

While there is increasing interest among zoo professionals in the return of the captive bred animals to their habitats, there has been little systematic research directed at the problems involved in this challenging enterprise. In 1985, the Consortium of Aquarians, Universities and Zoos (C.A.U.Z) was founded for the purpose of establishing communication links between university based scientists and educators and their counterparts at zoos and aquariums (Hardy, 1992). The creation of a centralized database for exchange of information between Indian zoos as well as from the foreign zoos is quite important in the field of *ex-situ* research. The increasing difficulty of obtaining additional wild animals for exhibition and the decline in the wild populations of many species means that there is an urgent need for research with integrated approach in Indian Zoos.

Conclusion:

Systematic data collection in the zoo setting can provide answers to management questions as well as basic information about the biology of captive animals. Research is now being recognized as important and is expanding in many zoos (Finlay and Maple, 1986). Promotion of conservation-

relevant research on the captive endangered species in our zoos is the need of the hour as more species in the wild are getting close to the brink of extinction. In these times of uncertainty zoos, aquariums and other *ex-situ* breeding facilities could be their last refuge.

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What's funny about these stories ? funny-"Ha ha"& funny-"Boo hoo"

Prague zoo sets out to save Indian gharial

Prague Zoo, Chekoslovakia, has launched a test programme to save the Indian crocodile-like gharial from the brink of extinction with a million-dollar pavilion for the animals to bask, and hopefully reproduce, in. There are only between 150 and 200 of this species, the *Gavialis gangeticus* also known as the gavial, living in the wild along India's rivers today.

Another 20 or so are in captivity in India, Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and the United States, according to figures from the Prague zoo. "All of the conservation plans launched in the world have failed up until now. The gharial is one of the most critically threatened reptiles in the world." http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080510/wl_sthasia

City zoo swarmed with gharials

Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park finds itself at its wits' end as the number of gharials here have gone up from 13 to 129 in the last five years. The "population explosion" has led to space congestion and, of course, additional expenditure on their feed: 11 adults consume 50 kgs of fish twice a week. "We have decided to discourage breeding of gharials," zoo director Rakesh Kumar said and added so many gharials are not needed in the zoo. Among zoos in India, the Patna zoo today has the largest number of gharials with even the Nandankanan zoo, which initiated the process of breeding gharials in captivity some 40 years ago. http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Cities/City_zoo

Myanmars' Misery so acute even escaped monkeys run back to the zoo

We have all watched with growing pain how the world rushed to help the poor people of Myanmar as they dug their way out of collapsed houses or shelters, tried to find food and water and watched their military government refuse to permit foreign disaster workers and even foreign aid, day after day, in the face of so much suffering and death.

The situation seems to have come to the attention of a baboon which escaped through the roof of one his cage which was one of which that had blown off and damaged by the tornado at the zoo. Onlookers saw him sitting on top of a giant ruby in a traffic circle near a pagoda. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/07/world/asia/07myanmar.html?>

Later news reported that seven escaped monkeys returned to Yangon Zoo after spending a few days sifting through debris strewn around the city, the zookeeper said on Thursday. <http://www.dawn.com/2008/05/09/int13.htm>

Perhaps this gives a better perspective of the facilities available after the storm ... even monkeys could not tolerate the lack of amenities and necessities and had to return to captivity to save their lives!