

and the project partners are negotiating with other international and national conservation NGOs to share the burden of funding and resources.

"We've had two birds pair up in the Haryana centre and begin copulating. That's more than we could have expected at this early stage, and an encouraging sign." -Chris Bowden, RSPB Chris Bowden, the RSPB's Vulture Programme Manager, believes that viable breeding populations of White-rumped and Indian vultures could be

established within 18 months if resources and efforts are fully coordinated. Vultures reach sexual maturity after four to five years, and raise at best one young per year, so the recovery programme is a long-term undertaking. Assuming diclofenac and other anti-inflammatories which could pose a similar threat are eliminated from the environment, re-introductions could begin in ten years, although Bowden stresses that the programme is a 15 year minimum undertaking. **Source: Birdlife International**

World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy launched around the world

The new World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy will be officially launched during the 2nd Joint SEAZA and ARAZPA Conference, to be held from 1 to 5 May 2005 at Melbourne. There will be a media conference with members of WAZA and regional zoo associations, CBSG, and other organisations related to zoos.

The Zoo Outreach Organisation, the Administrative Office of the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation has obtained permission from the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA) and funds from Chester Zoo and Thrigby Hall to print several thousand copies of the Strategy for use exclusively in South Asia. Every South Asian country will get several hundred copies for its use. For the launch, ZOO hopes to send 50 copies to each national representative of each country, e.g. CZA in India, the Pakistan Zoo Association in Pakistan, National Zoological Gardens in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh Zoo Association in Bangladesh, Central Zoo in Nepal and Kabul Zoo, Afghanistan. The South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation President, Dr. R. K. Sahu may participate in an official launch to be held at an undecided location. Sally Walker, Director of SAZARC will be at the launch in Melbourne, Australia.

In 1993 Zoo Outreach Organisation published several thousand copies of the first World Zoo Conservation Strategy and distributed them throughout South and South East Asia along with a sticker of the attractive cover. This time a large poster is also planned as well as a sticker to spread the news of the Strategy.

For the new WAZCS, SAZARC Director was responsible for steering Chapter 7, "Partnerships and Politics" through many interations, and as a member of the WAZCS committee could suggest many people from non-western countries as contributors to the document. Chapter 7 dealt with some of the problems of differences between zoos from different parts of the world and enjoined zoos from developed countries to assist zoos in parts of the world which are having political, economic and environmental difficulties to take their place as conservators of wildlife, in whatever way appropriate. Chapter 7 in WZACS is not shy to say that zoos are not created equal. Not all zoos will be able to contribute by breeding threatened species for example. Some zoos can contribute more effectively by converting their priorities to education, such as the Chennai Snake Park which took a reasoned decision to do so after assessing its various capabilities.



The World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy was coordinated by **WAZA - The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums** which can boast that 211 leading zoological institutions, 22 regional or national zoo and aquarium associations representing another 1000 institutions, and 9 zoo-related organisations (two of which Zoo Outreach Organisation and Central Zoo Authority of India) are UNITED FOR CONSERVATION. To contact WAZA write to Dr. Peter Dollinger, Executive Director, Phone: ++41-31-300 20 30, Fax: ++ 41-31-300 20 31, Post address: P.O.Box 23, CH-3097 Liebefeld-Berne, Visitors' address: Lindenrain 3, CH-3012 Berne