

News of Central Zoo Authority

International News

An International Conference on India's Conservation Breeding Initiative will be held from 21st to 24th February, 2008 in New Delhi, India organised by Central Zoo Authority in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India and National Zoological Park, New Delhi.

The Conference will be held at National Agriculture Science Centre, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi - 110 012 (India). Accommodation for the resource persons and participants has been arranged at International Guest House in the same campus.

It has been decided in the Central Zoo Authority that the Indian Zoos must have at least 100 (Target of 350 in captivity in world of which 100 must be in India) physically, genetically and behaviourally healthy individuals of each critically endangered wild animal species with less than few hundreds/ thousands (or say less than 2500) individuals left in the wild. Species with localized distribution get preference in the scheme of things. Proper captive stock to continue display, to act as insurance for the exigency and for reintroduction/ release in wild, in case needed, form very base of conservation breeding programme in India. The *ex-situ* conservation breeding of endangered species in India is a joint venture of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* wildlife managers. It is a need based activity. The *in-situ* wildlife managers identified the species which need immediate intervention in form of *ex-situ* conservation breeding and also the habitats for which the activity is proposed. Taking corrective measures to address the cause of earlier decline/ extinction of the wild population of the targeted species is one of the important components of the programme. The existing Zoos are the other major component of the programme as there is huge infrastructure and trained/ experienced manpower available over there to deal with the issue.

Two to four Zoos in the habitat range of the targeted species take part in the breeding programme, whereas, the breeding facilities in the form of off-display conservation breeding centres are created only in one (coordinating Zoos) to two Zoos of the region. Other Zoos in addition to the coordinating and participating Zoo continue to display the species in naturalistic enclosures. Possibility of identifying around 25 founders is assessed from existing captive population in Indian Zoos. Efforts are made to acquire suitable founders from rescue centres, foreign Zoos and even from wild to initiate the programme or to induce new blood in the existing captive populations. The Central Zoo Authority is providing funds for creation of off-display conservation breeding facilities and engagement of technical manpower for preparation of conservation breeding management plan for each identified species in coordinating Zoos. The Wildlife Institute of India has been entrusted the work of preparation and updating the national studbooks/ herd books of all the targeted species including marking and preparing animal history sheets of all the participating individuals. A National Referral Centre has been established at Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly to provide super speciality services and diagnostic facilities to the Zoos for physical health check-up and health care of the animals. A Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) for biotechnological interventions has been established at Hyderabad for doing genetic fingerprinting of the founders and others. World Association of Zoos & Aquariums/ Conservation

Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG)/ SSC/ IUCN have also been requested to be engaged and support the activity. All the major Zoos in India are joining ISIS/ ZIMS. Fifty eight different critically endangered wild animal species have been identified for adoption under coordinated conservation breeding programme in India.

National

Hands on training on Avian Influenza to the Veterinarians working with Indian Zoos

The Central Zoo Authority organised a one day hands on training workshop for the Veterinarians working with the Indian Zoos at Guwahati, Kolkata, Bhubneshwar, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Trivendrum, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Bhopal, Ranchi, Sikkim, Itanagar, Tripura, Pune and Mysore Zoo to take effective preventive and preparatory action against the eventuality of Avian Influenza in captive animals. The Joint Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India collaborated in the said training to be held at Arignar Anna Zoological park Vandalur Chennai on 5th October, 2007 from 10 AM.

National Workshop for preparing a road map for the conservation of Bustards in the Country

Keeping in view of the declining population of the Bustards in the country, especially in the protected areas created for the preservation of the species, the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India conducted a Workshop for their conservation at 11.00 A.M. onward on 4th October, 2007 at International Guest House, NASC, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi - 110 014. The Chief Wildlife Wardens of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Karnataka & West Bengal and well known experts from various organizations will be participating in the meeting. The workshop came out with an *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation action plan for the Bustards in the country.

Training Mid-Level Officers on Zoo Management :

The Central Zoo Authority organizes theme based short term training programme for Middle Level Officer (Biologist, Curator, Education Officer, Public Relation Officer etc.) of Indian Zoos regularly on annual basis. The Central Zoo Authority in collaborations with Wildlife Institute of India Dehradun organised a 10 days Workshop for the Middle Level Officer of Indian Zoos from 9th January to 18th January 2008 at Ahmedabad on Zoo Management with special focus on Zoo Interpretation, signages/graphics, outreach/education activities, visitors facilities, marketing and fund raising.

Training Workshop for Zoo Keepers

The Central Zoo Authority organizes training programmes for in service Zoo Keepers in Indian Zoos on regional basis annually. Zoos at Pune, Trivandrum, Chandigarh, Patna, Bhopal, Vandalur Chennai and Guwahati has been asked to organize the training programmes for the Zoo Keepers and lower level zoo personnel in the States/ regions. The training programme at each venue will be of 2 weeks accommodating around 25 personnel. Dates of training programme are being fixed by respective Zoos.

