

Announcements



World Association of
Zoos and Aquariums
WAZA | United for
Conservation



The World's Leading Zoos on the Forefront of Gorilla Conservation A WAZA report highlights threats and solutions for humankind's closest relatives

Recently the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) appealed to the gorilla range states to prevent and stop all threats to the remaining gorilla populations. A report presented at the International Gorilla Symposium highlights the major threats for gorillas and includes examples of projects which are supported and led by the international zoo community.

"All four subspecies of gorilla are threatened with extinction and we have to take action now in order to save our closest relatives from that fate," says Dr. Gerald Dick, Executive Director of WAZA. He expressed a hope that the conservation endeavors of the international zoo community, as presented in a newly published report titled "Gorilla Conservation",- and those of other NGOs, are echoed by the gorilla range states, the countries in which gorilla populations continue to exist.

Zoos do not exclusively keep gorillas with a view to maintaining *ex situ* reserve populations; they increasingly link their *ex situ* activities with conservation projects in the field. Zoos and aquariums in the WAZA and EAZA networks manage and support such "*in situ*" conservation projects in all parts of the world in order to contribute to the conservation of biological diversity. The projects covered in the Gorilla Conservation report address the major threats, such as illegal logging and the bush meat trade, and offer solutions that create additional income for local communities and increase awareness. The examples range from Nigeria and Cameroon to Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Dr. Lesley Dickie, Executive Director of EAZA, welcomed the publication of the report. She said, "EAZA has actively campaigned for gorilla conservation for many years, particularly with respect to the impact of bush meat hunting. This report and the symposium in Frankfurt offer a timely opportunity to call again on the EU to work in

partnership with the African range states for the protection of gorillas."

The primary reason modern zoos house gorillas is to educate the visiting public about the need to conserve gorillas in the wild. In Europe there are currently about 420 gorillas in 63 zoos, according to figures maintained under the gorilla EEP (European Endangered species Programme). The current population of the US based SSP (Species Survival Plan) is about 370 in 52 zoos, descended from 104 founders, who were brought into US zoos prior to 1973.

All members of the EEP and the SSP for gorillas take very seriously the provision of the best possible care to ensure the well-being of these animals, while educating the public and inspiring conservation action. "Our passion for gorillas is balanced by the reality that the wild is disappearing at alarming rates and most people have no idea how dire the situation is for primates worldwide", Gerald Dick continues. "But research has shown that zoos help people feel connected to one another and to wildlife and wild places. We sincerely believe that as ambassadors for their wild counterparts, gorillas in zoos have the potential to make an animal lover and conservationist out of every zoo visitor - and at a time when primates are threatened in nature to unprecedented levels, zoos are uniquely poised to create a bridge between the average person and nature. This is our vision and we recognize that we still have a lot of work ahead of us. But there are many, many dedicated zoo professionals working every day to address the needs of individual animals, to constantly raise standards of care, and to increase our support of conservation initiatives in range countries".

Links to gorilla sites of interest

- E-Press Release inclusive gorilla pictures: <http://www.waza.org/news/index.php>
- Full report "Gorilla Conservation": <http://www.waza.org/conservation/campaigns21.php?view=campaigns&id=9>
- WAZA Gorilla Magazine: http://www.waza.org/marketing/waza_maga11.htm
- Full list of zoos in support of the Year of the Gorilla: <http://www.waza.org/conservation/Weblist->

Participating_Zoos.pdf (Mysore Zoo is there ! Ed.)
General information on Year of the Gorilla:
www.Yog2009.org

Background

There are 4 widely recognized gorilla subspecies, belonging to 2 species.

Western Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*)

Western Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*; ~ 200,000 individuals)
Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*; 250 – 300 individuals)

Eastern Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei*)

Mountain Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*; ~ 650 – 700 individuals)
Eastern Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei graueri*; 5,000 – 10,000 individuals)

Current Situation of Gorilla Populations

The CMS (Convention on Migratory Species) Agreement came into force in June this year. It comes in response to growing concern that despite years of efforts by the UN, governments and non-governmental organizations, the plight of the gorilla remains cause for serious concern. Indeed many experts are warning that without urgent action gorillas will become extinct in the wild within the next few decades. Three of the four gorilla species are listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, putting them at risk of extinction. The populations of the Mountain Gorilla in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda and the Cross River Gorilla in Cameroon and Nigeria number only 700 and 300 individuals respectively. The Eastern Lowland Gorilla population in the DRC has plummeted dramatically over the last 10 years with probably only about 5,000 of the formerly 17,000 animals remaining. The most numerous subspecies, the Western Lowland Gorilla which occurs in Angola, Central African Republic, Cameroon, DRC, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and the Republic of Congo, number perhaps as many as more than 200,000 animals. Nevertheless these populations remain threatened on several fronts.

WAZA and its partners have committed themselves to developing and implementing the CMS Agreement. It provides the gorilla range states, as well as the other governments and organizations involved, with a legal framework that will reinforce and integrate conservation efforts.

The Year of the Gorilla 2009 – a joint initiative

The Year of the Gorilla (YoG) is a joint initiative of UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the UNEP/UNESCO Great Ape Survival Partnership (GRASP) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

Did you know? Genetic analyses show that gorillas share 98.4 percent of their genes with humans. Gorillas have been shown to possess self-awareness, remarkable intelligence and an ability to communicate with signs and symbols as well as use some basic tools. They express emotions such as joy and distress in a way similar to humans.

About WAZA

WAZA, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, has a mission to guide, encourage and support the zoos, aquariums, and like-minded organizations of the world in animal care and welfare, environmental education, wildlife conservation and environmental research. The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums is the "umbrella" organization for the world zoo and aquarium community. Its members include leading zoos and aquariums, and regional and national Associations of Zoos and Aquariums, as well as some affiliate organizations, such as zoo veterinarians or zoo educators, from all around the world. Together they are 'United for Conservation'. Good zoos are concerned about the global loss of biodiversity and therefore committed to conservation. Together with numerous partners, WAZA zoos have been engaged in gorilla conservation for a long time, for instance through gorilla reintroductions in Gabon, protected area management in Cameroon, Nigeria and Congo as well as ecotourism development and conservation education. In addition, the findings of primatology are being implemented in modern zoo-biology and gorillas can breed successfully in zoos. The International Studbook for gorillas was established in 1967 under the WAZA umbrella and today contains 145 institutions worldwide. Regionally coordinated conservation breeding programmes exist in North America (SSP - Species Survival Plans) and Europe (EEP - European Endangered Species Programme) to help conserve some of the world's most critically endangered wildlife. www.waza.org
World Association of Zoos and Aquariums - United for Conservation

Editor's Note: *The Mysore Zoo has a single gorilla now and had one also some 30 years ago when I first became hooked on zoos. At that time there had been three and two died leaving a "lonely female". I took it on myself to get a mate for this single female who was in her prime and a lovely lady (to another gorilla I am sure). I failed miserably despite the amount of work I put into finding Sunita a mate. Mysore zoo got another gorilla or two but now has one single left again. It would be something great if a western zoo which has any sort of gorilla who they are not planning to breed and is also single could do this good deed for the lone gorilla in Mysore Zoo. It would be a welfare not a conservation project but who cares when a gorilla is suffering - Sally Walker*

Call for applications for MS CZA

Central Zoo Authority is a statutory body constituted by the Central Government (Ministry of Environment & Forests), under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended from time to time to oversee and monitor the management of zoos in the country and to ensure their development on scientific lines. Member Secretary would be the Chief Executive Officer of this Authority. Applications are invited for the post of MEMBER SECRETARY, Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi, in the scale of pay of Rs.37,400-67,000 (Grade Pay Rs.10,000) (Group 'A') plus usual allowances as admissible under the Central Government Rules. The Member Secretary will have the option either to avail the leased accommodation as provided by the Authority or draw HRA as admissible. The minimum qualifications for the post are as follows :-



(A) Qualifications : Essential: (1) Master's degree in Zoology or Wildlife Biology or Veterinary Science of a recognized University or equivalent, with at least 18 years regular service rendered after appointment in Group 'A' post; OR (2) Ph.D in one of the subjects mentioned above with at least 15 years regular service in a Group 'A' post rendered after obtaining Ph.D degree; OR (3) Indian Forest Service Officers serving as a Conservator of Forests or in an equivalent rank having 18 years regular service with reference to year of allotment. Out of the service indicated at (1), (2), (3) above, the candidate must have at least 3 years experience as whole time Director/ Officer-in-charge of a Zoo. **Desirable :** Experience in formulation of policies and programme on matters relating to wildlife conservation.

(B) Age Limit : Below 55 years (Relaxable for SC/ST candidates, ex- servicemen as per rules). The age limit of superannuation for Member Secretary is 60 years.

(C) Method of Recruitment : Deputation basis.

(D) Place of Posting : NEW DELHI, but liable to be posted anywhere in India subject to exigencies of work.

(E) General Conditions :

(1) Application should be sent either in Hindi or English. (2) Application should be accompanied by copies of certificates of educational qualifications, experience, claim for belonging to SC/ST etc. The original certificates should not be attached with the application at this stage. (3) The applications should be submitted through proper channel, together with a certificate as in Annexure. The applicant may, if he so wished, send one advance copy of the application in the prescribed form, complete in all respects, by the due date. (4) Outstation candidates called for interview will be paid to and fro fare by the shortest route and entitled class. (5) Applications received after the due date, unsigned applications, incomplete applications and applications not in prescribed proforma will not be considered. (6) Canvassing in any form will be a disqualification. (7) Applications should be sent in the enclosed proforma (neatly handwritten or typed out in A-4 size paper). (8) Please affix one passport size photograph duly signed by the candidate. Candidates must send self addressed envelope (12cm x 20cm) and self addressed post card along with the application. (9) Application should reach **Sh. P.C.S. Negi, Finance Officer, Central Zoo Authority, Bikaner House, Annexe-VI, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi-110011** latest by **31st July, 2009**. The application should be sent in a cover superscribed Advertisement No. **5-6/2009**.

See CZA Website www.cza.nic.in advertisement for **PROFORMA FOR APPLICATION**

Nandankanan Zoo welcomed as a Member of WAZA



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Mr. Ajit Patnaik, Director, Nandankanan Zoo, was informed last week that no objections were made by current members to his WAZA membership application and welcomed to WAZA! He is part of a highly reputed association unifying the leading zoos and aquariums and the most influential regional zoo associations of the world. The association will link the zoo to the IUCN Network and lobby on his behalf at international forums like CITES, CBD, CMS, RAMSAR, OIE etc. Congratulations to Ajith and to the entire staff of Nandankanan Zoo.



NANDANKANAN
ZOOLOGICAL PARK