

They feed on grains and vegetables and act as a severe agricultural pest in Bangladesh.

(10) Indian Crested Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*): Nocturnal, solitary and burrower, found in bushy forested areas. Hunting for meat and traditional medicine are the major threats for this species. It is included in 3rd Schedule of BW(P)(A) 1974.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: UFAW Animal Welfare Conference "Recent advances in animal welfare science III", 21st June 2012



Animal welfare is a cross-disciplinary area of science that is attracting increasing interest and funding and is being widely employed to guide and inform legislation and practice relating to the use of animals. Much, however, still remains to be understood. As part of its commitment to improving the way we understand and care for animals, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare is holding the third of a series of one-day conferences on 'Recent advances in animal welfare science' on 21st June 2012. There will be a poster session during the lunch break which will feature over 50 presentations. Further details, including the full programme of speakers and a registration form, can be found on the UFAW website <http://www.ufaw.org.uk/conference2012.php>. Registration is from 8.30, with talks starting at 9.30 and ending at 17.10.

Other details: UFAW intends these regular conferences provides a forum at which the broad community of scientists, veterinarians and others concerned with animal welfare can come together to share knowledge and practice, discuss advances and exchange ideas and views. As part of this commitment, and to ensure that the meeting is accessible to widest range of those with an interest in animal welfare, UFAW aims to keep the registration fee to attend the conferences low, this year it is just **£25**. *Note: This price includes refreshments but delegates will need to make their own arrangements for lunch.*

Venue: The conference is being held in York, in the medieval Merchant Adventurers' Hall, Fossgate YO1 9XD. Located next to the pedestrianised centre of York and built in 1357, the timbered Hall and Undercroft make up one of the best preserved medieval guild halls in the world.

Background to UFAW: UFAW, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, is an internationally-recognised, independent, scientific and educational animal welfare charity. The organization promotes high standards of welfare for farm, companion, laboratory and captive wild animals and those with which we interact in the wild.

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Announcement:

Tails to Trails: a Reptile and Amphibian workshops from 4th to 9th June 2012

Madras Crocodile Bank Trust/ Centre for Herpetology and Agumbe Rainforest Research Station

We are pleased to inform that Madras Crocodile Bank Trust/ Centre for Herpetology and Agumbe Rainforest Research Station is organizing a Reptile and Amphibian workshop from 4th to 9th June 2012.

To elaborate on the program at Madras Crocodile Bank, one will be working closely with the team of experts to understand the working of a specialized reptile zoo and its intricate role in reptile conservation. Croc Bank is an ideal open classroom setting to observe and learn about behaviours that are very often difficult to see in the wild. You will get an opportunity to work closely with crocodylians, snakes and turtles. The physical and physiological needs of these animals, is primary to their care and maintenance in captivity. Basically one will see what it takes to keep thousands of reptiles 'under one roof'. We will also head out one morning with the legendary Irula Snake catchers and experience their tracking skills first hand.

Agumbe Rainforest Research Station gives you an opportunity to escape from the city and get in tune with the natural world.....sleep to the sounds of frogs and wake up to the singing of the whistling thrush. Here we learn about forest ecology, research techniques in the field and look for the denizens in the various habitats like forests, paddy fields, waterfalls and streams. This will be done by extensive surveys during the day and nights. All activities are aimed at an experience that will allow for understanding contexts and developing skills. Information handouts will be provided. The workshop will ensure an experience for one and all that is unique.

The duration of this program will be 6 days (including the travel time from Madras to Agumbe and back to Madras). The cost of this 6 day program is Rs 15,000/-person all inclusive (program fee, accommodation, food and travel to and from Agumbe).

Tails to Trails starts at *Madras Crocodile Bank Trust* (MCBT) which has over 2,500 reptiles of different taxa. Select enclosures are wired to record all the basic environmental parameters to facilitate studies on the biology of the reptiles here and to observe and document behavior and social interactions, many of which are rarely, if ever, seen in the wild. These fascinating educational sessions will be conducted on the taxonomy and biology of reptiles and amphibians, aided by entertaining presentations.

Highlights during the workshop will be:

- ◆ Reptile biology and taxonomy
- ◆ Captive management of these magnificent reptiles
- ◆ Discussions and interaction with experienced experts and hands on activities
- ◆ Walk with the legendary Irula tribe, marveling at their unparalleled tracking skills as you look for snakes.

After spending 3 days at MCBT, we then head to Agumbe Rain forest Research Station (ARRS), nestled in the Western Ghats of South India. This is a prime habitat for several interesting species ranging from gliding frogs to draco and Malabar pit vipers to the King cobra. The forest around ARRS allows for observation of arboreal mammals and is also a bird watcher's paradise. At ARRS the focus will be on field research within sights in to basic field craft and analytical skills.

Highlights during the workshop will be:

- ◆ Field survey techniques for reptiles
- ◆ The importance of radio telemetry and camera trapping in research
- ◆ Observation of nocturnal behaviour and documenting nocturnal animals
- ◆ Understanding stream ecosystems, use of microhabitat and spatial preference

We do hope you will join us in this journey of discovery and learning! Please request for a registration form by emailing Programs@madrascrocodilebank.org or call +91 9840542337 OR +91 9445980950



AIMS AND SCOPE

The *Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research* will provide a forum for rapid publication of novel, peer-reviewed research papers, reviews, technical reports and evidence-based case studies. Through their living collections, zoos and aquariums are uniquely placed to contribute to conservation-related research. Research categories covered by the *Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research* will include studies in pure and applied biological sciences (e.g. behaviour, genetics, medicine, nutrition, population management and reproduction), in situ conservation research (e.g. socioeconomic and field surveys) and research aimed at developing other roles of zoos and aquariums (e.g. visitor learning and marketing surveys).

A section of the *Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research* will be devoted to submissions of original, previously unpublished, case studies documenting the effects of a husbandry intervention. Evidence-based husbandry for living collections aims to apply the best available evidence gained from the scientific method to decision making. Sharing knowledge about the effects of management and/or husbandry interventions will improve global management of living collections. The vision is that the assessment and dissemination of the effectiveness of husbandry actions will become a routine part of zoological management practice.

The core activities at the root of any evidence-based practice can be identified as:

- a questioning approach to practice leading to scientific experimentation
- meticulous observation, enumeration, and analysis replacing anecdotal description
- recording and cataloguing the evidence for systematic retrieval

EXAMPLE PAPERS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN JZAR

Antwis, R.E. & R.K. Browne (2009). Ultraviolet radiation and Vitamin D-3 in amphibian health, behaviour, diet and conservation. *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology A – Molecular & Integrative Physiology* 154: 184–190.

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

The *Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research* will be published quarterly and we aim to launch the first issue in late summer/autumn 2012.

The *Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research* will keep the time between original submission and appearance online short and will encourage authors to revise rapidly once a paper has been submitted and deemed acceptable.

EDITORIAL BOARD

The journal is being launched by an interim Editorial board comprising members of the EAZA Research Committee. We hope to appoint a full, permanent Editorial Board in March 2012, if you are interested in becoming a member of this board please contact Zjef Pereboom (Chair, EAZA Research Committee, Zjef.Pereboom@kmda.org) before 14th Feb 2012.

Announcements



International Aquarium Congress
9-14 Sept 2012 | www.iac2012.co.za



Online
Registration
NOW OPEN



www.aquarium.co.za

The 2012 International Aquarium Congress (IAC) is now just 10 months away. Your host, the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town, South Africa, looks forward to welcoming you to our shores from 9 to 14 September 2012.

The IAC, which takes place every four years, is the most important and prestigious event for the public aquarium industry. It has been held in several countries, but 2012 marks the first year that the congress will take place in the Southern Hemisphere and on African soil.

Click here to view the provisional 2012 IAC programme: http://iac2012.co.za/congress/preliminary_programme/congress_programme/

Click here to register now: <http://iac2012.co.za/congress/register/>

Keynote speakers announced

We are delighted to announce the three guest speakers who will be delivering keynote addresses during the opening ceremony of the 2012 IAC on 10 September 2012.

Dr Camille Parmesan was ranked by Reuters ISI Web of Science as the second most highly cited author in the field of climate change in 2010. Read more: http://iac2012.co.za/blog/entry/dr_camille_parmesan_to_speak_at_2012_international_aquarium_congress/

Dr Elin Kelsey will deliver a keynote for the 2012 IAC that positions "hope" as an emerging narrative for aquariums around the world. According to Kelsey, "Aquariums have a unique ability to engender emotional connections between people, animals and environments." Read more: http://iac2012.co.za/blog/entry/dr_erin_kelsey_brings_hope_to_2012_international_aquarium_congress/

Emeritus Professor George Branch is a world-renowned authority on the southern African marine environment. His passionate and entertaining lectures inspire a huge appreciation and understanding of the marine world. Read more: http://iac2012.co.za/blog/entry/professor_george_branch_to_explore_two_oceans_at_2012_international_aquarium/

Call for papers

Prospective presenters are now invited to submit their abstracts for papers or posters to be presented at the 8th International Aquarium Congress (IAC) in Cape Town, South Africa from 9 to 14 September 2012.

Click here to learn about our themes and submission guidelines: http://iac2012.co.za/congress/call_for_papers/

Sponsor and exhibit

At the 2012 IAC, you will have the opportunity to meet with key decision makers in exhibitory, conservation, sustainability and education fields. Top management personnel from aquariums from around the world are expected to attend.

We offer a unique opportunity to exhibit to leading industry professionals from around the world.

Click here to learn more about our exhibition options: <http://iac2012.co.za/exhibit/>

We also have a number of sponsorship and exposure opportunities to suit your budget and requirements, from top-end endorsements to green initiatives, as well as a host of advertising and advertorial opportunities.

Click here to learn more about our sponsorship opportunities: <http://iac2012.co.za/sponsor/>

About the Two Oceans Aquarium

The southern tip of the African continent is the meeting place of two mighty and bountiful oceans, the Indian and the Atlantic. The Two Oceans Aquarium on the V&A Waterfront, Cape Town is ideally positioned to showcase the incredible diversity of marine life found in these two oceans. The Aquarium is one of the top tourist attractions in Cape Town and over 3000 living sea animals, many of which are endemic to southern African waters, can be seen in this spectacular underwater nature reserve.

Visit the Two Oceans Aquarium website for more information: <http://www.aquarium.co.za/>