



SAZARC

NEWS LETTER

SAZARC MEMBERS KEEP A BUSY SCHEDULE

SAZARC members have been active in the last three months, travelling to other parts of the world and also active in their own country.

At the administrative office we get news of these activities but not details! In future we would like to have at least short reports so that we can convey more effectively the importance of the tour or project. The following is a collection of news bits involving SAZARC members.

Ang Phuri Sherpa and **Dr. Madhav P. Ghimire** of Central Zoo attended the 2nd Thailand Environmental Education Course at Khao Kheow Open Zoo, Chumburi, Thailand, 22 Sept - 3 Oct 2000 organised by Thai ZPO, Smithsonian Institution and NAAEE.

R. K. Shreshta, Convenor SAZARC visited USA in September, attended the American Zoo Association (AZA) Annual meeting and toured several zoos of the mid-west all under the kind hospitality of the Kansas City Zoo. We are sure that R.K., as Convenor of SAZARC, picked up valuable information about zoo associations from his visit to the meeting of the largest zoo association in the world. The Kansas City Zoo also contributed a grant of \$2000 to assist R.K. in the research on registration of the association and other expenses associated with SAZARC. R. K. has appointed Madhav Ghimire, Veterinary Officer, Central Zoo to look after the SAZARC subject. Madhav's email is <masghimire@hotmail.com>

Ang Phuri Sherpa, Education Officer, Central Zoo attended the Bi-Annual Conference of the International Zoo Educator Association (IZE) and gave a presentation on the Zoo Education Training Workshop held in Nepal in August 2000 in which we all participated. Ang has been appointed the Asian

Regional Representative for IZE. His trip was made possible by British Airways Environment Department which sponsored his flight from Bangkok to Mexico.

Sally Walker, Patron, SAZARC & Convenor, CBSG, South Asia attended the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group Meeting in Palm Desert in October and presented a Report on the formation of SAZARC as well as the other components of the 3 events which brought us all together in Nepal in August 2000. She also represented SAZARC in the one-day meeting of CIRCC *The World Zoo Organization's Committee on Inter-Regional Conservation Cooperation* about which you can read in the minutes of the meeting elsewhere in this issue.

Walker also attended the 9th South East Asian Zoo Association meeting in Iloilo, Philippines representing CBSG, South Asia and SAZARC. R. K. Shreshta was to come and could not attend. Walker discussed aspects of regional association with some of the officers and members of SEAZA, which might be an excellent role model for SAZARC. She also presented a paper on the South Asian Zoo Educator course held in Nepal, August 2000 which will serve as a model for a similar course to be held in Singapore in March 2001.

Dr. M. Shaidullah, Dy. Director, Dakha Zoo, Bangladesh also attended the Annual Meeting of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group in Palm Desert and could tour the excellent zoo and museum there which is similar in climate and terrain to many parts of South Asia.

Dr. R. K. Sahu, Director of Hill Garden Zoo, Ahmedabad was a member of a special investigating team assigned by the Central Zoo Authority to inspect the zoos in Western India as part of a directive from the Supreme Court.

Dr. Arshad Toosey, Director, Lahore Zoo visited Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital to get training on falcon treatment. He returned on 17th December only to announce that he and his family will be moving to UAE to take up a job in the ERWADA (Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency).

Dr. Toosey also led the team which rescued a fresh water dolphin in Pakistan a few months ago. We are sorry to lose him from Sri Lanka.

R. K. Shreshta was the recipient of the "SUPRAWAL GORKHA DAKCHHIN BAHU", an honorable Medal of Nepal. His Majesty the King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev provides medals on the occasion of his birthday every year to different personnel of various disciplines. This time 54 persons who had made remarkable contribution in their field, have been awarded with this medal throughout Nepal.

This decoration having been presented to the Director of The King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC)/Central Zoo is a matter of great pride and honor to the family of KMTNC and in particular to the Zoo family. In recognition of the significant efforts, towards the development of the only zoo of this Himalayan country within short time. This is

the first award to the zoo personnel after KMTNC has accepted its managerial authority.

M.A. Hashem, Assistant Professor of the Department of Animal Science, Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh has been accepted for the Training in Endangered Species Management at the International Training Centre, Durrell Wildlife Preservation Trust. The acceptance has come with full scholarship for four months diploma certificate course which will be from 12 March to 29 June 2001.

Mr. Hashem coordinates a one-year training in Zoo and Lab Animal Management at the university. He has written that they are going to introduce a new course for M.S. students on Wildlife and Environment and have to develop a syllabus. He requests suggestions on important topics which could be introduced in the syllabus.

Congrats to Mr. Hashem. The Zoo and Lab Animal Management Course is unique in this region. Many biologists at the Dakha Zoo have taken this course. You can email him at <<masobhan@bdcom.com>>



Arshad Toosey and dolphin rescue programme



SAZARC -- TIME TO GET TO WORK ON REGIONAL / GLOBAL ZOO COOPERATION -- "CIRCC" CAN HELP

CIRCC MISSION (adopted at Denver, 1996)

The mission of The World Zoo Organization's Committee on Inter-Regional Conservation Cooperation (CIRCC) is to facilitate, promote and support the important work of its member regional associations and institutions in wildlife and habitat conservation from a global perspective. This mission will be accomplished through the following activities:

Organizing regular meetings and mailings that promote inter-regional communication and cooperation in conservation and science.

Making recommendations regarding the standardization of certain animal record keeping and population management procedures across member regions and institutions. Assisting in the implementation of these recommendations as appropriate and necessary.

Encouraging members to manage their captive animal populations scientifically (i.e., genetically and demographically) and in cooperation with others both regionally and globally, as appropriate and necessary.

Encouraging members to plan their animal collections carefully, so that each species and individual has a well-defined conservation function.

Encouraging members to contribute directly to the conservation of endangered and threatened species and their habitats in nature.

Facilitating inter-regional training and technology transfer by helping to communicate needs and encouraging cooperation and exchange of relevant information and skills between developed and developing regions.

Providing technical advice on various aspects of zoo and aquarium-based conservation and science to members and the WZO Council.

Making recommendations to the WZO Council and appropriate regional governing bodies for possible action.

CIRCC Working Group 20 October 2000-Day 1

Chairperson: Bernard Harrison (SEAZA), Facilitator: Dr Onnie Byers (CBSG). Participants: Dr. Ferdi Schoeman, Yolanda Matamoros, Jonathan Wilcken, Sally Walker, Nate Flesness, Dr M Shahidullah, Koen Brouwer, Hori Hiroshi, Ichikawa Noriyoshi, Kabasawa Hiroshi, Jansen Manansang, Michael Hutchins

The working group decided to discuss the future of CIRCC, its place in the conservation arena and determine its successes and unfulfilled expectations. The group established the following criteria:

Successes:

1. Regions communicating with each other and share an understanding of each other
2. Regional sharing of studbooks and rationalising the studbook structure
3. Training grants
4. Acknowledgement of other zoo associations
5. Newsletter exchange
6. Contribution to WZO Code of Ethics

Unfulfilled expectations:

1. Deal with animal exchange problems between regions
2. Did not rationalise regional studbook numbering and standards of data recording
3. Animal surplus lists/ global
4. Should be receiving international studbooks
5. Animals still moved with no disclosure (CIRCC was intended to avoid this)
6. Forum for organisations to lay complaints

7. Equalise regions
8. Include all regions
9. Add studbook guidelines to WZO website
10. Inter-meeting communication (list serve)
11. Change over of CIRCC members
12. Should be encouraging careful animal collection planning
13. Production of a globally-endorsed studbook manuals
14. Training people as potential trainers
15. Basic zoo-biology training
16. West should be mentoring the other regions
17. Overcome language barriers
18. Making conservation documents available to all
19. Partnerships between institutions (associations or zoos)
20. List of information needs (documents needed to be produced)
21. Motivate zoos to become ISIS members
22. Potential adoption of two rates for ISIS membership

The group suggested the following proposal:

Proposal:

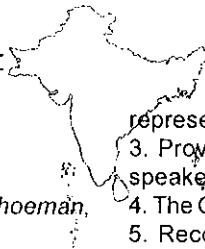
1. Current objectives are too broad; set small, obtainable goals for the year and report-back at annual CIRCC meeting with inter-meeting communication via list serve

The group determined that the future of the organization lies in the following suggestions:

1. No formal committee
2. Association representatives interact opportunistically

Other alternatives:

1. Regional representatives committee of WZO (administrative issues)
2. Conservation committee



**CIRCC Working Group
21 October 2000 -- Day 2**

Co-ordinator: Sally Walker. Participants: Dr Ferdi Schoeman, Dr M Shahidullah, Dr Onnie Byers

The focus of the group was the problems experienced by non-Western countries in the pursuit of information, i.e., records keeping systems. The following problems were identified:

1. Ethics in record keeping not standardized
2. Technology in record keeping, i.e., computers inconsistent
3. ISIS is not an inexpensive option. Some wealthier zoos suggested that they would sponsor less wealthy zoos in the obtaining the ISIS software. However, this has not been realized as there is a lack of motivation from the wealthier zoos
4. In South Africa, game merchants are registering as zoos and they do not maintain a good records keeping programme
5. Many regions have to submit monthly or annual reports to their governments – this is a mammoth task without ISIS
6. A major problem is that zoo staff often do the zoo associations' work

New expectations were also identified, namely:

1. Funding and co-ordination of courses for studbook and species co-ordination, preferably in the USA. Someone with a relevant background is the best to attend these courses and can then pass their learned skills on to others
2. Have training sessions attached to annual conferences (this could be a recommendation to the regional association) and could be presented to the second representatives
3. Dual meetings of CIRCC to deal with separate issues concentrating on the "West" and the "Rest"
4. Make inter-regional exchange between animals easier. This is an expectation as this exchange does not always take place between regions. A case study is the one concerning a South Asian zoo obtaining gorillas directly from a dealer as it could not obtain gorillas from fellow zoos
5. Two sub-committees for CIRCC to meet on one specific day. The two groups will announce their agendas, break into two groups, and report-back as a whole group
6. Inter-meeting communication is essential
7. Investigate the use of translators from universities for various non-English speakers

Proposal for reinventing CIRCC

A proposal was heard to bring back a full-day meeting for CIRCC and that this day would be divided between two working groups consisting of the developing regions and the other regions.

The working groups will meet for half the day and then regroup to share their discussions with each other, exchange requests for information and formulate recommendations to pass on to the WZO:

Actions:

1. Develop a structured agenda for each working group. This should be sent out well before the meeting.
2. Get commitment from the WZO to support the regional

representatives to support CIRCC.

3. Provide a translation for CIRCC meetings for non-English speakers. This will be done at the 2001 meeting.
4. The CIRCC focus will be "Co-operative Species Management".
5. Recommend to WZO that conservation directors, or their equivalents, should sit on, or advise, the Conservation Committee.
6. Have CIRCC members serve as Chairpersons rather than a WZO representative. Jonathan Wilcken (Australia hosts next CBSG/WAZA meetings) was subsequently elected as the Chairperson.
7. Communicate between meetings via a moderated closed system and a list serve (to develop a code of conduct). Sally and Jonathan will complete this action.

**CIRCC Working Group
22 October 2000 -- Day 3**

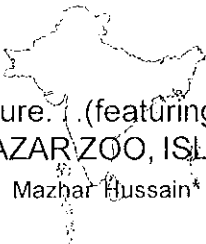
Chairperson: Jonathan Wilcken. Facilitator: Dr Onnie Byers. Participants: Dr Ferdi Schoeman, Jansen Manansang, Hiroshi Hori, Dr M Shahidullah, Kabasawa Hiroshi, Sally Walker, Michael Hutchins, Koen Brouwer

The group brainstormed the needs for "Co-operative Species Management". The following needs/topics were identified:

1. Encourage ISIS membership for all zoos. This will solve government reporting problems. The aim is to try to convince the governments to adopt the ISIS format and thus get government support for this. Other alternative: convince regional associations to push for their members to subscribe to ISIS (All regions and Koen to share report of EAZA experience), or regional associations to provide ISIS software – pay regional membership and then distribute from the association.
2. Propose a potential tiered-membership services arrangement for ISIS membership in order to make it more affordable for all. (Ferdie)
3. Develop a policy on inter-regional transfers. (Koen to distribute current policy documents)
4. A single studbook standards manual should be made available. (EAZA/ARAZPA – AZA {be sure all members have both})
5. Guidelines for inter-regional species programmes. (Jonathan to distribute current guidelines) and these should be brought to 2001 meeting (all)
6. A list of documents needed – these should be made available to all (Jonathan and Ferdie)
7. Animal acquisitions and dispositions policies required.
8. Animal anomalies (single animal issue/unethical and inappropriate transactions) - there is a need to flag specific situations via list serve.
9. Guidelines for interaction between regional and international studbooks (consider Bemment proposal - discuss on list serve)

Recommendations to WZO:

1. Get commitment from WZO to support regional representatives to attend CIRCC meetings. South American, Chinese and South Asian representatives should be contacted (absent regions to attend CIRCC in the future). Yolanda to contact South America, Jansen to contact China and Sally to contact South Asia.



SAZARC Zoo Feature. (featuring a zoo every issue)
MARGHAZAR ZOO, ISLAMABAD

Mazhar Hussain*

Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan is comparatively a young city, which started developing in the year 1961. The city is located in Potohar Plateau between Margallah Hills and the city of Rawalpindi. A Master Plan of Islamabad has been prepared on the principles of modern town planning, including improvement of the environment, preservation of natural ecosystems, maintenance of bio-diversity and provision of outdoor recreation. Vast green areas have been provided in urban sectors for development of parks, play fields, woodlands and green belts. A National Park has been established over 16,000 hectares area surrounding the city on its northern and eastern side. The National Park includes: Margallah hills, which are part of the outer spurs of Himalayan range, the wetland of Rawal Dam, and the recreational, and sports complex called Shakarparian. Capital Development Authority (CDA) is responsible for the planning, development and municipal administration of Islamabad.

No zoo existed in the region prior to the development of Islamabad. The nearest zoo in the region was the Lahore Zoo at a distance of about 300 Kilometers. Master plan has provided 645 acres site for Islamabad zoo. The site is situated in a beautiful natural setting between Rawal Lake and Margallah hills at about 15 kilometers distance from the city. Unfortunately resource limitations have prevented the development of this zoo so far but in order to meet the public demand in this respect a small zoo of about 30 acres was set up in 1976 called the Marghazar Zoo. This facility, although relatively small, has excellent location in the lap of Margallah Hills National Park and is easily accessible by public transport.

Originally this mini zoo was intended to be a temporary facility to provide recreation to public for some time and to serve as a base for developing the main zoo, but, as the zoo started developing visitors' interest increased tremendously. Presently it is one of the most popular places for outdoor recreation. Number of visitors (excluding children) in a year is above 2,00,000. The zoo exhibits consist of only 15 species of mammals and 25 birds. No reptiles, invertebrates, amphibians or marine species are available. Although this animal collection is not very spectacular, it includes some rare Pakistani species such as Leopard, Grey goral, Barking deer, Urial, Chinkara and Cheer Pheasant, which are uncommon in other zoos. The zoo has a small staff (consisting of one curator-cum-veterinary officer, two zoo supervisors, 36 keepers, cleaners and other staff). Operating costs (about Rs. 4.0 million Per annum) and receipts are also low (only Rs. 0.5 million per annum).

Despite its small size and comparatively low standard the zoo has made some remarkable contribution towards providing recreation and education to the public, and *in situ* conservation of wildlife in Islamabad.

Zoo is visited by a large number of visitors including schools

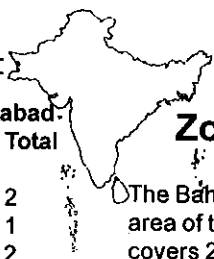
- Subsequently training programs for curators, veterinary doctors, etc. will be a regular feature of Marghazar Zoo.
- A regular program for public education, awareness and interpretation is to be introduced using modern techniques.
- Cooperation mechanisms are to be developed with other zoos.
- Community and private sector companies and individuals will be involved in the development and management of the zoo.
- Research is to be encouraged involving Universities and Research institutions.
- All existing structures to be renovated and modernized.
- Animal husbandry and health care will be improved by environmental enrichment of the animal holdings, improving diet, disease prevention and cure.
- Other recreational facilities in the vicinity (such as Daman-e-Koh Park, Children Playland, Natural Museum History and outer wildlife enclosures) are to be linked with the zoo to enhance visitor's enjoyment and opportunities for education.
- As the zoo is situated at the main entrance of Margallah hills National Park, a visitor's center for the national park will be developed in front of the zoo and its facilities will be shared.
- The role of the zoo in wildlife conservation will be further strengthened.

General awareness and interest in wildlife among public and various groups like NGOS, educational institutions have tremendously increased due to the zoo. As a result offers are being made by the community group and business companies to assist in improvement of the zoo.

In addition the zoo has been successfully serving as a nucleus and base station for a variety of wildlife conservation projects undertaken in Margallah Hills National Park. Among these Cheer Pheasant reintroduction project which has been going on for a long period from 1978-1992 needs special mention.

Since the development of main Islamabad zoo is indefinitely delayed and the present small facility has become popular among the public, the zoo is also playing an important role in wildlife conservation and education. Keeping these realities in view last year the management decided to upgrade and extend the present zoo to the level of a proper modern zoo. For this purpose a Zoo Advisory Committee consisting of experts and public representatives has been set up. Consultation with other zoos in Pakistan and abroad has been taken up. Master Plan of the zoo has been drafted. Salient features of the Master Plan are:- 1. Main theme of the zoo would be illustrating the bio-diversity and providing education and awareness about the wildlife species, their habitats and their problems. Maximum number of local and regional species will be represented in replica of their natural habitat as far as possible. 2. Zoo will be divided into various sections representing various biotic groups. 3. A central visitor's park and public facilities will be provided.

* Director, Environment Capital Development Authority, Fatima Jinnah Park, F-9, Islamabad, Pakistan.



List of Animals and Birds at Marghzar Zoo, Islamabad

Species	Male	Female	Unk	Total
Asian Elephant	1	1		2
Asian Lion	1			1
Common Leopard	1	1		2
Grey Wolf	1	1		2
Red Fox	1			1
Hog Deer	9	12		21
Spotted Deer	1		1	2
Barking Deer	2	1	1	4
Chinkara	2	1		3
Black Buck	21	14	1	36
Urial	2	2		4
Grey Goral	2	5	1	8
Nilgai	11	14		25
Rhesus Monkey	4	5	2	11
Rabbits	10	12	13	35
Pea Fowl Blue	6	12		18
Pea Fowl Pied	2			2
Pea Fowl Black Shoulder	1	1		2
Pea Fowl White	2			2
Pheasant Silver	6	7	1	14
Pheasant Ring Necked	5	6	7	18
Pheasant Wood	2	2	4	8
Pheasant Cheer	8	9	13	30
Stepe Eagle	3	3		6
Kestrel	1			1
Owl	2			2
Crane	8	7		15
Bar Head Goose	1	1		2
Common Duck	5	5		10
Common Geese	17	23		40
Rock Pigeon	30	38	2	70
Black Swan	1	1		2
Partridge (Black)	1		1	2
Partridge (Grey)	2	2		4
Chakor	1			1
Budgarogars	3	3		6
Dove	8	11		19

Zoological Gardens Bahawalpur

The Bahawalpur Zoo in Pakistan was founded in 1942. The area of the zoo at the time of founding is not known but today it covers 25 acres. The zoo visitor number was 376114 in 1997, 389765 in 1998 and 321653 in 1999. The largest number of visitors in a single day has been 1,866. The Bahawalpur Zoo has 14 species of mammals, 23 species of birds and 2 species of reptiles.

The governing authority for the zoo is the Government of Punjab with annual budget of Rs. 67,03,000 coming under the Wildlife Department. The income of the zoo from ticket sales reverts to government and the total income for 1999-2000 was Rs. 24,21,250.00.

Important exotic animals kept in the zoo are Chimpanzee, Bengal tiger, Brown bear, Spotted Deer, Hog Deer, Llama, Zebra, African Lion. Native species are Hyaena, Red Lynx, Black Bear, Wolf, and Leopard.

More about Bahawalpur Zoo in subsequent issues. Stock list is appended.

Mammals

- African lion *Panthera leo*
- Bengal tiger *Panthera tigris*
- Chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes*
- Black bear *Ursus thibetanus*
- Hyaena *Hyaena hyaena*
- Red lynx wolf *Canis lupus palipus*
- Blue bull (Nilgai) *Boselaphus tragocamelus*
- Zebra *Equus grevyi*
- Llama *Lama glama*
- Hog deer *Axis porcinus*
- Spotted deer *Axis axis*
- Black buck *Antilope cervicapra*
- Chinkara deer *Gazella gazella*
- Mouflon *Ovis musimon*

Birds

- Common Crane *Grus grus*
- Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*
- White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
- Wild Duck
- Common Geese
- Peru/ Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*
- Guinea fowl
- Blue Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*
- Pied Peafowl
- White Peafowl *Pavo cristatus alba*
- Black Shoulder Peafowl
- Java green Peafowl
- Quail *Coturnix coturnix*
- Red Jungle Fowl *Gallus gallus*
- Love Birds
- Common Ring Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
- Red Munia *Amandava amandava*
- Pigeon Lucky ring
- Necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*
- Silver Pheasant *Lophura lophura*
- Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*
- Savino Pheasant
- Blue Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon auritum*



Mazhar Hussain gives a Report on his zoo and his country at the first South Asian Zoo Directors meeting held at Central Zoo, Kathmandu, August 2000

NEWS OF INTEREST TO SOUTH ASIAN ZOOS



Karachi Zoo -- new animals

Dr. Aamir Ismail Rizvi, B.Sc., DVM, and Veterinary Officer, Karachi Zoo, reports the following animals "inducted" into the zoo in last few months.

1. Yak 2+3
2. Black Bear 0+2
3. Chimpanzee 1+1
4. Lion 1+1
5. Ostrich 2+3

Pinnawala zoo attracts investors to area

13 December Daily News Kegalle special correspondent

From the time the proposal to establish the national zoo in the Pinnawala area was mooted by the previous PA government a large number of businessmen and other entrepreneurs, gradually began to buy lands in and around Pinnawala, Hiriwadunne and many other areas in the locality, extending from Karandupona junction towards Rambukkana.

Both permanent and temporary structures sprang noticeably. In this manner, within a matter of months all types of major and minor hotels came into being in the area and with the commencing of launching the program to construct the necessary structures for the national zoo, it served as an impetus to go into some business in that locality immediately so that they may claim, ownership for their holdings in the march of time, sooner or later. Along the area from Karandupone to Bathamure, on the Kegalle-Rambukkana bus route, the Tourist Board has acquired 400 metres on either side of the road to establish a Tourist City.

Therefore, anybody who is anxious to erect any building for business or otherwise, in the referred locality, has to obtain permission and approve the plans of such structures from Tourist Board, the Kegalle Pradeshiya Sabha and the Rambukkana Pradesheeya Sabha.

The buildings that came up in the referred area like mushrooms in the past several months were without permission or approved of plans from the respective authorities referred.

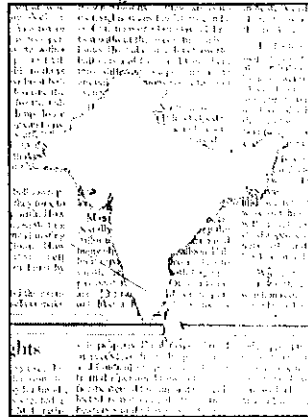
Exotic eel from Sri Lanka found in Huntington Harbour !

Hector Becerra, Times Staff Writer

A tropical moray eel native to the warm, southeast Asian waters off Sri Lanka was pulled from a chilly lagoon near Huntington Harbour, USA, on Tuesday. Scuba-diving scientists trying to eradicate a toxic, alien seaweed from the lagoon were dismayed when they noticed the somewhat ragged-looking eel—clearly out of its element. The listless, leopard-patterned eel was swimming toward shore when captured, probably trying to make its way to the warmer waters.

The scientists, who for weeks have been trying to eradicate a highly destructive strain of the invasive *Caulerpa taxifolia* seaweed that was probably dumped from an aquarium, said the discovery highlights a common problem: people tossing exotic species of animals, plants or other life forms from aquariums into a foreign environment. Once animals grow too big many people simply dump them and the contents of their aquariums into the ocean, a lake or a pond. Since beginning the cleanup effort, the divers have discovered a diverse ecosystem of fish in the enclosed lagoon. Most, if not all, of the fish were probably dumped there by people. Most of the animals, including goby, manta rays and yellowfin, are native to the nearby ocean, but the 2 1/2-foot, brilliantly dappled eel is used to water temperatures near 80 degrees.

People have likely heard of goldfish dumped into rivers or baby alligators flushed down toilets. Even piranhas have been dumped into United States waters, but they die quickly, unused to waters much colder than the Amazon's. Although the scientists were glad to help, the discovery came at a time when they were already busy. Significant patches of the



invasive seaweed—which can clone and spread to other parts of the ocean if even a single frond separates from the original stem—have recently been found not only in an adjoining lagoon but in nearby Huntington Harbour.

Endangered Species Management

Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Wildlife Institute of India are organising their annual Two Week Capsule Course in Endangered Species and Zoo Management for Zoo Directors. The course will be held from 7th to 16th February 2001 at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Vishakapatnam. The courses are held for Directors and Curatorial/Supervisory level staff on alternate years. If South Asian zoo personnel are interested, they can try their luck by emailing Shri B. C. Chodhury <bcc@wii.gov.in> and Dr. Ravi Chellam <ravic@wii.gov.in>.

Calendar of events:

5-10 February 2001. Bangkok and Lampang / Chiang Mai, Thailand. International Workshop on the Domesticated Elephant. Jointly organised by FAO and Japan Wildlife Research Centre. Contact <<Masakazu.Kashio@fao.org>>

2-6 June 2001. Sydney, Australia. Taronga Zoo. Veterinary Conservation Biology: Wildlife Health and Management in Australasia. A conference jointly organised by the Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AAVC), World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (WAWV), Wildlife Society of the New Zealand Veterinary Association (WSNZVA) and the Wildlife Disease Association Australasian Section (WDA). Contact: Dr. Larry Vogelneust email <<lvgelneust@zoo.nsw.gov.au>>

ZooNews Digest

ZooNews Digest is a weekly compilation of links to Zoo News from all over the world. The Digest includes short articles, vacancies and related information. It has been e-mailed out weekly for over two years. ZooNews Digest has well over 4000 readers in over 541 zoos in over 70 countries around the world. Anyone with an interest in zoos can subscribe to this e-zine. Please feel free to forward this e-mail to other parties who you believe may be interested.

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... and speaking of marine life ...

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS





Estimates of population of White-backed vulture *Gyps bengalensis* in urban Lahore and its feeding behaviour.
Z B Mirza* and Hadia Mahmood**

Abstract

This paper gives the estimate of the population of the breeding as well as the non-nesting white-backed vultures, during their breeding season in urban Lahore. The estimate of roosting birds in post breeding season in urban Lahore is also given. Some observations on their feeding behaviour were recorded. The duration of field work was between mid January and mid June 2000.

Introduction

Eight species of vultures are found in Pakistan, but only four species have been recorded in and around Lahore (Currie, 1916; Ahmad 1963; Roberts, 1991). These include the white-backed vulture which we observed as the commonest; the Egyptian vulture, which was rarely seen by us; the Himalayan griffon vulture which is now the occasional winter visitor; the King vulture which is now very rare in our experience.

White-backed vulture is considered a species of concern (Mirza, 1998), and it is listed as "near-threatened by IUCN as well as by BirdLife International", and the world list of threatened birds" (Collar *et al.*, 1994).

However, this is considered as one of the commonest scavengers (Ali and Ripley, 1983; Whistler, 1986; Roberts, 1991; Kotpal, 1988-89; Mirza, 1998). Prakash (1999) studied the status of vultures in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan with special reference to population crash in *Gyps* species. The White-backed vulture which is also a resident of that park was noted to be declining alarmingly, and as high as 96% decline in the maximum population was observed over the decade of 1990's, similarly a decline of 95% was observed over the decade in the breeding population. A sharp decline in the nesting success of the vulture was also recorded during the 10- year period. During 1985-86 nesting success was 82%, which went down to 0% in 1997-98. Similarly egg-laying percentage also dropped to 40% in one year. Infant mortality was observed to be 30% and embryonic mortality was 10%.

Symptoms of the disease were described by Prakash (1999). The white-backed vulture crashed by 96% due to high adult mortality and almost zero breeding success and this he fears will lead to the extinction of this vulture. The population of the Long-billed vulture has also declined by 97%. This was the second most abundant species in the park. Since the bird does not breed in the park, there is no data on its breeding.

The presence of 25-30 carcasses every month and the absence of *Gyps* species, 92% of the time (n=100), both during summer and winter, suggest a crash in population of both the residents i.e. White-backed and Long-billed vultures and migratory i.e. Indian griffon and Himalayan griffon vultures. There has been complete absence of Indian griffon and Himalayan griffon in the park during 1998-99, even though food was available in abundance. The Himalayan griffon was also not seen during 1997-98. The breeding population of the King and Egyptian vultures has remained fairly stable over the years.

WWF Pakistan sponsored a six-month field study programme to study the Avian Biological Diversity of urban Lahore with particular emphasis on species of concern which may be found. This paper gives the number of white-backed vultures nesting or roosting in urban Lahore from February to mid June 2000.

No symptoms of 'drooping head disease' have so far appeared in vulture gatherings in Lahore, Murree, Islamabad, near Balaksar interchange on motorway in Potohar and Dina on G.T. road, district Jhelum (upto 4th September, 2,000).

Materials and methods

The field study was conducted with field binoculars having X power of 10 x 25-CR, 5.6 degrees were used. Sometimes a telescope of 60 X power was also used. A map of Lahore made from satellite imagery was plotted on with areas where the trees preferred for roosting and nesting of white-backed vulture were growing based on field visits to all areas. Our field work usually started at dawn and ended at dusk, wherever the white-backed vulture was found.

Urban avian habitat of Lahore

Lahore is an expanding city having a population of 5.06 million (Census report of the government of Pakistan 1998). Due to this increase not only new localities were created in the periphery but also some roads were broadened which resulted in cutting of old huge native trees that were replaced by some exotic ornamental and not very tall trees. The vultures prefer to roost or nest on tall trees (40-50 feet high) such as Arjun (*Terminalia arjuna*), Simbal (*Bombax ceiba*), Shisham (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Pipal (*Ficus religiosa*), Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) and Silver Oak (*Grevillea robusta*). Such trees are usually in old parks, colonies of old bungalows, Lahore Cantonment, some areas of canal bank and in some bungalows of Model Town. The breeding season of vulture starts with the onset of winter season in Lahore. So when this study was undertaken in February, there were already solitary chicks in the nests with one of the parents attending them.

Observations and discussions

Nesting was observed on tall trees like Eucalyptus, Simbal, Arjun, Silver Oak, Banyan, Shisham. Ali and Ripley (1983) also mentioned nesting.



Vulture drawing by Centre for Environmental Education (CEE)

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**Hadia Mahmood M.Sc.student (Env.Sc.), session 1998-2000, Kinnaird College, Lahore.

ZOO FUN IN SOUTH ASIA

A kangaroo kept getting out of his enclosure at the Jullundhur zoo. Knowing that he could hop high, the zoo officials put up a ten-foot fence. He was out the next morning, just sauntering around the zoo.

A twenty-foot fence was put up. Again he got out.

When the fence was forty feet high, a camel in the next enclosure asked the kangaroo, "How high do you think they'll get?"

Kangaroo said, "About a thousand feet, unless somebody locks the gate at night!"



Three PHVA Workshops committed for 2001 in South Asia

Message from CBSG, South Asia Convenor:

Following the founding meeting of SAZARC which took place at the first meeting of South Asian Zoo Directors (Nepal, August 2000), first meeting of CBSG, South Asia was held. At this meeting participants from Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan suggested that a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment workshop for species in their country would be desirable. The PHVAs suggested are:

Sri Lanka	Asian Elephant
Nepal	Wild buffalo, Rhino or Red panda
Pakistan	Urial

Since the PHVAs are to be organised by zoos or at least with collaboration with zoos, they are of interest to SAZARC as well as to CBSG national networks, CBSG, South Asia and CBSG.

A PHVA Workshop is a dynamic, scientific process for which a great deal of preparation is required. These zoos should start now and have their preliminary arrangements done by January. This would include (at the minimum):

1. Preparation of a "Problem Statement" -- a one or two page summary of the background of the species to be assessed, e.g. what is the nature of the problems facing the species or why you selected it for a PHVA.
2. Dates and venue
3. Preliminary list of invitees -- should include people with expertise who together will make up a group with knowledge of the biological, behavioural, ecological, social, environmental, economic, educational aspects of the species.
4. Collection of references about the species

Because few members have attended a PHVA, here is a description which will help you understand a bit about what will take place so you can help create the atmosphere and environment for its success. This material is an edited version of what we believe to be published material by Francis Westley, a management consultant and professor who is impressed with the efficacy of the CBSG Workshop processes.

PHVA Workshop

We have been impressed by the design and execution of the PHVA workshops. Participants seem highly energized by the process and the workshop works brilliantly at focusing the energy of different stakeholders on common concerns and in surfacing the existing knowledge of the species, and the holes in that knowledge.

The facilitator or leader of a PHVA workshop (provided by CBSG) must be able:

- a) to demand for settling a clear direction with those of making sure all participants feel a sense of inclusion
- b) to surface and identify conflicts with the need for achieving an integrated agenda among participants and
- c) to create and stimulate a momentum which will hopefully transcend the workshop as well as to frame workshop activities so that participants get a sense of closure of a piece of work accomplished when they leave the workshop.

The workshop is structured around the modelling activity, particularly in the early part. The second half of the workshop is more tightly structure to increase inclusion, help to constructively surface conflicts and to give participants a greater sense of closure by

- 1) encouraging participants to define issues for small group work.
- 2) facilitating inclusion of divergent viewpoints through making sure that small groups include representatives of different viewpoints.
- 3) making result or report criteria clearer so that reports can be structured in more uniform (and usable) style.
- 4) building in time for discussion of management scenarios as well as genetic scenarios and for workshop wrap-up.

Process Description And Commentary

The following commentary is based on observations of the Kirtland's Warbler and the Karner Blue workshops. It is meant to be descriptive of the different task-related stages associated with the PHVA workshops, the objectives and anticipated outcomes of each of these stages, the process as currently designed, questions raised by these processes and tasks and alternative process suggestions. The objective of this document is to generate discussion and to clarify misunderstandings as to the nature and process of the PHVA workshops.

Overall Objectives of PHVA Workshops

1. To get a nucleus of people together to discuss and set research and management priorities.
2. To create networks that will be self amplifying.
3. To table as much available "in process" biological data, in order to model population viability as precisely as possible using Vortex.
4. To provide participants (researchers and managers) with as much media (Vortex model) graphic material for transparencies in order to communicate the needs for research and management action to "back home constituencies"
5. To provide the ongoing flow of information and data to all participants in order to link network actors and their back home organizations into integrated action patterns.
6. To integrate all stakeholders (managers, scientists, conservationists) in a common problem definition, to set a context of urgency and therefore a necessity of collaboration based on open and free sharing of information.
7. To establish norms to encourage such open communication, thereby breaking such conventions as agency identification, data and ideas as intellectual property, competition, resource limited action plans.
8. To integrate captive breeding expertise with wildlife management techniques and scientific wisdom in order to create action plans for the management of endangered species (advocacy of individual relocation and captive propagation as a phase in maintaining healthy populations in the wild).

So these are the stages in planning and conducting a workshop. (Editor has added a timeline which would apply to our own workshops):

Stage Zero: Initiation of Workshop

1.1 Tasks

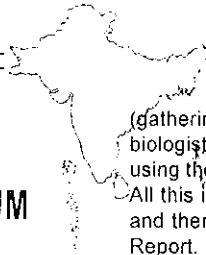
- A. Informal expression of interest (Done)
- B. Contact with range country organizers and contact person (Done)
- C. Choice of species (Done)
- D. Provide booklet and example reports (Done)
(Please let me know if you have not received these!)
- D. Dates and Location (Done - country is selected, anyway)
- E. Costs and funding (To be done)
- F. Participants-general agreement (To be done) -- need list for discussion -- should include name and address and area of expertise and when they worked on this.
- G. Format (To be done)

1.2 Objectives

- A. Initiate process in new country
- B. Initiate process with new group
- C. Species conservation management plan
- D. Linkage of wildlife agencies, zoos, researchers, ngo's, policy makers, etc.
- E. Reinforce management planning process
- F. Continue development of PHVA process
- G. Build network



WORLD ZOO AND AQUARIUM ORGANISATION



The World Zoo and Aquarium Organisation was once upon a time called the IUDZG, or International Union for Directors of Zoological Gardens. The IUDZG met once a year in a more social than professional capacity, was very restrictive in terms of memberships and generally did little to improve the condition of the world's zoos or to contribute to conservation. As the world's zoos began to wake up to their role in saving species and their fate if they didn't do so, the organisation began a process of dramatic transformation. The name and structure was changed along with by-laws and regulations. The first name change was to the World Zoo Organisation but last year at Palm Desert, October 2000, it was proposed that the organisation should include aquariums also in the name as well as a fish in the logo. The new name and logo is above.

Position Announcement - WAZA

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) is currently seeking an Executive Director. Formerly known as The World Zoo Organization (WZO), WAZA represents institutions and regional zoo and aquarium associations globally. Requirements and duties are as follows:

Requirements:

- * Proven administrative experience at a senior level, preferably gained in business, diplomatic or scientific fields.
- * Experience in implementing and managing business plans.
- * Well-developed liaison competence - good communication skills.
- * Computer literacy.
- * Exposure to conservation issues.
- * Willingness to travel is essential.
- * Willingness to settle in one of the following locations: Minneapolis (USA), London (UK), Vienna (Austria) or Berne (Switzerland).

Duties:

- * Facilitate an active relationship amongst all regions.
- * Coordinate all marketing activities.
- * Monitor and implement membership services and activities.
- * Maintain an up-to-date membership database.
- * Lobby governments, international institutions, and businesses.
- * Raise funds for the organization.

If interested, please send a letter and curriculum vitae to:

Willie Labuschagne, President, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, P.O. Box 754, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa. Fax: 2712 323-4540, E-mail: wlab@mweb.co.za.

Closing date: 15 March 2001

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums promotes effective stewardship of the natural world by encouraging its members to bring people close to living animals, applying and advancing conservation, science and education.

Primate CAMP for South Asia - maybe in 2001

Primates are popular animals with zoo visitors, their antics being so similar to man's that they are humorous by default. In South Asia there are more than 16 primate species which range in various parts of this region and more than 4 primates which are endemic (found nowhere else) to South Asia.

A CAMP (Conservation Assessment and Management Plan, CBSG, SSC, IUCN) is a workshop process which involves detailed planning. 9

(gathering of information, collecting wildlife experts and field biologists together), objective facilitation, assessment of species using the IUCN Red List Criteria, and consensual recommendations. All this is collected into a Draft Report which is vetted by participants and then edited, analyzed and brought out as a comprehensive Report. This Report is of great use to policy makers, field biologists, academic, conservation agencies and others. It is an excellent means of assessing, monitoring and managing biological diversity of a state, a country or a region.

In 1997 a CAMP Workshop was conducted for mammals of India of which there were 15 primates with a range in India. As the workshop was for all mammals, clearly not all information possible could be collected about one small group and this workshop was only for India. Therefore a CAMP Review to re-assess the status of primates of South Asia on a regional basis is in order. This time, all South Asia countries will be covered. Species which are endemic to South Asia will be highlighted but all primates will be discussed. There are a variety of taxonomic problems which can be sorted out at the workshop as well. In the last few years new studies have been done on several primate species under a grant administered by Dr. S.M. Monot of Jodhpur.

The Old World Primate Specialist Group of IUCN SSC has been contacted and Ardith Eudey, Chair, has indicated interest. Dr. Eudey will provide a list of South Asia primate specialists.

In relation to zoos, Indian zoos hold 15 species of the South Asian primates which have a range in India. This information is too lengthy to be included in this newsletter but the primates held in South Asian Zoos other than India can be listed.

Pakistan

Marghzar Zoo, Islamabad

Rhesus Monkey, *Macaca mulatta* 4.5.2.11

Karachi Zoo

Rhesus Monkey, *Macaca mulatta* 0.0.15.15

Long-tailed Monkey, *Macaca silenus* 0.0.2.2

Mc Mohan Monkey, *Macaca mulatta mc. mohani* 0.0.2.2

Lahore Zoo

Langur *Semnopithecus entellus* 3.2.0.5

Rhesus Monkey *Macaca mulatta* 7.4.0.11

Bangladesh

Dakha Zoo

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta* 40.50.0.90

Assamese Macaque *Macaca assamensis* 1.1.0.2

Bonnet Macaque *Macaca radiata* 2.2.0.4

Pigtailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina* 2.4.0.6

Common Langur *Semnopithecus entellus* 0.2.0.2

Capped Langur *Trachypithecus pileatus* 1.2.0.3

Slow Loris *Nycticebus coucang* 2.1.0.3

Rangpur Zoo

Rhesus Monkey *Macaca mulatta* 5.4.0.9

Chittagong Zoo

Slow Loris *Nycticebus coucang* 2.1.0.3

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta* 18.12.00.30

Capped langur/ Hanuman *Trachypithecus pileatus* 4.4.0.8

Sri Lanka

National Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka

Grey Langur *Presbytis entellus* 1.3.1.5

Pig Tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina* 0.1.0.1

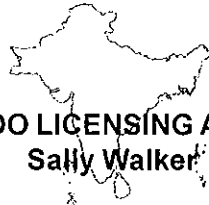
Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta* 0.2.0.2

Slender Loris *Loris tardigradus* 1.2.0.3

Nepal

Central Zoo, Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal

Lion-tailed Macaque *Macaca silenus* 2.0.0.2



SOUTH ASIAN ZOO LICENSING AND LEGISLATION

Sally Walker

Introduction

Today zoos of the world are coming increasingly in the public eye, both for their very good work in conservation and for the not so good things that happen in zoos. The conservation community and the animal welfare community have taken uncommon interest in zoos and many zoos have felt the sting of their criticism.

Zoos in different parts of the world have used different methods of addressing criticism leveled at them. In the United States, for example, many years ago, the American Zoo Association (then called the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums) decided that they should set up a very strict self-policing system with standards, ethics, inspections and recognition or de-recognition before the government did so. Today the AZA system of accreditation is much sought after by any self-respecting zoo and the U.S. government has not been fit to make laws controlling every aspect of zoos, although there are acts and regulations for import/export, intrastate transport, etc.

The "organised" zoo community of the world, represented by the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria, wants to do right by its animals. The contemporary good zoo wants to be conservation relevant and animal welfare sensitive as well as educationally pertinent. In order to do this, most of the zoos have developed their own system but also governments have created legislation both to regulate and to protect (good) zoos.

South Asia as a region and now with its own regional zoo association should now figure out what to do about its role in regulating bad zoos and insuring that good ones can operate as effective conservation centres.

The following article is a rewrite and update of an article written for the Encyclopaedia of Zoos. South Asian zoo personnel in countries without an association or legislation for zoos may like to know the status of this subject in their region and take appropriate steps for their country.

Formerly called the Indian Subcontinent and consists of seven countries, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. There is a diplomatic entity connecting these countries called SAARC, the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation but it is relatively new and focused on establishing stronger and more effective communication and economic ties between states. SAARC has no authority or intention with regard to standardising regulations with regard to subjects such as wildlife or zoos, in contrast to the European Union, for example. SAARC is more like ASEAN in that regard.

Also, the countries of South Asia do not have so many zoos, except India which has more than 300 and Pakistan which has 9 government zoos and an undetermined number of breeding centres and 6-9 private zoos; Bangladesh has 6 zoos; Sri Lanka has 1 zoo, 1 elephant orphanage and 1 more zoo coming up; and Nepal has one genuine zoo, 2 parks with small animal collections, 2 breeding centre and a musk deer farm. Bhutan and Maldives are not known to have any captive

facility. Of these countries, only India and Sri Lanka have specific legislation for zoological gardens; others have some legislation regarding import and export of animals which indirectly impacts zoos.

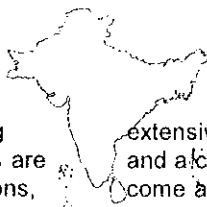
Nepal

The King Mahendra Trust for Nature KMTNC manages the only genuine zoo in Nepal, the Central Zoo. Wildlife legislation in Nepal permits live specimens of wild animals to be collected from the wild only for scientific purposes, according to the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Regulation 2030 and their amendments. Animals have been collected for foreign zoos under this regulation in the past but only in very special cases. Regarding import and export, there is no law which directly implements CITES in Nepal but CITES implementation law has been drafted. Related legislation includes a variety of acts and related sets of rules, e.g. national park and wildlife conservation, forest, export and import and environmental conservation. There is no legislation governing captive animals and zoos. Concerned officials feel there is a need but so far there is no specific initiative to create such legislation.

Pakistan

In Pakistan, "wildlife" as such is a provincial and not a federal subject. There are four provinces, including Azad Kashmir, in Northern Areas and in Federal Territory of Islamabad, each having its own wildlife department and legislation and headed by a Minister which looks after wildlife. Wildlife habitats come under the Forest Departments of each province. There are six separate laws most of which date back 30 years ago in the mid-70's with only one amendment in 1990. The basic outline of legislation is about the same with few differences according to local conditions, especially in the Rules framed under the Act. This legislation has no direct relationship with CITES which has not been mentioned in the Act. When import or export is to take place, a licence must be obtained from the National Council for the Conservation of Wildlife, an organization in the Federal Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development. While issuing such licences CITES Schedules are duly consulted. Six permits for Markhor (*Capra falconeri*), Schedule I, CITES, were issued by CITES for the year 1998 but only from the Community Managed Areas.

There is no separate zoo legislation as such but there is an idea to form such legislation and Indian and other legislation have been requested to study in this regard. However there is a "protocol": in order to start a zoo, permission from the provincial wildlife department is required and a license fee of Rs. 2000/- per animal is required in Punjab Province. A network of 22 Captive Breeding Centres has been established in the Punjab province. These are again Government Organizations and run on the pattern of a government zoo. There are legal penalties for keeping wild animals illegally and these range from confiscation of the animals in addition to substantial fines and imprisonment up to six months. Establishment of a 'Zoo' in the private sector is



allowed in Sindh province only. Legislation is being framed in other provinces. Some animal collections are being maintained by interested individuals, institutions, without obtaining permission from the Department. Such establishments are usually ignored in the absence of a specific legislation. There would be no bar on starting a Zoo for anyone who fulfils the criteria, once it is allowed by the Government. Anyone who applies for a Permit will get it on the payment of prescribed fee. There are no norms or standards for exhibition of animals or inspections.

Recently the Department shifted six major ungulate species viz., Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Hog deer (*Axis porcinus*), Axis deer (*Axis axis*), Chinkara (*Gazella bennettii*), Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*), and Punjab Urial (*Ovis orientalis punjabiensis*) from Schedule III (Protected animals and birds) to Schedule II allowing their captive breeding in the Private Sector. Relevant notification and rules are also attached in Annex II of the Punjab Act.

Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka there is a zoo, an elephant orphanage, a public aquarium and a zoo farm which are included under the "National Zoological Gardens" Act. Private zoos are not permitted in the country. The National Zoological Gardens Act and the Wildlife Conservation Act are the main acts related to wild animals. The Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance prohibits animals being collected from the wild or animals being introduced into the forest.

The National Zoological Gardens Act was passed in 1982 and includes administration of the National Zoological Gardens, including duties of the director, financial matters pertaining to the zoo, advisory committee, property of the zoo and other administrative matters. The Act also provides for safety of visitors to the zoo and rules of behavior for visitors to provide safety to the zoo animals. Feeding is prohibited as is playing radios or similar instrument, or teasing and disturbing any animal on exhibit. In addition to these there are other regulations regarding bringing animals into the zoo, parking of vehicles, sale of items inside the zoo, etc.

India

In South Asia India has the most zoos by far and also the most elaborate and organized zoo legislation. Specific zoo legislation in India goes back a very long time. The Bangalore Forest Act (1904) included a zoological management rule with a provision for directors to fine individuals for vandalism in the zoo. In individual states, legislation was passed for the protection of wildlife and the Bombay Wildlife Act (1951) included a provision for supervision over zoos with inspection by a government appointed inspector. The Indian Board for Wildlife set up in 1952 had a Zoo Wing which met frequently and framed provisions and suggestions to improve Indian zoos from an educational, welfare and even a conservation perspective. The IBWL was supportive of zoos in theory, but also very particular that they maintain good standards.

The passage of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act in 1972 made provisions for zoos and museums, allowing capture of animals for zoos and keeping of skins and trophies for museums. In 1973 an Expert Committee on Zoos after conducting an

extensive inspection recommended a National Zoo Policy and a central body to coordinate the zoos but this did not come about for two decades.

Between the formation of the IBWL and the passage of the WL Protection Act, 60 animal facilities were set up and in the next two decades an explosion of more than 250 zoos took place. In 1987 the Ministry of Environment formulated a Draft Zoo Policy and circulated it to wildlife agencies, zoos, and concerned NGO's but it was considered too restrictive and redrafted by a committee in 1989. It was finally decided that the Policy alone would not have sufficient force to improve the zoos so legislation was drafted and attached to the WL(P) Amendments Act, 1991, which created Central Zoo Authority and provided for the Recognition of Zoos.

This legislation provided for the setting up of a Central Zoo Authority which could draft Norms and Standards for animal keeping and care and generally coordinate and monitor zoos. The Recognition of Zoo rules, 1992 was notified subsequently. Under this Act and Rules, all captive animal facilities have to register with and submit to inspection by the Central Zoo Authority. The CZA inspection team submits a report which requests the zoo to make changes which would bring it in accordance with the norms and standards. Failure to do so can result in closure of the zoo; compliance results in recognition. No zoo is permitted to function without recognition by the Central Zoo Authority.

An interesting feature of the Indian Zoo Act is that the definition of "zoo" was particularly formulated without the word "stationary" applied to an institution. This was deliberately done so that the Act would apply to the more than 50 travelling menageries which plied throughout the country. Also zoos were categorized into four types "Large, Medium, Small and Mini (which includes deer parks) based on a formula consisting of physical area, number of animals and species, number of endangered species and number of visitors and each given a different criteria for recognition. An example is that "large" zoos must have two veterinarians while "mini" zoos can get by with a visiting veterinary doctor.

The Indian Zoo Act is a strong piece of legislation but there are problems with implementation. The Central Zoo Authority is a federal body and the states, which have much independence, are not always compliant. Also it is proving much harder to actually close facilities, even very bad ones, than envisioned. The Zoo Act is under discussion in 1999 and some revisions which may provide yet more detailed standards for different size and types of zoos are being considered as well as other issues. In the meantime the Central Zoo Authority has succeeded in closing nearly 100 substandard zoos in India. This is a genuine achievement but is not without problems. The placement of hundreds of animals, most of them common and many of them unfit for conservation purpose, has proved to be a daunting challenge.

India also has an association of Zoo Directors (IZDA) and is the only country to do so. Now there is an association for the region but this cannot replace a national association and national monitoring of the zoo scenario and its need for legislation in a country.



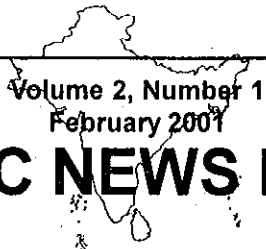
Declaration of Interest Form
for future correspondence with and membership in SAZARC
South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation

Please xerox and send to SAZARC at the address below.

Name : _____
 Name of your Zoo: _____
 Address of Zoo: _____

 Phone Number: _____
 Fax Number: _____
 Email: _____
 Website: _____

Please give your comments about a regional association and what you would like to give and get from it.



Volume 2, Number 1
 February 2001

SAZARC NEWS LETTER

SAZARC Newsletter is a temporary communications device while the new South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation settles down. It is edited, published and distributed from the offices of Zoo Outreach Organisation/CBSG, South Asia which serves as the temporary administrative and information base of SAZARC. ZOO is the host of CBSG, South Asia which is funded by Dr. Nan Schaeffer, Founder and President of SOS Rhino.

SAZARC is envisioned to represent certain captive breeding facilities which prove eligible by their ethics and standards in the region of South Asia. SAZARC was convened by a meeting of zoo directors, veterinarians, curators, and educators representing 10 zoos from five countries of South Asia. While the committee of representatives investigates and reports options for registration and drafts by-laws, constitution, ethics, standards and membership rules, the Association will function on a *ad hoc* basis.

SAZARC welcomes news, notes, announcements relevant to the daily working and enhancement of conservation, education, research and animal care of the zoos of South Asia and their relationship to other regional and national zoo associations. ZOO/CBSG, South Asia will make every effort to distribute this newsletter widely among the zoo personnel of South Asia.

Write to SAZARC c/o ZOO/CBSG, South Asia, Box 1683, Peelamedu, Coimbatore 641 004 TN India
 Phone : 91 422 563 159; 561 087; Fax : 91 422 563 269; Email : zooreach@vsnl.com;
 Website : www.zoreach.org