

## SAZARC Committee Reports

### *Report of the SAZARC Director and Chair of the Conservation Committee*

#### **Annual Meeting 2003**

SAZARC held its 4th Annual Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka at the National Zoo. This meeting included a 5-day training with Nutrition for 2 hours and Zoo Design for 2 hours. Afternoons were devoted to participant presentations, SAZARC business, and working groups which reviewed the Draft WAZCS in 2 sessions. The comments of participants were sent to the WAZCS Chairman, Coordinator and Editor who considered them for incorporation in the document. SAZARC accepted the invitation of the Punjab Wildlife Department and the Lahore Zoo to host the 5th Annual SAZARC Conference and elected conference host Mr. Qadeer Mehal, Director of Zoos of Punjab as President, as per tradition. The designation of Sally Walker was changed from Patron to Director of SAZARC. Forty-two participants attended. This conference was unique in that the host, NZG, Sri Lanka, raised funds for many local costs. This made it possible for three Director Generals in-charge of zoos who are responsible for policy and decision-making to attend the meeting and resulted in a surplus applied on the 5th Conference.

#### **Other meetings held in association with SAZARC**

Annual Meeting always provides a venue for many other important meetings and in 2004 meeting of the Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asian and IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group was conducted as well as the first CBSG South Asia/RSG South and East Asia meeting. Also a PHVA for Sri Lankan Star Tortoise and a CAMP for South Asian Chelonians was held.

#### **WAZA membership**

It has been the wish and the dream of SAZARC members from its inception to become part of the international zoo community by joining the WAZA. In April of this year SAZARC was nominated and later in the year the membership was approved. Now SAZARC is a full association member of WAZA and we will have to work hard to keep this valued membership.

#### **Preparation for 2004 training**

For this Fifth Annual meeting SAZARC followed-up the work done by the Sri Lanka conference with Ellen Dierenfeld training in zoo nutrition by asking representatives in all the countries to send nutritional information to the SAZARC secretariat in preparation for Part II Zoo Nutrition training for 2004. SAZARC again was awarded a training grant for the meeting in 2004.

#### **New countries**

SAZARC has added two countries this year, Bhutan which has one facility, the Breeding Centre, Phuentsholing and Afghanistan which has one zoo, the Kabul Zoo. Afghanistan was represented in this meeting but the Bhutan representative could not come.

#### **Improvement of Zoos through Legislation and Association**

South Asia contains more than 300 zoos of which about 75–100 are “standard” zoos with a respectable area, staff, infrastructure, budget and good intentions. Most of these are far from international standard but have much potential. The remainder fall far below a minimum standard of management and are therefore consumers of wild animals rather than conservators. Zoo associations work together both inter and intra regionally to exchange captive born animals and avoid taking wildlife from the wild. This is one way cooperation can help zoos improve – by sharing expertise and knowledge. Until four years ago, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan were more or less isolated from one another and from the global zoo community. From 2000, zoo personnel from Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka have been meeting and discussing their issues and problems of zoo management. This has resulted in a surge of interest in national associations and national legislation. National legislation making its rounds of the various government ministries in Bangladesh and the concept has been approved in principle in Pakistan and just requires a meeting to get it off the ground. The first meeting of the Bangladesh Zoo Association will take place in October 2004 to approve their constitution and attend to registration tasks. A meeting of the Pakistan Zoo Association has been called for by SAZARC Director as the association has been approved in principle by the government.

#### **SAZARC Training during the year**

In October 2004 ZOO/CBSG, South Asia and SAZARC organized a unique series of training workshops in Pakistan along with a host of other collaborators and sponsored by Chester Zoo, Knowsley Safari Park and Universities Federation for Animal welfare. A zoo management training course and a field techniques training course was organized three different cities, Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore. These training workshops were extremely well received by the wildlife, academic, and zoo community as well as the press. Mr. Mansoor Qazi, Director of Karachi Zoo and Karachi Safari Park, Dr. Khalid Baig, Curator, Pakistan Museum of Natural History, Islamabad, Mr. Qadeer Mehal, Director, Punjab Wildlife Department, Lahore and Ms. Uzma Khan, WWF Pakistan and ZOO representative in Pakistan did a wonderful job of organisation and facilitation of the trainings. Paul Racey, Regius Professor of Natural History, Aberdeen University (bats) and Mike Jordan, Curator, Chester Zoo (rodents) were assisted by Sanjay Molur, Dy. Director, ZOO as resource persons for field techniques training. Mike Jordan and Paul Racey, with their history of both field and zoo experience, did double duty in zoo management training assisted by Uzma Khan and Sally Walker. Director represented SAZARC at the mid-year meetings of CBSG, of WAZCS, and of CIRCC in Bern, Switzerland. SAZARC was represented for the first time as a full association member in the WAZA meeting in Taipei this year by its President, Qadeer Mehal, Chairman, HANT Perera and Director, Sally Walker.

***Submitted by Sally Walker, Director, SAZARC, & Chair, Conservation Committee***

### **Report of the Nutrition Committee of SAZARC**

The 4th annual general meeting of the SAZARC meeting was held at the National Zoological Gardens, Sri Lanka from 1st Dec to 6th Dec, 2003. For this training in captive animal nutrition, the participants were from Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. The main theme of the training was the Zoo Animal nutrition.

The lectures and workshops were conducted by Ms Ellen Dierenfeld as primary instructor. The series of lectures included mainly diet assessments, feeding management and health in relation to the diet. The main idea was to give a basic knowledge in feeding of the zoo exhibits which will promote conservation, health and welfare.

On the first day different working groups were formed and each group was given the task of the preparation of diet charts for different species. The species selected for the working groups were carnivores, herbivores, primates avian and reptiles.

### **Criteria for determining diets**

The average body weights were the basic criteria for calculating the nutritional requirement.

### **Evaluation of Nutritional requirement**

Using the above criterion and a general equation energy requirement for basal metabolism, (BMR) maintenance and growth were calculated within the groups. The general equation was adapted to take into consideration the difference in metabolism in different species. The generic food list with energy values was provided by the instructor. Knowing the energy requirement of the species, calculating the amount of food required followed. Then these reports were discussed in an open forum with the participants of the other working group.

**Outdoor experience on nutrition.** On the last day a session was held at the Elephant orphanage, Pinnawela with regard to nutrition of elephants.

### **Other items on the workshop agenda**

Daily specific topics were presented followed by exercises by the same working groups and then taken for open discussions. Links between nutrition with health and reproduction were also incorporated. Emphasis was also given on behavioral enrichment by presentation of feeds.

### **Benefits**

While working together the participants shared their knowledge and information. The participants identified their local agencies from which nutrition composition data may be obtained for applied feeding programs.

### **Follow up**

Training material will be provided by the SAZARC office for distribution among the participants. These will include CDs with all information on presentations and notes. The follow up session of the zoo nutrition will be held in Lahore, Pakistan in December 2004.

**Submitted by Dr. Jayanthi Alahakoon, Chair, Nutrition Committee**

### **Report of the Education and Welfare Committee of SAZARC**

### **International Zoo Educators Conference, Ocean Park, Hong Kong.**

The International Zoo Educators 17th Biennial Conference was held at Ocean Park, Hong Kong in September 2004. South Asia was well represented by B.A. Daniel of ZOO, India; Gigi Joseph of the Kerala Forest Department, India; Rachana Shah of Central Zoo, Nepal, Kalichelvan of Bhilai Zoo, India and Uzma Khan of WWF-P, SAZARC, Pakistan. All participants were sponsored by the IZE Sponsorship Programme or the Wildlife Conservation Society. Uzma Khan presented a paper on 'The Lahore Zoo education programme and changing attitudes for future'; Daniel, representing the Asian Regional Network of International Zoo Educators ARNIZE and ZOO gave a presentation on ARNIZE and Zoo Education in Asia and another on "The Challenges of Zoo Education at Kabul Zoo, Afghanistan" (since the other sponsored candidate Mohammed Faizel could not attend); Gigi Joseph's presentation was entitled "Teacher Training Programmes to conserve Tiger and Its Natural Habitat; Rachana Shah's presentation was entitled "A March to Conservation"; T. Kalaichelvan presented on "Zoo Education – An Experience". Sally Walker, Regional Representative for Asia resigned and Ms. Flora, Education Officer from Taiwan was selected to represent Asia.

Zoo Outreach Organisation intends starting a South Asian conservation and education network to replace ARNIZE in South Asia. It was found that trying to manage a region the size of Asia was impractical and resulted in less being done for individual zoos than taking a sub-regional approach. The new network will be linked with SAZARC.

### **Education News from Pakistan**

Zoo Management Training – Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore SAZARC, aided by its administrative office host, Zoo Outreach Organisation, organised Zoo Management Training and Small Mammals field techniques workshop for the professionals at Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. Lectures were given on the aspects of captive management, zoo collection planning, environmental enrichment, keeper training, zoo design, bat husbandry, rodent exhibition techniques and other topics.

### **Dolphin Awareness Posters**

In Pakistan, Indus Dolphin awareness posters have been printed by the Lahore Zoo and presently are being distributed among the schools in the vicinity of the Indus River close to the Sukkur Barrage area and are also being placed in the local communities. The objective is to raise awareness about the Indus dolphin to encourage local communities to report stranded dolphin in the irrigation canals.

### **Hiring of Education Officer at the Lahore Zoo**

Lahore Zoo has now created its own post of an education officer. This is the first internal recruitment of an education officer at any zoo in Pakistan, previously Lahore Zoo's education activities were conducted through outside support, which was through WWF – Pakistan.

### **School Presentations**

In order to highlight the conservation issues to school children in an interesting manner, story telling was introduced. The first story highlights the vulture crisis and the lesson of the story is that deeds but not the good looks are important and environmental health is critical for the survival of species. The story was told using stuffed animal toys of White backed vulture and Mute Swan. Environmental games are also part of regular educational activities with the school children. This has been very successful in making learning about environment more interactive. Further, a special trip of the Zoo was organised for the SOS village children. Children first made enrichments for the zoo primates, these enrichments were given to the animals with help of zoo keepers. Such activities give children a feeling of directly doing something good for animals and are highly encouraged to be adopted by other zoos in the region.

### **Karachi Zoo Education**

Karachi Zoo conducted education programme for school children with the children of the "progressive Children Academy" participated in the programme entitled "Information and awareness about indigenous species" which lasted from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. The programme covered information regarding Himalayan Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) which is found in Pakistan. Nearly 100 students were present. A poster competition and speeches about the Himalayan Black Bear was held by the students.

ADO Zoologist, Mrs. Abida Raees, covered many biological aspects of the Himalayan Black Bear including taxonomy, physiology, breeding, feeding, care management, threats and conservation. The children showed deep interest in the lecture. The competitions were judged and prizes given to students. On the very next day the print media gave wide coverage to the event.

In continuation of this series of education programme, Karachi Zoo also conducted a poster competition and informative lecture on the Python. This programme was attended by the students of Sir Syed Secondary School Gulshan-e-Maymar, Karachi. The children were briefed about the python: its physiology, behaviour, morphology, feeding habitats, commerce and conservation. The children were also told about the causes of their extinction. A Python was fed in front of the children to show them its feeding mechanism and how they capture their prey.

### **India**

India celebrated its 50th Wildlife Week this year in October first week. Zoo Outreach Organisation provided 100,000 packets free of charge for zoos who ordered agreeing to pay postage and run a programme using the packets according to ZOO guidelines. ZOO provided educational materials to zoos in India for Animal Welfare Fortnightly, Vana Mahotsava, World Environment Day, and other special occasions.

ZOO based taxon networks are running education programmes with materials prepared for bats, rodents, bears, reptiles, tigers, primates, etc. Some of these packets are being given out at the SAZARC meeting. SAZARC

members are welcome to use an idea or illustrations in the packets giving due credit to ZOO and the sponsors.

Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore, conducted Youth Club Activities during school holidays and has created a post for Education Officer in their zoo.

Bhilai Steel Plant Zoo and Chennai Snake Park have taken a decision to expand their education activities as the major component of their conservation programme. Both facilities have very regular programmes and a special education "cell" in accordance with suggestion by the CZA.

Teachers for Tigers Training Workshops were conducted in three localities this year including the National Zoological Park, New Delhi. NZP is known for its excellent education programme and activities. The same workshops will be conducted at Bangladesh at Dhaka Zoo, Sunderbans and at the Asiatic Society in February 2005.

### **Nepal Essay competition in Wild**

An Essay competition on the topic "Role of Conservation Education in the Zoo" was held for FOZ members from class 8 to 10th on 10th November 2003. It was quite an adventurous experience for the students to write about the Zoo amidst the animals. The competition was open to all the FOZ members. A total of 104 students from 18 different schools of the Kathmandu valley participated in the competition.

### **Wildlife Drawing and Coloring Competition**

Senior and Junior Drawing competition was held for FOZ members on 17th November and 24th November 2003 respectively. The poster was given to the students prior to the competition and was asked to bring it on the day. On the spot topic "Our Nature Our Environment" was given to the students to draw and color.

### **Animal Feeding**

Animal feeding program was opened for both members and non-members from class 5-7 throughout the month of November 2003. A total of 574 students from 14 different schools participated in the program. The main objective was to show the feeding behavior of the Zoo animals and to inculcate a feeling of affection and care towards wild animals among young children.

### **Night Guided tour**

The Night guided tour was opened for FOZ members from 9th Dec 2003 till 9th January 2004. A total of 7 tours were conducted and 293 students from 13 different schools participated in the program. The main objective of this program was to acquaint the students about the behaviour of the nocturnal animals in the zoo.

### **Winter Day Camp**

Two day Winter day camp on February 16th, 2004 and February 20th, 2004 was held for FOZ members for class 7-9. A total of 77 students from 25 different schools of the valley participated in the program. Mr. Laxmi Manadhar, Senior Conservation Education Officer of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation briefed the



students about the National Parks and Conservation issues of the country. The disadvantages of use of plastic inside the Zoo was briefed by Assistant Curator Mr. Ganesh Koirala to the students and plastic was exchanged with the paper bag among Zoo visitors. The activities also included an outdoor visit to SOS village as an interaction program among the students.

**Submitted by Uzma Khan, Chair, Education and Welfare Committee**

#### **Training Committee of SAZARC**

The Training Committee has identified several courses of zoo management and related training for SAZARC members.

#### **International**

The most well known international training courses are those which take place at the International Training Centre ITC located at the Durrell Wildlife Preservation Trust at Jersey in Channel Islands. An Endangered Species Management course is available twice a year for four month period. There are scholarships available for these courses. Another course on Conservation which is more theoretical lasts three weeks but carries no scholarship.

The International Congress of Zookeepers is a newly formed association which aims to upgrade professionalism of zookeepers. ICZ now arranges a biannual conference only but hopes to organise training for zookeepers in different parts of the world. The South Asian countries need to nominate representatives from their zoo to attend the ICZ Congress.

#### **Regional**

The Zoo Outreach Organisation runs several training courses a year on field techniques, including training in zoo management from time to time, with internationally known trainers from USA, Europe & Australia. These generally take place in different South Asian countries, sometime inviting participants from the neighboring countries. The Training Committee recommends that ZOO make these courses more widely available and known to the zoo community. ZOO also conducts training workshops associated with IUCN SSC Specialist Groups, such as for the Reintroduction Specialist Group and the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, annually just before or just after SAZARC meetings. ZOO's conservation workshops, such as CAMPs and PHVAs, also act as a kind of training in conservation biology, small populations, population dynamics, etc.

The Centre for Environmental Education in Ahmedabad conducts a variety of courses in environmental education and other environmental issues which range from a few days to several months. Other NGO's offer periodic training on a regional basis.

#### **National**

The Central Zoo Authority offers a two week training in Zoo Management in alternate years for Zoo Directors and for Technical and Supervisory level personnel. CZA also provides funds for one zoo in every region to organise Zookeeper Training in local languages.

#### **Recommendations from the Committee**

The Central Zoo Authority may like to consider offering seats in their annual courses to zoo personnel from other regions, assuming the language is compatible. The Chair of this Committee spoke with the Member Secretary on this issue. The Governments of the various South Asian countries should write a letter to Central Zoo Authority stating the need and requesting a seat or two for their zoo staff in these courses.

**Submitted by Dr. R. K. Sahu, Chair of the Training Committee**

#### **Veterinary committee Report of SAZARC**

Responsibilities of the Veterinary Committee

- Providing information about new medicine
- Providing information relevant to veterinary care of wildlife

The impact of human population on zoo and wild is very intrusive in terms of animal health. It is crucial to develop a buffer zone around the zoo or sanctuary, due to the rapid growth of human population and its settlement almost to the vicinity of the zoo grounds and even the protected areas. In this type of condition chances of spreading disease from domestic animals to zoo and wild animals increases.

Veterinarians need to get feedback of diseases which we can do by developing relations with the Panchayats or Municipal Corporation Head for exchange of information about the Cattle population. We can get information about prevalence of diseases in animals from local veterinary doctors who visit the villages/urban areas around the zoo or protected area. We can organise free vaccination camps for domestic animals to minimise the chances of spread of such diseases to the animals in the zoo/sanctuary. We can also help by organizing treatment camps and educating the villagers about diseases.

#### **Vaccination**

There are various vaccines for each disease in the market made available by the Indian immunological Company. Raksh Trivac is one such vaccine which gives protection against foot and mouth disease, Haemorrhagic Septicemia, Black Quarter. Because it tackles these three monster diseases with one shot it saves manpower as well as protects the animals for long and makes them strong against contagion. It is effective even as a combination of bacterial and viral component.

Dogs of the surrounding areas of the zoo and protected areas can be vaccinated for rabies. Again Indian Immunologicals Ltd. has developed new and potent vaccine for rabies called Raksharab.

**Submitted by Ganesh Dubey, Chair, Veterinary Committee**

