have been put up for discussion, debate and resolution in the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums WAZA. In Bern, Switzerland recently a discussion meeting was held with representatives from all the regions and documents drafted some aspects of which will be further discussed at both CBSG and WAZA under their different, yet similar, mandates.

1. Conservation Breeding Guidelines

The need for Conservation Breeding guidelines was actually raised by our region (South Asia) after a meeting of CBSG, South Asia and RSG, South and East Asia. RSG has developed Guidelines for Reintroduction and other related topics with even versions for different taxon groups. These Guidelines, which are very clear and simple, despite the complexity and extent of the topic make it possible for almost anyone to understand what must be done to bring about a successful project.

While documents on different aspects of conservation breeding abound, none of them tell the whole story or big picture and none are comprehensible by everyone, particularly to people in developing countries. South Asia in particular has had a very difficult time bringing about coordinated and collaborative breeding programmes between the zoos even of their states, countries and certainly region. This is clear by the lack of a single successful coordinated breeding in the region. South Asia is not alone. Other regional association directors and members confess that their zoos also do not participate in many, if any organised programmes.

In 2004 at the Taipei CBSG meeting a working group on the topic Conservation Breeding was introduced by the Convenor, CBSG, South Asia Sally Walker and facilitated by Kathy Holzer, Programme Officer for CBSG. This working group had good suggestions but did not give direction in how to pull all material together into simple, concise and comprehensible guidelines. Sally convinced WAZA Director, Peter Dollinger that this is a problem in the developing regions and he set up a discussion

group facilitated by Thoms Aldheus to tackle the topic. The following is an abbreviated version of the C group's deliberations:

Conservation Breeding - Bern Group discussion

After much discussion it was agreed that the term "conservation breeding" was multidimensional and perhaps open to misunderstanding. The title of the discussion was changed to 2006 Animal Management Guidelines which will undoubtedly undergo several regular revisions. The question of why did this discussion take place at all was raised by several participants from developed countries. The reason is that although the WZACS recommends that all breeding programmes for threatened species in zoos and aquariums be managed as global or regional cooperative programmes with participant institutions sharing specific programme objectives, these objectives presuppose a familiarity with a collection of scientific and ethical principles and actions which are not, in fact, familiar to all, and even may be contrary to the policy and mind-set of a community, country, or culture. Therefore it was deemed useful to review the differences in understanding of "managed programmes" and of knowledge and acceptance of the big picture surrounding acquisition, holding, breeding, exchanging and de-acquisition of wild animals throughout the world. The final document is intended to provide a definitive explanation of the term "conservation breeding" or to suggest whatever term which best describes the kind of scientific, systematic propagation of species, subspecies and populations that zoos do for the purpose of conservation.

In the past, perhaps many individual institutions and countries were guided by self-interest in running their zoos as well as other, more politically prestigious institutions. It is possible, then, that some countries exploited or were exploited by other and their memory of this is yet to fade. Perhaps, even, self-interest survives the last two or three decades of zoo evolution which has put much emphasis on communication, cooperation, and collaboration in order to confront the problems of shrinking habitat and declining species. Individuals and institutions are as diverse as nature itself although not as transparent. In carrying out such an important mandate as attempting to conserve species, populations, genetic resources, all must learn to trust one another and be worthy of trust. Conservation breeding / management is so dependent on cooperation between participants that, without trust, it cannot be carried out effectively. These guidelines describe the means of best practice - the ideal — predicated on best behaviour of all parties within the framework of the WAZA Code of Ethics. It is up to each association, institution and individual to act in a way that generates trust and from that, cooperation, and from that, conservation.

In order to level the playing field and help all zoos understand the overall responsibilities of keeping wild animals for conservation the following topics will be explained in the final document.

- Collection plan - aspirational document (*Ex situ* management: Principles and pitfalls).
- Demographic management of *ex situ* populations
- Importance of records
- Acquisition and Disposition policy
- Ownership
- Animal Welfare concerns
- Role of Population Management/Studbook manager
- Role of Studbook

2. Evaluation system for *ex situ* conservation breeding programmes.

The terms of reference are an evaluation of breeding programmes in zoos. It was decided to turn this topic over to CIRCC with the following notes :

A successful breeding programme should have the following characteristics (result in the following):

- A Sustainable *ex situ* population
- A genetically variable and demographically stable *ex situ* population

The following questions need to be asked in order to evaluate this :

- Does the programme have a studbook ?
- Are the studbook data analysed ?
- Does this process produce recommendations ?
- Are they adhered to ?
- Is the *ex situ* population stable or increasing (and thus achieving the pre-determined demographic aim) ?
- Does the *ex situ* population retain as much genetic diversity as possible over time (and thus achieve the pre-determined genetic aim) ?
- Does the *ex situ* population reach/retain a stable sex ratio as in the pre-determined aim ?
- Does the programme achieve other predetermined aims ?
- This is about management to any predetermined aim that may or may not be for a conservation purpose.

3. Substandard Zoos issue

This issue was also generated from South Asia by Director, SAZARC in a presentation in 2003 and then a working group in CBSG and finally another presentation in 2005. A suggested statement of interest was crafted by the CBSG Working Group and taken to the WAZA meeting which following the next few days. WAZA decided to address the issue and held its first official discussion group in Bern in April 06.

The Draft discussion was ultimately entitled WAZA Discussion on Lowest Acceptable Practices for Zoos Its Framework included a Policy statement that WAZA will assist those national associations or institutions that request assistance, and a call for a definition of a substandard zoo and what WAZA should do about it.

The impact of substandard zoos was discussed and listed as

1. Conservation Impact (poor survival rate; loss of potential genetic material; frequent perceived need for re-stocking)

2. Impact on wild populations (indiscriminate capture depletes wild populations; indiscriminate release of over-bred of surplus animals damages wild populations; disturbance of wild population behavior leading to stress; panic and fatal accidents; effect on social behavior; disturbance of wild population dynamics)

3. Impact on wild habitats (indiscriminate and poorly researched release of surplus animals can impact habitat; irresponsible releases can wreck a niche or fragile ecosystem)

4. Public education (difficult to convey an effective conservation in a substandard zoo; a bad zoo conveys unfortunate subliminal messages such as wildlife is cheap; authorities don't seem to care therefore wildlife is plentiful; wild animals are pathetic and not valued)

5. Industry image (zoo is the same word applied to a broad range of institutions of varying quality; animal rights/anti-zoo/radical animal welfare groups do not differentiate between zoos; the organized zoo community is lumped with the "other" zoo world by most of the public; our best zoos share the same "bed-public and the press-with the worst zoos.

6. Animal welfare issue (unsuitable living environments for animals, lack of husbandry and veterinary expertise such as sanitation, nutrition, preventative medicine, etc.; visit misbehavior such as feeding, teasing, violence, stress, etc.)

7. Safety for the animals, public and staff (inadequate barriers and enclosures; inadequate sanitation which could cause the spread of diseases; public liability)

A policy statement had been suggested which was noted as "We as a community of organized zoos have a moral, ethical and professional responsibility to engage with needy institutions in order to help them improve their standards, achieve conservation goals, and benefit the animals they hold. This assumes that the body of WAZA members are interested in helping substandard zoos."

A tentative definition of a 21st century zoo (best practices) would include — Permanent sited legal establishments — Primarily open to and administered for the visiting public which, in accordance with animal welfare and scientific management principles, living organisms are maintained in ethical conditions and under predominantly *ex situ* circumstances for the foremost and demonstrable purpose of conservation through exhibition, education and research and where the principal business rationale is not the commercial trade in living organisms or their products.

This definition is meant to exclude nature reserves, game farms, botanical gardens, plant nurseries, research laboratories, circuses, pet shops, animal dealerships/brokers and commercial breeding operations that are not open to the public, animal rehabilitation facilities and sanctuaries.

The principles of best practices in zoos were discussed. There was considerable discussion about the term "acceptable". The group discussed those standards that are "barely good enough", "adequate", "minimum" and "acceptable" and recommend use of the term "lowest acceptable practices" which are the starred three of the 7 practices below:

- Permanent site (implies continuity)***
- Supportive environment for the animals, personnel and public (duty of care)***
- Active involvement in the maintenance of biodiversity
- Management for the wider benefit of the community (greater good)
- Healing the relationship between man and animal (promotion of an emotive value system)
- Provision of education opportunities for learning about animals and their environments
- Meet applicable legal requirements

Ways in which WAZA or WAZA zoos can help substandard zoos were suggested as :

- by providing assessment tools (for inspection, etc.)
- Organising brother/sister zoo relationship (works only if the substandard zoo wants help, if the help is appropriate and if they will maximize it)
- by offering mentoring/consultation
- by working with the local authorities
- by providing basic information such as WAZACS and the Code of Professional Ethics
- by threat of loss of membership in WAZA (for regions)
- by making possible help from outside the region if appropriate.

The point in Chapter 7 was reiterated that when zoos send people overseas for field conservation work, they should visit the local zoo and assist with general advice.

It was also felt that when there is no zoo legislation or no strong zoo/aquarium legislation, then WAZA can help "fill the gaps". WAZA, particularly members from countries which have used zoo personnel to draft legislation, can be helpful providing its consultative expertise on local legislation as an aid to the country. The situation may arise that an institution doesn't want help and all that WAZA or members could do may be to involve legal authorities. It was noted that it is easy to say that a zoo should be closed, but disposition of the animals is not easy.

The types of help a zoo might need :

- engagement, information/training and mentoring
- intervention to engage their government
- emergency help or monetary support
- to be closed
- help to cultivate the desire to be helped

Other documentation was done such as a flow chart and continuum for action. It was recognised that much more

work was required for a system and that this is not a simple issue. Now, the WAZA Council and WAZA Regional Associations persons will review the Draft to date and comment.

4. Discussion on Access and Benefit Sharing -WAZA Guidelines

How will CBD/ABS affect zoos and aquariums? The provisions of the CBD have, to date, had little real impact on zoos and aquariums. However, this is likely to change, as the Parties to the Convention are now developing or reviewing their national legislation. WAZA members should, therefore, become prepared as each signatory country is expected and obliged to prepare national strategies to plan future biodiversity conservation.

The CBD will certainly offer WAZA Members new opportunities to play a significant role in biodiversity conservation activities in line with then World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy, such as research, *in situ* conservation, training, monitoring, advocacy, communication, education and public awareness, and cooperation. The Convention affirms the sovereign rights of states over their genetic resources, a right that has not previously been recognized legally or subject to such international legislation. ABS results in new requirements for zoos and aquariums. ABS requirements will apply to the collection from the wild and removal from range states of genetic resources and all derivations thereof. It should be noted that ABS requirements apply also to *in situ* research and the knowledge gained there from.

Article 15 of the CBD lays down the principle that access to genetic resources remains with national governments and therefore is subject to national legislation. The Convention leaves it thus up to individual national governments to decide how it is to be implemented. Based on national inter-pretation ABS requirements may also apply to circumstances such as genetic resources collected prior to the entry into force of CBD and to the latter transfer of such animals between institutions.

Core Commitments

Access to genetic resources by zoos and aquariums is subject to certain core commitments as enumerated in the following section. Members are ethically bound to observe the commitments.

1. Prior informed consent (PIC)
2. Mutually agreed terms (MAT)
3. Benefit sharing
4. Conservation and sustainable use
5. Traditional knowledge
6. Community participation
7. Information and transparency

WAZA Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing were discussed and a draft created. Now the WAZA Council and regions will review the document.

Discussion group consisted of Dave Morgan PAZAAB, Sally Walker Z.O.O/SAZARC, Rosamira Guillen ALPZA/ACOPAZOA, Olivia Walter BIAZA, Kristin Vehrs AZA and Thomas Althus, WAZA.

2006 publications and published matter of ZOO/CBSG South Asia So far . . . (available now/soon)

Walker, S. & S. Molur (Compilers) 2003. Summary of the Status of South Asian Non-volant Small Mammals. Extracted from NVSM CAMP 2005 Report. Zoo Outreach Organisation, CBSG, South Asia and WILD, Coimbatore, India

Walker, S. & S. Molur (Compilers) 2006. Summary of the Conservation of Western Hoolock Gibbon. Extracted from Conservation of Western Hoolock Gibbon, PHVA Workshop Report, 2005, Zoo Outreach Organisation, CBSG, South Asia.

ZOO (2006) : Building a Future for Wildlife — a booklet about World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy. Understanding Animals and Protecting them in South Asia. Eds. Lothar Phillip, Peter Dollinger, Sally Walker and Sanjay Molur. Zoo Outreach Organisation, SAZARC

CBSG / RSG and SAZARC Report (CD version)
Compilers, Sally Walker, Latha Ravikumar, Sanjay Molur. Zoo Outreach Organisation, CBSG, S. Asia, RSG, South Asia, SAZARC

BAT NET, Newsletter of Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia, Vol. 7, No.1-2, Jan-July 07, S. Walker, Editor, ZOO/CCINSA.
WAZCS pub doc for SA

Rat-a-tattle, Newsletter of Rodent, Insectivore, Lagomorph, Scandents Conservation and Information Network of South Asia, Vol. 6, No. 1, May 2006, S. Walker, Editor, ZOO/RILSCINSA.

CBSG, South Asia News, Newsletter of the South Asian Regional Network of the IUCN SSC CBSG, June 2006

New 2006 Education packets and items

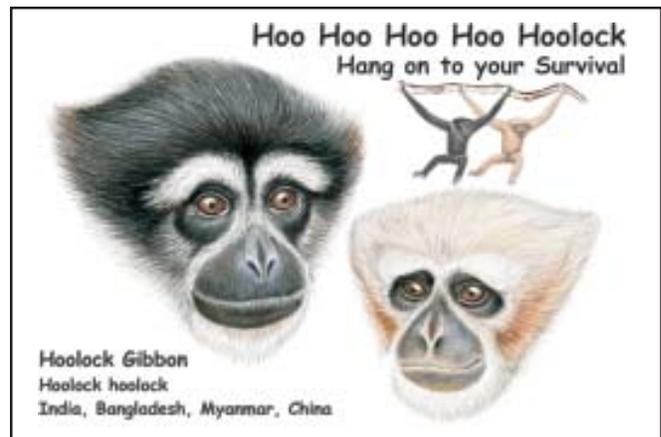
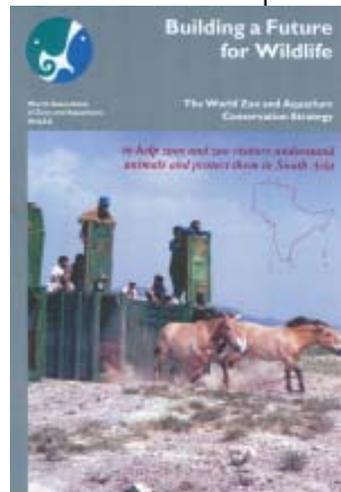
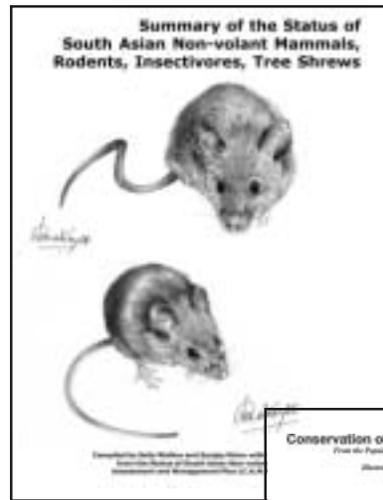
- *The real purpose of Zoos* (WZACS packet) (to be revised before release)
- Hoo Hoo Hoo Hoolock Gibbon packet
- Hoolock Gibbon Drama Kit
- Hoolock Gibbon Poster "Hang on to your survival"

Near future (before Wildlife Week, Oct 2006)

- Hoolock Gibbon Poster new
- Chiroptera Conservation Drama Kit
- Bat Packet - new version
- Fruit bat poster
- Helping Herptiles kits (all new herptile groups or themes)

Website material

- Hoolock Gibbon Specialists directory (web version)
- Primate directory (web version)



More Educational material IF funds come through . . .

New animal welfare material

- **Zoo Improvement Packet** — usual folder and packet format featuring “how to tell a good zoo from a bad zoo”, “how to recognize suffering in animals in captivity”, mock zoo inspection form, the real purpose of a zoo, how to approach the authorities about extreme conditions in zoos; will include a set of materials for civic groups and such who want to help improve their city zoo. Emphasis on is positive and constructive help, not closing zoos or slandering zoo personnel.

- **Wrong Releases** — booklet on collecting, keeping and releasing wild animals that have been kept at home or in a school, etc, with emphasis on “don’t do it”. These materials will be targeted at different age groups.

New taxon group material

Invertebrates

- Intriguing invertebrates – this theme would highlight dramatic and amazing aspects of invertebrates such as their numbers of taxa compared to other groups, their oddities, their habits, etc. The objective would be to get youngsters interested by knocking them out.

- Essential (or Important) Invertebrates – this theme would focus on the importance of invertebrates to keep the world, as we know it together. Most people do not know how essential invertebrates.

- Pollinators – pollinators are one essential invertebrate which makes that theme or story very real ... without pollinators, life would be much harsher and perhaps could not go on, certainly not as we know it.

Primates

- Problematic Primates: Commensal Monkeys in India and other parts of South Asia and their impact on human attitudes towards wildlife, on conservation and well-being of primates and other species of fauna and flora

- Hoolock Gibbon Teaching Manual and many other Hoolock Gibbon items.

Recently revised

- Helping Herptiles with Daily life Wildlife theme (Revised)
- Zoo Patrol (Revised)
- Just bats about bats! (Revised)

Recently published

- Bat Kids Activity book

ZOOS’ PRINT Magazine and ZOOS’ PRINT Journal continue to bring out ZPM and ZPJ with

reports of interest to both *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation biologists.

ZOO’s PRINT Journal is abstracted by many abstracting services. ZPJ contains articles on scientific research, field survey, new description of species, veterinary, checklists, etc. Editor: Sanjay Molur. Both can be accessed on www.zoosprint.org

Sponsored by Chester Zoo, The North of England Zoological Society, U.K. & Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW, UK), advertisers and subscribers

ZOO ZEN

ZOO ZEN was founded to provide a way of sending published material to zoo personnel who could not access it easily otherwise. During last half year provided “Wild Mammals in Captivity: Principles and Techniques”, the entire book, a few chapters at a time, AAZK articles on crisis management and environmental enrichment and zoo design including most recently an unpublished book whose author permitted us to distribute her draft.

Sponsored by Universities Federation for Animal Welfare and subscriptions.

How to join CBSG, South Asia

CBSG, South Asia is open to anyone with a genuine interest in conservation of flora, fauna and fungi, and/or skills and information which might be useful to us in conducting CBSG process workshop. Naturally we can’t know who is sincere so we accept everyone. That being the case, we also don’t offer any benefits except the fact of membership UNLESS you make yourself extremely useful, work for free, never let us down, and

try to carry out the

Three C’s of Conservation
Communication, Cooperation, Coordination
and to undermine the
Three E’s of Extinction
Ego, Envy and Elitism

If you are still interested, send us an email (no no snail mails accepted for this) to sallyrwalker@aol.com

WWWB

Features relating to Conservation, Breeding, and Reintroduction

All publications can be accessed also through our web sites: <http://www.zoosprint.org> and <http://www.zooreach.org>. Magazine, Journal and Newsletter links are available on the home page of <<http://www.zoosprint.org>> site. You need to register as a member of the site (this is free for the time being) to view any of the contents.

Zoo Legislation module — this is a collection of national zoo legislation from all over Asia where it exists and also a few other regions, e.g. South Africa, Australia, and United Kingdom.
www.zooreach.org/ZooLegislation/ZooLegislation.htm

SAZARC module - South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation, various informational items.
<http://www.zooreach.org/SAZARC/SAZARC.htm>

Networks module - our SSC CBSG inspired taxon networks, including amphibian, invertebrate, bat, rodent, reptile
<http://www.zooreach.org/Networks/CBSG/CBSG.htm>; [/RSG/RSG.htm](http://www.zooreach.org/Networks/RSG/RSG.htm); [/invertebrate/invertebrate.htm](http://www.zooreach.org/Networks/invertebrate/invertebrate.htm); [/Amphibian/Amphibian.htm](http://www.zooreach.org/Networks/Amphibian/Amphibian.htm); [/Reptile/Reptile.htm](http://www.zooreach.org/Networks/Reptile/Reptile.htm); [/Chiroptera/Chiroptera.htm](http://www.zooreach.org/Networks/Chiroptera/Chiroptera.htm); [/Primate/Primate.htm](http://www.zooreach.org/Networks/Primate/Primate.htm); [/Chiroptera/Chiroptera.htm](http://www.zooreach.org/Networks/Chiroptera/Chiroptera.htm)

CBSG South Asia newsletter – November 2005
<http://www.zoosprint.org/ZoosPrintNewsLetter/CBSG%20South%20Asia%20Nov%202005.pdf>

CBSG South Asia newsletter – June 2006 issue
<http://www.zoosprint.org/ZoosPrintNewsLetter/CBSGSAJune2006.pdf>

Reintro Redeux
<http://www.zoosprint.org/ZoosPrint/NewsLetter/Reintro%20Redeux%20#2%20Dec%202005.pdf>

Frogleg
<http://www.zoosprint.org/ZoosPrintNewsLetter/FroglegAug05.pdf>

Reptile Rap
<http://www.zoosprint.org/ZoosPrintNewsLetter/RepRap7%20Aug05.pdf>

Bat Net Newsletter
<http://www.zoosprint.org/ZoosPrintNewsLetter/BatNet%20July2005.pdf>

BugsR All
<http://www.zoosprint.org/ZoosPrintNewsLetter/BugsRall-July2005.pdf>

See following pages for our new websites for CAMP data and for a volunteer survey and monitoring project on fruit bats.
<http://www.southasiantaxa.org>
<http://www.pterocount.org>

CBSG, South Asia



CBSG, South Asia is a regional network of the IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group whose main office is located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. The CBSG regional and national network initiative originated in India with CBSG, India started by Zoo Outreach Organisation with the kind permission of Dr. U.S. Seal, late Chairman of CBSG. Today CBSG, India has been amalgamated into CBSG, South Asia which covers all the South Asian countries. There are many national and regional networks — Indonesia, MesoAmerica, Mexico, Southern Africa, Japan, Europe, Brazil -- all working for conservation action in their own way and at their own pace.

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CBSG Newsletter is published occasionally but news of CBSG South Asia can be found throughout ZOOS' PRINT magazine.

This issue has been published on the occasion of the Annual Joint Meeting of CBSG, South Asia and RSG South and East Asia held in Annaikatti, Coimbatore, India and the Annual Conference of the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation. November - December 2005. *Sally Walker, Editor and Convenor, CBSG, South Asia*