

association for Nepal's wild animal institutions and provided advice and training for their staff.

SAZARC

SAZARC being the association of zoos of South Asia and the association which has promoted the "other zoos" issue should now orient all of our activities around zoo legislation and improvement of substandard or "conservation careless" zoos. In the last two meetings of SAZARC, at Coimbatore and even the SEAZA meeting SAZARC member contributed valuable comments on how to address this issue in South and South East Asia.

In the coming SAZARC meeting, the plan is to conduct the meeting in an old urban zoo which has made changes to comply with Central Zoo Authority and the Zoo Act Norms and Standards. The training theme for the meeting will be improvement of "conservation careless" zoos using the norms and standards of Central Zoo Authority, with an introduction to zoo standards and methods of regulation in other regions. PAAZAB also now has a National Standard - Zoo and Aquarium Practice for South Africa which is their host country. Great Britain has had zoo legislation for a long time and has excellent species specific standards for certain taxon groups. Some Australian states also have this excellent feature in their legislation.

For this meeting we will take pains to insure that one policy maker from each country attends so that he or she will get some idea of how to go about writing and pushing through legislation in their country. Country-specific working groups with experienced persons on zoo legislation will be conducted to help the policy maker and zoo personnel. Hopefully the President and President of WAZA can join this meeting.

It is time to get serious about the "other zoo world" and help them, if they are willing, to improve welfare standards and other aspects so that they can meet basic humane requirements. Then there will be a long process of raising the bar until even these zoos will be "conservation conscious" and will have the capacity to make solid contributions to conservation and cause no extinctions.

(The WAZA Resolution on Improving Standards in Zoos was published in ZPM shortly after the conference. It has been reproduced on the following page so that readers new to this issue can catch up.)

Report on animal facilities in Nepal

R. Marimuthu and Sally Walker

Thanks to the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare UFAW of UK for funding travel associated with the WAZA initiative to improve standards in zoos.

Martyr's Memorial Park, Nawalpur, Hetauda

This park is situated on the top of a small hill in

Nawalpur, five kilometers away from Hetauda town of Makwanpur district or about 120km from Kathmandu. This is the first such park in Nepal established by Hetauda Municipality and now run by the Martyrs Memorial Park Development committee of local people.

The Park was established in 1994 with the area of 20 hectares. The total staff strength is 15 which includes Chief Manager, accountant, animal attenders and other staffs. It is an aesthetically very pleasing park with native trees and ornamental plants which are maintained well.

The following animals are kept in an area of about one acre:

Rhesus Macaque 1:1; Gharial 0:0:1; Leopard 1:0 Chital 1:1; Sambar 1:0; Plam Civet Cat 0:0:1; Common Langur 1:1; Peacock 1:1; Barking Deer 0:1; turtles 0:0:4 as well as many geese, guinea pig and Rabbits. Chital, Sambar, Gharial are having open enclosures with natural substrate. Leopard is also displayed in a large enclosure but other enclosures are tiny.

This park is opened for public and get about 2 lakhs visitors per year in which 30% of them are students. The entrance fee is 5 Rupees for adults and 3 Rupees for children and 10 Rupees for foreigners.

The park gets veterinary assistance from the Government Veterinary Service whenever required. There are no education activities or record keeping. Simple signage boards identifying the animals on the enclosures are mostly in Nepali and few both English and Nepali.

Date of visit : 3 December 2006. Contact: Mr. R.C. Neudane, Chief Manager

Contact details: Mr. R.C. Neudane, Chief Manager, Martyr's Memorial Park Development Committee, Nawalpur, Hetauda 11, Nepal. Tel: +977 57 521988/ 525804

Mani Mukunda Sen Park, Bhoopari, Butwal

This park is situated in Bhoopari, 2 kms away from the Butwal, about 220 kms away from Katmandu, situated in East-west highway. It was established by Butwal Municipality in 1996 and run by a committee of people which consists of 11 office bearers and 259 members. The Municipal Commissioner is the chairman of the committee. When the post of commissioner is vacant, the corporation executive officer serves as the chairman of this committee.

The ruins of the winter palace of King Manimukunda Sen are situated in this premise, thus the park has been named for him.

The Park's total area is about 12 hectares, situated in the high land area. Staff number 19 which

include the Field In-charge/ Security Officer, Account Officer, an Animal Keeper and other staff. About 100,000 visitors are visiting this park every year and 35% of them are school children. The entrance fee is 5 Rupees for adults and 2.50 Rupees for children. There is no fee for local people. They keep an animal stock register. They do not employ a veterinarian but whenever need they get help from the District Veterinary Officer of Butwal or Bhairava.

The animals are exhibited in two different sides of this park. The exhibited animals are: Chital 5:6; Rhesus Macaque 1:1; Common Langur 1:0; Jackal 2:1; Striped Hyena 0:1; Python 0:0:3; Peacock 1:2; Rabbit 3:9; Palm Civet cat 3:0; Parrot 0:0:1. A bear and two Leopards in the collection recently expired. They display identifying signage written in Nepal as well as in English.

According to Mr. Thakuria, they want to move the zoo to a larger area situated by the side of the current facility, and it has been fenced for this purpose. Financial problems have prevented further development but this will be discussed in their committee meeting soon.

Date of visit : 4 Dec 06.

Contact : Mr. Bishnu Singh Thakuria, In charge

*Contact details: Mr. Bishnu Singh Thakuria, Field Incharge/Security Officer, Mani Mukunda Sen Park, Bhoolpari, Bhutwal-4, Nepal
Tel: +977 71 544041*

Mahendra Park Zoo, Nepalgunj

This zoo is situated 450 kms away from Katmandu. It is a small zoo located in a town, Nepalgunj, and run by the Municipality. For the running of the zoo, the Municipality leases it to private parties every year through open tender. This year they leased it for 100,021Nepal Rupees. The rentee pays that amount and collect gate collection. The salary and maintenance of animals are taken care of by Municipality.

WAZA Resolution on Improving Standards in Zoos

RECOGNIZING

That there is no generally accepted definition of the term "zoo" and therefore any facility keeping animals accessible to the public can and does call itself "zoo" regardless of the standard of general keeping conditions, management, educative efforts, quality of employees, scientific background, institutional goals, etc.,

That WAZA itself and the association members will be credible conservation organizations only if WAZA member institutions strive to become centers of conservation;

That the existence of so called "substandard zoos" is a disturbing factor in this process and development because it lead to:

- Negative conservation impact on the *ex situ* population through substandard keeping conditions (poor survival rate; loss of potential genetic materials; frequent perceived need for re-stocking);
- Negative impact on wild (the *in situ*) populations (indiscriminate capture depletes wild populations; indiscriminate release of over-bred surplus animals damages wild populations; disturbance of wild population behaviour leads to stress, panic and fatal accidents; disturbance of wild population behaviour leads to short and long-lasting effect on social behaviour and disturbance of wild population dynamics);
- Negative impact on wild habitats (indiscriminate capture and/or poorly researched release of surplus animals can impact habitat; irresponsible releases can wreck a niche or fragile ecosystem)
- Negative impact on visitor education (difficult to convey an effective conservation message 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)
- Negative impact on the zoo 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; the best zoos share the same "bed" – public and the press – with the worst zoos.
- Negative impact on animal welfare (unsuitable living environments for animals; lack of husbandry and veterinary care and expertise such as sanitation, nutrition, preventative medicine, etc; visitor misbehaviour such as feeding, testing, violence, stress, etc.)
- Negative impact on safety for the animals, public and staff (inadequate barriers and enclosures; inadequate sanitation which could cause the spread of diseases; public liability)

Therefore WAZA

- ADOPTS the following policy statement:

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.

Leipzig 2006

61st WAZA Annual Conference



The zoo was founded in 1999 covering about 2 acres. There are four staff : one ticket collector, one animal keeper and two other labourers. The animal keeper has been trained at Central Zoo, Kathmandu for some time and maintains this small zoo very well.

About 50-100 visitors are visiting this park every-day. They do not keep daily record of visitors for months and years however. The entrance fee is NRs 5, adults and NRs 2 Rupees, Children.

Half of the park is devoted to animal enclosures and other part of the park for children playground. The following animals are exhibited in this zoo.

They are Black Buck 6:8; Chital 4:3; Peacock 3:1; Love birds 30; Guinea Fowl 2:0; Rabbit 20

The animal enclosures are spacious and nice looking and the keeper seems to know about animal keeping. They are maintaining a stock register and post mortem details at the Municipal Office which were shown upon visiting. Signage boards are written in English and Nepali.

After the zoo visit I went to the Municipal Office and met Mr. Krishna Prasad Aryal, Executive Officer. He told that it is a financial burden for the municipal corporation to keep the animals; they spend significantly more

than the rate derived from the tender. They are interested in handing over the animals for people but there are no takers.

Date of visit : 05th Dec 06. Contact : Mr. Farook Ansari, zookeeper and Mr. Krishna Prasad Aryal, Executive Officer, Nepalgunj Municipality. Mailing address: Mr. Krishna Prasad Aryal, Executive Officer, Nepalgunj Municipality, Bankey District, Nepal Tel: +977 82 520216/520339 (R) Mobile: +977 98 580 22501

The Fulbari Resort & SPA, Bird Park, Pokhara

The Fulbari Resort is situated in Pokhara on the back side of Forest Institute Campus. It is one of the big Resorts in South Asia. Inside the Resort they have small facility for birds. The enclosures are good and are kept well. In this they keep Nepal Kalij Pheasant, Chinese Silver Pheasant, Peacock and Chinese Lady Amherst Pheasant and Chinese Golden Pheasants. This facility is for the guests of the hotel. The incharge was away during my visit.

Date of visit: 7 Dec 06

*Mailing address: : Mr. Krishna Acharya . The Fulbari Resort & SPA, Bird Park, Pokhara, Nepal. P.O.Box-334, Nepal. Tel: +977 61 432451
Email: fom@fulbari.com.np*

Godawari Deer Research Centre, Godawari, Kathmandu

This centre is located at Southern corner of Katmandu Valley at the foothills of Phulchowki hill range which is semi protected area and about 20 kms from Kathmandu. It was established for the purpose of musk deer breeding at first with the support from Australian agencies but musk deer breeding failed. Now the facility has been developed as a deer park. The total area of the park is 10 hectares with five staff.

Currently there are about 154 deer in the park, of which 25-30 are Barking deer, one Musk deer and the rest Spotted deer or Chital. Each species is isolated from one another with barbed wire fencing and again the whole area is fenced.

This facility is not officially open for public but whoever interested to see the animals to get the permission from the gate without any fee. There is no animal signage boards in the park except a board in Nepali saying "Deer Research Centre".

*Date of Visit: 30th November 2006. Contact : Mr. Sunil Bhattarai, Game Scout, In-charge of the facility
Mailing address: Mr. Moghbadur Pandey, Chief Warden, Shivpuri National Park, Panimuhan, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: +977 1 4371644/4370355 or Department of National Parks & Conservation, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: +977 1 422091/4220850 Fax: +977 1 4227675
Email: dnwpc@bdcin.wlink.com.np*

Mrigasthali Deer Park, Kathmandu

This facility is located about two kilometers from the Kathmandu International Airport and managed by the Pasupathinath Temple management. Pashupatinath Temple is one of the most sacred Hindu shrines in the world. It has richly decorated pagodas which display the sacred linga of Lord Shiva. The temple is documented to have existed prior to 400 AD. Devotees take ritual baths in the holy Bagmati river flowing beside the temple.

This park was developed by the cooperation of then King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation. It is situated on the Mrigasthali Hill east of the Bagmati River by Pashupatinath Temple. It was not possible to speak to management but a park staff informed that there are 92 deer including barking deer, chital and black buck. Five staff persons look after the animals which are fed twice a day. The area is approximately five hectares and well-fenced with iron barbed wires. The park has been developed with the concept of Ramayana. It is not opened for the public as such animals can be seen easily from outside. Pilgrims to the temple visit the park and see the animals from outside the fence. Rhesus macaques are twice or thrice the number of deer. They also consume the food given by staff for the deer.

There are individual signage boards for each cervid species which includes description, range, habitat, diet, reproductive habits, gestation and behavioral adaptation as well as the request "Do not feed or tease animals" in Nepali and English.

Contact details: Pasupathi Area Development Trust, Gausala, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: +977 1 4470574/75

Other captive animal facilities

Forest Institute students and a few others provided information of captive animals facilities in different localities. The facilities listed below are all run by Department of National Park & Wildlife Conservation, Government of Nepal. Because of time constraints, it was not possible to visit these facilities but the officer at the Department NPWC confirmed the following facilities.

1. Bardia Crocodile Breeding Centre at Thakurdwara, Bardia National Park

According to the officer this facility is breeding Muger for reintroduction.

Contact address: Mr. Fanindra Kharel, Chief Warden, Royal Bardia National Park, Thakurdwara, Bardia, Nepal. Tel: +977 84 29719

2. Crocodile Breeding Centre, Kasara, Royal Chitwan National Park

This facility breeds Gharial, Muger and Turtles here for reintroduction into the wild. It is a official breeding centre.

Contact address: Mr. Gopal Prasad Upadhya, Chief Warden, Royal Chitwan National Park, Kasara, Nepal Tel:+977 57 21932/29405

3. Black Buck Conservation Centre, Khairapur, Bardia National park

This facility is holding 139 Black Buck in fenced area to increase the Black Buck population and possibly reintroduce them in the wild. Contact address: Mr. Fanindra Kharel, Chief Warden, Royal Bardia National Park, Thakurdwara, Bardia, Nepal. Tel: +977 84 29719

4. Elephant Breeding Centre, Khorsor, Chitwan

In this facility they are breeding elephants. They have 4:16:13 elephants at the moment the last 13 being calves of unknown sex.

Contact address: Mr. Gopal Prasad Upadhya, Chief Warden, Royal Chitwan National Park Kasara, Nepal Tel:+977 57 21932/29405

Further details can be had from the: Department of National Park & Wildlife Conservation, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: +977 1 422091/4220850 Fax: +977 1 4227675 Email: dnwpc@bdcin.wlink.com.np

Animal Farming Centre-Licenses

This information was taken from the Department of

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation at Kathmandu.

Animal farming licenses have been issued to 17 people of which 11 have started some work. Four licenses are for Chital farming; two licenses for snake farming, one license for vulture breeding, two for Rhesus Macaque farming and two for pheasants and bird breeding.

Other possible captive animal facilities in Nepal

1. Tikapur Park, Kailali district

During the survey, the Forest Institute students reported a mini zoo in Tikapur or Dhangadi at Kailali district of Nepal. It is situated in the far western region of Nepal and is run by the municipality.

2. Birat Nagar or Dhankuta

Forest students have heard of a small zoo in one of these two places in far eastern Nepal.

3. Rukum Khot, Rukum District

This facility is situated in mid western Nepal. It can be reached from Nepalgunj-Musikhot and two days trek to Rukum Khot.

One of the forestry Institute students informed about a collection of animals owned by a private person. More information on this awaited.

VACANCY FOR A CONSERVATION AWARENESS OFFICER WITH SAMRAKSHAN TRUST

Samrakshan Trust is a Delhi based conservation organisation with operations in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram. Our work fosters sustainable nature conservation in conjunction with local communities and other stakeholders at sites of conservation importance in these states. An integral part of our conservation strategy at each intervention site is to improve appreciation of natural values among various stakeholders. For this purpose Samrakshan is seeking to recruit a Conservation Officer based at its head office in Delhi. The job profile for this position includes the following tasks:

- i. Assisting Samrakshan field teams in MP, Meghalaya and Mizoram develop conservation awareness strategies and action plans conducive to local conditions;
- ii. Capacity enhancement of Samrakshan field teams for executing such action plans;
- iii. Monitoring the impact of such conservation awareness activities and making necessary corrections;
- iv. Helping the organisation communicate its work to a larger audience. This position will require extensive travel to Samrakshan field offices and the devotion of several months at a stretch at these locations. The candidate should have demonstrable experience in conservation awareness work and an ability to work under extremely difficult physical conditions.

Candidates are welcome to learn more about Samrakshan's work at www.samrakshan.org
Applications will be accepted till the position is filled.

Please submit a CV and a 2-3 page note expressing your interest in this position and contact details of 2 referees to:

Ms. Vijaylakshmi, Samrakshan Trust, B-403, Anandlok, Mayur Vihar Phase 1, Delhi 110091
<info@samrakshan.org>