

Some International / Regional / National . . .NEWS, EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wildlife Dept to Release Blackbucks into the Wilderness

Dailytimes, Shoaib Ahmed, 28/07/2004 <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_28-7-2004_pg7_25>

The Punjab wildlife department will release blackbucks (*kala hiran*) in the semi-desert areas of Pakistan, the natural habitat of the animal, said wildlife department officials on Monday. About 1500 blackbucks are being reared in captivity in regions of Punjab and Sindh. They will be released in their natural habitat in the "near future", sources said.

A wildlife department official told Daily Times that the Punjab wildlife department had not taken any "concrete steps" to release blackbucks into their natural habitat. The official said that the efforts that had been made had not proven fruitful.

"Animals kept in captivity cannot immediately adopt to the atmosphere in the wild," he said. "They must be provided a similar environment before being released so that they can adapt to the new location better." He said that the wildlife department was not providing the blackbuck with such an environment and that a scientific approach was needed for the release of the blackbuck to avoid the extinction of the species.

The blackbuck is near extinction because of excessive poaching, predation, habitat destruction, diseases and inbreeding. The species is mainly found in India and in small numbers in Nepal. It was commonly found in Cholistan and was presented as a royal gift to other countries in the days of the British Raj. Herds of blackbucks could be seen in widespread plains, open woodlands and deserts in southern Pakistan. However, they are no longer visible in these areas. During the late 1970s and early 80s, small populations of blackbuck were brought from Texas for the purpose of a "reintroduction programme" in Pakistan, sources said. However, these projects have not been fruitful.

Today, blackbucks exist in small numbers in three or four locations of Pakistan, particularly in Kirthar, Sindh and Lal Sohanra National Parks in Punjab. Over 413 animals are being currently bred in the Lal Sohanra Park. More blackbucks are provided to the eminent conservationists from time to time for further conservation in Lal Sohanra's private reserve. At present, about 500 blackbucks are surviving in the Mir of Khairpur Mehrano reserve, 110 at Khangarh and 70 at New Jatoi, Nawab Shah. Apart from these, a small number is kept in zoos, wildlife centers and private farms and houses.

The unique feature of the blackbuck is that it is one of the few antelopes that exhibit pronounced sexual dimorphism. The gender of the animal is clearly distinguishable. Both sexes have white underpants, including the insides of the legs and lower chest, as well as a white ring surrounding the eye and a white chin. The weight of the blackbuck is somewhere between 25-35 kilogrammes. Females and the young have yellowish-fawn patches on their backs and heads and are generally hornless. The colouring of the males gradually darkens with age, from tan to deep brown or black. Their build is slender and their tails are shorter. Only the males have horns, which sprout before their pronounced colour change. The horns are twisted in a tight spiral with up to five turns. They may grow up to 35-73 cm or 14-29 inches.

One of the fastest moving land mammals, the blackbuck runs at a speed of 80 kmph or 48 mph. During the breeding season, males become territorial for two weeks to eight months. They defend an area ranging between one and 17 hectares from rival males and keep the largest group of females possible within their guarded

area. These guarded locations hold mixed herds of 5-50 animals with three or fewer males. Dominance of the males within a herd is achieved through threatening gestures.

Source: Daily Times

Editors' Note : For more information on these blackbucks and the captive breeding programme please refer ZOOS' PRINT, Vol. XIX, Number 1, January 2004.

International Conference –'Education for a Sustainable Future' (ESF), 18- 20 January, 2005, CEE, Ahmedabad, India

Centre for Environment Education (CEE India) in partnership with Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India along with UNESCO, is organizing an **International Conference on Education for a Sustainable Future**. This is an occasion to mark the beginning of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) and to share CEE's twenty years experience in EE and ESD.

CEE India is a national institution engaged in developing programmes and materials to increase awareness about the environment. CEE was established in 1984 as a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Education, supported by the MoEF, Government of India. It is affiliated to the Nehru Foundation for Development.

In 2004, CEE completes two decades of working to improve the quality of the environment and the quality of life, through educational initiatives. Over this period, CEE has developed innovative programmes and educational material, undertaken capacity building and training programmes, set up demonstration projects in education, communication and development, etc. to promote the process of sustainable development in the country.

'Education for a Sustainable Future' is planned as a forum for the international community of those involved in education and communication to meet and to share experiences and learnings in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

The forum will help to:

- Share the understanding, current status and needs of ESD.
- Showcase best practices for ESD from different parts of the world.
- Strengthen networking and active participation of all stakeholders for ESD for the next decade.
- Develop a strategy and blueprint of action for the Decade, including India's strategy and its role in the Decade.
- Work towards developing guiding principles, roadmaps and priorities for Education for Sustainable Development in the Decade.

Several thematic workshops focussing on Education for a Sustainable Future will be a part of the conference. An exhibition will also be organized during the conference.

We look forward to the participation of your organization and yourself in the Conference. Registration form and other details about the Conference are available on our website www.ceeindia.org/esf. You may want to coincide some of your meetings with the Conference, as this will be an opportunity to involve a large community of environmental educators. For further details, please contact the ESF Secretariat: ESF Secretariat
Centre for Environment Education
Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad, GUJARAT, INDIA – 380054
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Email: esf@ceeindia.org
or visit our website www.ceeindia.org/esf
With regards
Meena Raghunathan

ZOOLEX Workshop on Zoo Design [From Zoo News Digest](#)

A workshop on zoo design will be held at the Fasanerie Wiesbaden in Germany on Wednesday, September 8 and Thursday, September 9, 2004. ZooLex workshops are practice oriented and interactive. Design examples from zoos around the world are shown and discussed before working on design concepts in groups. The design task aims at improving the visitor experience at the Fasanerie Wiesbaden. Results will be presented to the park management and discussed in a plenary session. Information and registration: <http://www.zoolex.org/workshop.html#zoodesign>

Not a single animal curator TIMES NEWS NETWORK [SATURDAY, AUGUST 07, 2004 01:10:1

Delhi Zoo: Shortage of trained staff, incidentally, is a grave problem at the zoo. The total technical expertise includes a single veterinary officer, a biologist and an official in charge of education. The zoo does not even have a single animal curator. "National Zoological Park (NZP) needs to function as a scientific organisation with trained staff and qualified keepers, who scrutinise the behavioural pattern of animals and report any abnormality to the vet," says Central Zoo Authority's (CZA) scientific officer, Bipul Chakraborty. "NZP's sole veterinarian, although competent, is under great stress. Wonder why they are not appointing another one when the CZA norms clearly sanction at least two posts of vets in a zoo as big as Delhi," says former director, Delhi Zoo and eminent veterinarian, Dr B M Arora.

Several zoos in the country are short-staffed, but NZP being the national zoo and a research centre for breeding animals in captivity should definitely be better equipped, claims S K Patnaik, former director, Nandankannan Zoo. The educational qualification of zoo keepers has also drawn lot of flak from the CZA and wildlife experts. "While in foreign zoos, keepers are technical graduates often with doctorates, here they're not even Class X pass. Some are simply unlettered," points out a CZA official. An untrained keeper who merely brooms the enclosure and serves food is clearly not in the fitness of things, claim experts. For, crucial symptoms are clearly missed by them often leading to casualties, as probably in the case of Karan.

Meanwhile, even as the handful of technical staff at the NZP complain of being overworked, there is a palpable disenchantment, too, with regard to lack of incentives. "Where is the motivation when you retire at the same post on which you were recruited?" says a disgruntled zoo official.

The NZP faces no paucity of funds as it comes directly under the Union ministry of environment. Unlike other zoos of the country which are either private or under the state government, it has immense resources at its disposal. It's the ministry which needs to take up major revamping here in order to project it as national centre of wildlife, at par with an international zoo.

Orissa Zoo rescues baby elephant

Authorities at Orissa's Nandankannan Zoo have rescued a two-month-old elephant after it fell into a pit and was separated from its herd. The calf was found in Chandaka village, which borders a wildlife sanctuary and is often visited by elephants migrating to safer grounds during the monsoons. The injured calf lay in the pit for over three days before it was rescued in a nearly 12-hour operation.
<http://www.webindia123.com/news/showdetails.asp?id=45019&cat=India>

Himalayan Passage Opens At Chattanooga Zoo

Asian Culture and Animals Make Their Debut in Chattanooga
The Chattanooga Zoo invites you to take a stroll through the Asian wilderness in their new exhibit.

The Himalayan Passage opens today with a glimpse at explorer Marco Polo's trip across the Himalayan Mountains.

Animals from countries like China, Tibet, and India are the main attraction. Chattanooga Zoo Director Dadri Long tells News 12 about the stars of the new exhibit.

[http://www.wdef.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WDEF%2FMGArticle%](http://www.wdef.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WDEF%2FMGArticle%2F)

Delhi Zoo loses another Royal Bengal Tiger

Death struck yet again at the National Zoological Park (NZP) as it lost its sole hand-reared Royal Bengal Tiger on Thursday. Three-year-old Karan was fighting fit till 3 pm on Wednesday, when he was tranquillised along with four other animals for collection of blood samples. While all the five animals recovered within the next couple of hours, Karan was found dead by the zoo-keepers during a routine

check at 8.30 am. According to the post mortem conducted by zoo doctors, Karan had holes in the lungs that could not bear the stress of sedation. "This was a congenital problem, but since he never displayed any external symptoms, there was no way we could have foreseen this tragedy," said zoo doctor Dr Panneer Selvam. Dr Selvam however admitted that Karan used to pant hard sometimes in summers.
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/804707.cms>

Myanmar Peacock Eaters Get Prison Terms

A fashionable repast for kings in medieval times, peacock is off the menu now as two poachers here learned when they were recently imprisoned for eating two of the showy fowl. The men were sentenced to three years in prison each for killing and eating two peacocks stolen in February from a wildlife reserve, a weekly journal reported Wednesday.

Win Naing and Moe Htike were found guilty and sentenced on July 7 for killing the birds at the Hlawga Wildlife Park just north of Yangon, the magazine 7 Days reported.

Under Myanmar Forestry Law peacocks are protected species and killing one draws a penalty of up to 7 years in prison and a fine of no more than \$833 at the official rate of exchange, or \$5.18 at the more commonly used black market rate.

<http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/world/9319420.htm?1c>

Smuggled birds find home in Thiruvananthapuram zoo

A rich collection of exotic birds, including seven ostrich chicks, have found home in the zoo here after they were rescued while being smuggled in from abroad. The birds, seized by the customs authorities at the Nedumbasery

Airport near Kochi 10 days ago, were brought here from the Wildlife Rescue Centre at Kodanad in Ernakulam district, where they were sheltered initially, Director of Zoo and Public Gardens C.S. Yalackki said. The collection comprised over 100 birds, including pigeons, quails and pheasants, whose trade was banned.

<http://www.manoramaonline.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=manorama/MmArticle/>

Alternative route to Lahore Zoo 'being delayed'

An alternative route to the Lahore Zoo on The Mall has yet to be developed even after a month of the deadline.

The government had uprooted several old trees at the zoo to make an alternative passage to it because the chief minister secretariat at 90-The Mall wanted to have a separate way. Heaps of debris in front of the zoo's main entrance are still creating problems for visitors. The communication and works department had to lay an alternative route and build the gate opposite a five-star hotel by June 30. But none of those was built because of slow pace of work by the department, which has yet to lay

sewerage system. The zoo officials are facing difficulties in draining out rainwater and their plea to the department to expedite work fell on deaf ears. The new gate being built on the edge of The Mall may hinder the traffic flow and cause accidents. An elephant sculpture, which has been placed at the previous main entrance at the zoo since 1986, will be relocated at the new entrance. The zoo authorities are also considering the plan to place some eight sculptures of different animals on the way to the zoo on The Mall. <http://www.dawn.com/2004/08/03/local15.htm>

Noida plans a bird park

Wild animals and birds should feel at home in Noida. The Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) has plans for a bird sanctuary on 108 hectares of land. This comes on the heels of the government having announced the setting up of a Singapore-style night safari zoological park in Noida

A sight has been selected for setting up the bird sanctuary near Khodna Khurd and work would start in a few months after the layout is finalised. Though the place already has dense forests, experts have advised the authorities to plant more fruit trees so that migratory birds are attracted to the area. It would also be developed as a tourist destination.

GNIDA has been seeking advice from officials of other national parks and bird sanctuaries, like Dudhwa National Park's assistant director P.P. Singh, who surveyed the site on Wednesday.

The cost of building the sanctuary - around Rs.2 crores - would be borne by the authority. The land on which the park is planned belongs to the forest department. Apart from planting fruit trees, ponds and other water bodies too would also be developed to provide natural habitat for migratory birds. *By Kapil Datta, Hindustan Times, 9 Sept 04.*

2004-2005 -- some International zoo & wildlife conservation events

2004

October 1-7, 2004 -- 50th Annual Indian Wildlife Week, all over India.

October 3-14, 2004 - CITES, Bangkok, (www.cites.org)

October 4, 2004 - World Animal Day

October 14 to 17, 2004 - The 25th Annual Elephant Managers Association Conference hosted by Tulsa Zoo and Living Museum, Tulsa, OK, Pre and Post Trips scheduled to Dickerson Park Zoo and Riddle's Elephant and Wildlife Sanctuary (Oct 18th). For more info E-Mail: karendunn@ci.tulsa.ok.us (www.elephant-managers.com)

October 28 to 31, 2004 - Annual Conference of CBSG to be held at Taipei (Taiwan) www.cbsg.org; (<http://www.zoo.gov.tw/cbsg&waza/index.htm>)

October 31 to November 4 - Annual Conference of WAZA to be held at Taipei (Taiwan) (<http://www.zoo.gov.tw/cbsg&waza/index.htm>)

November 17 to 26, 2004 - IUCN Conference, Bangkok (www.iucn.org)

November 21 to 24, 2004 - Symposium on Construction and Maintenance in Zoos, Zoo Zürich, Switzerland (www.zoo.ch)

November 23 to 25, 2004 - China International Recreational Fisheries and Aquarium Congress & Exhibition (CIRFA) (www.cnfm.gov.cn/recreational/recreationalfisheries.htm)

November 29-30 - 2nd Annual CBSG/RSG meeting for South Asia, organised by Punjab Wildlife Department, IUCN Pakistan, WWF, Pakistan, ZOO, WILD, SAZARC. CBSG, South Asia, RSG, South & East Asia at Lahore Zoo, Pakistan.

December 1 to 5, 2004 - SAZARC Meeting, Lahore, Pakistan. SAZARC at Lahore Zoo, Pakistan with Punjab Wildlife Department, Lahore Zoo, IUCN P and WWF P, Zoo Outreach Organisation, (www.zooreach.org)

December 3 to 5, 2004 - International Elephant Research Symposium. Presented by the International Elephant Foundation and the Fort Worth Zoo, Texas, USA (www.fortworthzoo.org)

December 3 to 5, 2004 - International Elephant Research Symposium, Presented by the International Elephant Foundation and the Fort Worth Zoo, Texas, USA (www.fortworthzoo.org)

December 5 to 10, 2004 - 6th Int. Aquarium Congress, Monterey Bay (USA) (www.iac2004.org)

2005

February 14-18 2005 - Conservation Assessment and Management Plan Workshop and Disease Risk Assessment workshop for Hoolock Gibbon, Bangladesh and Indian populations. Venue to be announced in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Organised by CBSG, South Asia, PSG South Asian Primate Network, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, Forest Department of Bangladesh, ZOO and WILD.

February 19 - 4 March 2005 - three Teachers for Tigers Training Workshops for rural schoolteachers, city schoolteachers, selected NGOs, zoo personnel, on a riverboat in Sunderbans, in Dhaka at the Asiatic Society and the Dhaka Zoo. Organised by ZOO and Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh in collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, New York. Sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife Service Tiger Rhino ConservationFund.

March 4-6 2005 - Field Techniques for Volant and Non-volant Small Mammals, venue to be announced in Bangladesh, ZOO, WILD, CCINSA, RILSCINSA, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, etc. Sponsored by Bat Conservation International BCI and Chester Zoo. Mike Jordan, Paul Racey ?, Sharoukh Mistry ?, Sanjay Molur, P.O. Nameer and C. Srinivasalu - trainers.

March 1 to 11, 2005 - 16th Annual Conference of PAAZAB, National Zoological Gardens, Emerald Animal World, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa

May 1 to 5, 2005 - ARAZPA-SEAZA Joint Annual Conference, Melbourne Zoological Gardens, Parkville

June 1 to 4, 2005 - International Zoo Marketing Conference, Allwetterzoo Münster, Germany (www.aalborgzoo.dk/marketing2005)

September 6 to 11, 2005 - EAZA Annual Conference in Bristol Zoo, Bristol, UK.

1. Conservation Breeding S.G., South Asia & Reintroduction S.G. South & East Asia Meeting
2. 5th Annual Conference of SAZARC South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation

Lahore Zoo, Punjab Wildlife Department, Zoo Outreach Organisation
 World Wide Fund for Nature, Pakistan, & IUCN Pakistan



1. Conservation Breeding S.G., South Asia & Reintroduction S.G. South & East Asia Meeting

29 Nov 9 am – 6 pm CBSG SA / RSG S&E Asia workshop - Venue – Lahore Zoo
30 Nov 9 am – 6 pm CBSG SA /RSG S&E Asia workshop - Lahore Zoo

2. Training in Animal Nutrition and Zoo Population Management for Conservation and Welfare of Wild Animals

1-5 December 2003 – Lahore Zoo and Punjab Wildlife Department

Date	Time	Agenda item
1 Dec	1000 - 1100	Inaugural function
	1100 - 1130	Introductions of participants and announcements
	1130 - 1230	Presentation by Dr. Bob Lacy, Chair CBSG
	1230 - 1300	Introduction to Nutrition sessions, Ellen Dierenfeld
	1300 - 1330	Introduction to Zoo Population Management Bob Lacy & Miranda Stevenson
	1330 - 1415	Lunch
	1415 - 1530	Participants presentations
	1530 - 1730	Tour of the Lahore Zoo
	1730 - 1800	Another tea
	1800 - 2000	Shopping on nearby Mall Road
	2000 -	Dinner at the zoo
2 Dec	0830 - 1100	Training - Nutrition, Ellen Dierenfeld
	1100 - 1115	Tea
	1115 - 1330	Zoo Population Management, Miranda Stevenson
	1330 - 1415	Lunch
	1415 - 1600	World Zoo & Aquarium Conservation Strategy SAZARC Action Plan Working Group
	1600 - 1700	Participants presentations
3 Dec	0830 - 1100	Nutrition, Ellen Dierenfeld
	1100 - 1245	Zoo Population Management, Miranda Stevenson
	1245 - 1315	Prayers
	1315 - 1400	Lunch
	1415 - 1600	World Zoo & Aquarium Conservation Strategy SAZARC Action Plan Working Group
	16:00 - 1700	Participants presentations
	18.00	(Shopping at Anarkali) and dinner at Food Street)
4 Dec	0830 - 1100	Nutrition, Ellen Dierenfeld
	1100 - 1315	Zoo Population Management, Miranda Stevenson
	1315 - 1400	Working Lunch – at table
	1400 - 1600	SAZARC Committee working groups
	1600 - 1700	Working Group presentations
	1800 -	Musical evening at Jallo Park and dinner
5 Dec	0830 - 1100	Nutrition – closing session, Ellen Dierenfeld
	1100 - 1315	Zoo Population Management, Miranda Stevenson – closing
	1315 - 1400	Lunch
	1400 - 1530	SAZARC Committee working groups
	1530 - 1700	SAZARC Business meeting
	1700 - 1800	Validictory
	1800 - 2000	back to hotel and shopping at Liberty market
	2030 -	Closing Dinner at Gymkhana
6-7 Dec	Mon Tue	Tour