

als. Given that only a small fraction of trade is believed to be apprehended, this would suggest that the quantity of turtles being smuggled to China is significantly higher. 'We urge the public to get involved in helping protect our turtles before it is too late,' says Nguyen Thi Van Anh, who manages ENV's efforts to combat wildlife crime. 'Without public support, the authorities cannot possibly succeed in preventing some of our turtle species from being lost.'

Van Anh urges the public to take action in the following ways:

– Do not buy or consume hard-shell turtles or products made from turtles.

– Before ordering soft-shell turtle on the menu, make sure that it is a Chinese species and that it was born and raised on a farm. Make a point of asking the restaurant owner and demanding farm-raised turtles only.

– Help educate others so that your friends and family will understand why it is important to preserve our unique biodiversity and protect turtles and other wildlife.

– Report turtle hunters and traders to local authorities or call ENV on their toll-free wildlife crime hotline.

Cuc Phuong's Turtle Conservation Center (TCC) was established in 1999 and currently holds more than 1,000 turtles representing 20 native species that were either rescued from the illegal trade or born at the center as part of several breeding programs that have been established for some of the most endangered species. The TCC also focuses on training young scientists and forest rangers, and research.

Education for Nature – Vietnam was established in 2000 as Vietnam's first non-governmental organization focused on conservation of nature and the environment. Its mission is to foster greater understanding amongst the Vietnamese public about environmental issues of local, national and global significance, ranging from protection of wildlife and natural ecosystems to climate change. It em-

ploys creative and innovative strategies to influence attitudes and behavior, not only highlighting the need to protect Vietnam's rich natural heritage and the living world around us, but also encouraging greater public participation in achieving this important and challenging task.

ENV press release, 10 March 2010

Dallas World Aquarium, Texas, U.S.A.

Since 2007, 19 Andean cocks-of-the-rock (*Rupicola peruvianus*) have been hatched at the aquarium, of which 14 are still alive.

During 2009, over 200 toucans, toucanets and aracarís of 14 taxa were hatched at the aquarium, of which at least 170 survived. A probable first captive breeding was that of a (Panamanian) blue-throated toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*). There are now 29 taxa of toucans, toucanets and aracarís represented in the aquarium's bird collection. New species and subspecies added during the year included blue-banded toucanets (*A. caeruleicinctis*), lettered aracarís (*Pteroglossus inscriptus*) and black-throated toucanets (*A. atrogularis*).

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Hamilton Zoo, New Zealand

Milking a rhinoceros by hand sounds scary, but that's what Hamilton Zoo staff did when a baby white rhino was born almost blind a few weeks back. Blood sores in the calf's eyes meant that he had problems finding his mother Kito's teats to suckle from them.

Though rhinos are usually docile animals, milking one was a thrilling experience, and obviously had an element of risk. 'If they get a fright they flick round, and as they can't see particularly well they rush towards something if they don't

know what it is,' says the zoo's Acting Director, Samantha Kudeweh. But sitting under a mother rhino and hand-milking her had not been a frightening experience the zoo does a lot of conditioning with the rhinos on a daily basis, so they're happy to stand in their protective chute.

'Every day they get a big rub down, we check their feet and we can even take blood samples from their ears – they're actually very tactile animals,' says Kudeweh.

Kito, who weighs around 1,500 kilograms, was milked three times a day for five days, producing three litres a day. This supply was not quite adequate to meet the calf's requirements and he was supplemented with commercial foal formula. He now weighs 76 kg and, with his eyesight constantly improving, is successfully suckling from his mother.

Medha Sood on
www.rhinokeeperassociation.org

Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks, U.K.

Births in 2009 included four gorillas (bringing our total number of births to 129). On Christmas Day we celebrated the birth of an eastern black rhinoceros at Port Lympne; this baby female brings the total number of rhino births at the park to 27, and is a fourth birth for Vuyu.

The primate section at Howletts has been having a busy time recently, with a number of important births over the last few months. One significant success was the birth of a Javan gibbon in October. This birth is of particular note because the infant's sire Ujung was diagnosed with diabetes two years ago. At first his condition was managed through tablets and strict control of his diet, but when his condition worsened he started needing daily insulin injections. For Ujung to survive, he would therefore need to be willing to accept daily injections from his keepers, which required a lot of positive

reinforcement training. After much effort, Ujung is now presenting both arms for his daily injection and is doing fantastically well; so we hope to see a steady flow of youngsters swinging around his enclosure for many more years to come.

Other notable births included two other Javan gibbons, nine clouded leopards, five rusty-spotted cats, a Heck's macaque (*Macaca hecki* – the first captive birth outside their native homeland of northern Sulawesi) and three brown hyena pups (Port Lympne is the only U.K. collection currently holding this species and the first to breed them).

New species added to the parks' collections included northern Chinese leopards, ring-tailed lemurs and belted ruffed lemurs. Howletts and Port Lympne have taken over the studbooks for three species, clouded leopard, bush dog and Scottish wild cat.

Howletts and Port Lympne press release

Living Coasts, Torquay, Devon, U.K.

The negative effects of inbreeding depression should lead wild animals to avoid reproducing with related individuals. Mate choice can often be controlled within captive-breeding programmes to avoid inbreeding and meet other genetic and demographic goals. However, such control of breeding may be difficult when species are held in large social groups or colonies. In these circumstances, mate choice is restricted to within the group and therefore inbreeding may occur. We investigated the effects of inbreeding on the reproductive behaviour of a captive colony of Inca terns (*Larosterna inca*), a monogamous South American bird, housed at Living Coasts. We predicted that tern pairs producing inbred offspring would invest less in pair-bond maintenance, courtship and chick-rearing than pairs producing outbred offspring.

Eleven pairs were observed at the nest for 30 minutes for each of thirty days (15