

The TIMES OF INDIAN Zoos and Wildlife

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Rhino Foundation launches Newsletter

The Rhino Foundation for Nature in North has brought out an attractive Newsletter giving interesting wildlife news of Northeast India. Sponsored by Tata Tea Company the Newsletter is concerned mainly with activities of the Foundation -- in the field with projects to uplift and reward the forest guards and local people (including informers about poaching), ecodevelopment with veterinary camps in 13 fringe areas, medical camps and general awareness camps. The Foundation has brought out low cost posters on wildlife, repaired wireless sets and networked with NGOs in NE India and abroad to enhance their activities. Because of their efforts, Save the Rhino, UK donated cost of raincoats for guards in Pabitora Sanctuary.

Two publications, Wildlife Survey in Bherjan, Borajan and Podumoni and Survey of White-winged Wood Duck and the Bengal Florican in Tinsukia Distt. and Adjacent Areas have been published by the Foundation.

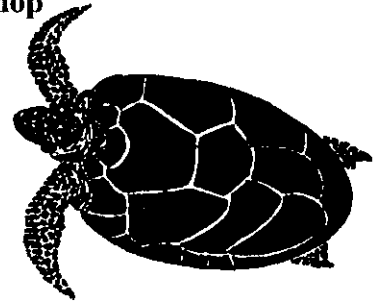
The Foundation seems the brainchild of Mrs. Anne Wright, a well-known wildlifer, who has credited everyone but herself in the newsletter. The Foundation has a Chief Executive, Dr. Anwaruddin Choudhury who can be contacted for more information at the following address:

Dr. A. Choudhury, Chief Executive
c/o Assam Company, Ltd., Girish Chandra
Bordolai Path, Bamunimaidam
Guwahati 781 021, Assam
Tel. 0361-550257 Fax 361 550 902



North Indian Ocean Sea Turtle Workshop

The IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group, and other foreign collaborators along with the Department of Environment and Forests, Orissa; Utkal University, Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur University, Sambalpur organised a regional / international workshop on the Northern Indian Ocean Sea Turtle at Hotel Kalinga Ashoka, Bhubaneswar on 13 - 18 January 1997.



The Workshop and Strategic planning meeting was held to improve networking and communication among regional biologists, conservationists and managers; provide training in research and management and develop regional conservation strategy for sea turtles. Training seminars, covering topics in global research and monitoring formats will be conducted during the workshop with the objective of introducing managers and researchers to new methodologies and standardising existing methodologies.

For information on proceedings and reports, contact S. K. Patnaik, I.F.S., Conservator of Forests, Janpath, Shaheednagar, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.



Central Zoo Authority / Wildlife Institute of India Endangered Species and Zoo Management Course Zoo Directors of Indian Zoos, 11 - 20 December 1997



Participants (not in order) : G. R. Sahibi, H. P. Zoos; B. Anand Mohan, I. G. Zoo, Visak; Rashid Y. Naqash, Zoo, Jammu & Kashmir; Vijay B. Suryavanshi, Zoo, Borivilli; Dal Rinmavia, DCF, Mizoram; Dr. T. Chakrabarthy, Darjeeling Zoo; Dr. Subir K. Chaudhuri, Calcutta Zoo; P. S. Raghayaian, Tirupati Zoo; J. R. Parmar, Gandhi Nagar; Jagabandhu Mishra, Manipur; Ritesh Bhattacharjee, Assam State Zoo; Mamta Sharma, Kanpur Zoo; Dr. Prafulla Mehta, Zoo Surat; Vijay Singh Rathore, Jaipur Zoo; Anoop O. F. Bakhla, Sankosia Wildlife Division; Dr. A. J. Urfi, Sundarvan, Ahmedabad; K. K. Modgill, Chhat Bir Zoo.

Biodiversity Events of Interest

Management Development Programme on participatory and Ecodevelopment Approach to Biodiversity Conservation for Sustainable Resource Management, 7 - 11 April 1997 at Indian Institute for Forest Management, P. O. Box 357, Nehru Nagar, Bhopal, 462 003, M. P. Contact Programme Directors P. C. Kotwal and S. Banerjee.

Sustainable Utilization of Biodiversity International Symposium, March 1997, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehra Dun. Organised by Sal Institute of Environment and Annals of Forestry. Write R. K. Sood, Convenor, 374 Mohit Nagar, Lane No. 13, P. O. New Forest, Dehra Dun.

Publications of Interest

IZDA/CZA NEWS: Newsletter of the Indian Zoo Directors' Association and Central Zoo Authority. Volume 4, Nos. 3&4 for July and October 1996 has been published and is available with the President, IZDA, c/o Conservator of Forests, Janpath, Shaheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar. Big 12-page issue with news of zoos, international and national, the IZDA, the CZA, and a special feature Know Your Zoo on Nandankanan Zoo.

National Studbook of Golden Langur

The Assam State Zoo has brought out the National Studbook of Golden langur (*Presbytis geei*). The Assam State Zoo was assigned responsibility for the Golden

langur Studbook. The information has been collected and compiled by Smt. Rajeshree Sharma, Research and Education Officer at Assam State Zoo and edited by Sharma and B. S. Bonal with help from the zoo staff. According to the Studbook 144 Golden langurs have been recorded in captivity, since 1966 most of which were of wild origin. At present there are 5 males and 8 females in captivity in Indian zoos. As far as is known, no animals exist in captivity outside of India.

For a copy of the Studbook write to Assam State Zoo, Guwahati.

Helping Hand

Directory of Animal Welfare Organisations in India. This is a comprehensive and detailed book on Animal Rights divided into 5 sections: Laws, details of Delhi laws, Guidelines for action (including how to file a case), suggestion on how to make animal welfare successful, and a detailed list of Animal Welfare organisations in India with address and services they offer. Compiled by Camellia Satija. Published by KARE (Kindness to Animals and Respect for Environment), M-39 Main Market, Greater Kailash I, New Delhi 110 048. Price Rs. 50.00 (add Rs. 10 for outstation cheques and Rs. 20 for postage).



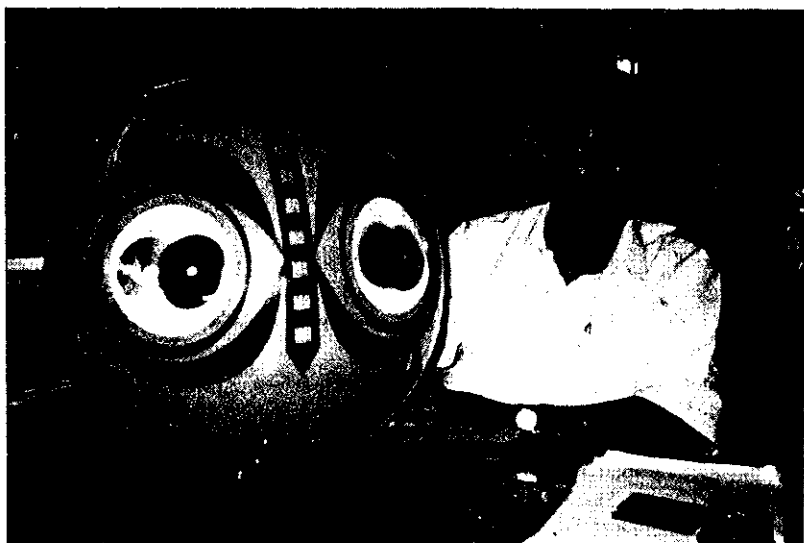
"Terrible Eye" terrifies Vultures

Mr. A. K. Das, Director of Calcutta Zoo, had a problem. Vultures were settling on his water tower high above the zoo and using it as a toilet. White streams of vulture excreta decorated the black water drum in an unsightly manner and the vultures themselves perched on top, lent a macabre atmosphere to the zoo. What to do? You can't shoot vultures -- they have to shit somewhere! Visitors complained and committee members were embarrassed.

Finally, help arrived -- the Great Terrible Eye to the rescue. Terrible Eye is an enormous yellow balloon with big black eyes that move around as the balloon sways in the wind. As soon as it was installed and began its terrifying "watch", the poor vultures took flight and have not been seen again.

But Mr. Das's troubles are not over. Now the local chapter of the People Loving Vultures Association (PLVA) have threatened to hold a shooting contest with bow and arrow at the zoo with a big First Prize for the first person to bag Terrible Eye. Tune in next month to see if Mr. Das and his Terrible Eye can overcome the Vulture Lovers.

Note: If any other zoo director would like to scare away his vultures and is not afraid of the Vulture Lovers, he can write Mr. Das and find out where to buy Terrible Eye. It works ... it really does.



THE CRUEL CIRCUS

This booklet is also by KARE, seems not to be priced. Order from above address. This 20 page booklet is attractively typeset and includes black and white photos and drawings of implements used in training circus animals. Background and history of the circus is briefly covered along with a section on Cruelty which highlights training methods (including what ex-trainers have to say), hygiene and housing, cage size, veterinary facilities, pregnant animals, food, exercise, transportation, behaviour.

KARE claims that circus animals do not teach anything about natural behaviour pattern of wild or domestic animals and do not have any educational value. This is backed up by quotes from wildlife experts such as Billy Arjan Singh, Kailash Sankhala, H. S. Panwar and Iqbal Mallick as well as western experts. There is a section on Circus animals in the law and a section on species in circuses, circuses that DON'T keep animals and what we can do to rescue/help circus animals. For the most part this booklet is extremely useful, full of facts, reasonable and rational. Highly recommended.

International Zoo and Wildlife Meeting and Magazines



Joint Meeting of Nutrition Society with Zoo Groups

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PLANT TALK

The Nutrition Society is holding a Joint Meeting with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and the British Federation of Zoos. The meeting will take place at Edinburgh Zoo on 16 - 18 May 1997. The three-day meeting will consist of two days of presentations (16-17 May) by such luminaries in the zoo nutrition field as Ellen Dierenfeld, Sue Crissey, Don Lindburg and others on a diverse range of subject matter on and related to nutrition. Some of the topics are Nutrition of captive wild animals, historical perspectives (Dierenfeld), Using wild foraging ecology information to provide captive primates with an appropriate diet (Crissey), Small mammal nutrition, torpor, hibernation and foraging energetics (Speakman), Behaviour and nutrition of captive wild animals (Lindburg) and others. The last day of the meeting (18 May) will consist of Special Interest Workshops including poster and oral communications.

For further information, registration details and guidelines for preparation of abstracts please contact : Mr. Rodney Warwick, The Nutrition Society, 10 Cambridge Court, 210 Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7NJ, U.K. Phone 44 171 602 0228; Fax 44 171 602 1756 email 100672.2151@compuserve.com.

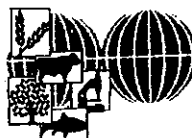
Conference on Environmental Enrichment

The Third International Conference on Environmental Enrichment will take place on 12 - 16 October 1997 in Orlando, Florida. Final call for papers has been issued with deadline on 15 June 1997. Write to Thad Lacinak, Corporate Animal Training, Sea World, Inc., 7007 Sea World Drive, Orlando, Florida, 32821, USA.

DIVERSITY

A News Journal for the International Genetic Resources Community

DIVERSITY is an international quarterly news journal whose mission is to provide to the biodiversity community a broad range of views and information on people, issues, policies, practices, and activities relating to the preservation, conservation and utilization of genetic resources. It is published by Genetic Resources Communications Systems, Inc.



DIVERSITY consists of sections such as News in Brief, International News, NGRP News, Events, Announcements, Acronyms and sometimes a special feature.

Volume 12, No. 3 of DIVERSITY was a special issue devoted to India's Genetic resources system, including articles on utilisation of India's germplasm to provide worldwide crop improvement, pioneers in genetic resources, such as M. S. Swaminathan and the Indian governmental system of Bureau's of Genetic Resources of which there are several, including one on plants, one on animals and one on fish. There is an article about the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions as well as the Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources. Other topics discussed in this special issue are agroforestry and biodiversity working in tandem, India's plant quarantine system and *in situ* conservation and its implementation in the Indian context. In addition there is a special section on Approaches to Compensation, such as applied to farmers rights and communities, the honey bee network, India's "Seed Keepers" and intellectual property rights and the seed industry.

To subscribe to this magazine and find out more about the Genetic Resources Communications Systems, write to CRCS, Inc., 4905 Del Ray Avenue, Suite 401, Bethesda, MD 20814 USA.

At Last ! a magazine on plant conservation worldwide. This magazine is read in over 70 countries. Plant Talk is published by the Botanical Information Company Ltd., a company set up for this purpose and registered in England. It is independent of any other organisation. The Director, Hugh Syngé, has spent over 20 years in international plant conservation, including setting up the Threatened Plants Unit of IUCN with Gren Lucan and is the author of several books on plant conservation. Dr. John Akeroyd, Editor, is a freelance writer on botany and plant conservation with a background in Mediterranean botany. A prestigious advisory panel advises the publication.

Plant talk is available on subscription only. It is in full colour and published quarterly. Each issue includes : round up of news from around the world and update on threats to plants and their habitats, an inspiring story of where conservationists are succeeding, features explaining techniques of plant conservation (how to set up a seed bank, general advice, how to write a successful grant application), notice board of key events, reviews of Red Data Books, Reports on new Floras, Checklists and Field Guides, vital plant facts for conservation campaigners.

To order your free copy, write :
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