

ZOOS PRINT Newsprint

India gifts wild animals to Tajikistan

Five monkeys, two leopards and two barking deer will be India's gift to Tajikistan. The animals that will be flown to the Central Asian country Saturday will also be accompanied by a team of four experts to train the Tajik officials on handling their new visitors, officials here said. The monkeys, leopards and barking deer are being gifted by our government after Tajikistan requested them for their only zoo in the Tajik capital Dushanbe, said Susheel Sood, a veterinary doctor travelling with the animals.

"These Himalayan animals were housed in a nature park on the outskirts of Shimla until now because temperature there was similar to that in Tajikistan," Sood told IANS from New Delhi. There was initially a proposal to shift two black bear also, but that has been put off for the moment due to transportation difficulties. Officials are also not ruling out the possibilities of more requests from the Tajiks for the Dushanbe Zoo. *Credit [India News]: Shimla, March 17.*

(Note : This is particularly interesting in view of the press report appearing on the same day, e.g. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh also informed the Board that the government will ban any gift of animals by the head of state or government to other heads of state or governments or foreign zoos).

Increasing trade in illegal ivory

A new study by TRAFFIC has shown that markets in Africa and Asia continue to drive an illegal trade in elephant ivory. There is progress in the world's largest ivory market, China, but there are unregulated markets elsewhere. The study is based upon more than 9,400 elephant product seizure records held in the Elephant Trade Information System. China, Thailand, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria were identified as the most highly implicated countries in illegal ivory trading Worldwide. China is the single most important influence on the upward trend in illegal trade and there have been decisive moves to improve law enforcement and curtail the illicit movement of ivory. Thailand has the largest documented retail ivory trade in the world and conservationists are concerned that loopholes in legislation are allowing the trade of flourish. *Source: <<http://www.traffic.org/>>/ news/ press-releases/ illicit_trade.html*

Red List should also include dependent species

There are species that are dependent on other species for their survival and this has led to calls that the IUCN Red List should also take account of so-called co-endangered species. For example, there are three species of lice that depend upon the threatened red colobus monkey, and hummingbird flower mites face extinction if either the hummingbirds that they use for transport, or the flowers on which the mites depend for nectar and pollen, go extinct. There are currently c. 12,000 species on the IUCN Red List and it is estimated that there may be another 6,300 co-endangered species, including more than 4,000 beetles, butterflies, lice and other parasites. There is often little known about the dependent species, and in the case of the Californian condor the delousing of the last remaining 25 birds brought into captivity inadvertently killed off the last

surviving condor lice. *Source: New Scientist (2004), 183(2465), 12.*

ASEAN countries agree to control wildlife trade

The 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have agreed on a bold initiative to address the region's wildlife trade crisis, and called on the global CITES community to support action in South-east Asia. The ASEAN Statement on CITES focuses on six key areas for cooperation that include increased law enforcement cooperation, comprehensive legal frameworks and more scientific information to be made available to guide wildlife trade management by CITES authorities. The 10 countries have also agreed to develop an Action Plan for 2005-2010. Wildlife trade in South-east Asia has increased in response to economic growth. There has been particular demand for birds and reptiles as pets, luxury items made from ivory and hawksbill turtle shell, and traditional medicines such as musk and ginseng. *Source: http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/asian_wildlife.html*

Indian tiger population estimates

Tropical dry deciduous forests form the bulk of potential tiger habitat in India, but accurate population estimates are scarce. To resolve this, a 45-day survey, using photographic capture recapture sampling was carried out in 2002 in the 542 km² Panna Tiger Reserve in central India. Sixty sites were sampled using camera traps. Thirty-six photos allowed individual identification of eight female and three male tigers. The estimated tiger density was 6.9 tigers per 100 km². Results of the study suggest that the 150,000 km² of the remaining Indian tropical dry forests can potentially support a population of c. 9,000 wild tigers, if managed and protected as effectively as Panna. *Source: Animal Conservation (2004), 7, 285-290.*

First new bird species in Sri Lanka since 1868

Sri Lanka's bird fauna has been well studied and the last new species to be added was in 1868. It was therefore a great surprise when a new species, the Serendib scops owl *Otus thilohoffmanni*, was recently described from the island. The owl was first heard in 1995 but it was not until February 2001 that the first pictures were obtained. The species was captured and released in August 2001 and a voucher specimen was obtained in November 2002. A survey in January 2004 located a total of 45 individuals in the lowland rainforests of Kitulgala, Kanneliya and Eratna Gilimale in the south-west of the island. The range of the species is just 230 km² and it is categorized as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. *Source: World Birdwatch (2004), 26(3), 6. The International Journal of Conservation, Oryx, January 2005, Volume 39, Number 1*

New Species of Lemur named after Dr. U. S. Seal, Late Chair of IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group

Officials at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo (USA) have announced the discovery of two new species of Sportive Lemur. The species are described by Dr. Edward Louis, head of the Genetics Department of the Grewcock Center for Conservation and Research Center at the zoo. The two new species are located in very different forest types in the rain forest of the east coast and in the dry forest of the west

coast. The west coast species, Mitsinjo Sportive Lemur or *Lepilemur mitsinjonensis*, is named after the region. The east coast species, Seals Sportive Lemur or *Lepilemur seali*, is named in honour of Ulysses S. Seal III, former SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group chair. Full story: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/news/newlemur.htm>

An on-line aquarium journal

Following recent editorial on aquariums (IZN 51 (7), 390-391), I was very grateful to Ken Kawata for telling me about the on-line publication. Drum and Croaker (www.colszoo.org/internal/drumcroaker.htm), a non-peer-reviewed journal that has acted as an 'informal organ' for public aquarium professional since 1958. Drum and Croaker- to quote from its home page- 'is currently published annually, but prior to 1985 was published on an erratic schedule of zero to four issues per year, depending on the whims of the contributors. In the mid 1980s the journal dropped out of sight altogether for almost five years.' It was revived in 1992 and has since appeared regularly, going over to an electronic format since 2000, initially distributed as an e-mail attachment. Since November 2001 it has found a permanent home on the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's web site. A grant from the zoo has also helped to make possible the transfer of back issues to the site, with the ultimate goal of making all past issues widely available to the public aquarium community as technical and historical references.

From Nicholas Gould, *International Zoo News* Vol. 521 (No.338) January/February 2005

Species 2000 - half-million milestone **www.sp2000.org**

A team of scientists meeting in Malta have celebrated reaching the half-million mark in the compilation of a complete catalogue of the world's fauna and flora that will eventually contain an estimated 1.7 million species. This significant milestone was announced during the Malta meeting, which is discussing the connecting of databases on the flora and fauna of the world to create the catalogue. About 75 scientists are meeting at the Sol Suncrest in Qawra. Among them is Patrick J. Schembri from the University of Malta, who is a contributor to Fauna Europea, one of the partner databases. The databases are being coordinated by the Species 2000 Catalogue of Life programme, which is funded by the European Commission. Frank A. Bisby, a professor at the University of Reading in the UK, is executive director of the global programme. When people started to worry about biodiversity and conservation they found to their surprise that there was no master list of the world's plants, animals and microbes, he told the gathering of scientists. People did compile data bases but they were either local, dealing with a country or a region, or they tended to be of one group of organisms for the whole world. "Our enterprise is to create a single catalogue of all species of plants, animals and microbes that are known on earth. There is no comprehensive catalogue with all 1.7 million species that we think have been named and catalogued," According to Bisbey, "There are many individual catalogues from different parts of the world but the problem is that because they are optimised locally, when you put them together they are not in agreement." The issue, he said, was not just to create a catalogue with all of the species in

it but an integrated one that was truly comparative. Prof. Bisby explained that about 15 years ago, the "biodiversity people" started complaining that a major problem with the United Nations Biodiversity Convention was the lack of a catalogue. The Species 2000 project, in conjunction with partners in the US called ITES (Integrated Taxonomic Information System), is not intended to create a single database. It is meant to create a virtual catalogue on the internet with the pieces taken from many databases - a federation of databases. Species 2000 is a three-year project that will be completed next January, forming the European component of this global programme. The chief users of these databases will be professionals not just in biology but also in agriculture, forestry, environment, land use, population change analysis and conservation analysis. Every year, Species 2000 distributes an edition of its catalogue on CD free of charge. **Source : George Cini, www.sp2000.org**

Second breeding centre for Asia's vanishing vultures **04-03-2005**

Work is beginning in West Bengal on a second captive-breeding centre for three Asian species of *Gyps* vulture, which have declined catastrophically in recent years. The vultures suffer kidney failure and death after feeding on carcasses of cattle treated with diclofenac, an anti-inflammatory drug, which in the 1990s was introduced for veterinary use across the Indian subcontinent. Four more breeding centres are planned, in an attempt to create reservoirs of birds to be re-introduced once the environment is clear of diclofenac. Meanwhile, 44 birds, equal numbers of Indian and White-rumped Vultures (*Gyps indicus* and *G. bengalensis*), have been brought together at the first captive breeding centre at Haryana, India. Two additional colony aviaries, with trees and artificial ledges for nesting, have been built at Haryana, providing facilities for a further 40 pairs. However, no Slender-billed vultures *G. tenuirostris*, the most severely threatened of the three, are yet in captivity. The recovery programme partners are gravely concerned that time is running out, especially for this species.

"It is already becoming difficult to find enough birds to establish stocks for captive breeding," says Dr/ Vibhu Prakash, BNHS. By 2004, numbers of all three species were down to between one and three percent of levels in the early 1990s, and are continuing to decline by as much as 50 per cent per year. The recovery programme in India is a joint project involving the RSPB, the Zoological Society of London, and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS, BirdLife in India), supported by Indian state and central governments. Also participating are Bird Conservation Nepal (BirdLife in Nepal), The Peregrine Fund, National Birds Of Prey Trust and the Ornithological Society of Pakistan (BirdLife in Pakistan). The partners hope to capture birds from a number of states, to reflect the genetic diversity of the three species across their ranges. The West Bengal Centre is being built on land provided by the West Bengal government on the edge of the Buxa Tiger Reserve. The West Bengal government is actively supporting the project. Of the four centres still to be built, two more are planned for India, and one each in Nepal and Pakistan. A fundraising campaign to meet the high costs of building and managing the centres has been launched,

and the project partners are negotiating with other international and national conservation NGOs to share the burden of funding and resources.

"We've had two birds pair up in the Haryana centre and begin copulating. That's more than we could have expected at this early stage, and an encouraging sign." -Chris Bowden, RSPB Chris Bowden, the RSPB's Vulture Programme Manager, believes that viable breeding populations of White-rumped and Indian vultures could be

established within 18 months if resources and efforts are fully coordinated. Vultures reach sexual maturity after four to five years, and raise at best one young per year, so the recovery programme is a long-term undertaking. Assuming diclofenac and other anti-inflammatories which could pose a similar threat are eliminated from the environment, re-introductions could begin in ten years, although Bowden stresses that the programme is a 15 year minimum undertaking. **Source: Birdlife International**

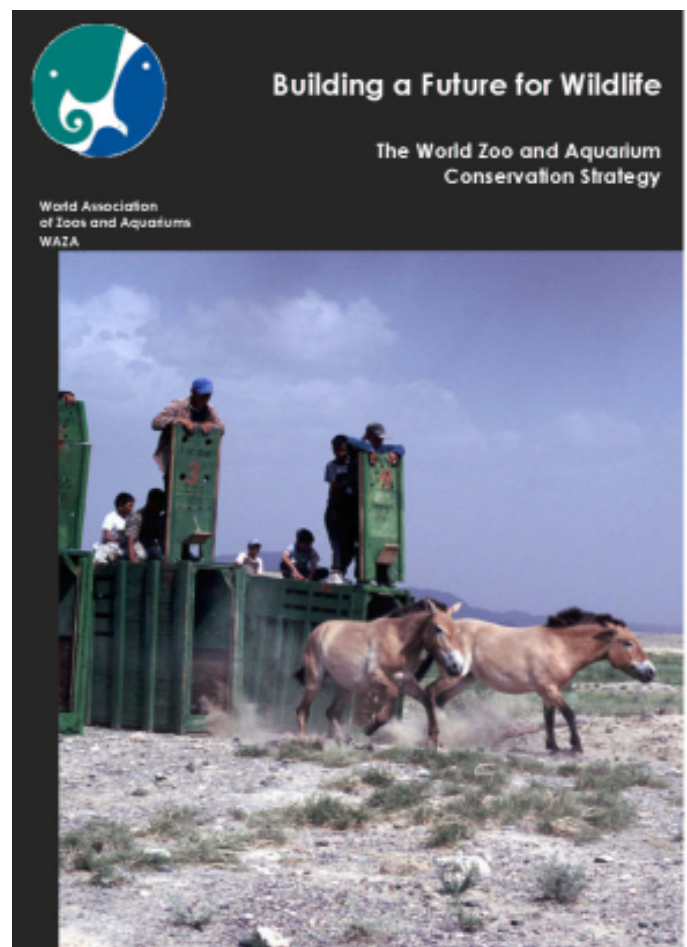
World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy launched around the world

The new World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy will be officially launched during the 2nd Joint SEAZA and ARAZPA Conference, to be held from 1 to 5 May 2005 at Melbourne. There will be a media conference with members of WAZA and regional zoo associations, CBSG, and other organisations related to zoos.

The Zoo Outreach Organisation, the Administrative Office of the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation has obtained permission from the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and funds from Chester Zoo and Thrigby Hall to print several thousand copies of the Strategy for use exclusively in South Asia. Every South Asian country will get several hundred copies for its use. For the launch, ZOO hopes to send 50 copies to each national representative of each country, e.g. CZA in India, the Pakistan Zoo Association in Pakistan, National Zoological Gardens in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh Zoo Association in Bangladesh, Central Zoo in Nepal and Kabul Zoo, Afghanistan. The South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation President, Dr. R. K. Sahu may participate in an official launch to be held at an undecided location. Sally Walker, Director of SAZARC will be at the launch in Melbourne, Australia.

In 1993 Zoo Outreach Organisation published several thousand copies of the first World Zoo Conservation Strategy and distributed them throughout South and South East Asia along with a sticker of the attractive cover. This time a large poster is also planned as well as a sticker to spread the news of the Strategy.

For the new WAZCS, SAZARC Director was responsible for steering Chapter 7, "Partnerships and Politics" through many interations, and as a member of the WAZCS committee could suggest many people from non-western countries as contributors to the document. Chapter 7 dealt with some of the problems of differences between zoos from different parts of the world and enjoined zoos from developed countries to assist zoos in parts of the world which are having political, economic and environmental difficulties to take their place as conservators of wildlife, in whatever way appropriate. Chapter 7 in WZACS is not shy to say that zoos are not created equal. Not all zoos will be able to contribute by breeding threatened species for example. Some zoos can contribute more effectively by converting their priorities to education, such as the Chennai Snake Park which took a reasoned decision to do so after assessing its various capabilities.



The World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy was coordinated by **WAZA - The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums** which can boast that 211 leading zoological institutions, 22 regional or national zoo and aquarium associations representing another 1000 institutions, and 9 zoo-related organisations (two of which Zoo Outreach Organisation and Central Zoo Authority of India) are UNITED FOR CONSERVATION. To contact WAZA write to Dr. Peter Dollinger, Executive Director, Phone: ++41-31-300 20 30, Fax: ++ 41-31-300 20 31, Post address: P.O.Box 23, CH-3097 Liebefeld-Berne, Visitors' address: Lindenrain 3, CH-3012 Berne