

## All-Ed 2006 — WAZA, WZACS, IZE, SAN-IZE, ZOO and WILD Partnerships



In the coming year of 2006, we are making an all-out effort to increase the number of people teaching conservation-related subjects in South Asian. This initiative even has a name ... **ALL-ED 06**.

In this initiative we will use the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy and its visionary recommendations, in particular, using partnerships with other organisations, institutions, departments, disciplines, etc. to get our conservation work done.

After all, who will NOT be affected by the negative effects of NOT turning the tide towards conservation of natural resources ? ... and who of us has NOT contributed to overuse in some way or other ? So everyone has to be involved in teaching and learning in order to get any meaningful result.

Change ... we need to convince people to change their behaviour in order to achieve any of our conservation goals. For that we need effective education ... we need for people who are committed to conservation to engage others who are not aware of the importance of this and use our passion to convince them to think and act responsibly for conservation.

**What about animal welfare ?** Animal welfare is indeed a crucial subject of zoos and of others who read this magazine and order our educational materials. We at ZOO believe that the practice of genuine wildlife conservation both in the zoo and in the wild takes care of a big chunk of wild animal welfare problems. Just think about it ... For zoos : all modern zoo management today is geared towards wildlife conservation. If it is not geared towards wildlife conservation, it is not *modern* zoo management. Wise use of wildlife includes zoos managing their animals well so that 1. captive breeding is (or should be) done so that there are no surplus animals which have to be released irresponsibly into wild or semi-wild areas; 2. captive breeding in good zoos (or those which wannabe good) is (or should be) conservation breeding — breeding animals by coordinating and cooperating with other zoos to the maximum extent so that animals for all conservation purposes are fit. Even animals for exhibition/education should be fit and genetically as diverse as possible so that no more animals are taken from the wild for exhibition or education only. IF wild animals are maintained and bred with these principles in mind and with current “best practice”, then we don’t have to worry about their welfare. We need to check to see if zoos are aware of these principles and are following them. If not, don’t fuss ! just try to help them.

Wild animals also benefit from modern conservation practices — disease prevention, habitat management, wildlife legislation, etc. — although sometimes species benefit in the long term more than individuals animals benefit in the short term.

In this regard there are VERY complex issues related to zoo and wildlife management and not all of us will agree on

some practices. What we **MUST** agree upon, however, is that we do our best and communicate about our differences.

So in our **ALL-ED '06** we will include the subject of animal welfare in all that we do. We will be teaching about the complex issues referred above and other issues which is confusing to the public ...and sometimes even to professional zoo and wildlife managers. In so doing we will be using our associations with various IUCN SSC Specialist Groups as usual although this year we will focus on the disciplinary or thematic specialist groups without neglecting neglected taxa and the groups which take care of them.

### Some of our ideas for ALL-ED '06 are

Our usual educational packets with themes such as “why zoos” and “animal welfare” with text, concepts and teaching relating to the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy ... here is a starting list

**Why Zoos ?** — *Objective* : to explain the role of zoos in a conservation context, highlighting education, research and (the right kind of) breeding. *Reference* : WZACS in situ and other chapters & IUCN SSC CBSG. *Form* : (packet for public)

**Don't try this at home !** — *Objective* : to explain why people (including zoo people) should NOT capture or purchase wild animals as pets or for exhibition, including why they should not release captive animals into wild areas (or the city). *Reference* : WZACS conservation & welfare/ethics chapters & IUCN SSC Reintroduction S.G. *Form* : (packet for public)

**Problem Primates** — *Objective* : to educate people about the need to stop inadvertently encouraging primates to stay in cities by feeding them for spiritual reasons or just for fun, by leaving uncovered garbage, by leaving kitchen windows open, etc. *Reference* : IUCN SSC Reintroduction SG & other experts. *Form* : (packet for public)

**When Man and Animal conflict** — *Objective* : to educate people about a variety of conflict situations and what they can do to avoid them or resolve them without endangering either the animals or themselves. *Reference* : CBSG & RSG material. *Form* : (packet for public).

**Conservation Education** — *Objective* : to explain what needs to be conveyed to the public for helping them understand some of the complex issues of conservation. Public is often confused about zoos, protected areas, wildlife trade, biodiversity, etc. *Reference* : WAZCS Education and other chapters. *Form* : Booklet for educators.

These are just a few ideas. What do you need ? Can you contribute to these suggestions, either with more ideas for different topics, or by suggesting ways to approach the issues we have listed. Talk to us ! <zooeach@vsnl.com>