

Good News of South Asian Zoos

National Zoological Gardens, Sri Lanka receives award

The John Ball Zoo Society announces the 2006 Wildlife Conservation Fund grant recipients. One of the recipients is the National Zoological Gardens, Sri Lanka for the "Study on Reproductive Behaviour, Captive Breeding, Rearing Juveniles of Barred Danio, *Danio pathirana* and Reintroduction to the wild". Principal Investigator: S.Y.B.M.Upeksha, Department of National Zoological Gardens, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Total Grant Amount: US\$2500. The Barred Danio is one of 33 Species of fish endemic to Sri Lanka. This species has been identified as Critically Endangered and the biological aspect, behaviour and ecology have not been studied. Their population size is also declining due to over exploitation and habitat destruction. They have been restricted severely to limited locations and no information available on the same. This study will investigate the habitat, ecology and environmental parameters as well as develop breeding groups in zoos. After establishment of a successful breeding programme this fish will be released into the wild and monitoring will be continued. The results of the study would be used to develop a conservation and management strategy of this diminishing beautiful fish for its continuous existence.

The John Ball Zoological Society Wildlife Conservation Fund received 59 applications this year. We are pleased to announce these recipients.

Norah B. Fletchall, M.B.A., Assistant Zoo Director-John Ball Zoo, SSP Coordinator-Clouded leopard, AZA Felid TAG Co-Chair, John Ball Zoo, 1300 W. Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 USA. email: norah.fletchall@kentcounty.org

Announcements

Appeal for Rural Community Science Centre, Shimoga

The Rural community science centre was established during 1988; it is working with the following objectives: Rural development; building scientific temperament in rural areas, Transfer of technology & Dissemination of informations to rural areas. Activities include conducting Science & Technology exhibitions, seminars, training camps, science writing workshops training in developmental journalism, puppetry, training mathematics through origami, environment of rural areas, programmes on scientific agriculture, consumer awareness and publishing magazines. The construction of science and technology demonstration centre and science park, a science heritage museum, a school building for 1 to 10th classes and other activities are impending. We request support in the form of CD Roms, surplus science books, magazine subscriptions, booklets of project proposals, annual reports etc. to our Science Centre.

Contact: K. Venkatesh, RURAL COMMUNITY SCIENCE CENTRE TRUST. [REG], Reg. No 57/88-89, Varadhamola, Shimoga Dist- 577401, Karnataka, E-MAIL vijnan@sancharnet.in Website: <http://vijnanrcsc.tripod.com>

Expression of Interest

Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai Garden Department

The Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan Zoo of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) is located in the heart of Mumbai city. The total area of V.J.B. Udyan Zoo is 1,92,52,099sq. mts. The zoo holds 21 species of mammals, 41 species of birds and 10 species of reptiles totalling to 667 animals housed in 30 enclosures.

As per the new policy of "zoo-keeping" under the governance of CZA, a statutory body of MoEF has directed to prepare a Master Plan of all the Indian Zoos for the period of next 20 years. The MCGM, therefore, intends to invite Expression of Interest from National and International consultants for preparation of Master Plan of Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udayan Zoo.

The Agency / Individual Experts should have previous experience of designing layout and / or preparing Master Plan of at least one zoological park in India or abroad. The Agency / Individual should also have a relevant education in wildlife biology / wildlife conservation.

The interested firms are now requested to express their interests in sealed envelopes for providing consultancy services. While submitting the applications the following details are essential to be furnished.

1. Name of the firm with full address and documents
2. The audited balance sheet for last 3 years.
3. Name of the contact person with telephone, fax, email.
4. Educational and professional qualifications of the consultants.
5. Experience (in years) in preparing Master Plan
6. Details of professionals working with the company.
7. Performance certificate/s in respect of successful completion of such earlier projects.
8. The Firm / Consultant should have a thorough knowledge of the norms laid down for preparation of Master Plan by the Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment & Forest, and Government of India. The Final Plan must be suitable for submission to the Central Zoo Authority for approval.

The interested firms / individual experts should submit their expressions of interests in sealed envelopes latest by 17-08-2006 up to 1.00 p.m. in the office of Superintendent of Gardens whose office is situated at Veer Jijamata Bhosale Udyan, B.A. Road, Byculla, Mumbai - 400 007 with a marking on the envelope "EOI for providing Consultancy services for preparation of Master Plan of Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan Zoo, Byculla".

For further information contact: +91-22-23742162, 23725799, 23723578, 23743799.

Superintendent of Gardens

Municipal Corporation of Brihan Mumbai