

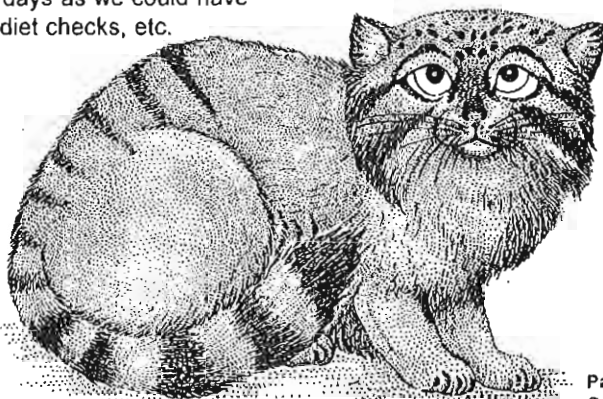
examples were set up in the bears, the macaques and the Pallas cat cages.

-- There is a chance of some lines of communication with the Director through a third party in the UN. He has been left a few small Projects to undertake with funds available. The translator will work for two extra days to assist with the completion of some projects.

The visit was very productive in testing circumstances and it is a real shame we lost those extra days as we could have achieved more with the caging and diet checks, etc.

We feel that good relations now exist with the zoo staff and that they developed a confidence in our work (mainly thanks to some fortunate animal behaviour at the right time!). It is essential that this is maintained either with a follow-up visit soon and/or communications on a regular basis with the Mayor's Office, the Director and Culture and the Zoo Director.

Submitted to WAZA by Nick Lindsay, April 16th 2002



Pallas's cat,
Centre for Environmental Education

SAVE -- Society for Afghanistan Volunteer Environmentalists

Abdul Wajid Adil*

There are two environmental societies with some history in Afghanistan, of which one is SAVE.

The mission and objectives of SAVE are to achieve environmental well-being of Afghanistan by:

- * Preserving biodiversity and other natural heritage
- * Sustainable resource utilization and development
- * Preventing harmful actions to nature and ensuring environmental health

The mission is to be accomplished by raising general public awareness for promoting sustainable development and wise resource utilization, research/studies and interventions, projects for sustainable use and management of natural resources in Afghanistan.

SAVE was established as a charitable organization in 1993 with the headquarters temporarily in Peshawar, Pakistan, and regional and site offices inside Afghanistan. It is an independent organization which has been registered with the authorities in the Eastern Zone (Nangrahar) and its application for being registered with the central government (Kabul) is under consideration. A "no objection" letter was issued by the authorities in Ghazni, Khost, Badakhshan and Laghman. SAVE has acquired international recognition and serves as a focal point for conservationists world wide.

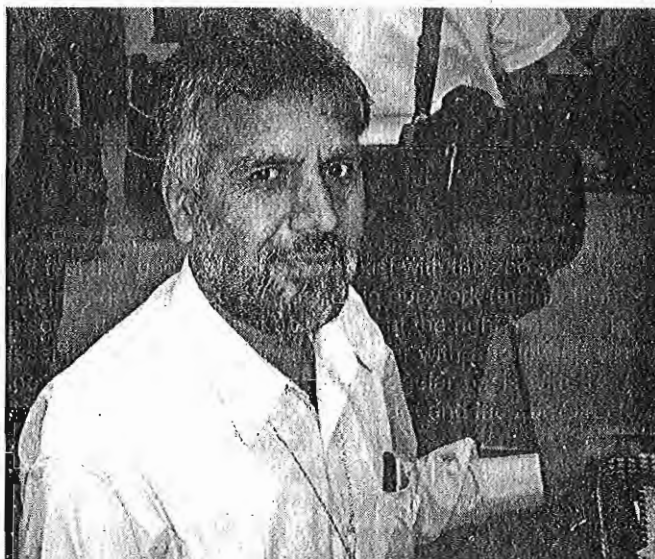
SAVE is the only IUCN member agency in Afghanistan. It is also an active member of the Afghan NGOs' Coordination Bureau (ANCB), the Afghan Campaign for Banning Landmines (ACBL) and some subcommittees of the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR).

SAVE also has cordial working relationship and networking

with a number of international organizations among them the International Snow Leopard Trust (ISLT), National Avian Research Center (NARC), International Crane Foundation (ICF) and others.



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Abdul Wajid Adil, Director, SAVE,
Photo by Sally Walker

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Save Environment Afghanistan (S.E.A.)

Sally Walker

Save Environment Afghanistan is led by Ghulam Mohammad Malikyar, the Executive Director and Nasir Ahmad Ahmadi. Ghulam is author of an article about Kabul Zoo in this issue. SEA maintains an operating Office in Kabul the capital of Afghanistan with 6 staff members who are regularly in the office. There is also a SEA main office in Peshawar for communication and banking. Here there are four permanent staff and five project staff which implement some small projects in Afghan refugee concentrated areas.

Only Ghulam and three other permanent staff are in Pakistan with frequent visits to Afghanistan where they remain for two months at a time. He visits his office in Kabul every month and sometimes remain for one or two more in case of necessity. They have access to email and other communication means. SEA can be contacted in Peshawar: SEA - Save Environment Afghanistan
405 GulHaji Plaza, 4th floor,
UPO Box 831,
Peshawar, Pakistan.
Tel/fax 92-91- 42822.

When the situation in Kabul fully stabilises, this office will shift back there, according to Ghulam.

SEA's staff members in Afghanistan are graduates of Kabul University and have received minor training in environmental issues through endeavors of SEA and SAVE in Pakistan and Afghanistan. SAVE mentored the movers and shakers of SEA at one time. The SEA office in Kabul is located in the middle part of city and around 10 km drive from the zoo.

SEA has well furnished offices in Peshawar and Kabul including transportation although one of their vehicles was hit by the heavy bombardment during the strikes. The other is taken to rural areas by the staff. They have been camping and other equipment such as tools for field work such as camera, binoculars, spolscope, etc.

SEA immediately plans to develop a project to visit Wakhan Corridor and monitor the only habitat of Marco Polo Sheep, Ibex, Urial and Snow Leopard in the north eastern region. Earlier Mr. Mallikyar was involved in helping the Kabul Zoo by organising the construction of some cages SEA had developed a proposal for Kabul zoo some time before but the situation was too chaotic and funding could not be provided.

Until the government becomes strong and stable, NGOs play a pivotal role in the country with the ability to act faster and often more effectively. SEA is trying to fill a niche in Afghanistan. In the zoo scenario, they could prove invaluable in providing education to the public, either at the zoo itself or by visiting schools and other public institutions, giving talks about conservation and particularly by attempting to alter attitudes and improve behaviour at the zoo. Much of the damage to the animals is done by visitors !

Ghulam and Nasir both know English and could benefit a great deal by receiving technical materials for their office library and to share with schools and other organisations. Readers wishing to help can email Ghulam at <sea_afghanistan@hotmail.com>

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The organization has identified and engaged in the following fields of activities:

Conservation

- * A brief monitoring and survey of falcons and falconry in Laghman, Eastern Afghanistan
- * A mission to Central and Southwestern Afghanistan for monitoring of Houbara Bustard, cranes and wetlands
- * A mission to Wakhan/Pamir for monitoring the strategic wildlife species and to open up the area for further conservation activities.
- * Monitoring the present status of Paktia forests
- * Studying the present status of Ab-I-Estada, Dashte Nawar and the waterfowl including the Siberian Cranes.
- * Creation of a Focal Point in Wakhan, Badakhshan province to study and monitor the Snow Leopard, Marco Polo Sheep, Brown Bear, Ibex, Urial and the nearby wetlands
- * Surveying the distribution and migration and present status of Houbara Bustard in Southwestern Afghanistan
- * An overall survey of falcons/falconry in Afghanistan
- * Kabul Zoo rehabilitation programme
- * Rehabilitation of a playground for children, Kabul
- * Survey of energy requirement of Kabul families

SAVE also carries out projects in environmental education/ awareness, reforestation and land rehabilitation, producing

books, pamphlets and newsletters, environmental impact assessments (EIA) and by maintaining a resource centre.

Future plans

Based on the urgent requirements of Afghanistan and the Afghan people, SAVE will continue to work on environmental education, conservation and greenery programmes. Among the major future programmes are:

- * Holding of a seminar on deforestation & other environmental problems in Afghanistan
- * Conservation of forests and a reforestation scheme in Paktia province
- * Conservation education programmes and uplift schemes for the people in the forested areas and encouragement of alternative job opportunities
- * Work on the Environmental Profile of the country and to determine the pace of environmental destruction by the war and also the manner of intervention for improving the environment in the country.
- * Studying of Houbara Bustard, falcons, Siberian Cranes/ other cranes, Snow Leopard, Marco Polo's Sheep and protection of Ab-e-Estada and other wetlands
- * Monitoring and assessment of national parks and other protected areas
- * Encouragement of ecotourism and uplift schemes in environmentally vital areas
- * Kabul Greenery Programme
- * Introduction of solar cookers in Kabul city.