

A National Zoo Association for Pakistan

S.Walker and U. Khan



A meeting to discuss forming a national zoo association was conducted in Lahore, Pakistan some years ago, sponsored by WWF, Pakistan. It was a very good meeting with much discussion and enthusiasm but, as often happens, it did not materialize in a national zoo association. That meeting was promoted by Uzma Khan, (2nd author) of WWF and Sally Walker (1st Author) of Zoo Outreach Organisation participated as facilitators and organisers.

This year in late July/early August it was decided to try again and WWF was again very supportive. A respectable number of participants from the larger zoos showed up and after a Power Point presentation by Sally and group discussion led by Uzma, the participants broke into working groups to discuss formation, governance, and animal management.

The impetus for this second meeting was created by Uzma Khan's continued interest and Sally Walker's project to make the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAZARC) sustainable. For a decade she raised all funds for Regional Association Conferences and felt it was not sustainable as practised. Governments were not supporting zoo managers attendance at SAZARC conferences and all funds had to be begged from western countries. Also it was clear that South Asian countries did not have a history of such interaction but needed to share experience, literature, animals, etc. and form a more collegiate relationship. Costs would be less for them to meet nationally and they would have more in common.

Sally was going around the region introducing this idea. Pakistan was the first country visited and the response was very good. Hopefully a national association can be created this time around.
S.Walker



Uzma Khan facilitating the Meeting to discuss National Zoo Association for Pakistan. She was joined by three other colleagues from WWF, e.g., Hassan Ali, Uzma Saeed, and Humaira Ayesha.
Photo: Zahoor Salmi

Minutes of Meeting National Zoo Association for Pakistan

Uzma Khan welcomed the participants of the workshop. She explained that the workshop is aimed at developing a strategy which can help to formulate

a national zoo association for Pakistan. She introduced Sally Walker, the workshop facilitator.

The workshop was kicked off with a brainstorming session in which the participants highlighted which zoos are playing an important role towards conservation of animals and awareness raising. They also highlighted the key areas requiring attention for the better management of zoos in Pakistan. These include lack of cooperation between zoos, absence of policy/guidelines for animal handling in captivity, lack of technical expertise, absence of regulations to mainstream private zoos registration with the relevant provincial department and lack of funds etc.

Sally Walker gave a presentation on the role of Regional and National Zoo Associations. She introduced Zoo Outreach Organization, South Asian Zoo Association, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and their respective roles.

Three working groups were formulated to brainstorm on various aspects of the formulation of Zoo Association in Pakistan, engaging with the private zoos and determining the role of zoo association towards improving



Participants pay keen attention to the opening remarks of the meeting.
Photo: Zahoor Salmi

and animal care at zoos in Pakistan. Following were the main recommendations of three groups;

*The National Zoo Association should be a national zoo network mainly owned by government having provincial zoo authority in each province as every province has its own rules and regulations regarding zoos and wildlife parks. In addition, zoos should come together and discuss animal care and handling issues, education and awareness programme.

* There should be a national level private zoo association in Pakistan which could be part of the national zoo network.

* There should be revisions in the existing Provincial Wildlife Acts to streamline registration of private zoos/breeding centers and establishment of provincial level committees.

* The zoo association should make sure that education officers must be present in every zoo in addition to monitoring tasks which are mandatory by the zoos for animals keeping and animal care.

In addition, the zoo managers should also pay attention to the zoo visitor's management, the effects of climate change on animals, engaging students, volunteers and citizens in its education & awareness raising programmes.



Presentation of WWF gifts to speakers and others by WWF senior officers.
Photo: Zahoor Salmi



Working group reporters summarised their conclusions near the end of the workshop and answered questions. Following that there was more discussion.
Photo: Sally Walker

List of Participants USA

Sally R. Walker, Founder/Mg. Trustee,
Zoo Outreach Organisation & Founder/
Director, South Asian Zoo Association

Sind

Shoaib Muhammad Khan, Senior
Director, Culture, Sports & Recreation,
Karachi Metropolitan Corp.
Mr. Muhammad Faheem Khan, Director
Karachi Zoo
Dr. Mahvish Khan, Vet, As above
Hussian Bux Bhagat, Conservator
Wildlife, Sindh Wildlife Dept.

Punjab

Dr. Abdul Aleem Chaudhry, WWF
Mohammad Anwar Maan, Director
Lahore Zoo
Rana Shahbaz, Director, Lahore Zoo
Safari

Rana Zaffar-ul-Hassan, Deputy Director
HQ, Punjab Wildlife Dept., Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa
Muhammad Faiq Khan, DFO Abbottabad

Islamabad

Umeed Khalid, Conservator Wildlife,
NCCW, Climate Change Division
Hassan Naqvi, Express Tribune

WWF – Pakistan

Uzma Khan, Director Biodiversity, WWF
– Pakistan
Hassan Ali, Assistant Manager
Conservation, WWF – Pakistan
Uzma Saeed, Conservation Coord.,
WWF – Pakistan
Humaira Ayesha, Coordinator SGP,
WWF – Pakistan



Group photograph of all participants from Punjab, Islamabad, Sind, WWF Pakistan and USA. Photo: Zahoor Salmi