

Emails afterwards . . .

INDIA

Dear All Participants:

Thank you for your presence and participation in the 10th Annual Conference/ Training of SAZARC. We at ZOO were very happy to see all of you, some old timers and some we met for the first time. We were so very happy with the arrangements, outings, souvenir and entertainment provided by Ms. Sarita Jnawali and her very efficient team and hope that all of you were equally comfortable and content.

We appreciate your attention to the presentations and hope that you learned some new things that interested you. We will prepare a brief review with attachments and a Report of the conference/ training which will be sent to you separately. Again thanks for your attendance and we hope that you all reached your place safely. Best wishes, Sally, Sanjay, Daniel, Marimuthu, Latha & ZOO team.

NEPAL

Dear SAZARC Participants,

Hope you all already reached safely to your homeland. I express my sincere Thanks to all of you for your presence and cooperation, I really enjoyed your company.

Thank you resource persons !!! You made us aware and more clear on the Theme of the Conference.

I am very much grateful to my Institution National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) and its Senior Officers, for their full support and assistance to conduct 10th SAZARC here in Nepal. I also would like to acknowledge the support and assistance provided by the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation and its Officers, Chitwan National Park and NTNC-BCC Chitwan- specially Nareshji and his efficient team for the successful completion of the Conference.

On behalf of host, I also would like to thank SAZARC Donors for their support, so that we completed conference comfortably and successfully.

Sally! You are always the Centre of attraction. I am very much grateful that you provided the opportunity to host 10th Conference in Nepal. Thanks for your appreciations and supports. It is always inspiring for me. Thanks to ZOO team especially Sanjay, Daniel, Marimuthu and Latha.

Last, but not least I also want to thank the Central Zoo team, who is always with me for the good reason. Thanks again and Warm regards,
Sarita Jnawali, Director, Central Zoo, Nepal

Greetings from Nepal.

I hope you all had good memories of Nepal and NTNC/ Central Zoo team. We feel proud to have hosted the 10th SAZARC Conference in Nepal and that also in our BCC complex in Chitwan National Park. We are always happy to collaborate with Zoo Outreach Organization as we find your programs innovative, informative and easy for the participants to understand so that it can be implemented. We will be happy to collaborate with ZOO in other future activities. If there is anything, please do not hesitate to contact us or Ms. Sarita Jnawali. Our best wishes for ZOO and its team. Best regards and thank you all,
Ganga Jang Thapa, Executive Officer, NTNC

Ms Sally walker and ZOO team,

Thank you very much for your detailed e-mail. Actually, it was our pleasure to host the 10th SARZAC meeting and our

responsibility as well. In my personal opinion, the meeting was extremely successful. The rigorous discussion in the groups and continuous support of resource persons were the remarkable parts of the meeting.

I would like to share my sincere thanks to Ms Sarita Jnawali and her Central Zoo team, Mr. Naresh Subedi and NTNC-BCC team and Chitwan National Park for their wonderful management. At last, but not the least, the country delegates from South Asia deserved the especial thanks for their continuous and tireless efforts throughout the meeting to make the meeting highly success. Thanking you, Maheshwar Dhakal, Ecologist, Ministry of Forest, Nepal

SRI LANKA

Dear Ms. Sally Walker,

We were fortunate enough to select to attend 10th Annual conference of SAZARC. The ice breaker event was held at the Goodwill Hotel at Kathmandu. The way it was conducted helped us to meet participants and resource personnel in a friendly atmosphere.

The Opening of the conference was arranged in a fascinating way at Central Zoo premises with important speeches and traditional dance. We could meet many Zoo people and feel the warmth of their welcome. As you have done in previous years site selection to conduct the conference was excellent. Calm and quiet environment of Chitwan National Park provided the required tranquility for listening and working for the personnel who spend their lives in Zoos and Wildlife Parks. Though the way to reach Kathmandu to Chitwan National Park is long and time-consuming, it provided us an ample opportunity to understand the country and its culture. During that six hours tour we saw the beauty of the Nepal as well as situation of the country.

All sessions were arranged in an impressive way. Resource personnel Mark and Wendy done their maximum to make aware the participants to disasters to which the Zoos could face. Working groups could share their experiences and absorb the new ideas through the guidance received from the resource personnel. It was amazing experience for all of us to contribute to the working group sessions. We could know the latest research findings of climatic changes and how to guide the staff in disaster situations.

Food and accommodation we received are moderate and suitable for this type of working environment. We have to appreciate the assistance we received from Dr. Sarita Jnawali, Director of Kathmandu Zoo and her Team and Chitwan National Park team and also their superiors for the success of the conference.

And we have to appreciate you, Ms. Sally Walker, and your team for organizing 10th annual conference of SAZARC successfully. It is always your effort and contribution.
Dammika Malsinghe, Dy Director, Natl Zoo, Sri Lanka

BANGLADESH

Madam,

On behalf of Dhaka Zoo, Bangladesh, I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all of the Members of Zoo Outreach Organization for completion of a successful SAZARC Conference 2010. We all the members of Bangladeshi side safely returned to home. We are the people also grateful to Central Zoo, Nepal and NTNC, Nepal for their hospitality and all sorts of cooperation. We hope all others members reached their home safely. Also thanks to Mark & Wendy for their presentation. At last I would like to show my respect to you for nominate me for the SAZARC Conference-2010 this year. Thanks
Dr. Md. Shakif-UI-Azam, Sci. Officer, Dhaka Zoo

UNITED KINGDOM

Hi Sally

We're back in the UK as of yesterday and I'm slowly sorting through emails and unpacking - and generally putting feet back on flat and muddy UK ground. The conference was an excellent experience. I have not worked in the region before and learned much about how things work there. I left feeling happily satisfied to hear the participants thinking through climate change impacts on biodiversity in a structured way, even if some of the details were a little murky. I hope it lays down the foundation for their on-going thought on the issue as the horrid climate change scenarios unfolds, and also that it makes them feel a little more empowered to engage on the issue and hopefully to do something about educating their visitors about it. It was a pleasure to meet with you and to see all your wonderful work. I will keep in touch - please do too. Warmest and very best wishes

Wendy Foden, Project Officer, Climate Change IUCN Species Programme Cambridge,

USA

Dear Sally, Sarita, Sanjay, and other colleagues:

It was a privilege and an honour to be invited to participate in the 10th Annual SAZARC conference as a resource person. The theme, "21st Century Crises: Species Susceptibility to Climate Change & Emerging Disease" was both timely and very appropriate. More than other conferences that I've attended, this one seemed to consistently translate introductory lecture and theory into substantive and concrete action. Thanks in large part to the sincerity and focus of the organizers and participants, the conference was not only enjoyable, but very productive.

As a veterinarian & college professor with a life-long interest in zoo animal care and management, it was fascinating to meet and discuss disease & zoo management issues with the participants. There are many similarities and many differences in the challenges that we encounter in our facilities and regions. I think that the opportunity to compare notes and openly discuss challenges & solutions was incredibly valuable for everyone.

Following my lectures on emerging disease, there was significant discussion about avian influenza and related management & preventive strategies. The discussion served to highlight some different approaches to the same issue and made clear the benefit of sharing information. Ultimately, a small task-force was established to investigate current practices & recommendations and report back. Such collaboration will certainly result in improved practices and the advancement of regional zoo operations.

Another important concept - biosecurity - was the theme of both a lecture and an afternoon working group session. Biosecurity - preventing the introduction and spread of disease within a collection - is an important tool that must be used with others such as judicious vaccination if we are to protect our collections and public from emerging and re-emerging diseases. The afternoon working group session provided opportunity for participants to start the development of their own biosecurity program and share their work with the entire conference.

The importance of an effective emergency management plan was emphasized during the conference. The initial brainstorming session on zoo emergencies and the subsequent working group session to draft emergency management plans was interesting and another opportunity for theory to translate into action. The concept of emergency preparedness is critically important; the results of these working groups have great potential for real and lasting impact.

I was also very pleased to be able to attend the sessions by fellow resource people, Drs. Wendy Foden & Guy Dutton. Topics such as global climate change can be disturbing, but it is encouraging to know that there is work being done to understand and address the problems. The opportunity to learn about the latest research and investigate the ways that zoos can prepare was unique, valuable and motivational.

There were many other highlights for me during the week - the evening cultural dancing, the tour of Chitwan, the visit to the Central Zoo - but overall, my fondest memory will be of the generosity and hospitality of our hosts, the organizers and the participants. In making preparations to attend, I expected that there would be a lot of work, that I would see & learn a lot, and meet many new people. I didn't expect that I would smile so much! I'm thankful to have made so many new professional colleagues and friends.

My heartfelt thanks also goes to the sponsors of this valuable event, our generous hosts from National Trust for Nature Conservation, Chitwan National Park & the Central Zoo, the dedicated organizers from the Zoo Outreach Organization and all of the hard-working participants. It seemed that everyone enjoyed their time at SAZARC and left as I did, with a significant feeling of accomplishment. Clearly, SAZARC, its partners, and its members are doing important work. It has been a pleasure for me to be involved. Yours sincerely,
Mark Irwin, DVM, Animal Management Program Director, State University of New York,

INDIA

Dear Sally, Hi

It was wonderful conference, we have learned new things about climate change and its effect on wildlife, Wendy and Mark are quite knowledgeable, all the arrangements are excellent under yours able guidance.

Sally I was reading your article of Mysore zoo it is really memorable and challenging time, you have done so many things together and now you are on different height, you can write a beautiful book on your experiences, So many happenings, A different life.

Just now we want to thank you for every thing, all pain and trouble which you are taking for the conservation of wildlife and environment. Also Thanks to my dear Sanjay, Daniel Sir, Marimuthu and of course Latha who is making all transportation and other arrangements. Yours sincerely,
R.K.Sahu, Director, Kamla Nehru Zoo, Ahmedabad

Dear Madam Sally,

Thank you very much for extending me this opportunity to be part of the 10th SAZARC conference. It was really a wonderful experience for me to look into such important aspects of modern Zoo management. I really appreciate your efforts for bringing Zoo fraternity in SAARC countries together on one platform and share our views. I also take this opportunity to thank all your team members for having organized this conference so nicely. Thanks once again.
J S Chauhan, Director, Van Vihar National Park, Central TT Nagar, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Dear Ms. Sally Walker,

The 2010 SAZARC Conference was of immense use to me in further improving the management of Mysore Zoo.

The topics covered specially Crisis Management in the Zoo which was dealt in detail on the issues relevant to Indian Zoos gave us an account of importance of the topic deliberated. This was not given much importance as it deserved in the Zoo Management so far. The topic on

Emerging Diseases & Zoo Preparedness, Emerging Diseases, Development of a Bio-security Program, Zookeeper Training and Implementation & Practice covered the importance of these in animal upkeep.

The topic on effect of Climate Change on important animals highlighted the threats the Wildlife which is going face in the future.

Overall, the Conference was very useful and it also gave the opportunity to exchange the views, management practices, animal exchange etc., between the Zoo Managers of participating countries. Congratulations to you and your team for conducting the Conference in a befitting manner. With regards,
K.B. Markandaiah IFS, Conservator of Forests and Executive Director, Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore.

PAKISTAN

Dear Sally,

I hope you are fine and enjoying good health. I arrived safely and joined my duty. I would like to thank you for providing me an opportunity to attend the 10th Annual Conference of SAZARC and 7th CBSG & RSG workshop at Kathmandu, Nepal. The visit of Central Zoo, Chitwan National Park and Elephant Breeding Center was really an excellent experience for me.

It's no doubt a very memorable experience of my life. Chitwan National Park is really another treasure of wildlife like Gir forest of India & Bundala Forest of Sri Lanka, in South Asia. The people who are managing this treasure are very professional and praiseworthy & deserve all appreciation for their wonderful work.

The presentations of Mark, Wendy, Sanjay & Daniel were very informative & worthwhile. In the light of the presentations/observations of the honorable resource persons I would further improve different sections of Karachi Zoo. The selection of the topics like Emerging Diseases & Disaster Management are also a very necessary for the improvement and up gradation of South Asian Zoos. It enabled the participants like me to understand the technicalities very deeply and how to improve skills of Zoo staff or identify the mistakes which we do not consider during our daily routine work. All resource persons mentioned above deserve my heartfelt applause.

Working group sessions held during the conference were also very useful & brain storming for a manager dealing with the wildlife. It represented the collective views of all the participants of different countries, which reflected a comprehensive & complete picture to solve the problems that face captive wildlife of this region.

Please convey my special regards and thanks to DG, Department of National Park and Wild Life Conservation, Ms Sarita Janawali, her proficient Central Zoo team & Mr Nareshji and NTNC staff regarding organizing such a good SAZARC Conference at Chitwan National Park Nepal .

During the whole conference I enjoyed Halal as well as vegetarian food very much. The cultural activity were also very pleasing. The schedule of conference, visit of archeological sites & shopping were very hectic but we enjoyed the whole activity very much.

I also enjoyed the company and very much amused with the jokes of Dr Sahu during the whole conference. I would again like to thank you for arranging such an excellent conference and workshop for which you & your special team deserve appreciations from myself. With best wishes & regards.

MM Qazi, DO, Zoo & Aquarium, Karachi Zoo, PAKISTAN

BANGLADESH

Dear Sally,

Recently completed SAZARC conference held in Nepal was a wonderful. The very design of the entire program site selection and its location in National Trust for Nature Conservation and mobilization of Resource person and overall management of host country was really appreciable. Besides our accommodation in an area which was suitable of the topic natures conservations. Riding of elephant and visit to elephant breeding farm was really much more educative.

The topic selection climate change and emerging diseases is very much inconformity with the global climate change issue. Actually your thought and actions on Zoo and Wildlife is always dynamic. The Zoo Directors learnt lot from the deliberations of the resource persons. Ms. Foden from IUCN was very much knowledgeable and her selection to this conference was worthy. Dr. Mark Irwin for Emerging diseases was also very appreciable, particularly in the way he set up his presentations for all to understand.

In this conference I personally was happy with the performance of Bangladeshi participants. I hope I could make you happy with the Nominations of these participants. If you have any comment I will appreciate to hear from you. My feeling on the arrangement of SAZARC conference is that every coin of the SAZARC fund was correctly utilized and fruitful for which you deserve sincere thanks and appreciation. Hope to see your future plan of action on SAZARC. Wish SAZARC will live long. With regards
Abdur Razzaque
Retd. D.G., Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Bangladesh

BHUTAN

Dear Sally,

Hope you are well. Thanks for inviting Kuenzang. I think from what you wrote the training was very relevant and useful for him. Please include Bhutan in such trainings in the future too. We have lot of field staff, who have lot of experiences but not availed any such trainings. Thank you for your continuous support.

Warm regards

Sonam Choden

Sr. Forest Officer , Wildlife Conservation Div., Bhutan

AFGHANI STAN

Dear Ms Sally,

I hope you are well. We arrived yesterday to our country safely , and once again I want to thank you deeply and all colleagues of Zoo Outreach Organization especially from your good self.

Ms Sally Walker and all supporters and donor organizations, really we got more experiences from the meeting of SAZARC and visits of Zoos in India. We will send all our reports of our trip to you and thanks for hospitality of both countries (Nepal and India). Thanks and Best regards
Aziz Gul Saqib, Director, Kabul Zoo, Afghanistan

AFGHANI STAN

Dear all!

I would like to thank David Jones, Sally Walker, all persons and organizations who provide all facility for Afghan delegation during the conference in Nepal and training in India. We had a very nice time in the two countries. We learn a lot about new issues during the conference and training. I hope to provide a standard management for zoo and ensure a safe and comfortable environment for zoo animals and birds.

I would like to mention about the conference and training report which we submit to Kabul municipality organization level especially Kabul Mayor. They became so happy and the report satisfied them. I would like to pass the Mayor's warm regards to you. And we will share our conference and training knowledge with our colleague and other organizations which are involved with wild and zoo. We are working on a report to send for all persons and organization who arrange and fund the program conference and training. Best wishes,
Mahtabuddin Ahmadi, Kabul Zoo Team, Municipality

NEPAL

Dear SAZARC

I participated in the 10th SAZARC annual conference held in Nepal during 22nd to 27th Nov 2010. The theme of the conference was 21st Century crisis – "Climate change, emerging disease and Terrorism affecting Zoos". Representatives of various zoos of India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bhutan attended the conference. Although I am working in conservation area, this conference has enriched and bestowed me with great knowledge and the importance of Zoos. Zoo is such a forum that one can educate not only children but can be use to educate each and every citizens for environment and biodiversity conservation. All the participants were experienced and friendly. Facilitators and resource persons were excellent.

Presentation made by Mark Irwin, is very informative and useful. Presentation highlighted that emerging & re-emerging diseases are a real threat to public health and zoo operation. It also highlights that 70-75% of emerging diseases are of animal origin. And for this Zoo need to plan for prevention, and response to emerging diseases. Identification of vulnerabilities, bio-security program, staff training, facilities, equipment & supplies and communications plan and finances are important. He also highlighted different types of diseases and its prevention. The occurrence of disease is a consequence of factors relating to the pathogen, host & environment. Environmental change as a result of climate change and other factors impacts all. There are numerous emerging diseases but common principles of prevention prevail. It is important to understand the pathogen, its unique characteristics and mode of transmission to most effectively manage the disease.

Presentation made by Wendy Foden about Climate Change and update till 2010 is fascinating, informative and of great importance. We blame each other for CO₂ emission, but the fact is that it's a high time to react and act how to minimize CO₂ release in the atmosphere. Let's try to live simply as much as practicable. Presentation reveals that with such increase of temperature by 2050, 15-37% of species and taxa in sample regions will go to extinction. At the end of the presentation panel discussion about the impact of climate change in relation to specific region was done and the result comes out excellent. Participants provided several examples in relation to climate change viz. glaciers shrinking, trees shifting in Himalayas, mosquitoes in higher altitude, phenology changes, sex ratios become uneven in case of turtles and gharial etc. The theme of the presentation according to my opinion is simply how devastating affects it will be if we continue like this without acting immediately to protect the environment and species. We must unit and act in order to safe this universe from further deterioration. Presentation also reveals that even the animals in zoos are threatened as a result of climate change and mitigation measures must be adopted. Group exercise was done to identify the species which are vulnerable to climate change including their sensitivity, exposure and adaptability.

The major outcome of this conference is the drafting of the Disaster management Plan based on the model developed for Zoological Parks of India. This will be adopted after finalizing for better benefit of our Zoo's including visitor, staff and animals. This conference becomes such a nice forum where each and every country participants share their knowledge and their working modality. This has increased knowledge and understanding of different Zoos in the SAARC region and has helped the participants to share knowledge and experience about Zoos management, species response and sensitivity. This will ultimately help the SAARC region for better improvement of zoos, better education and long term conservation of species.

Lastly, I would like to thank my organization National Trust for Nature Conservation for giving me the opportunity to participate in the conference. I would also like to thank Sarita Jnawali for continuous inspiration to participate in the conference. My sincere thanks go to the organizers for enriching me with great knowledge and learning. Last but not the least; I would like to thank all the participants for being so nice and friendly. I hope to see you all again in future. Sincerely,
Madhu Chetri, NTNC, Manaslu Cons. Area Project

INDIA

Dear All at NTNC and Central Zoo :

Thanks for all your great hospitality, planning and teamwork which made our SAZARC meeting so enjoyable and productive. There were no complaints and I can't think of a stone left unturned. You were great in the workshops also. I had a nice time with you, as usual, and we hope to do many more things with Central Zoo and NTNC. Best wishes and thank you from all around,
Sally, Sanjay, Latha, Daniel, Marimuthu, and ZOO team

To Donors

Dear All -- SAZARC Donors and others

The 10th Annual SAZARC conference was completed successfully. It was conducted in Chitwan National Park, Nepal which was a superb venue. We had a gathering the first night in Kathmandu at our hotel which included a short summary of the first SAZARC meeting which also was held in Kathmandu and then a presentation on the Kabul Zoo by Azizgul Saqib, Director, Kabul Zoo, and dinner. The following morning there was a very charming and enjoyable Inaugural ceremony that lasted just one hour when several dignitaries from the National Trust for Nature Conservation NTNC (our hosts along with Central Zoo) gave very short speeches followed by a gala tea and then a 5 hour drive to Chitwan.

As it was chilly in Chitwan NP we presented each participant a souvenir of an Indian shawl on the first day in the traditional manner of honoring each person by placing the shawl around their shoulders. The Central Zoo presented each participant with a genuine Tangkha made just for this occasion.

The training component took up most of four days but our host, Sarita Jnawali, Director of Kathmandu Zoo and SAZARC President arranged for tours into the National Park, visit to the elephant breeding centre of NTNC, canoeing, natural history museum visit, etc. all of this was done after training in the mornings before 9am or evenings after 5pm. The training was quite unique and special. The theme was 21st Century Crises: Species Susceptibility to Climate Change (3 lectures and a working group), Emerging Diseases with reference to the zoo and climate change (4 lectures and 2 working sessions) and Terrorism (a discussion including not just political but emotional terrorism such as suicide threats and attempts, etc.). We had as resource persons Dr. Wendy Foden, the climate

change programme officer for SSC IUCN, who was a fascinating presenter; Dr. Mark Irwin a zoo veterinarian and college lecturer whose lectures had been so well prepared and were so simple that even the people not so good in English could follow. Sanjay Molur presented on CBSG, RSG and the RSG Guidelines. B.A. Daniel and R. Marimuthu led the entire group in a one hour active learning session on education using our Climate Change and Biodiversity education packets.

Participants then worked country wise on an Emergency Response protocol for their country using a Manual developed by Central Zoo Authority. All of the groups did this very well and although it could not be completed in the three working afternoons, the need for such a plan for their zoo was firmly burned on their brains and it is almost certain they will progress it after their return. The participants, all from South Asian countries, had never even participated in a fire drill. Forward planning of this type does not occur so far in south Asia. All of them agreed that it was a necessary thing and appreciated the opportunity to work on it and discuss. We will include the country work in our Report of the conference and also make sure each participant gets a copy of their work in the next day or two so they can take it to their superior officer. Participants were from Afghanistan (5), from Pakistan (1), India 6 + ZOO staff, Sri Lanka (4), Bhutan (1), Bangladesh (6), and Nepal (17).

My staff and I were impressed with the attention and cooperation given the training and events by participants. I would like to thank you for your donation of funds to support this Annual event. I am not going to conduct

SAZARC next year but instead try and raise some funds for a corpus fund for Zoo Outreach Organisation. The next SAZARC meeting will, *Insha'llah*, be conducted at Kabul Zoo Afghanistan in 2012. Most of you have given generously for several years and I am very grateful. Starting with Afghanistan I am going to target international NGOs with an interest in supporting such and hope to begin a programme of convincing governments to support the training and conference. I think what you have invested has been invested well, for the most part and the very difficult zoo community of South Asia has learned many things and improved in a wide range of way. Again my very grateful thanks.

Best wishes,
Sally Walker, Founder/Director
South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation.

ALL COUNTRIES

To Superior officers giving permission to participants: Thank you for permitting your officers to attend the meeting. We had an excellent group and appreciate their input and enthusiasm for the topics on the Agenda.

My staff and I were impressed with the attention and cooperation given the training and events by participants. I would like to thank you again for permitting your officer to attend. Their time has been invested well as they have learned many things and their capacity might have improved in a wide range of ways. Again my very grateful thanks to you. Best wishes,
Sally Walker, Founder/Director, SAZARC



Ladies of SAZARC 2010 from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, India and USA