



# ZOO'S PRINT

Communicating science for conservation

## Memories of **Sally Walker** Wildlife's Wonder Woman 1944-2019

# Sally Raulston Walker

12 October 1944 – 22 August 2019

Sally Walker is synonymous with zoo and wildlife conservation in South Asia. A citizen of the United States of America, she dedicated two-thirds of her life in India initially in studying Yoga and Sanskrit in the 1970s, and from 1980 in the cause of animal and zoo welfare, and conservation. Hers is a testament to nature's influence of epiphanic proportions! A visit to the Mysore Zoo and one meeting with new born tiger cubs resulted in 40 years of dedicated service to zoos and conservation in South Asia.



She did the unimaginable in the country. A very outspoken (often hated for it), articulate, and charismatic personality, she made friends and foes with ease. Her no-nonsense attitude cut through a lot of bureaucracy; she was an influencer and pioneer. She set up the Friends of Mysore Zoo, won accolades for it and was asked by the highest authority in India to start a friend of all zoos in the country with a promise of support from the then Department of Environment. She set up the Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO), an iconic NGO in 1985 and straight away got into the business of influencing the zoos in the country. After doing the research, gathering data and combing the country, she made the first comprehensive list of zoos in India, went straight to the central government with the plight of the animals in those zoos, and initiated the setting up of the Central Zoo Authority.

Sally advocated conservation science at ZOO and partnered with several organizations around the world to promote conservation welfare in zoos. Her enthusiasm and a go-getter attitude to resolving conservation crises impressed Ulie Seal who let Sally start the first regional network of Captive Breeding (now Conservation Planning) Specialist Group of SSC IUCN in 1991 in India.

Sally's involvement with the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and her dogged determination initiated the good zoo - bad zoo relationship, focus group and guidelines. She set up a Zoo Authority like organization for all South Asian zoos called SAZARC (South Asian Association of Zoos for Regional Cooperation) and ensured scientific, technical and management training to zoo personnel of the region for 10 years from 2000 to 2010.

Sally won several prestigious awards including The Heini Hediger Award for outstanding and dedicated service to Zoos, The U.S. Seal Award for Innovation and wildlife conservation efforts in South Asia, The Menon Award for Contribution to Welfare of Captive Wild Animals in India, and The Scientific Fellow of the North of England Zoological Society.

Sally Raulston Walker, a conservation hero. She has been a role model and a life changer to hundreds of conservationists, wildlife educators, naturalists, zoo personnel, foresters, and so many others in India, South Asia, and from around the world! Sally's long-time team at ZOO will continue her legacy.

-- Sanjay Molur and ZOO CREW

# I am not Ordinary, at least ...

Sally R. Walker

I have not had an ordinary life ... nor am I an ordinary person. I was born in Savannah, Georgia in 1944 to an unwed mother who didn't want a baby. Fortunately a compassionate doctor risked his reputation by helping both unwed mothers and couples that could not have a child. It was wartime and young ladies made mistakes. Abortion was dangerous so the doctor convinced them to let him deliver and give the baby to desperate couples. On my paperwork he wrote: "A lady came to hospital with severe abdominal pain indicative of a tumor. Immediate surgery was undertaken but instead of a tumor, there was a baby. The baby was handed over to the adoptive parents to take home and love." That was my beginning...not ordinary!

After basic childhood I was not a good girl. By 1958 I was a troubled soul and I made my parents very unhappy. After many years of frequent and very serious



Younger Sallys



With her parents Mr. & Mrs. Raulston. They both were the biggest donors and fans of ZOO



Ex husband and mentor Dick Mortenson



With her Yoga guru Patabhi Jois

misbehavior ... drugs, heavy drinking, men, failing college by one course, arrested for selling LSD, court sentencing to a drug rehab facility in California, a Secretarial job to an upscale porn manufacturer, ... I began to improve.

In 1977, I stopped all bad habits, thanks to Rehab and AA. I met and married a brilliant UCLA Professor also in A.A. and we lived happily

on Venice Beach, California for a few years. An American yoga master, Raju, lived upstairs over our flat and we took lessons from him. He invited his teacher, Patabhi Jois, a genuine yoga and Sanskrit master) to USA to teach for a month. I was so impressed with his teaching that I begged my husband to send me to India for long-term study, and he agreed.

I travelled to Mysore, India October 1976 and over 6+ years studied Yoga, Pranayama and Sanskrit with Patabhi Jois and was much improved, to say the least. He left India to teach in USA for a month and during this gap an Indian veterinarian invited me to visit the Mysore Zoo where she gave me a grand tour. The tour ended with a zookeeper placing a 2-month old tiger cub in my arms causing me to flip from y (yoga) to z (zoos). I visited the zoo and the tiger cub *daily* after that and my "zoo career" began in 1981.

It took a while to convince the Mysore Zoo staff that they would be working for me (Ha!) but in a short time I was an unpaid but happy zoo lady firmly planted at the Mysore Zoo, doing many things. After some months, the Mysore Divisional Commissioner asked me to set up a Society, induct members, conduct events at the zoo, develop brochures, booklets, signboards, a monthly magazine and behave nicely to the press. The Friends of Mysore Zoo (FMZ) was the first in India. I was made the Founder/Secretary of FMZ, ordering everyone around, playing with the tigers, walking them around the zoo, hanging out with them in their large cage, etc. The public and press appreciated all that. I invaded the zoo library to find out what to do and read a great deal about zoos around the world



and took interest in all the animals. I kept very detailed notes on the behavior of the tiger cubs and learned a lot as well as playing out a dream that I didn't even know that I had. My mentor and nemesis, Sri C.D. Krishna Gowda, Director of the Mysore Zoo, was a wonderful friend and colleague. He always went on rounds in the zoo every morning and evening and this timeworn habit was a wonderful instruction. I joined him and got an advanced education in zoo management. He knew every animal and they recognized him also.

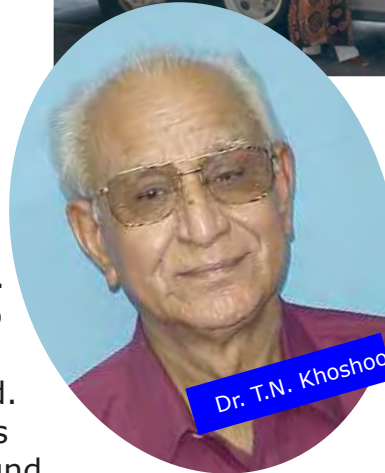
In India then there were strict Visa requirements and every 3-6 months, unless I could get an extension I had



to leave India until I could get another visa. My parents were worried that I might return to my old habits if I stayed in USA. They solved the problem by giving me a series of 30-day Greyhound Bus tickets so I could go around and see how American zoos were managed. They renewed the ticket every month and it worked well but I don't recommend trying to sleep in a Greyhound bus for weeks at a time. I was well received by the American zoos all things considered. The Zoo Directors were intrigued to hear about my zoo life and I theirs. I covered over 100 zoos altogether. I met Steve Taylor at Sacramento Zoo and learned he also had covered many zoos by Greyhound. I don't think we talked about zoos ... we just groused about Greyhound bus non-amenities.



Steve Taylor was Director Emeritus of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Prior to that he was the Director of the Sacramento Zoo.



Dr. T.N. Khoshoo



Dr. Nan Shaffer

Later, I was able to visit zoos in Europe, taking advantage of CBSG meetings and friends there. So, although the Visa situation was annoying, it forced me to get out of India and see the rest of the world and its zoos. Now I can get a 10-year visa.

In 1983 Dr. Nan Shaffer of Lincoln Park Zoo visited India to collect lion semen for her project and the zoo made an event out of it. We arranged a lecture and a demonstration for veterinarians, universities, and selected zoogoers, etc. to observe her collection procedure that was first in India. We entertained a number of zoo people from USA and other countries.

In 1984, I was asked to be a Special Invitee to the National Zoo Advisory Board. This was a boon for me as it met in New Delhi and government would pay travel and accommodation. I visited Dr. T. N. Khoshoo, Secretary, Environment

every visit and reported what we were doing at Mysore Zoo. During one visit Dr. Khoshoo and his officers discussed the need for a "national" organization to carry out activities FMZ was doing but on a different scale. It should be focused on all Indian zoos. I should write a grant for all that required to make it work.

The emphasis was to improve the image and utility of Indian Zoos. That meant new everything ... new name, publications, objectives, office and view of education. After obtaining the grant we designed thousands of Zoo School packets for distribution to zoos for their visitors. We designed packets for distribution on special days like Wildlife Week, Animal Welfare Fortnightly, etc. Zoos ordered these packets, paid the postage and used them well on various events. The end of 1984 Zoo Outreach Organisation was registered and in 1985 we brought out two new periodicals,

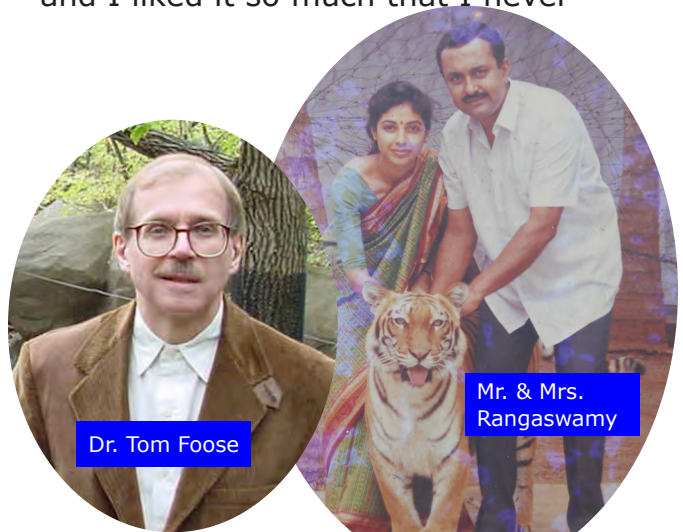
one was ZOO ZEN and the other was ZOOS' PRINT. The zoos did not have a sufficient range of information in their libraries and among themselves that insured their capacity and skills. I started a monthly compilation of useful zoo information for all Indian zoos. The compilation (ZOO ZEN) was not printed in bulk as we couldn't afford it but we xeroxed enough copies for every zoo to have one and some government people as well. We brought it out once a month and after some time zoo directors, curators and veterinarians began commenting positively about ZOO ZEN that was kept up for years.

ZOOS' PRINT was more of a zoo news magazine and had plenty of information useful to zoo directors and all staff as well as biologists and other technical persons others interested in zoos and conservation. Today ZOOS' PRINT is very well known and is sent to more than 10,000 readers.

In 1987 I had to leave Mysore, not because my visa had expired but because I had insulted some forest

officers and they complained about me to the state home department. I had to move and my friends, the Rangaswamys who were planning to raise a zoo themselves, helped me move to Coimbatore. I missed the Mysore Zoo but it was a good thing to move to Coimbatore where I had little to do but attend to Zoo Outreach Organization and later help the Rangaswamys with their zoo.

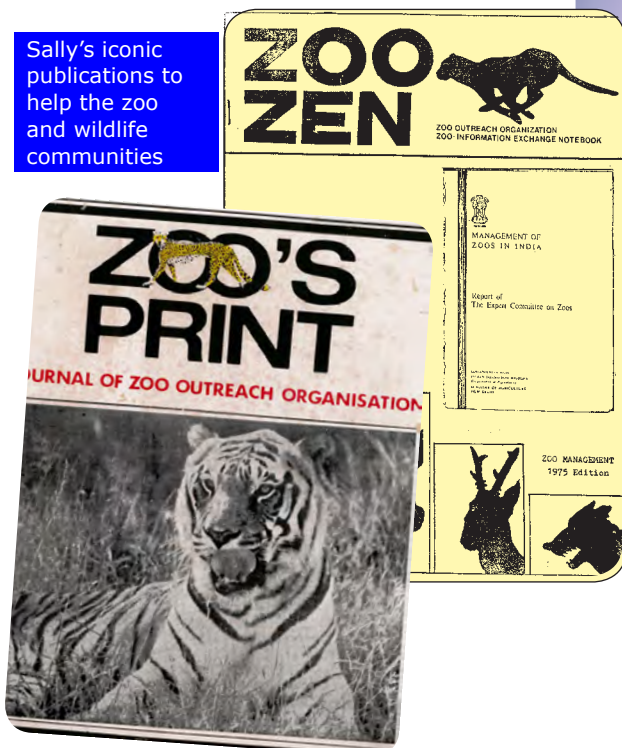
In 1990 I attended my first CBSG meeting that was held on Copenhagen and I liked it so much that I never



Dr. Tom Foose

Mr. & Mrs. Rangaswamy

Sally's iconic publications to help the zoo and wildlife communities



With her mentor Dr. U.S. Seal, Mary-Alice and Mr. S.C. Sharma



With Onnie Byers and Yolanda Motomoros

wanted to miss their annual meeting or anything of CBSG. I have attended every meeting since then. Dr. Seal and Dr. Tom Foose had created excellent tools and processes to use in assessing conservation issues. The best were the Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) and the Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP). Soon after, Onnie Byers joined and added good humor and excellent ideas. CBSG grew and many people joined making it a wonderful organization. Zoo Outreach Organization became immersed in CBSG and ultimately convened a CBSG South Asia that was very beneficial.

Sri S.C. Sharma was tasked with improving the zoo situation by the Environment Ministry. I felt the zoos needed something more from the Central Government than what was on the table at that time. I was invited to several meetings to input on this and other issues and was very pleased with the result. On 28 August 1991 the Zoo Act that consisted of legislation for zoos was passed in Rajya Sabha. The Central Zoo Authority of India was constituted on 3 February 1992. I was a member of CZA for six years and enjoyed it very much. I was on several CZA committees but my favorite was the one that assessed all significant Zoos. We had a hard job but everyone had a great sense of humor. When this work was done, CZA informed the zoos where improvement was needed and allocated funds to do the work.

In 2000 I promoted two major ideas to improve zoos, e.g. Zoo Legislation and Zoo Associations to the other countries in the South Asian zoo scenario.

I was honored with several prestigious awards:

In 2000: The Menon Award for Contribution to Welfare of Captive Wild Animals in India

In 2001: Honorable Scientific Fellow of the North of England Zoological Society, U.K.

In 2004: The Heini Hediger Award for outstanding and dedicated service to Zoos, and

In 2008: The U.S. Seal Award for Innovation and wildlife conservation efforts in South Asia.



Her achievements were a joy to the zoo community and the ZOO Crew, and appreciated by the cats too.



**Jury's Special Award**  
**Sally Walker**  
 Sally Walker, a US national who has made India her second home, has made a significant contribution towards improving the state of Indian zoos. Walker's educational campaigns have taught many zoos how to provide better conditions for animals and made thousands of children more compassionate towards animals. She started the Conservation and Breeding Specialist Group India - regional network of the CBSG/SSCA/ICN, under which she introduced new methods of wildlife assessment, management and conservation.

I enjoyed writing, particularly to promote zoos and wildlife. I published over 300 news and feature articles for Indian newspapers and articles. Most of them were about zoos and zoo animals, but occasionally I also wrote bizarre and amusing articles, such my series in the *Illustrated Weekly* called the Spy from Outer Space. I wrote for important books also, e.g., *The Encyclopedia of World's Zoo*, April 2000, ed. Catharine E. Bell, who asked my assistance for topics that had no authors; I wrote 26 articles for EWZ. Also for Dr. Vernon Kising's excellent book: *Zoo and Aquarium History: Ancient Animal Collections to Zoological Gardens* I wrote three sections on South Asia, Asia and (with Willie Labusinge) Africa, 93 of 415 pages. I was invited to submit an article "Engineering Conservation Action in South Asia", for the *International Zoo Yearbook* of ZSL in 2001 and many other books as well.

Something was going on all the time in ZOO.

- 10 PHVA Workshops, Population and Habitat Viability Assessment
- 22 CAMP Workshops, Conservation Assessment and Management Plan
- 30 CAMP and PHVA reports and output of conservation workshops
- 150 training workshops & 300 Educator Training workshops
- 14 themes for Teaching Manuals
- 36 themes for 7 lakhs packets/posters/etc., published and distributed
- 232 issues ZOO ZEN (from August 1985 to Oct 2009)
- ~400 issues ZOOS' PRINT





# **Sally Walker** **Honorary Scientific Fellow** **of the North of England Zoological Society**



By these presents, let it be known that Sally Walker has on this day been awarded an Honorary Scientific Fellowship of the North of England Zoological Society, by the wish of the President and with the endorsement and authority of the Council of Trustees. This award is made in recognition of a substantial and sustained contribution to the advancement of practical science and education applied to conservation in India.

Sally Walker was born in the 'deep south' of the United States of America. She first travelled to India in the early 1970's as a scholar of Sanskrit – the ancient and sacred language of the Hindus. A heightened awareness of Asian cultures encouraged Sally to become a student of yoga – the system of philosophic meditation and asceticism designed to effect a 'wholeness of spirit', often combined with physical exercises. This deep cultural immersion also awakened a profound interest in the concept of a 'wholeness of nature', increasingly expressed in a concern for the welfare and conservation of the threatened wildlife of India. Sally's first practical commitment in this regard was as a volunteer at Mysore Zoo where in 1981 she established the Friends of Mysore Zoo Society - an educational, public relations and scientific support group, the first of its kind in Asia. So began a life-long dedication to Indian and, subsequently all Asian zoos and a firm commitment to develop, through education and science, their role and mission in conservation.

Sally Walker's early success resulted in an appointment to the National Zoo Advisory Board of the Department of Environment, Government of India. Government officials encouraged Sally to set up the Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) in 1985. Although based in India, the organisation now extends throughout South Asia, including the nations of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and, most recently, Afghanistan. In a region of such immense biodiversity - racked with all manner of political, economic, administrative and social problems - conservational work can be impeded by the diverse cultures which lack the practice of communication, co-operation and collaboration. The Zoo Outreach Organisation, with Sally's guidance and support, has successfully tackled these problems. Working both for zoo and field conservation, the ZOO organisation has become a model for successfully building networks to facilitate or catalyse conservation action. It brings together stakeholders, e.g. scientists, other specialists and lay persons in order to bring about consensus over a variety of conservation issues. Two monthly

publications, ZOOS'PRINT and ZOO ZEN, founded and edited by Sally, carry the work of the organisation far beyond South Asia. Sally's other excellent and prolific contributions to scientific publishing are legendary, as evidenced by the two dozen essays recently published in the Encyclopaedia of the World's Zoos - an unprecedented contribution.

Sally Walker's other work has included lobbying initiatives, provision of educational material and the development of scientific training programmes. In particular, as Convenor of the SSC IUCN Conservation Breeding Specialist Group -- CBSG, India, she has been instrumental in establishing, with a single-minded determination, the now celebrated CBSG Regional Networks. Sally's early work with zoos led to a six year membership on the Central Zoo Authority, an autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment, Government of India, and membership on Ministerial committees - rare and unusual honours indeed for those born outside India. A recent personal initiative is the foundation of the Society for the Promotion of the History of Zoos and Natural History in India and Asia. This perfectly combines Sally's cultural and scientific interests and talents. Sally Walker's links with Chester Zoo began with a shared interest in the Sangai (better known as the Manipur Brow-antlered Deer - *Cervus eldi eldi*), where the first joint initiatives were for educational material and posters, leading to wider involvement in ear tagging projects and record keeping work. Later, we had the privilege of co-supporting many other endeavours, including a Mahout training programme and the Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network for South Asia (CCINSA), and we have helped facilitate links with other UK zoos.

Sally, your special abilities to bypass bureaucracy, confound chaos and promote education and science, make you a most worthy recipient of this special honour. I, Gordon McGregor Reid, Zoo Director and Chief

Executive, on behalf of our Council, request that you now accept from our Chairman, Mr John Makinson, this Honorary Scientific Fellowship of the Society.

**Presented this 1st December, 2001 by  
John Makinson Esq, TD MA  
His Grace the Duke of Chairman of  
Council Westminster OBE TD DL  
President of the North of England  
Zoological Society**





## World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)

**UNITED FOR CONSERVATION**

### **Citation Accompanying the Awarding of the Heini Hediger Award to Sally Walker 4 November 2004**

Sally Walker was born in the United States of America. She first travelled to India in the early 1970's as a scholar of Sanskrit-the ancient and sacred language of the Hindus. A heightened awareness of Asian cultures encouraged Sally to become a student of Yoga. This deep cultural immersion also awaked a profound interest in the concept of a 'wholeness of nature', increasingly expressed in a concern for the welfare and conservation of the threatened wildlife in India. Sally's first practical commitment to this concern was as a volunteer at Mysore Zoo where, in 1981, she established the Friends of Mysore Zoo Society – an educational, public relations and scientific support group, the first of its kind in Asia. So began a life-long dedication to Indian and, subsequently all Asian Zoos, and a firm commitment to develop, through education and science, their role and mission in conservation.

Sally Walker's early success resulted in an appointment to the National Zoo Advisory Board of the Department of Environment, Government of India. Government officials encouraged Sally to set up the Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) in 1985. Although based in India, the organisation now extends throughout South Asia, including the nations of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives Islands, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. This is a region which contains a tremendous amount of biodiversity, but is bedevilled by problems such as language differences, political differences, economic, cultural and



social differences, not to mention ongoing conflict. We are all aware of the recent devastation wrought in Afghanistan. The Zoo Outreach Organisation, with Sally's guidance and support, has successfully tackled these problems.

Working both for zoo and field conservation, the zoo organization has become a model for successfully building networks to facilitate or catalyse conservation action. It brings together stakeholders, e.g., scientist. Other specialists and lay people to bring about consensus over a variety of conservation issues. Two monthly publications, ZOOS' PRINT and ZOO ZEN, founded and edited by Sally, carry the work of the organization far beyond South Asia.

A number of other publications have emanated from this organization, one of the most recent being the excellent 'Mammals of Afghanistan'

Sally Walker's other work has included lobbying initiatives, provision of educational material and the development of scientific training programs. In particular, as Convenor of the SSC IUCN Conservation Breeding Specialist Group – India, has been instrumental in establishing the now celebrated CBSG Regional Networks. Sally's early work with zoos led to a six year membership on the Central Zoo Authority, an autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment, Government of India, and membership of Ministerial committees – rare and unusual honours indeed for those born outside India.

Sally Walker has become an expert in seeking support for her many initiatives, she has become an institution within the Zoo profession and has demonstrated a capacity for achieving successful outcomes from, often, extremely limited resources.

Sally Walker is a dedicated conservationist, has achieved a great deal, not only in the

region in which she had decided to live and work, but all around the world. She is an inspiration to all of us and I have great pleasure, on behalf of the WAZA Council and you, its members, on handing over the Heini Hediger Award to her today.

Sincere Congratulations.

-- Ed McAlister, AO, President, WAZA





## **Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation**



**Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission,  
International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources CBSG,SSC IUCN**

### **Sally Walker – 2008**

The Ulysses S Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation is the one award that the CBSG gives each year, and it is regarded very highly not only by the CBSG but also by the entire zoo and aquarium community, and by the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

As usual, we received a number of nominations of outstanding candidates for the award. The review committee noted that it was presented with some very high calibre candidates, making selection very difficult, but also indicating the esteem in which the U.S. Seal Award is held. At the end of its process of consultation, the committee recommended that the Ulysses S. Seal Award for 2008 should be awarded to Sally Walker. The CBSG Steering Committee subsequently expressed its unanimous endorsement of the selection.

It would be impossible in this short time to list all that Sally has done for conservation in India, in South Asia, and even around the world. As one of her nominator's said, Sally has been "a catalyst for both individuals and organisations, national and international. There is hardly any taxa of either importance or 'neglect' that Sally has not championed with a direct conservation

impact. ... and Sally has a rare knack of turning each of her "obsessions of the season" into an exceptional educational version that reaches out far and wide."

I have an admission to make: after the first workshop in which I worked closely with Sally, I wondered if I would ever want to work with this woman again. She just kept demanding things that were unreasonable - such as endless hours of presentations and teaching while I struggled with jet lag, lack of time to prepare adequately, and the ill health that generally hits westerners who find themselves eating at little stalls on the streets of cities in India. And it didn't seem to bother her that we were trying to teach a workshop on computer tools but the electricity kept going off for an hour or so.

I still sometimes find Sally to be hard to work with. She is still demanding but even more demanding of herself than others, but she is also a role model for me, and for CBSG, and for many others.

From Sally, I have learned that using cartoons and simple, funny illustrations to get across conservation messages is not talking down

to our audiences. Rather, it shows that we understand that it is the stilted, arcane discourse of science that is silly, and which disrespects people by not bothering to put messages into a common language that all would understand.

She also has repeatedly modeled for us the importance and value of communicating using local languages and cultures and examples. She created a regional version of the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy, changing the illustrations and examples in it to be ones that would be more meaningful to people in her region.

Sally understands networking and collaboration. She set up the Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) and its flagship publications the Zoos' Print Magazine and ZOO ZEN in 1985, both of which have since gained an iconic standing not only in India but around the world.

Sally showed us in CBSG the power of regional networks. She formed CBSG, India, and later expanded it to become CBSG, South Asia, to provide a mechanism by which our colleagues in that region can be much more involved in CBSG and conservation than they ever could have been if their connection to CBSG and IUCN was only

through a global network with headquarters in the USA. Now there are nine such networks around the world.

Sally then started the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional cooperation, SAZARC, to provide a way for the zoo leaders in South Asia to exchange expertise and together learn about making zoos into conservation organizations.

She fostered other South Asia networks of other IUCN specialist groups, such as the Reintroduction SG and Invertebrate SG, and she constantly uses cross-linkages among these groups to address problems that cross fields. She never stops creating new groups when they are needed to address additional issues and in order to bring in additional people to work together. She has created networks in S Asia



for Invertebrates, Amphibians, reptiles, Bats, Rodents, and Primates, and formed a South Asian Network of International Zoo Educators. In the taxon networks, Sally has introduced many academics in India to the latest advances in science in their field. Sally wasn't trained as a scientist, but she understands the importance and use of science, careful and complete data collection, and systematic analysis.

It is a tribute to Sally's scientific appeal that ZOO's various networks now contain over 1000 academics who are active in conservation action. Through workshops and taxon networks Sally has inspired a large number of wildlife biologists, several of whom wrote to me in support of her nomination for the award.

We know that Sally didn't do all of this herself- she had a lot of help and sometimes even the bulk of the work was done by her colleagues in India and elsewhere - but these networks wouldn't have happened if she wasn't there. Using these groups, or just informally, she created communication networks that allowed people who had been working more or less in isolation to share their expertise and to learn from others.

Sally builds capacity: She rarely runs a workshop or meeting without taking advantage of having those people together to also run a short training course on something. She follows up on her workshops, doing all that she can (and far more than most would ever think of doing) to make sure that the efforts lead to progress in conservation.

When a species conservation workshop reveals that there is little knowledge locally about needed conservation methods, she immediately starts planning a training workshop on taxonomic methods, or field methods, or reintroductions, or whatever is needed. When the local community has little understanding of the situation, she develops teacher training workshops to give them tools to reach the children.

When key data on the species or its situation are lacking, she works to get funding for local scientists to get out into the field to get the needed data. When the local scientists are found to be working in isolation, she sets up a directory and network for them to stay in touch after the initial meeting.

When mid-level managers know what to do but can't get support from top level administrators, she gets to those at the top and schedules a special workshop to help them understand the issues.

When we put out a call for zoos to help stop the loss of amphibians, Sally immediately went to work getting Indian zoos and schools and communities involved - even though she was personally highly skeptical about the initiative. She made teaching materials and India-appropriate versions of "Year of the Frog" YOTF materials, ran workshops, and got more signatures on the YOTF petition from India than the rest of the world combined. When people said "Wow", Sally's response was something like "wasn't this what we all were supposed to be doing?" And she was right.

Although it has been only 5 years since Ulie died and we have been giving out the Ulysses S. Seal Award, there have been a lot of new people coming into our community, and I know that some of you never knew Ulie. You hear wonderful, and sometimes amazing, things about him, but you didn't have any personal knowledge of him.

Ulie was a remarkable man, and I know that no one could possibly replicate him, but I might be so bold as to suggest that if you want to get an idea of what kind of person Ulie was, think about Sally Walker. Sally redirected her personal and professional life because she cares about people and animals.

She just does things that need to be done without much concern about whether anyone else thinks it's feasible, or whether she might

look foolish trying, or whether she might offend someone or get herself into trouble.

She has an incredible amount of passion and energy for her work. When she sees a need, she creates an opportunity. Then she forms the organization or team to get it done, or she just does it herself if that is what it takes.

Sally uses people - such as when she brings me and Jon Ballou from the USA, Miranda Stevenson and Mike Jordan from the UK, Mickey Soorae from UAE, and recently Cecilia Kierulff from Sao Paulo Brazil to India to teach workshops for her networks. But, like Ulie did, Sally uses people because she values them. Sally has transformed many organizations and many people, showing them how they can contribute to conservation.

As one of Sally's nominator's said, she is "one of the few who has changed the world".



**Robert C. Lacy, Chairman,  
Conservation Breeding (now called  
Planning) Specialist Group, SSC, IUCN, USA**





## Sally about her mentor Dr. Ulie Seal

It was on a 3 month – 60 zoo – Greyhound bus tour of zoos of the United States that I landed in the ISIS office. During that visit I heard of and met Ulie Seal the first time. I think the significant event in that meeting was that I talked so much and so fast about what we were doing in India that Ulie exclaimed “wait a minute !!! ” while I was showing and explaining the virtues of ZOOS’ PRINT and ZOO ZEN. That night we all went to dinner and, because Nate Fleisness lost the zoo flat key, I stayed with the Seals overnight, thus solidifying a friendship ... as staying in someone’s home is wont to do sometimes like nothing else. This must have been about 1987.

In 1988 when the Sakkarbaugh Zoo asked me to help them organise their 125<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with something glitzy, the first person I thought of was Ulie Seal, followed by Jeremy Mallinson, Roger Wheeler, Nick Ellerton, Fred Swengle, Roland Wirth, etc. The name of the conference was the Role of Zoos in Wildlife Management and the Sakkarbaug Zoo, as many of you know, is the zoo which keeps the surplus or strayed or injured Gir lions. I wanted to make the conference more important by having all these conservation luminaries and this was achieved. It was also nice for the Indian Zoo Directors’ meeting in which the visitors participated. But what I wanted to tell about this conference was the tour of Gir. We met in Junagadh instead of Gir (as planned and billed). We put up our luminous guests in Junagadh’s best – but this was far from what any one of these people were used to. They all had to share a room barren of any real amenity including Air conditioning or even electricity sometimes or toilet paper ! So everyone was looking forward to the trip to Gir Forest to see the famous lions in the wild.

Ulie had seen before but wanted to see the condition of the forest (and probably

the animals as well although he would not admit it) but the others were visiting for the first time. After a very long, dusty drive, we reached in the evening at the perfect time for driving around ... BUT the Forest Department had organised a heavy tea and wanted to serve before the drive. There was a tormented outcry and somehow I literally commandeered two vehicles right then and pushed our guests into them before our gracious hosts could insist on the tea.

I went in a later car with the poor fellows who didn’t make it into the first vehicles ... this might have been Nick and Fred. We sent the senior VIPs on the routes more likely to see lions – I think the department had provided baby buffalos to insure success. As luck would have it, Ulie and the other dignitaries did not see a single lion. We, however, having taken a less likely route came upon a large clearing containing two groups of lions – total 13. When we came back, we were foolish enough to brag about it. Ulie was happy – he had seen the condition of the forest. but Jeremy and Roger were mega disappointed, particularly after hearing our luck.

Ulie had hinted that I might be trying to kill him in India. He has tolerated some more interesting accomodation and transportation when coming over for our PHVA workshops – five of them. I remember once I was very angry with him over something and spent the entire 2 and a half hour drive from Bangalore to Mysore railing and moaning. The combination of this plus the traffic on the Bangalore-Mysore Road must have made this a memorable event for him and Mary-Alice. They never complained or said a word. Ulie patiently answered my questions while ducking the giant trucks that threatened to smash into our taxi. This is the kind of person he is. I guess he figured I needed to do that and he tolerated it.

In 1993, the heat in the un-air conditioned hall in Madras for the Lion-tailed macaque PHVA threatened Ulie's life I am sure. It did try his patience. Not as much as the two hour standing wait at the train station with flies while we fought for a berth. He and Mary-Alice were lucky – they got a berth. Eight of us travelled all night sitting up ! We tried again (to get rid of Ulie) on the flight from Bombay to Baroda to the Asian lion PHVA. The first try we organised a lightning strike to the cockpit but the pilots guided the plane back to Bombay safely. We found another aircraft and tried again the same night by arranging bad weather near Baroda, but the pilots just turned back again to Bombay and once again we landed safely. We got another chance at the Rhino PHVA with its several horrifying road journeys, but again we failed. That man seems to have nine lives !

By the time of the Barasingha PHVA in 1996, we had given up trying to kill Ulie and settled for making him as uncomfortable as possible. A tremendous success was achieved when travelling by night train back from Dehra Dun to Delhi. There were a bunch of us but our berths were all mixed up. Ulie's was right across from an ancient, muttering Indian woman who was, of course, a perfect stranger sleeping three feet away ! Ulie was immensely uncomfortable with this which caused great amusement among his CAMP followers. We then participated in a hilarious exercise of cajolery and manipulation to adjust everyone not in our compartment so that our group could be together. Convincing people to move from the spot where they have settled in for the night made us extremely popular but finally Ulie had an upper berth across from one of us and, while not ecstatic, he might have been able to salvage a little sleep for the night.

My professional and personal involvement with Ulie has been different from almost anyone else in the world. Despite the fact that I am not a scientist or a wildlife expert, and



that I am considered difficult to get along with by many people, and that I continue to try and kill him, Ulie has never failed to be positive and encouraging in practically any activity that I had a reasonable good explanation for doing. I know that there have been times when he KNEW I was about to make a terrible mistake but could see that I was particular to go ahead. At these times Ulie has had the patience and insight to simply keep quiet and let me make my own mistakes. This requires an enormous amount of maturity and tolerance. All of us who have Ulie as a mentor should be so grateful for that.

Ulie also has that very expansive trust in the positive flow of energy. He is not territorial or threatened by competition as many others are. When I first got the idea of starting CBSG, India, I sent him a proposal that would have caused instant rejection by any other person chairing an entity such as a specialist group, a committee, etc. Not only did I propose starting an Indian "branch" of CBSG – something that had not been done before – I also requested permission to adapt the CBSG logo using Indian animals. These are dramatic actions – I often wonder if Ulie had any anxiety about it, particularly in the early stages.

I have been so much enriched by Ulie's trust and encouragement. Also his explanation of scientific topics are so lucid that even a non-scientist can often follow along and get a marvellous overview and insight into

a new and unfamiliar subject area. At the Junagadh conference, Ulie gave a talk about small population biology which was, in his own words, calculated to "burn their brains". I don't know about the others in the audience but it surely burned into my brain. I had an epiphany about "how it all works" which helped me to fully understand the role of zoos in wildlife management.

This insight carried me through many years, providing the basis of understanding so that I could read other books and articles and generally drive our CBSG, India conservation activities.

Ulie Seal has been and is a wonderful teacher to me. I hope he has lived only half his life so that he can teach and turn so many others towards conservation and other methods of saving our world.

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Sally was special -- with respect to her passion for wildlife, commitment to making a difference wherever the effort was needed, and devotion to developing and supporting people around her. We won't ever have another Sally, but we do have the incredible legacy of people, organizations, methods for succeeding in wildlife conservation and welfare, and conservation successes that she leaves to us.

**-- Bob Lacy, Science Advisor,  
Conservation Planning Specialist Group  
(CPSG), USA**

We are deeply saddened by the passing of one of the most long-standing and influential members of the CPSG family. Sally Walker died yesterday, leaving an enormous hole in our community and in our hearts. Sally was as committed, persistent and passionate a conservationist as I have ever known. She was brave, tireless and self-sacrificing. It's difficult to summarize Sally's contribution to zoos, conservation and CPSG but her dearest friend and colleague, Sanjay Molur, has done just that in this lovely tribute: <http://bit.ly/Sally-Walker>

**-- Onnie Byers, Chair, Conservation  
Planning Specialist Group, USA**



## WILDLIFE'S WONDER WOMAN Sally Raulston Walker (12 October 1944–22 August 2019)

The origins of the Journal of Threatened Taxa goes back to Zoo's Print, a magazine to promote zoo and animal management in Indian zoos published since January 1986. Sally Walker founded the Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO) in 1985. She initiated Zoo's Print as the second big project after setting up ZOO ZEN, another monthly magazine.

Her task of improving the zoo condition in India was complicated. More than 500 zoos existed in India.

The animals in the traveling menageries, circuses, performing-animal shows, and street collections were in deplorable conditions of maintenance.

Sally set up the task of tackling this humongous problem systematically. She studied available literature on zoos in India, in the world, and anything related to the zoo world to learn more about the aspect and the situation. She immediately realized the lack of available literature in India, both scientific and popular. Popular material was more easily accessed, for example, Gerald Durrell's books. Scientific articles were a completely different ball game in those days. To tackle the problem of non-availability of scientific articles, she started ZOO ZEN. She compiled photocopies of materials from different parts of the country and the world (of course, having received permissions for this) under different broad categories of animal and zoo management, and sent these out at no cost



to all the zoos in India. She also traveled around the country investigating and compiling a list of all the different kinds of animal collections and finally prepared the first comprehensive list of zoos in India. Her database of the zoos updated the existing one with the government of India by increasing their number several times over. And that study led her to start a process to initiate a national zoo policy, which eventually led to the amendment of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act and the setting up of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA).

Sally's methods were not haphazard. Although she was from a non-science

background, her keen scientific temper helped her process through the rough and separate factual data from the fictional chaff. It was an era where record-keeping in Indian zoos was nil (unfortunately, it continues to be abysmal). She, however, set up studbook-like records for tigers, lions, rhinos, Lion-tailed Macaques, and Sangai. She visited various Indian zoos and meticulously sifted through old communications, talking with the keepers and querying long-time zoo staff. The studbook-like listing provided critical insights into the provenance of the collections, movement of animals between zoos, hybridization, among other critical components. While she painstakingly compiled all the records, she also reached out to well-managed zoos around the world for help. She sought help in keeping logs, training possibilities, exchange programs for zookeepers, and capacity building to promote scientific captive breeding protocols in Indian zoos. She trained herself in animal record-keeping and studbook-keeping with

the International Species Information System. She traveled around the zoos to train mid-level officers, biologists, veterinarians, and zookeepers on maintaining careful animal records. She was setting the stage for the next push — minimum standards for zoos under the newly formed CZA.

Sally's quest for improving standards were stoked from an emotional bond with the animals in zoos. She hated animals in captivity and didn't like zoos. She did not blindly beat her chest about closing down zoos, nor acted dangerously by promoting the release of animals into the wild. She took on a rational and scientific approach to help alleviate the unfortunate animal and zoo management practices in India. One might not find many scientific papers published by Sally. But, if one were to look at some of the science communications in Zoo's Print, it's clear how well she understood scientific concepts. For example, her illustration of the principles of small populations provides glimpses into the principles of conservation biology.

Immediately after setting up the CZA and being a member of it for the first six years, Sally pulled ZOO from pursuing just zoo matters. She shifted the organization's focus into conservation planning by setting up the first network of the Captive Breeding (now Conservation Planning) Specialist Group (CPSG) of SSC IUCN in India. The scientific approach by CPSG paved the way for Sally to incorporate scientific tools and models to meta-population management. She introduced aspects such as reproductive physiology and genetic procedures for captive animals in Indian zoos. Simultaneously, using the predictive models and tools developed by CPSG, Sally initiated stakeholder-led conservation planning exercises for some of the more charismatic animals. Some examples included the Manipur Brow-antlered Deer, Lion-tailed Macaque, Asiatic Lion, One-horned Rhinoceros, Gharial, Barasingha and Hoolock Gibbon. These workshops determined the probability of extinction of the species in the wild. They also provided specific management actions to be undertaken for habitats and populations, and initiate a comprehensive conservation breeding program at the national level.

By 1995, after I had joined ZOO, Sally and I introduced and conducted a series of Conservation Assessment & Management Plan (CAMP) workshops, a process developed by CPSG. We modified the taxon datasheet from the many experiences of CAMP workshops. We incorporated more aspects of data collection to ease species assessments and included the conservation needs portion into the evaluations. Our experience in those workshops helped us shape the conservation engineering strategy we developed and practice to this date. The conservation strategy included identifying people, building taxonomic networks, training and capacity building, fund field projects, gather data, publish in scientific journals, feed into species assessments, use the data to promote education and outreach, and follow up the strategies in the loop. Sally bought this concept immediately, and we developed everything from training techniques to set up a scientific peer-review journal. The Journal of Threatened Taxa owes its roots to that thought process and conservation engineering strategy.

Sally's most significant push was education and outreach. She did that with élan. I remember the days when I'd walk into the office in the morning, and Sally would present a complete educational packet that she had worked on the previous night. While I loved to nit-pick, I would often feel bereft of not being able to change anything. Sally, in her typical gesture, would say that she picked up all the facts from the scientific reports I had generated; hence, the product was perfect. We sent out innumerable education packets to many zoos, NGOs, conservationists, educators, forest departments, academics, institutions, individuals, and others. Each of them developed from the data compiled from evidence in our workshops, publications, and processes. Science was the basis for all of Sally's actions; hence, I dedicate this issue in her honor and remembrance. The Journal of Threatened Taxa would not be possible without Sally's encouragement and complete support. And her philosophy of keeping scientific knowledge free is the reason why JoTT remains a platinum open access international journal.

-- **Sanjay Molur, Journal of Threatened Taxa 11(10): 14247-14248**

# Newspaper Rememberances

## Friend of City Zoo Sally Walker passes away

Mysuru: Sally Walker, a respected Zoo professional and an ardent proponent of rational Zoo reform, passed away in the United States. She was the driving force behind many innovative programmes in the Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo) that includes the highly successful Youth Club.

In a message posted in the Conservation Planning Specialist Group, wildlife conservationists have stated that Sally Raulston Walker passed away on Aug. 22. Her death was confirmed to Star of Mysore by Mamatha Sathyanarayana, an Environment Educationist from Mysuru who had a close association with Sally Walker.

Sally Walker was synonymous with Zoo and wildlife conservation in South Asia. A citizen of USA, she dedicated two-thirds of her life in India studying Yoga and Sanskrit and in the cause of animal and Zoo welfare.

Sally came to India in 1975 to study Yoga and Sanskrit with Pattabhi Jois, a Master of Ashtanga Yoga and Professor of Sanskrit in University of Mysore. She had stayed on for 7 years and was thinking about leaving when she got involved with the Mysore Zoo.

READ ALSO Ramanath Rai assures measures for conservation of animals in Mysore Zoo

Her friends say that a visit to the Mysore Zoo and a single meeting with new-born tiger cubs resulted in 40 years of dedicated service to Zoos and conservation in South Asia.

She set up the Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, an iconic NGO in 1985 and straight away got into the business of influencing the Zoos in the country. After doing research, gathering data and combing the country, she made the first comprehensive list of Zoos in India, went straight to the Central Government with the plight of the animals in those Zoos, and initiated the setting up of the Central Zoo Authority.

**-- Star of Mysore, Mysuru, Friday, 23 August 2019**



## Mysuru salutes late Sally Raulston Walker, Zoologist who brought wildlife closer home

Several posts, tweets and blogs were dedicated to the woman who spent almost 36 years of her life in India as a zoo professional, and was an ardent advocate of rational zoo reforms.

BENGALURU: Dressed in shorts and T-shirt, chatting up lions inside their cage in Mysuru Zoo, she once inspired many young Mysureans to just be Sally Raulston Walker. The zoologist and conservationist who brought wildlife closer home, passed away in her hometown in the United States of America, on Thursday.

Several posts, tweets and blogs were dedicated to the woman who spent almost 36 years of her life in India as a zoo professional, and was an ardent advocate of rational zoo reforms. She was the driving force behind many innovative programmes in not only the Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysuru, and was also director of Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) in Coimbatore. Sally was a part of Mysuru city for many years, and inspired dreams of alternative careers in the wild.

Sangeetha Rajanath, a retired banker from Mysuru, remembers watching Sally interact with animals in Mysuru Zoo, and her style of working.

She said, "There were days when my friends and I would tell our parents we didn't want to be doctors or engineers, but wanted to be Sally. She inspired many of us with the way she interacted with animals and how she ensured that we, as children, maintained the plants and trees in the zoo but also knew how not to tease animals but be friends with them." Sally was a critic of wild animals in captivity. She was a name to reckon with in zoo circles, and had been a member of the Central Zoo Authority of India. A US citizen, she came down to India in the 1970s to study yoga and Sanskrit with Pattabhi Jois, a Master of Ashtanga Yoga, and Sanskrit Professor in the University of Mysore.

Sally lived in Mysuru for seven years. Her friends say that a visit to Mysuru Zoo and a single meeting with newborn tiger cubs,

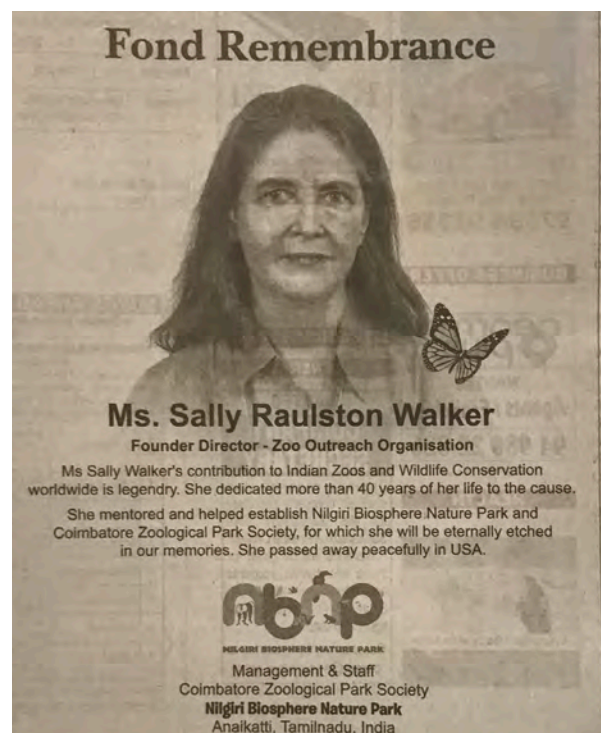


resulted in many years of dedicated service to zoos and conservation in South Asia.

Ramesh Kumar, who has interacted with her, says, "She was a very inspiring person. There were a few who didn't agree with her ideology. Her passion for animals and opposition to causing them harm was evident in her talks, and she would gently teach us how to behave with animals."

Observing the misbehaviour of visitors at Mysuru Zoo, she founded 'Friends of Mysore Zoo' in 1981, which is now relaunched as 'Mysuru Youth Club' in the zoo. According to her colleagues from ZOO, she had been suffering from Alzheimer's for the past three years.

-- Express News Service, Bengaluru,  
24 August 2019



## In memoriam - A force of nature

In the early nineties, on a hot summer day in Coimbatore, India, I walked into the office of Zoo Outreach Organization (Zooreach), to meet with Sally Walker, and begin work as a veterinary consultant. Sally literally lived in the office and was on a diet of 'musambi' (Citrus limetta) juice and fried unsalted peanuts brought time to time by Sarojamma, who was her housekeeper-dispatch technician. Sanjay Molur had joined earlier as program officer, R. Marimuthu worked as education officer and Latha Ravikumar was the office manager. My future boss, Ashraf Kunhunu, worked in the neighborhood as director of Coimbatore Zoological Park, for which Sally was an advisor.

Sally first came to India to learn yoga and Sanskrit, and her travels took her to Mysore zoo where she seized an opportunity to hand-raise an orphaned tiger cub. She told me, "I went into the tiger enclosure and never came out." A volunteer group, 'Friends of the Mysore Zoo' was her brainchild to foster conservation ethics among zoo visitors and in the due course Zooreach was born. She believed in long term return of investments from zoological parks and their potential to salvage bits and pieces of biodiversity in a world fraught with species extinctions. Frogs, tarantulas and bats were as important as any charismatic species in Sally's view. The Journal of Threatened Taxa is an epitome of the Walker who walked the talk.

Sally became an ardent advocate of zoos in India and began publishing Zoo's Print and Zoo Zen from Coimbatore where she dropped anchor at the behest of her friends. Sally's biggest cheerleader and first donor was her father who barely ventured outside Goldsboro, North Carolina. When I asked her why her dad wouldn't visit Coimbatore? Sally replied, "Are you crazy? He would have a heart attack just by seeing the traffic on the way to Peelamedu."

Here are six takeaways from the lady's illustrious life:

1. Outreach, networking, capacity building and education are the four pillars of conservation. Learn some, unlearn some, and work for the long haul with resource persons. Many years after I had moved on, Sally wrote me an email about a sick zebra in a far-flung zoo. She knew my equine vet skills and wanted me to assist with the animal's recovery. I discussed the problem in detail with the attending vet and together helped the zebra regain health.

2. Communicate clearly for conservation (3Cs). Sally wrote/spoke in pithy, jargon-free and concise English. Every journal submission

would be given due consideration. She was a wordsmith who also took pride in the work of authors, artists, reviewers and staff who produced the Zooreach journals for 35 years with clockwork regularity! Sally inspired a bunch of amateurs to satisfying careers in conservation biology, myself included.

3. Love and care of animals/personnel. Sally loved companion animals and reared a Saluki and Persian cat at the office during my stint at Zooreach. No wonder she was hands-on with a tiger cub when the occasion arose. One year she rode the Greyhound bus in the U.S. for months to visit the best zoological parks with the aim to assist with zoo planning in India. She cared for biologists, vets and animal keepers in South Asia and beyond. I know primatologists in Vietnam with fond memories of Sally.

4. Humor is a good balm. Walker was whacky and could fall off her chair in a fit of laughter. She had a matching temper as well. Those who knew her would agree with the Tamizh proverb, "Anger and nobility usually go together." She once wrote a whodunit story published as a serial in the newspaper Indian Express. Sally reasoned, "Conservation is a dour profession, and a prank or two keeps you sane." Truer words were never spoken.

5. The value of teamwork. Sally raised troops which stuck to her like a stick in the mud for years together. Although a hard taskmaster, she was a yogi who did her own karma under self-inflicted pressure. She was not talkative but articulated her ideas superbly over emails and didn't appreciate intruders in her office space. That said, Sally was family to her team and vice versa.

6. Spearheading conservation awareness. Sally was a great teacher and excelled at presenting intense ecological facts in simply charming terms, especially to school going children. She believed kids were the best ambassadors of conservation and devotedly designed kits for them with pictorial guides, animal masks, and games for distribution during 'wildlife week' celebrations in schools across India. Sally was a sought-after zoo educator and would be badly missed by her colleagues at the Conservation Planning Specialist Group.

Many years ago, Sally Walker campaigned for conserving bats saying, "let's bat for bats." This special ACT issue on conserving bats in Africa is our tribute to a legend.

-- Murali Pai, African Conservation  
Telegraph, 15(2), August 2019



## **Sally Walker, wonderful boss, friend, relative, colleague, supporter and guide - My lovable memories.**

It is difficult to put in words how much I am grateful for Sally's care, mentorship and guidance.

I began as an accountant cum office secretary in 1991 and graduated to Finance Director Trustee cum Administrator. All because of Sally's constant encouragement and love which made me work hard and involve in everything ZOO does. I got so much value from her that made me work for her at any time.

There are so many people talking about her success and in her professional life she has done remarkable things. All I'd say represents the same thing. So I would like to share my lovable personal memories with her. Sally & I shared a very close bond. I have too many memories with her as I spent more time with her than anybody in the office.

On my 10th Anniversary. I still can't forget the moment. My heart was bursting with happiness and pride. She called many of my relatives and friends and requested them to call and congratulate me, but she kept that as a secret. On 03 May 2001, I was getting continuous calls from everyone and was wondering who told them. On the same day afternoon, the whole office was silent, and she called me upstairs for some work. When I went up, I saw everyone, including my brother, in the office waiting for me to celebrate my anniversary. She and Nandini Madam got a precious gift for me.

For some years the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group has had the opportunity of honouring a special member of his or her outstanding service. The U.S. Seal Award was given annually to an individual that had made a substantial difference and displayed the interest that conservation requires. In 2014 Dr. Onnie Byers, Chair of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, made a difference by creating an award for members who are doing the "behind the scenes" work that is so important to the success of the organisation.

Sally and Onnie selected me for that award as a first person to receive. Sally spoke about me in front of the huge crowd. The things she mentioned about me is still ringing in my ears. I never seen a boss who would publicly praise like this!

"Latha has always been a very conscientious worker, and her expertise in so many areas of Zoo Outreach Organisation and our Partner Wildlife Information Liaison Development WILD in the last many years. She is capable of doing almost any job for both office and helping with some of the most advanced topics and projects. She is our Finance Director but is also an expert typesetter, graphic designer, web designer, event planner, report writer and personal assistant to almost all of us in some way or other. She was also chided and teased for neglecting her long-suffering family



at times, although she did so with their proud permission. She never says no and she always wants to lend a helping hand. She is much loved and admired”.

I was flabbergasted, naturally, because, like most of the audience at CBSG conference, I wasn't aware. It was a great surprise to me and my family. It was a huge crowd and many giants in the wildlife field came to me and congratulated. I don't know whether I deserved that award, but I was in tears mainly thinking about the affection and love that she had.

She had a close bond with my family too. Whenever she is in India she had a habit of taking my family out for a dinner or call them during our Vada party and make them feel like a family. It is cheerful to see her talking with my parents. My parents will be talking to her in their language, and she will hear them very politely, with a happy smile, and say positive things about me and thank them for allowing me to work hard and spend more time in the office.

I loved and admired Sally which made me to love the work I do for her. I searched for a groom in the local area mainly to continue my work. Even now my family used to rag me for the incident that happened on my "bride seeing" ceremony. I was taking coffee to all and exactly at that time I got a call from Sally. I just left the coffee on the table and attended her call and spoke to her nearly 30 minutes. In fact, my husband was called for an interview, of course for fun, by Sally to check whether he is fit for me and the office.

I have two sons, Rajesh and Tarun, who have 9 years of age difference. I came back to office just in two weeks time after my first delivery. After that I didn't want any more kid but my family insisted to have one more. I postponed due to my work and Sally is the one who convinced me and Tarun was born in 2006. I brought Tarun with me to office when he was just about 2 months and Sarojamma was taking care of him completely. Sally used tell me that he would also do all the work that I do in the office.

She encouraged me to do my MBA and supported me to finish the course without any difficulty.

I would work on most of the Sundays whenever she stays in India. We work for a few hours and we three, Sally, Sarojamma and me, would sit and talk a lot. In the afternoon she would invite my husband and we all go for shopping. I go with Sally to and from the airport whether she comes from a trip or going on a trip and my husband would become a driver for us. She would be calling me almost daily from USA and we talk everything happened officially and personally. Every day we exchange mails. Whenever she stays in India, she would be calling me every other minute for something or the other. I terribly miss those interactions.

I was deeply honoured and fortunate to have almost 28 years of a life with her. I am very grateful to Raveendran Anna, who introduced me to Sally.

You inspired me to work hard and stay confident. I have so many memories with you Mam and I will treasure them more than anything.

**-- Latha G Ravikumar and family,  
Manager/Finance Director, ZOO  
Coimbatore**



## My association with Sally Walker

On 22nd July 2019 when I went to North Bengal (Gorumara NP) to conduct the Rhino Conservation Education training programme, I was overwhelmed with the thoughts about Sally Walker. This is the same place that Sally visited in 2008 in connection with the USFWS project on Human elephant Co-existence. I accompanied her while she conducted interviews with the tribal youths to understand the coexistence strategy that they adopted for generations in the HEC area where they lived. I recalled how Sally could build up the association with the tribal youths, though she cannot follow Bengali. During my recent visit in July, it never occurred to me that Sally will be away from us forever within a month. On the 22nd August 2019 evening at 6.20 pm I heard a loud cry from the downstairs of my office at Coimbatore, that was the time my office received a mail from the US conveying the news about the demise of Sally Walker.

I met Sally for the first time on the 20th of September 1994 at her office at 65, Bharathi Colony, Coimbatore. Dr S. Paul Raj, then DFO of the Grizzled Giant Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary, Srivilliputhur introduced me to Sally. When I met her, to my surprise, she referred to one of the projects that I was doing at Srivilliputhur and it was all about insects and elephant dung. Sally was looking for a person who can take up invertebrate conservation activities in India and she offered me the Entomologist position. Since then, not even a single day went without learning a lesson from Sally.

Sally treated all ZOO staff as a family member, attending individual requirements of each one of us, though it is not a requirement to run an office. In the mid-90s when there was no mobile and when my mother was sick due to cancer, Sally will come to me in the evening after office hours and ask me to call my home just to enquire about my sick mother. She also supported me at this critical time and ensured that I got sufficient time to take care of my mom during her last days.

Sally appreciated the efforts of ZOO staff. During our conservation education

programmes, we used to carry education materials weighing in 100s of kg. The task assigned for me and Ravi, my colleague was to carry education materials weighing about 600-700 kg by road in a minivan for a distance of about 120 km to reach The Pench Tiger Reserve. Realizing the difficulties, Sally waited for our arrival sitting all alone on the portico just to receive us at Pench TR and we had a late dinner narrating all the difficulties that we had on the way.

Sally was more of a colleague to ZOO staff. During special occasions like Wildlife week, we used to distribute thousands of copies of educational materials to zoos in India and institutes interested institutes. The entire zoo crew will be involved in those days to pack and post them carefully. On such occasions, she will sit with the team and remained part of the team.

Sally was a mentor, advisor .... Many a time I have experienced and felt that it is easy to get the problems solved when I approach Sally when in trouble. It may be official or personal issues. Sally is an expert listener, analyser and counsellor.

My last meeting with Sally was in September 2016 during her last visit to India. During this visit, she took all of us to Vandalur zoo and that was our last travel with her ... to one of the best zoos in India to which she was associated with, next to Mysore zoo.

**-- B.A. Daniel, Entomologist, ZOO, Coimbatore**



## Sally Walker a conservation hero...end of an era

I am very proud to say that the dynamic woman in the conservation field Ms. Sally Walker whom I knew personally for more than three decades. In 1988, first I met her at Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai and introduced by Dr. S. Paulraj, then Assistant Conservator of Forests one of my mentors who introduced the world of captive management at first. She used to visit Chennai often as a transit when she was travelling to visiting zoos in rest of the country, attending meeting and abroad trips. I was the one to receive her at the railway station mostly because those days the flight connectivity from Coimbatore to other parts of the country was very poor and put her in one of the rest houses in Vandalur zoo. So I acquaintance started in that way. During her visits in 1988-1990 I came to know her passion on captive animals and had a chance to interact with her several times.

One day in 1990, Dr. Paulraj informed me that Sally Walker need a research assistant to work at her office in Coimbatore and she prefers me out of the three biologists worked at that time in the zoo and he highly recommended me to immediately take up the post without any hesitation and assured that definitely I would have a bright future in the conservation world.

I took heed of his words and gave my assent to join with Zoo Outreach Organisation and took charge on 16 December 1990 as Research Assistant. Ever since my learning on different things happened and Madam Sally Walker groomed me very well as a mentor. During that time there were only four staff including her. So I had lot of chances to learn each and every thing from her. I took different roles other than research assistant and they were office boy, purchase assistant, accountant, delivery boy, proof reader, dispatch man etc.,

Madam Sally Walker was kind enough to improve my other skills on zoo management and sent me to visit some zoos in the country for species survey and study about zoos to improve my knowledge on zoo management. She was my teacher in Wildlife Institute of India's Zoo Management Course and Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust's summer course in earlier career at the ZOO. She also helped me to attend several international courses, trainings and meetings to further improve my knowledge focused on endangered species

management, conservation education and others. These courses are still very useful in my professional life.

Later in my profession, Madam Sally Walker provided me a place in each and every program of the ZOO from CPSG, SAZARC, IUCN, ZOO's education project and small mammal hands on trainings. The individual assignments she gave me on Nepal Zoo Survey and planning and coordinating the small mammal workshops in Nepal is still memorable. Her style of functioning an organization to give an individual responsibility in each and every one at the office in the programs and help to develop their organizational skills and in the future standing them on their own legs. I was the one benefitted a lot through these kind of functioning. It helps me now to write my own funding proposals, planning, executing the big projects. Whatever the projects I do now or will do in the future, all the credit goes to my best boss ever Madam Sally Walker. Without her Marimuthu is Zero and she always my hero for my personal as well as professional life.

Her demise leaves a big vacuum in the conservation world and especially at our office as well. I don't think it could be filled.... it is personal loss to me and my family. I am deeply indebted to her for what she had done for me all over the years and it could not be pay back other than follow her legacy.

With sweet memories of Madam Sally Walker

**-- R. Marimuthu, Senior Education Officer,  
ZOO, Coimbatore**



In the office my interactions with madam was not much even though am working in here for more than two decades! But I have had many interactions with her during our workshops (CAMPS, Teachers for Tigers, SAZARC). I had travelled with her to many places in India. She never forget to say thanks even for a small work if I do it for her. She always treated me with civility. After every trip she brings small toys for each of us. I still have few toys which she had given me a decade ago—tortoise, giraffe, mouse, and a bear. In 2013, she gave her personal money to all of us as Provident Fund, I never ever imagined a BOSS like this. I put that money as principal amount and constructed my home. I have learned many things from her which I will continue for the rest of my life. She was a great Boss, good mentor, and a nice human being. She will always remain in my heart.

-- **B. Ravichandran, Managing Editor,  
Journal of Threatened Taxa, ZOO,  
Coimbatore**



I joined ZOO in October 2008, met the madam after two days of joining. Madam's presence will make us happy all the time. She gives the gift after every trip. Once I was not in the office, but she left a small gift box on my table when I came and checked it, it was an elephant dollar which I liked very much.

Whenever I was working late hours, madam always questioned why haven't I left. After she arrives from each trip, the next day she will be very happy to meet us all and explain to us about the trip. I personally feel, Madam will be sad whenever she leaves to USA after a farewell VADA party she won't smile.

I always remembered Madam for all the things she had done to me. I wish she lived a long with good health her sudden death shocked me a lot. She served for Indian Wildlife and Zoos for more than 35 years I wish due credit should be given to her by naming a place/ road after her.

-- **K. Ravindran, Office Assistant, ZOO,  
Coimbatore**



I have a high regard for our Madam Sally Walker for her passion for wild animals, dedication, activeness and sincerity of the work she is involved.

Madam molded our staff in a better way by developing our skills. If you look at any other organizations, staff are allowed to do only the work assigned to them. But our organization is so different in this aspect, here we are allowed to work on different kinds of work related to projects and gained an enormous amount of experience. So we could learn new things from time to time and have a confidence to do any kind of work.

She is always very kind, caring and concerned about the staff welfare and treated us as a family. We wouldn't be a team without her. She always appreciates the staff, whether we are there on the spot or not. Wherever she goes outstation, while return, she brought gifts to all of us.

We got an unexpected surprise that she paid us a huge provident fund from her personal money. Personally, I never forget her visit to my home when I was sick for months, and her kindness, encouraging words at that time.

I love to create rangoli at office during any festival. Sally come and watch and admire the same.

We all miss Sally Madam in the office.

**-- K. Geetha, Account/Administrative Executives, ZOO, Coimbatore**

I would like to honour our Madam Sally Walker, who has dedicated herself to zoo and wildlife conservation more than 35 years.

Geetha and I, didn't have much direct interaction with Sally Madam but whenever she comes to see Latha she would sit and talk to us and ask about our family.

Once I could not manage both home and office and was about to quit the job. Sally called me and encouraged me to continue the work and permitted me to come late and go early. After few months, I started coming regularly.

She encouraged and provided opportunities to develop our skills and participate in everything ZOO does. I was very lucky to work for you and you are the source of inspiration, pride and guidance for everyone of us. I am very much grateful for your kindness, support and caring.

I always admire her for the hard work she puts in. I wonder how she manages all the work in spite of her official travels, personal work etc. The other thing I like in her is she always think about our future rather than her own.

No one can fill your place. Your soul will be with us and lives in our heart. Hats off to you Mam for all the work you have done towards Wildlife Conservation.

**-- S. Radhika, Account/Administrative Executives, ZOO, Coimbatore**





Sally Walker is a phenomenon and a stalwart in the field of wildlife conservation—communication, capacity building and policy making — in India and rest of South Asia. For over 40 years, she worked day and night to change the face of conservation in India.

Being one of the more recent team members of Zoo Outreach Organization (average work experience of the rest of the ZOO team being over 15 years) I did not get much of an opportunity to interact with Sally. But what I slowly realized is that all the other team members (who have been mentored by Sally) have imbibed one or more of her amazing qualities. You will see Sally's passion for wildlife, discipline, humility, brilliant problem solving abilities, her incredible skills as an educator, writer and trainer and of course her determination and hard-working nature in the ZOO team.

When I joined in ZOO, I was very afraid to meet Madam due to fear & language. I don't come in front of her if she comes downstairs where I was sitting. I didn't have much direct interaction with her until 2012 though during office lunch she would talk to me. After getting the office car in 2012, when we were in Kumudham Nagar, I become her official driver. I go with Madam and Latha when they go for shopping or do some outside work. Since then I started talking to her. She joke with me and enquire about my personal life and family whenever we go out.

She make fun about my girl friends. She call me as her body guard. In 2016, she gifted me her personal dumbbells.

She never treated us as an employee. She always treat us with respect and care.

I learnt a lot of work from Madam, she taught me how to do it with ease and professionally.

I am leading my life as I like because of this job and today I reached this level, personally & financially due to Sally Madam only. She is like one of my family member who always encourage and advise for my betterment.

She stays in my mind always!

**-- Arul Jagdish, Senior Office Assistant,  
ZOO, Coimbatore**

Her contribution to zoos and wildlife of India is unfathomable and she will be sorely missed by me and all those whose lives she touched. But here at ZOO we keep her alive in our hearts and make sure that her legacy lives on to inspire the future generations.

**-- Priyanka Iyer, Researcher/Associate  
Editor (JoTT), ZOO, Coimbatore**



We have had the privilege of knowing Sally Walker since the mid 80's and have since then forged a strong relationship with her and the team at Zoo Outreach Organization.

When she wanted to relocate from Mysore to Coimbatore we helped her set up her office and introduced her to many of our friends and associates who in turn supported in many ways.

Sally's contribution to Indian Zoo and Wildlife Conservation worldwide is legendary. She dedicated more than 40 years of her life to this cause. She mentored and helped to establish Nilgiris Biosphere Nature Park and Coimbatore Zoological Park Society (CZPS) for which she will be eternally etched in our memories.

We will miss you very much Sally, as there cannot be another person like you in our lives.

We pray to God for her soul to rest in peace.

**-- Rangaswamy & Nandini, Managing Director/  
Founder Trustee, Chandra Group/GRG Trust,  
Coimbatore**



I first met Sally Walker when she was brought to a dinner of the now defunct Zoo Club at London Zoo by her friends from The Society for the History of Natural History. I knew of her innovative conservation work in India through my work with Fauna and Flora International, which supported ZOO REACH financially. Sally toured the world with her 'begging bowl', like a mendicant nun, seeking funds for ZooReach. She delivered on her promises, which was why her fund-raising was so successful.

She was member of the Bat Specialist Group of IUCN's Species Survival Commission, of which I was chair, so we maintained contact. Sometime later she invited me to teach the bat component of her 'Techniques' workshops in South Asian countries and I did half a dozen of these in the first decade of this century (Thrissur, Kerala; Kathmandu and Pokhara, Nepal; Karachi and Islamabad, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bhutan). Mike Jordan from Chester Zoo taught 'Rodents' and I taught 'Bats'- each of us with very different styles. Students clamoured to join – interacting with these students and following the careers of some of them has been one of the most rewarding parts of my career (and one of them, Pushpa Raj Acharya from Nepal) became my PhD student. Sally was the main organiser of these workshops, ably assisted by Sanjay, Latha,

Daniel and Marimuthu as well as young women each of whom seemed to have two mobile phones (I didn't possess one!) which was how Sally managed the days' programme.

I remember being enthralled by the hive of activity in the office in Coimbatore – with people printing pamphlets encouraging bat conservation or T-shirts or making bat masks for schoolchildren. Above were the offices from which a wide range of activities were organised and then Sally's humble accommodation where she was looked after by Sorojamma and slept on the roof.

Sally inspired loyalty and devotion among those with whom she worked. She has done much to increase knowledge and defeat ignorance about mammals among the people of South Asia. Her ideas have been taken up by others, including myself. We have tried to establish the equivalent of CCINSA in Africa and I have been involved in establishing networks in SE Asia and more recently in Western Asia. Working with Sally has enriched my life and I wish her a long happy and healthy retirement.

**-- Paul Racey - Regius Professor of  
Natural History (Emeritus), University of  
Aberdeen; Honorary Visiting Professor,  
University of Exeter in Cornwall, UK**



I first met Sally in the early 1980's when I was a relatively new Curator of Animals at Edinburgh Zoo. Sally was on one of her many knowledge-gaining fact-finding trips, this one visiting zoo educators. She had come to visit Rob Ollason, then Head of Education, and he thought she and I should meet up! I have to confess that on that first meeting I found her a little overwhelming – a characteristic I soon grew to love and admire. And she never lost that gift essential, of course, to how she managed to achieve so much.

After that initial meeting our paths crossed a lot, much of it through CPSG (then CBSG) where she was a leading light and I was a keen member. She and I were both good friends with the late Tom Foose, another inspirational and forward-thinking leader, and we had many pleasant times together sorting out the world. Sally and I often used to share rooms at various zoo conferences and I still have very fond memories of the fun we had and our many conversations we had both personal and professional. We were very much kindred spirits and, over the years, we both gained a lot from our friendship.

For me, some of the most treasured times were working for Sally (and it was very much for Sally!) and the wonderful team at Zoo Outreach with one of her pride and joys SAZARC (The South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation) which she founded. I attended and helped teach at the workshops in Lahore, Pakistan; Dhaka, Bangladesh; and Colombo, Sri Lanka. I think I learned as much from Sally and the attendees as they may have done from me. I will treasure those trips for the rest of my life.

She initiated the phrase 'dysfunctional zoos' and devoted her life to making them functional! She was always alert at international zoo conferences, which tended to be led by the over-virtuous western zoo community, and she was ready to point out that dysfunctional zoos could not do conservation, they actually acted against it by poor welfare, unacceptable animal mortalities, and restocking from the wild. And the fact that this must be taken into account when talking about One Plan Approaches to conservation. Her inspirational work received many accolades, and it is a comfort to us all that her name will live on the annals of the International Zoo Community. I always use examples of the work of Zoo Outreach and SAZARC when I gave lectures to students and others in Europe.



We had great fun at the last WAZA conference we attended together in Disney, in 2013, when she invited me to share her room. Sally, we had such a good time, I will treasure it forever AND we worked hard on association work and inter-regional cooperation!

One of the many loves Sally and I had in common was cats. Hers seemed to find her house and decide that they wanted to live with her. I had to go out and find mine! Sage, my wonderfully wise tabby, loved Sally and went up to her immediately for a chat when she came to stay. And he always slept on HER bed.

On a more personal level it was very difficult for her close friends to see her (always so bright and alert) struggle with her memory problems in the last few years. I was able to visit her in her home in Goldsboro in 2016 and she came to see me in Hampshire later the same year on the way back from, what turned out to be, her very last trip to India. We were in constant contact until she was unable to communicate in 2017. I am very grateful for those times we had together that year in, what turned out to be, our last chance.

Sally I miss you so much, you have been an inspiration to me and to so many others. I am so grateful for the wonderful memories of the great times we had together, both fun and serious and I still laugh at the many wicked and funny things we said to each other. You will live on, in my memories and life, for as long as I live. My Love

**-- Miranda Stevenson, Chair of the  
British and Irish Association of Zoos and  
Aquariums, BIAZA (Retired), UK**

## In Memoriam of Sally a.k.a Sally Raulston Walker

Our Accidental first meeting: I had passed out from Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and was engaged with the Gujarat Wild Ass Project. It was September, 1992 and we all had come from our field station for the ARS. I was introduced to Sally by B.C.Choudhury & Dr. S.P. Goyal at the makeshift hall for the seminar over the newly created library in our new campus in Chandrabani. She had then just got inducted into the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) as its Member, a feat I do not know if any American Citizen may have achieved. The meeting was short and mostly was confined to writing article for 'Zoos Print'.

1994 & onwards:- I joined Central Zoo Authority for the Bengal Tiger & Lion Studbook project and thereafter due interaction started with her on the programmes being run by ZOO for Indian Zoos. We came to understand each other more during the Evaluation of Ahmadabad and Sakkarbaug Zoo, when she confided with me her Indian journey with a partner, Yoga, stint with Mysore Zoo, creation of friends of zoo club and later Mr. G. Rangaswamy, the Indian brain behind the first private zoo with a field conservation objective and Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO). She also shared about her non science background and her upbringing in a middle class American family. I was seeing a transformation in front of me, as to how passion for a cause could mould ones destiny, Our bonding cemented.....

Whenever she came for a CZA meeting or to Delhi for ZOO work, she made it a point to sit with me and discuss the scientific activities being planned for Indian zoos. She also confided in me that as CZA was already established and that her tenure with the Govt. of India would soon expire, she was trying to establish a network for South Asian Zoos on the lines of Southeast Asian Zoo Association (SEAZA) and also push for the establishment of her pet Zoological Park project 'Coimbatore Zoological

Park & Conservation Centre at Thuvaipathy Village Anaikatti, Coimbatore' now renamed as 'Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park'. She always praised me of my systematic approach to a day's work and softly confided that she was looking for a suitor to carry her Zoo programmes at ZOO, which Sanjay somewhat was not keen to .....

During her last few months as member of CZA in 1998, she was disturbed with the way Indian bureaucracy was behaving in declaring her as an American Spy, her vested interest in India with her annual six monthly visits. During those times she would also often call me up over telephone to take suggestions on official procedures to be completed be it FCRA or with the tax authorities in New Delhi or with the News & magazine registration (Zoos' Print).

2007 January- I had taken my first hard decision in life to quit CZA as things were not moving as I had expected after spending 13 long years in the organization. I informed Sally of my decision over phone and she immediately asked me to join ZOO in Coimbatore as its 'Deputy Director'. But as I was keen to get back to field work in Kaziranga with Wildlife Trust of India, I communicated my decision & which she accepted and told me that the whenever I felt that I should join ZOO, doors will remain open to me always. It was a big underlying mental support post CZA till my last days in New Delhi.



I took over as Director, of Tata Steel Zoological Park in 2009 and conveyed her of the new job. She was overjoyed that I had again returned to the Zoo fold.

We lost contact of each other for quite a long interim period and our only contact was when I used to send article for publishing in Zoo Print, where Sally intervened personally to edit my articles before publication.

February, 2014.....CZA had announced hosting of 2014 WAZA & CBSG meetings in New Delhi. Mr. B.S.Bonal was at the steering Wheel as Member Secretary. He called me up for suggestions on publications that may be handed over to the participants. I suggested that a special volume of 'Zoos' Print' be brought out during this occasion having select articles and papers related to Indian zoos published by ZOO from its inception. The idea clicked and Sally was informed of the same by CZA. Sally was then returning to USA messaged.....

March,2014 - "I am interested in your ideas .... if you have time to chat about this it would be helpful to me. I can call you if you give your number and a time that is convenient. This would have to be today or tomorrow. I am leaving the next day for Chennai and USA"

"Sorry. I called you before I saw this message. After 8pm today suits me."  
It was my first long talk on Skype with her and the last.

2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2014 last day CBSG meeting - At breakfast table in Hotel Lalit, New Delhi I met Sally. This was our one to one meeting



in person after I had departed from CZA. The meeting was long and we discussed Indian bureaucracy, current state of affairs of Indian Zoos, their scientific temperament, SAZARC and ..... 'Sanjay'. She was looking tired and it looked that she was not happy the way things were moving of the Zoos in South Asia region, a subject that had been so close to her heart. She was looking for an able suitor in her shoes who can continue with her ideas on transforming South Asian Zoos. It was a hint again to me to consider joining ZOO for the Zoos programme..... maybe I thought that I was not the able suitor for her shoes.

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015- Her last message to me when I invited her to help in Dr. B.M.Arora workshop on Asian Elephant at New Delhi.

"Dear Bipul :

I am living in USA now and my office staff is doing very well. I have told them that if they have materials left over they can give some to him if they have no use for them.

I hope you are well and thriving. What zoo are you with now?

Best wishes,  
Sally"

23<sup>rd</sup> August,2019 - Onnie Byers, Chair CPSG shared the news of Sally demise with me. For me it was a big underlying support gone which had kindled the fire for zoos in me 27 years before I had met her in WII.

The World recognised her voluminous contribution for the Zoos in South Asia and felicitated her with the highest award- the '**Heini Hediger Award**', hopefully India will have good sense in at least now felicitating her posthumously.

I will remain ever inspired by her hard work and passion for transforming Zoos of South Asia. Indian Zoo at large will remain indebted to her in giving them a direction. May her soul now 'Rest in Peace'....

**-- Bipul Chakrabarty, Former Scientific Officer, Central Zoo Authority & Director, Tata Steel Zoological Park, Jamshedpur**

## Saviors of Zoos: Sally Walker

*(Journey from becoming Life Member of Zoo Outreach Organization to working with Zoos and Central Zoo Authority and Lessons learnt from Sally Walker)*

During the year 1986-87, I was preparing myself for get admission in post graduate course with wildlife as main subject. I completed my graduation from Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed University), Agra, While at DEI, I was told that a master's course with focus on Environmental Zoology shall begin soon I had finished my graduation, but it was delayed, so I had opted to learn computer wait for the Masters Course at DEI itself which later joined as first batch I joined the master course at Dayalbagh in Environmental Zoology. While doing masters, I was searching institutions working in this field and found that there is organization called Zoo Outreach Organization in Coimbatore being run my Ms. Sally Walker, I saved my pocket money and became the Life Member of Z.O.O in 1988. The idea behind to enroll for Life Membership was that I shall to receive the Zoos Print – a monthly magazine, which I found so interesting and also thought that I can keep publishing my research as and when the opportunity is available.

Since than Life Member of Z.O.O, I was regularly receiving the Zoos Print, in fact I use to wait with curiosity for the post man for next issue of the Zoos Print. I completed my Master's Degree, had done dissertation on Primates behavior under the supervision of Dr. Iqbal Malik, a well know Primatologist. I had sent the finding of my master's thesis to Ms. Sally Walker, which she published in the Zoos Print with one of the Rhesus macaque picture on cover of the magazine. It was so exciting for me to see my first publication. In fact as a contributor, the ZOO use to send additional copy of the magazine as authors copy, which I gifted to my co-supervisors (Dr.

A. K. Sinha and Dr. Sant Prakash) who were also co-author in the article and they are my mentors who actually guided throughout to work for wildlife conservation. Soon on completion of my master's degree, I got an opportunity to work with Bird of Prey project of Bombay Natural History Society under Dr. Vidhu Prakash.

While I was posted at Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, I got an opportunity to undergo 12 weeks course at Smithsonian Institution on Wildlife Conservation and Management. This course enthralled me to become a wildlife enthusiast. Soon after a year working on Birds of Prey project left the job and got married and at the same time registered for my doctorate at Dayalbagh, Agra working on Monitor lizard's illegal trade, behavior and other aspects. I got an opportunity to undergo 12 weeks training on Endangered Species Management in 1990 at Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust (now known as Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust) in Jersey, Channel Islands, United Kingdom.

During this period, I joined WWF India Delhi office and met one day with Ms. Sally Walker asking me if I am keen to join a upcoming Zoo in Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, By knowing Ms. Sally and her work in the field of ex situ conservation, I was readily agreed and soon I joined the Coimbatore Zoological Park and Conservation Centre as Development Officer,

At the zoo, first I was given a charge to raise funds by nonprofit marketing and fund raising for a upcoming Zoo. This upcoming zoo being run by a society was managed by the top industrialist of the Coimbatore. It was a challenging job for a biologist and I presume none of the zoo in India has such position. But being brought up in Gupta family who are the masters in business, soon I picked up the local language and began to speak Tamil and during the initial period after my joining there



was great success to secure funds for the zoo project. With the efforts of Ms. Sally Walker, we had invited to Dr. Ulie Seal at that point of time he was the Chairman for CBSG (Captive Breeding Specialist Group) now known as Conservation Planning Specialist Group of IUCN/SSC. Dr. Seal spoke about the ex situ conservation during one of our fund raising event.

While at Coimbatore, staying in Peelamedu, the same locality where the office of ZOO was also located, Sally Walker often use to organize dinner where all staff of ZOO and Coimbatore Zoo use to meet as well as we use to have regular meetings with Sally as she was Project Coordinator. Sally Walker was very hard master, always seen working with full dedication. She always wanted us to deliver the output within given time frame, at the same time she was caring too. I have seen her working almost more than 18-20 hours a day. She will always discuss about the family members too.

### **Think Regionally – Act Globally**

Sally was the one whom I would say that she wanted to promote the zoos and zoo personnel to improve the animal welfare, upkeep, conservation education, animal health in the Zoos and because of her support many of the biologists, zoo director had visited zoos abroad for training, workshops in the field of ex situ conservation.

### **Capacity Building for Indian Zoos: International Experts Visiting India**

I remember that Sally had immense contact with the zoos abroad and with the global experts in ex situ conservation. I could remember few of them whom she invited to India to deliver talks during various occasions and they are Jeremy Cherfas, Dr. Mirinda Steveson, Dr. Ulie Seal, Dr. Robert Bob Lacy, Tom Foose, Laurie Gledhill, Dr. Donald Lindburg. And the list goes on.....

### **As Nature Educationist**

After seeing Sally Walker passion towards animals and their welfare, she was nominated for two terms of three years each as member of the Central Zoo Authority governing body as Nature Educationist for the period 1992 to 1998. During this period her contribution has been noteworthy, since during this time at MoEF & CZA was finalizing the documents for the National Zoo Policy (during the year 1998) and the Recognition of Zoo Rules (during 1992).

### **As Zoo Evaluator**

Sally as member of CZA had also evaluated number of Zoos as a team member of evaluation of Zoos for grant of recognition. The other team members who usually travel together with Sally were Shri S. C. Sharma, Dr. L. N. Acharjyo, Late Shri Pushp Kumar and Late Shri J. H. Desai. Her observations on zoos were of highly useful for the zoos to improve upon.

### **As Zoo Educationist**

The Zoo Education was one of the favorite subject of the Sally Walker. Sally developed cut out of board papers for the use of school children as an education tool. These cut out were on the theme of a species like bear Sloth bear, and Tiger, Hoolock gibbon, ABC colorings book, Rakhi, Zoo as Education Packets were so popular among the schools that every school would like to have it.

### **Zoos Print**

A compilation of articles, sharing information between zoos, short notes, vacancy in zoos, and notice about meetings, conference, seminars and full of information was very popular and now we have online version which is also very popular magazine among the zoos.

### **Zoo Zen**

A compilation of articles on a particular subject, thus it was very useful tool for zoo biologists, researchers, young students. Now it seems it has been stopped since most major topics might have been covered.



*Sally Walker at 69th Annual Conference of the WAZA held at Hotel The Ashok, New Delhi during November, 2014,*

### **Bringing Indian Zoos close to WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums)**

Sally's role cannot be forgotten to bring the WAZA and its World Zoo Conservation Strategy being published by the Z.O.O. and circulated to all major. Else the most zoos in India were not aware of WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums). Today WAZA plays a very important role on issuing strategy on animal welfare, population management, ex situ management etc. on global level.

### **Preparing Indian Zoos for Conservation Breeding through CBSG (Conservation Breeding Specialist Group)**

CBSG was Sally favorite. She had conducted many of the CBSG meeting in India and this region. CBSG made the zoos to understand the role of Planned Breeding in ex situ conservation.

### **Population Management of Endangered Species through PHVA (Population and Habitat Viability Assessment)**

Indian was fortunate because of Sally's initiative and contribution to have Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop process several times. As we know that a typical PHVA workshop features the scientific rigor of a population viability analysis (PVA) that helps wildlife biologists and managers more clearly understand the threats that influence populations. The PVA effort is combined with innovative methods for helping people organize and evaluate information across a broad range of disciplines and perspectives.

Through this integration, workshop participants create more effective actions for species conservation that also take into account the social, cultural, and economic needs of local people. When local stakeholders help create the action plan themselves, they are much more likely to implement it.

I could remember that Sally conducted PHVA for the following species:

1. Brown antlered deer
2. Lion-tailed macaque
3. One horned rhinoceros
4. Asiatic lion
5. Red panda
6. Gharial
7. Hoolock gibbon

The PHVA reports on the above species are available on the website of ZOO. I feel they are still useful. The recommendation made in these PHVA has lot more information.



*Sally Walker with WAZA President Prof. Gordon McGregor-Reid and Dr. Bob Lacy at 69th Annual Conference of WAZA at New Delhi in November, 2014.*

### **Contributing in Assessment of Biodiversity through CAMP (Conservation Assessment Management Plan) Workshops**

The ZOO had also conducted several CAMP Conservation Assessment Management Plan workshop too for the scientific management of the species. The following are the few CAMP workshop, of which I remember to be held during 1997 to 2005:

- a. CAMP for Selected Soil Invertebrates of Southern India (1997)
- b. CAMP for Amphibians of India (1997)
- c. CAMP for Reptiles of India (1997)
- d. CAMP for Mammals of India (1997)
- e. CAMP for Freshwater Fishes of India (1997)
- f. CAMP for South Asian Chiroptera (2002)
- g. CAMP for South Asian Primates (2003)
- h. CAMP for South Asian Non-volant Small Mammals (2005)

### **Project Advisor at CZPCC (Coimbatore Zoological Park and Conservation Centre) – planed as a modern zoo now a Nature Park with collection of rare varieties of plants, popularly known as Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park at Anaikatty.**

While at Coimbatore Zoological Park and Conservation Centre (CZPCC) for almost 6 years during 1993 to 1998, I was fortunate to have Sally Walker as our Project Advisor. During this period myself and B. Rathinasabapathy received Gerald Durrell Memorial Funds (GDMF) from Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust to work upon invertebrates and amphibians. Our projects received lots of appreciations not from India but

from worldwide as it brought education an awareness at the grassroots level, involving the schools of Coimbatore District and including in rural area in Anaikatty. I could succeed in breeding many of the amphibian species in captivity also.

With the funds from Durrell, I could also publish leaflets in local language (Tamil), a poster on Anikatty Frogs and a book on Captive Care of Amphibians. The book was so popular that I had to reprint twice. The credit for encouraging to write such project proposal goes to Sally Walker and our Secretary Mr. G. Rangaswamy as well as Mrs. Nadini Rangaswamy who always promoted. Dr. N.VK Ashraf, initially Veterinary Officer and later promoted as Asst. Director contributed immensely in execution and completion of projects.

### **Promoting Animal Welfare and Zoo Standards among the SAARC Countries with the help of SAZARC (South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation)**

Sally played instrumental role in establishing the SAZARC - the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation - organization for South Asian Zoos and Aquariums. SAZARC was established on August 4, 2000 at the first meeting of South Asian Zoos, held at Central Zoo, Kathmandu, Nepal, which I could not attend, however I attended subsequent meeting at Lahore Zoo, Pakistan, Kamla Nehru Zoo, Ahmedabad and National Zoo at Colombo, Sri Lanka. These workshops were so popular that none of the Zoo Director would like to miss. Dr. R. K. Sahu, Director at Kamla Nehru Zoo, Ahmedabad has been noteworthy in all SAZARC meetings. All meetings of SAZARC were fully loaded with information, group discussion, class room activities, field trips and entertainment by way of cultural programme in the evening. However at present this association is no more taking up any activities.

### **Elephant Welfare**

Sally had great respect for the God Ganesha. You may be surprised to know that she has more than hundreds of Ganesha idols in her collection of different shape, size, colour and material collected from across the world. Sally also had special interest or the welfare of Elephants. At Z.O.O. she took many initiative by conducting workshops on Welfare, Captive Care and their management of Elephants in captivity in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka as well as in Assam. I remember Dr. Jacob Cheeran was very instrumental along with

many foreign experts in training the mahouts. In fact, ZOO one of the lady staff member Nibha Namboodri from Kerala became the first mahout for the elephant, who later conducted several training in various elephants camps.

### **Vulture Conservation**

The "Vulture Culture" a very popular special newsletter having numerous information on vultures was published by the ZOO focusing the need for vulture conservation in India. This was done way back in 1980-88. No one knew that there shall be drastic decline in Vulture populations, particularly, White rumped, Long billed and Slender billed vultures. Because of this drastic decline, of White rumped, Long billed and Slender billed vultures they are listed under Critically Endangered category by the IUCN Red List and the Government of India had listed them among Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

### **Global Impact - India's Conservation Breeding Initiates**

In 2007 the Central Zoo Authority took decision to organize an international workshop at New Delhi on India's Conservation Breeding Initiatives. While organizing this workshop, guidance from Ms. Sally Walker was also sought since many participants were from foreign zoos.

In the workshop more than 85 participants from 30 countries participated in the Workshop. The workshop brought the India's ex situ conservation initiative on global map as well the Central Zoo Authority's achievement were known worldwide. It was high time that all major foreign zoos who participated in this workshop were really impressed by the India's Ex Situ Conservation Initiatives. It was an eye opened workshop for the foreign zoos. Dr. B. R. Sharma, who was Member Secretary at that point of time took this challenge to organize the workshop and he succeeded in his mission Conservation Breeding. However without the support of Dr. D. N. Singh, who was Director National Zoological Park, New Delhi organizing such International Workshop would have not been possible. Dr. Singh's immense contribution cannot be forgotten.

Shri. S. C. Sharma whom I call the father of CZA as well father of Indian Zoos - who has been also the Founder Member Secretary of the CZA. He retired as Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has been always known as living encyclopedia on Zoos as well as the backbone for all Zoo

Developments in the country. While Mr. Sharma and Shri S. K. Patnaik, who was also Member, CZA, drafted the National Zoo Policy, Recognition of Zoo Rules and number of other zoo documents along with the inputs from the other members like Ms. Sally Walker and Dr. L. N. Acharjyo, Retd. Senior Veterinary Officer from Nandankanan Zoo, Mr. Bipul Chakraborty and Mr. B. C. Choudhary.

Shri S. C. Sharma, Shri. P. R. Sinha, Dr. B. R. Sharma, Shri. B. S. Bonal, and Dr. D. N. Singh, all five were Former Member Secretaries of CZA under whom I had an opportunity to work in CZA, I would like to put on record that without all legendary members and their untiring efforts, vision and hard work, the shape of Indian Zoos what we see today, would have not happened. Today the Central Zoo Authority is known worldwide, as a leader for closing down more than 350

Zoos physically as well rehabilitating the animals from these closed zoos and cancelling the recognition of all circuses. It has set an example in the world.

Ms. Sally Walker, and her organization Zoo Outreach Organization worked untiring with the zoos hand to hand in collaboration with CZA and the State Forest Department and Municipal Corporations and played an innumerable efforts. Sally shall live in our hearts. She will always be remembered by the zoos for her contribution for the betterment of zoos in India and animal welfare. I am sure that Zoo Outreach Organization may continue to fulfill her vision in future.

-- **Brij Kishor Gupta, Evaluation & Monitoring Officer, Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi**

My association with Sally [more than 3 decades old] is always green in my memory. She used to come to Pricol related to the publication works of Zoos print magazine. I used to support her for the same. Then, I had the privilege/opportunity to support her in establishing the self-sustainable computer environment in her office itself. I still recall about an email she had sent to Mr. Vijay Mohan, MD of Pricol, praising my support rendered to her.



Due to the association with Sally, I was also inducted to support Wildlife Information Liaison Development [WILD], an associate entity of Zoo Outreach Organization.

I am proud in having supported Sally in forming her Zoo's team. Latha G Ravikumar & B. Ravichandran were referred by me, trained by Sally and they are still continuing their good services.

Though my interactions with her were reduced to a greater extent in the past one decade, I used to enquire about her often and visit her during her visits to India. Even my family members know her well and we used to mingle often.

Now Sally is not with us, but, she was one of the greatest personalities I met & interacted in my life. Undoubtedly, her demise is a great loss to the Zoo's community. May her soul RIP.

-- **N. Raveendran, Chief Information Officer Sakthi Finance Ltd., Coimbatore**



It was noon, not a misty morning or a dusky evening but a sunny noon. I saw a tall figure, a white female in Punjab kit walking with our Director in between the animal enclosures talking to each other. The distance between them made me understand that they are merely acquaintances. I remembered that the Director mention a Zoo guest who would meet him for an official discussion and realized she must be the person he meant. They walked everywhere in the Zoo for more than an hour.

Those days I was an Assistant Director and because of my work schedule I had no time to be with them. Later, I was told by the Director that the lady at the Zoo that day was Sally Walker. I was told that Sally Walker intends to establish an association of Zoos in the South Asian region.

Indeed, she was an American who had the grand idea of creating a bond among Zoos in South Asia where the fires of conflict are in a constant state of ignition within and between countries.

Sally announced her first meeting in Nepal. Our Director, Mr. Gunasena and Dr. Jayanthi flew to Kathmandu.

SAZARC was formed, the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Corporation. It was the dream of Sally Walker. A dream that became a reality.

Our friendship blossomed. Friendships in between unbelievable people, people who would never meet in lives met and talk. They talked about their countries, their Zoos and animals.

SAZARC offered opportunities to visit our close neighbours, understand each other, share the knowledge and learn global Zoo trends.

All these opportunities were due to Sally. She worked hard for this. She went to her friends. at friendly Zoos asking funds for the continuation of SAZARC. She knew that this played a critical role.

She might have flown to various destinations. She might have walked in rough gravel roads. The determination and courage of Sally Walker gave her the strength to travel where few would bother to venture and this made her happy.

Dear Sally, because of you I met Sanjaya, Daniel, Latha, Marimuthu, Sahu, Kasi, Jini and several other friends. Because of you we were introduced to global mechanisms of nutrition and many other life saving techniques for our beloved animals. We could travel to many countries and hold SAZARC meetings in our countries.

Dear Sally, You created a new era of friendship in between regional Zoos. You made us participants of global workshops.

You were an example of dedication.

I feel sorry that I couldn't see you in your difficult time. You were far away from us. I wish you attend Nirvana.

-- **Dammika Malsinghe, Director General,  
Department of National Zoological  
Garden, Sri Lanka**



Dear Friends at Zoo Outreach Organisation, I have been thinking about you a lot since Payal emailed with the sad news about Sally.

I don't need to tell you what an impact she had on people all over the world; I'm sure you have heard from many of them already and will hear from more in the future.

But I do want to share what an impact she had on me. Plain and simple, she was one of the most remarkable people I have met and the relationship with her, with all of you, has provided me with some of the most meaningful experiences of my life, personally as well as professionally. I will forever be thankful to her for inviting me for a time into the ZOO family, and to all of you for welcoming me so completely. And I know from experience what a family ZOO truly is. Sally was no average organizational leader: she birthed ZOO, nurtured and grew it into a force for science, conservation, improvement of zoos and ethical treatment of animals, not just in India but around the world. Like any good parent, she was inspiring, demanding, and sometimes infuriating. But I think we all knew how deeply she cared, not just about the mission and the work, but about all of us participating in it.

We did so many Teachers for Tigers workshops together: in Coimbatore, Chennai, Periyar, Mysore, Bhopal, Bandipur and Delhi. The feeling at those workshops was amazing, the shared sense of purpose, passion and commitment; we started early in the morning

and continued well past dinner. While I sometimes felt ready to drop from exhaustion, Sally was tireless and unstoppable. (Maybe the bag of nuts she often snacked on had some special ingredient?) One of the things I always appreciated about Sally was her sense of humor, especially the sarcastic and witty comments that could change the tone of challenging circumstances. I remember once, when I was stressing over something related to my WCS work, telling Sally, "I like to think I'll be rewarded in my next life." Her response: "Yes, but imagine what you must have done in your past life to deserve what you're going through now!" She was so generous in so many ways. When I left WCS, she called me to say that if I needed an organizational base until I found my next job, she would be happy to have me affiliated with ZOO. I didn't take her up on that, but appreciated the offer more than I could say.

I've often told people that one of the most important lessons I've learned over my career is the importance of individuals: that a project can be up against all sorts of challenging circumstances, but if there is one amazing individual who refuses to yield, incredible things will happen. (Alternatively, all of a project's circumstances can look right, but without that key individual things will fall apart.) Sally was prime example of that amazing individual, and I knew from the moment I met her, at an IZE conference I believe, that we could do amazing things.

-- Tom Naiman, New York, USA



Dear Sanjay, Latha and the entire ZOO family,

It is with deep sorrow that I received the news of passing away of dear Sally in her country of birth, for her adopted country, her karma bhumi was here in India and south Asia.

I do not have words to express my sorrow, but to say that people like Sally never die!

Yes, they might move on in bodily form (as every mortal is meant to) but continue to spread cheer, happiness and encouragement to whoever come in their contact for ever, through all those they have groomed and mentored. I see a Sally, or some part of her in each one of you. Please do not let her spirits ever die!

I am well aware that now with her physical form not around, ZOO and WILD and so many other conservation entities that she found, would find it hard to carry on without her guidance. Yes, it is not going to be easy, but surely she has helped build enough strength and wisdom in each one of you to carry on the good work of ZOO and WILD for as long as required. Whenever in doubt, always remember that Sally is watching over you.

She was one person who had a rare knack (because of her purity of heart and intent) to convert every adversity into an opportunity! Please keep up the good work of ZOO and WILD.

My only regret is that I could not keep up my promise to author her biography. Take heart!



**-- Manoj Mishra, Convener,  
Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan, New Delhi**

Sally was a good friend for many years, although we seldom had the opportunity to get together. We had many long and wonderful phone conversations about wildlife conservation, zoos, zoo history, life in India, and life in general. When ZOO/India had problems funding its Asian projects (due to a restrictive Indian law) she established ZOO/US. These organizations have become a remarkable legacy of a remarkable lady. They are a living extension of Sally's passion for India / Asia, its zoos and its wildlife. Sally was forever losing her keys, but worked hard at saving her wildlife. If we had more people like Sally the world would be a better place.

**-- Vernon Kisling, Treasurer  
Zoo Outreach Organisation, USA**

Sally Walker means a dedicated person working for wildlife. I am calling her Mother of SAZARC. This organisation formed and successfully run by her and many Zoo personals learn new things for Zoo Management. I remember her dedication she was working for more than 12 hours and she is the eye witness of Ahmedabad Zoo when this zoo was in great problems. Very famous person having big name expired after 38 years of his services and a new very young person joined and everybody asking age and suspecting what happens to this zoo but Sally knows both person and she never questioned about a young person ability and supported him and now Ahmedabad Zoo transformed from old out dated concept of enclosure designed to present concept of enclosure designing.

Moreover she has given us big chance to see and interact with some other zoos of world and also given the chance to participate in WAZA conference where we have exposure of world zoos and understand their wildlife management, policies and so many things. This exposure has given us new direction of enclosure designing and zoo management. The very special thing is she was sponsoring these all visits to South Asian Zoos Directors by her own resources.

She is Great for Yoga and Wildlife both we all remember many conference of SAZARC.

She was having special vision I remember in 1993-94 when she has come up with vulture conservation programme called "Vulture Culture" and Keep yourself in enclosure a very famous campaign not to tease and feed animals in the same year. This was commonly adopted by all SARC country zoos, you can visit Indian Zoos or Pakistan Zoos or Srilanka Zoos or Bangladesh or Nepal Zoos you find same slogan with same picture.

I am lucky that I was having long cooperation from her and able to attend many workshop and conferences organised by her and learned many things of Zoo Management which are very helpful for the development of Ahmedabad Zoo. She has also given us chance to organised SAZARC conference in Ahmedabad Zoo and we all had meeting with Honble Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Narendrabhai Modi.

She is collecting Ganesh idol from every city and saying all Ganesh they are different by look I remember she was keeping few Ganesh always with her.

We don't have words to thank her for support to world zoos specially Indian Zoos and We all are praying to God for her better journey to invisible world. We always remember you Sally (Mother of SAZARC and more).

-- **Dr. R.K. Sahu, Director of Ahmedabad Zoo, Ahmedabad**



Thanks for giving me this opportunity to write about one of the most inspirational women that I have ever known. I got to know Ms. Walker when I was accepted as a marketing intern at Z.O.O. in the summer of 1994.

Little did I know that the following two months would be life-changing for me. The first thing that struck me about her was the amount of passion she had for working in this field of ex-situ conservation. The long hours, indeed entire days that she spent working on Zoo's Print and Zoo Zen. With Sanjay writing at her side and Latha managing the office, the organization was one of the most productive that I have ever known. I can honestly say that she is singlehandedly responsible for instilling a work ethic of constant toil in me.

Sally had a personality that can only be described as authoritative and kind at the same time. I was given a lot of leeways to work and indeed nap in the afternoon sometimes. However, the highest standards

of work and discipline towards deadlines were expected and maintained. She did not take kindly to anyone wasting time but was indulgent towards those striving to improve themselves. The entire office treated her with awe that was due to someone they admired a lot.

Even after I left the Zoo Outreach Organization, I was still nurtured and pampered whenever I need help and advice. Over the course of the next two decades, there were many a time when I emailed and spoke to her over the phone. I had the singular honor to see her twice after that and every time I got to learn so much more. It was so very sad to learn that Sally left us after this prolonged illness. We will all miss her kindness and the strength she brought the prolonged struggle of protesting wildlife, both in the zoos and in the wild. Rest In Peace Big Boss.

**-- Ateeq Ahmad, Analyst at Albany Analytics, USA**

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I am deeply saddened to hear the sad demise of beloved Ms Sally Walker, renowned wildlife and zoo conservationist and founder of the Zoo Outreach Organization and very close friend of my beloved father Ms Walker was a great friend of my beloved father late Dr V. Krishnamurthy for over 20 years when she came to Coimbatore during the late 1970s.

My father was in Service with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department as Forest Veterinary officer, stationed at Coimbatore. After retiring from services during the year 1987, my father used to interact with Ms Walker frequently on Captive Breeding and Animal Management and they become very good friends since then.

Though I have heard a lot about Ms Walker through my late father, I had met her only on two occasions, once during my college days at Coimbatore and later when she came to our residence at Chennai when my father was Convalescing after a bypass surgery during the year 1997.

It was Ms Walker who was instrumental in bringing out a Book on Elephant on Management & a Handbook for elephant mahouts. My father along with Dr Jacob V Cheeran and Dr K.C.Panicker (two eminent Veterinarians specialized on Elephants in Kerala) had a hand on giving this book a

great shape. The book was compiled by Nibha Namboodari, designed and published under the auspices of Zoos Outreach Organization.

One cannot forget her inputs during the Conference of Zoo Vets held at Chennai during the year 2000, immediately after the large scale deaths of animals at Nandankannan Zoo at Bhuvaneshwar on account of the Cyclonic storm devastated Orissa. Incidentally my father was also invited for the above Conference.

One more incident comes to my mind is when a Killer elephant ( a Makhna elephant) was tranquilized and captured by the forest department of Tamil Nadu at Mudumalai, A few Westerners with vested interests started writing ill about my father and his work on elephants. Immediately Ms Walker along with some eminent Scientists from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore came to the rescue of my father and putting an end to the controversies.

The death of Ms Sally Walker is an inseparable loss to the Scientific Fraternity and her tireless work on Zoo and Animal Conservation. RIP Great Lady

**-- K. Sridhar, (S/o Later Dr. V. Krishnamurthy, Elephant Doctor), Chennai**

In the year 1999, one morning through a phone call someone dropped a message and cell number in my office from IUCN Karachi office that Sally Walker wants to talk to you. Several questions arose in my mind who is she? Why does she want to talk? What are the reasons for her contact?

Finally, I contacted to IUCN's office in Karachi and it came to my knowledge that she is a wildlife conservationist and wants to have a conversation with me regarding conservation activities of Pakistan especially in Karachi Zoo. When I contacted her I heard the voice of a young lady who introduced herself and asked me about conservation activities of Karachi Zoo.

In addition to above, she tried to arrange a conference of South Asian Zoos i.e India, Pakistan, Bangladesh Srilanka, Nepal and Bhutan at Khatmandu, Nepal. She then invited me in that conference and I saw a feeling of determination, sincerity in her voice but I thought that it is impossible to arrange a conference between those countries who have such major conflict issues that have been unresolved after serious efforts of International Community.

She made impossible to possible by arranging that conference. Finally, six South Asian countries met at Khatmandu, Nepal and I observed that she is very smart professionally & technically sound, energetic, enthusiastic, dedicated, devoted and sincere to her work. I was very much inspired as well as impressed with her personality as she was very much brilliant, polite, humble, caring, cooperative, down to earth, objective-oriented and her way of working was very much straight forward. She developed love between participants of those countries, for the very first time they had shared professional experiences, stories of success/failures of conservation with each other and improvements in captive facilities.

She gave the opportunity to the participants to visit South Asian Zoos as well as South-East Asian Zoos and the wild as well as captive treasures/facilities. She groomed carved and polished skills of raw talent of the human resource of South Asian Zoos.

In case of aspersion from any quarter, she supported South Asian Zoos or Zoo Community like a Mother does and tried her best to help out that zoo with her complete resources and sincerity. She arranged fundings as well as Superb Resource persons who imparted valuable knowledge and made arrangements of Conferences logistics, like a caring Mother of South Asian Zoos. Mother of South Asian Zoos died on 22-08-2019 and we left a sincere, caring, loving, companion, a friend of SouthAsian Zoos which will never be met in future. May her soul rest in peace.



**-- Qazi, Director, Karchi Zoo, Pakistan**

Dearest Sanjay, Daniel, Latha, Ravi, Manju, Sarojamma, and all at ZOO,

I got the news a while ago. Gawsia sent message and was calling me from Kolkata. Suprio and Samiul wrote to me. I was trying to remain very strong until now but when I started writing this email I broke down - now I know it isn't very easy to absorb the shock. I was trying to remember my/our days with Sally. She was very special, helped WildTeam (formerly Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh) grow from Day 1. She was our mentor. Sally helped build capacity of very many Bangladeshis. We owe so much to her.

Dear friends, I wish we were there with you at this moment. She left all of us deeply saddened.

Latha, please forgive me as I couldn't talk to her over phone during her last days, when she was not recognising anyone. I am sorry, you gave me her US phone number and how you wanted me to talk to her.

Dear All, I am truly disturbed now. I don't want to continue, however, I may tell you



that Sally will remain in my/our thoughts and prayers.

WildTeam family joins me in sending our sincere condolences to you all. May Sally's hard work and memories give ZOO team and WildTeam team strength, peace and comfort.

With love and hugs

**-- Md. Anwarul Islam, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh**

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I am deeply grieved upon the sad demise of Ms. Sally Walker, a dedicated conservationist. Ms. Walker set up the Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) in India in 1985, and the organisation now extends throughout South Asia, including the nations of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan.

To say the least, she was an institution within the ZOO profession, and demonstrated extraordinary capacity for achieving successful outcomes, often from extremely limited resources.

She was an inspiration to us and will always be remembered for her life-long dedication to the all Asian Zoos and a firm commitment to develop, through education and science, their role and mission in conservation.

People who have worked in close association with her will suffer the pain of missing her for many years to come. But there is no alternative except to bow to the Almighty's will and seek his mercy and blessing for the departed soul. I pray for divine peace and comfort for you and all her associates.



**-- Brigadier (Retired) Mukhtar Ahmed, President: Houbara Foundation International Pakistan, Vice President (Emeritus): WWF-Pakistan**

The Jersey (Channel Island) memories came flooding back. The meetings with Dr. Seal, Roger Wheeler & many more, their contributions towards the conservation. I hope Philip Coffey has received this tragic news. They worked as a team always. We, as fraternity are sharing the grief of losing a team leader across the world.

We mourn the demise of Sally Walker in USA today, who happened to be my mentor, philosopher & friend.

I'm heartbroken today hearing the news. She helped me in shaping up my career while in the Min. of Environment & Forests. A fiery conservation leader, her legacy will live on throughout the South Asian landscape.

Her passion for conservation & education of endangered animals continues to inspire generations of conservationists. She touched, moved and inspired all of us around the world. Love you so much Sally, I'm indebted to you forever, will miss you rest of my life.

Long live Zoo Outreach Organization!(Z.O.O).  
-- **Rajashree Sharma, Advocate, Environment & Biotechnology, New Delhi**

Dear Zoo colleagues, We are deeply saddened by the passing of our long-time friend and colleague Sally Walker. We had a relationship with Sally that goes back to the 90's I believe. She was a tour de force. Her pioneering work in conservation education and care for zoo animals are legendary. While she has passed on, her energy and inspiration will I'm sure continue through all of you.

-- **Meenakshi Nagendran, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USA**

It is so very sad that Sally has passed away. Back when we were still in touch I knew she was having some medical issues and recently I have thought of her and wondered how she was getting on. Sally was one of the most energetic people I have known. She gave so much of her self and accomplished so very much. I think she was AMAZING as is her legacy as seen through the ongoing work of you and all the others there at Zoo Outreach. I use to, and still do, feel bad because we could not fund all of the wonderful proposals Zoo Outreach sent us. I know the projects we did support were very important to species conservation and to education of children and adults. They were all a great value for conservation!

I am very thankful that the FWS had the opportunity to contribute to such important work. And that I had the opportunity to know Sally and to interact with Latha and Sanjay and others at Zoo Outreach.

Such a wonderful person! Such a wonderful Team she left behind!

-- **Fred Bagley (Ret.), Program Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USA**

The year Sally changed my life forever and gave me a new purpose. An amazing wildlife educator and conservation visionary. Thank you for being you and for all that you have done. Miss you. RIP Sally R. Walker.

-- **Payal Bhojwani Molur, Conservation Educationist, Coimbatore, India**

Very sad. I have written a few times about Sally's contributions. For her arrangements for sharing information on wildlife and zoos data could reach so widely to people so regularly. She was a lasting and dynamic friend through ZP at a time when I needed it the most from 1980s to keep my thoughts and pen active. The team and culture which Sally created are in the hands of dedicated talents and Sally will continue to remain with us through or out of the pages from ZOO. Rest in peace and be happy, dear Sally.

-- **Lala A.K. Singh (Ret.), Zoological Survey of India, Bhubaneswar, India**

Shaken to know that Sally R. Walker passed away. A great woman, inspiration, someone who build the zoo community in South Asia, build capacity of people, improved welfare condition of animals and strengthen legislative framework and policy. The list is unlimited. Sally R. Walker you influenced me so much, you built the passion in me to help zoos, you taught me how being critical of zoos would not help but we need to work with them to gradually make a difference. I am still struggling to be just a little like you. May you be happy and peaceful wherever you are. It is hard to have to lose two mentors in one month - Richard Garstang and now Sally.

-- **Uzma Khan, WWF-Pakistan, Pakistan**

I wish to convey my Heartfelt Condolences, at this sorrowful time of yours and sharing your grievances at the demise of Sally Walker. I had chances of meetings Sally Walker in Sri Lanka - Zoo & as well as in Delhi where i met her in a workshop.



Her work towards the welfare of wildlife is tremendous and difficult to mention in few sentences.... Her work towards the welfare of wildlife & standardization of zoos were tremendous. Her support for education of South Asian Zoos also remarkable.

It is very hard time to accept the demise of the founder ZOO, mentor of all of you. She led a meaningful life for the cause of her birth. I wish to share my grievances with you all. May her soul would attain peace.

-- **P. Arunthathy, Department of National Zoological Gardens, Sri Lanka**

Farewell Sally, you were one of a kind. Thanks for your enormous contribution to conservation! You were sometimes tough with us, but you always put conservation first, not yourself.

-- **Simon Stuart, Director of Strategic Conservation, Synchronicity Earth, UK**

It so saddens me to hear that Sanjay. Truly the end of an era. What an incredible woman leaving behind an impressive legacy and having influenced a small army of conservationists of many kinds. Sending warm thoughts to you, the team and all who loved her.

-- **Kristin Leus, IUCN, Europe CPSG Europe Programme Officer at Copenhagen Zoo**

I came to know Madam Sally Walker has passed away at 1:20 am this morning. I would like to express my hearty thanks to Sally and her soul who made huge contribution in Biodiversity Conservation. I had several email interaction with Sally since 2004. Sally was the first person I contacted when I was in the beginning of my research career on bats and small mammals. She encouraged me a lot and also supported several ways.

One of the historic support made by Sally and the team of ZooOutreach Organisation was the Training Workshop on Volant and non-volant mammals in 2007. I was doing master degree at Central Department of Zoology, TU. All the conservation and research activities about SMALL MAMMALS (BATS & RODENTS) we see these days in Nepal, are the fruits of the same workshop. I met Professor Paul Racey in the same event. Paul further encouraged me as PhD advisor later.

Sally promoted a lot for young researcher in South Asia. She formed networks and

encouraged us in publishing our short stories and activities in wildlife research. She guided Zoos across the region.

In this very moment, I ONLY wish may we people be focused and united to bring BETTER NETWORKING, BETTER RESEARCH and BETTER MANAGEMENT in WILDLIFE BIOLOGY. This will be TRUE RESPECT and HONOR to her soul.

Rest in Peace Madam Sally! You will be survived in our heart.

-- **Pushpa Raj Acharya, Faculty of Science, Mid-Western University, Nepal**

Pushpa, so sorry to hear about your loss of someone who inspired your conservation efforts. She must have been a great lady. Keep on with the tradition as you inspire new conservationists.

-- **Cyndi Mosch, Mexico**

Sally was a good friend and an incredible conservationist that I was fortunate to work with in many Conservation Planning Specialist Group meetings all around the world. Here we were at a CPSG meeting in Cologne, Germany in 2010 with Markus Gusset, then Chief Conservation Officer at the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

I'm so sad to hear about Sally. Sanjay Molur kept me informed of her status when I saw him in Thailand last October. She was such a force in conservation and I was fortunate to work with her through Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (now Conservation Planning Specialist Group). Through our professional ties (and friendship), she brought me to India to present an (then) International Species Information System training workshop on animal records-keeping for the annual South Asian Zoos for Regional Cooperation (SAZARC) meeting which led to the Central Zoo Authority to sponsor membership for 65 Indian Zoos.

May her legacy in conservation continue on through Zoo Outreach Organization and SAZARC. Sending heartfelt hugs to my friends at ZOO. I hope that I can again come to Coimbatore someday in the near future.

-- **Karin Schwartz, Scientific Coordinator, Conservation FIT, USA**

I was extremely sorry to hear this news. UFAW supported ZOO for a number of years, and I met Sally several times to discuss this support and her work with ZOO. She was a lovely

person with tremendous energy and achieved a great deal. I hope that her work will live on after her.

-- **Robert Hubrecht OBE, Chief Executive & Scientific Director, Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, UK**

So sad to hear this. Sending all my Love to you all. I Remember my times at ZOO back in the day with Malcolm Whitehead. I'm shocked. However, this morning I spontaneously made an offering on my shrine so will now go and make a light offering for Sally, AKA The Cat Woman.

-- **David Lawson, UK**

Such an amazing person and I am grateful to have been blessed to know her. I sure do miss spending time with her.

-- **Ed Thomas, USA**

Sally R. Walker you will always live in our hearts! Beautiful memories are there with you, which will be cherished forever!

-- **Manju Siliwal, Dehradun, India**

When Sally started Zoos' Print, the zoos where almost isolated and many zoo vets had not much of an experience since they were frequently transferred. The zoos were something like a meta-population!

In the days when ZOO was started there was no means to share whatever very little information the vets and other zoo managers gained from their experience. In this context the service rendered by the ZOO was invaluable.

My association with the ZOO is for a long time and I have benefited immensely by this. Each and every staff member is so lovable and friendly and hospitable whenever I could make a visit to the office although of late my visit is not that frequent as it used to be.

Now Sally is not with us, but we must congratulate Ms Sally for all the things she has done for the wildlife conservation community.

-- **Jacob Cheeran, Thrissur, India**

Tribute to Sally Walker from former director of Jersey Zoo, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jeremy Mallinson : "I was sorry to hear from you about Sally Walker's death, although I had been previously told that she had been ill for some time.

I remember only too well my participation at the First International Symposium on the Role of Zoos in Wildlife Management which had been organised by the Sakkarbaug Zoo and the Forest Department of Gujarat State, 17-18 January 1990, which Sally did so much to promote and organise. My paper was on "Cooperation for the Establishment of Self-sustaining Zoo-based Populations of Threatened Wildlife. The proceedings of the Symposium were published in ZOO'S PRINT Vol. V. No. 3 March 1990. I travelled to Sakkarbaug via Bombay with Dr Ulie Seal (Captive Breeding Specialist Group) and Professor Roger Wheeler (Edinburgh Zoo), after which we had the privilege to visit the Gir Forest to see the Asiatic Lions for the first time. At a later date, I was delighted to learn that Sally Walker had been presented with the prestigious 'Heini Hediger Award' by the IUDZG (International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens), for her services to the International Zoo Community.

In appreciation, and with my best wishes  
Jeremy Mallinson."

-- **Shubhobroto S. Ghosh, Senior Programme Officer, TRAFFIC-India, India**

Just read a terrible news indeed...

One of my biggest role models and mentor Ms Sally Walker is no more.

Sally was a mentor to literally thousands of people and I consider myself lucky to have got the opportunity to work with a stalwart like her for a long period of time. Her dedication for conservation be it zoo-based or in the wilderness areas was unmatched. I'm sure many wildlife species owe their survival to her efforts, especially invertebrates, herps, bats and rodents!

Sally was a powerhouse and a dynamic personality... The global conservation community has lost one of its most influential people... but one of the most unsung heroes of the conservation community!

Hope she has a peaceful journey ahead... RIP With you in the sorrow Zoo Outreach Organisation.

-- **Anand Pendharkar, Director, SPROUTS Environment Trust, Mumbai, India**

Today we learnt of the sad demise of Ms. Sally Walker. Please accept our heartfelt condolences. Though we never had the good

opportunity to interact with her much, we are very well aware of her valuable contribution to the zoo profession. She also had great affection and love for the BNHS. In her passing, the BNHS has lost a friend and well wisher. Our prayers and thoughts are with you, and the Zoo Reach family; we hope that you will find the courage to bear this loss.

-- **Capt. Mandar Salaye, Deputy Director, (HR & Administration), Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, India**

We lost a Great Personality, a dedicated foreign woman who created history in Conservation of Wildlife in India: being conceptualizing and Founder of one of the Pioneer Institutes of Wildlife Conservation in India - The Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore.

-- **Senacha, K.R., Scientist In-Charge, Bat Conservation International, USA**

Sally Walker - A name that is hardly known in the public domain. A name whose contribution to the zoos and wildlife conservation, in India and across different parts of the world, is unparalleled. A woman whom I have never met but have been immensely inspired by the stories shared about her incredible work. A woman who has dedicated nearly 4 decades of her life to the cause. A woman whose life can inspire a generation of people into wildlife and conservation, and more importantly show the world how someone from a non science background can make seminal contribution to science. Sally passed away today leaving behind an extraordinary legacy. The only fitting tribute to her amazing life journey is to celebrate and carry forward what she stood and worked for. She is a name that deserves to be known, and her life stories need to be passed on for generations to get inspired. Coimbatore is truly lucky and gifted to have had her.

-- **Obuli Chandran, Science Communicator, Mango Education, Coimbatore, India**

Sally R. Walker - A dedicated Wildlife Conservation personality in India - we lost her today. She recognized my research work which is pioneer in Indian zoo's and published in zoo's print during 1988. She offered a position in her office in coimbatore during 1990. She taught me verbal English, computer skills, maintaining, being in punctual in office.....she only motivated me to learn two wheeler driving. My memories with Sally walker is unforgettable and always shall be in my life. I pray almighty of God and

let her soul #Rest\_in\_peace.

-- **Venkatraman Chinna Durai, Scientist, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai, India**

Very sad to loose our beloved friend Sally R. Walker. She was a great animal lover and the conservationist. In 80's she formed a volunteer group group called Friends of Mysore Zoo in Mysore. Later she started Zoo Outreach Organization at Coimbatore. I was so fortunate to work under her in few projects regarding teachers training workshops. Miss you Sally.

-- **Mohan Moolepetlu, Interpretive Naturalist, Kanha, India**

I have met her the first time in Madras Crocodile Bank and she always remembered me whenever I wrote to her.

-- **Farida Tampal, State Director, WWF India, Hyderabad, India**

I am extremely sorry to know about the passing away of Sally, the tireless crusader about improving zoo conditions and conservation of animals. We all have, during our stints in Wildlife Wings of Forest Departments, learnt a lot from her. The gap left by her will be hard to fill. May her soul rest in peace.

-- **G.S. Goraya, Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, HP, India**

Very sad news. She was a great soul completely dedicated to her work. She pioneered maintenance of stud book of wild animals in Indian zoos, She guided me in managing Patna zoo, as back as in 1984. In recent years I lost touch but through internet I used to get every news from her and went through Zoos Print.

-- **PK Sen, New Delhi, India**

Shocked and deeply saddened to hear this news. Sad demise of a great women of zoo community. Last captured memory during her visit in UAE. It is a great loss of South Asian zoo community.

-- **Feroz Islam, Former Deputy Curator, Dhaka Zoo, Bangladesh**

Have known her since I joined the BNHS ! Always fun loving, ever observant, gracious ...Zoo Outreach, pioneered, how Zoo's need to be ...her legacy lives on...We shall Miss meeting you Sally !

-- **Lima Rosalind, Founder-Director, Green Future Foundation, New Delhi, India**  
May her soul rest in peace. I had a personal

equation with her. She was an inspiration for all wildlife lovers. Very sad. She was an epitome of humanity and all the living creatures of the earth.

-- **Kewal Krishan Gupta, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Palampur, India**

Sally's contribution in conservation is very valuable, she also visited Kathmandu few times before and I had significant conversation with her regarding conservation matters. I am shocked to hear this news of her passing away yesterday.

-- **Baya Khanal, Associate Professor, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal**

I unfortunately never met her, but she was very present. Sad to lose another advocate for bridging the gaps between in-situ and ex-situ.

-- **Alexander Sliwa, Sandcat Sahara team, Germany**

This is such sad and shocking news. That Sally Walker has passed away. I have briefly interacted with her and found her to be a very passionate and compassionate member/faculty of the conservation community. Rest in peace and power Sally. You will always be remembered for your incredible work and contributions to species conservation (especially captive health). And will be missed dearly!

-- **Divya Srinivasan, Bengaluru, India**

So sorry to hear this sad news. Sally's dedication to improve conditions of the zoos and develop network among SA zoos will always be in our hearts.

-- **Chandani Ganga Wijesinghe, PetVet Clinic, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

I am deeply saddened by the news of her loss. I pray that God will grant you the strength. My most sincere condolences. She was a legendary of wildlife conservation, and organizer as well as facilitator in south Asia. We lost a great person.

-- **Zahed Mohammad Malekur Rahman, Ministry of Environment Qatar, Doha**

Really a very shocking news. I have fond memories of attending many programmes with Sally and her team of Zoo outreach. May her soul rest in eternal peace. Deepest Condolences to Zoo team.

-- **Surajit Baruah, State Project Manager, UNDP-India, New Delhi, India**

Very sad news, We miss you [Sally R. Walker](#). But remembering your great work and services for wildlife, specially for SAZARC countries and never forget your kind personality and friendship with all of us.

-- **AzizGul Saqib, Director, Kabul Zoo, Afghanistan**

Sally R. Walker, an eminent wildlife conservationist passed away yesterday ..Feeling sorry to hear.. She immensely contributed to the wildlife conservation and research...

-- **Ananthakrishna Sharma, Principal Consultant, Business Alliance And Knowledge Service, Bengaluru, India**

Wish you all to carry forward her legacy towards the cause of organisms which had given us so much knowledge inside captivity.

-- **Pranjalendu, Superannuated Scientist, Bhubaneswar, India**

A great loss indeed. tirelessly worked n coordinated programmes with far reaching results. She conducted numerous programmes.

-- **Chakravarthy Akshay, Bangalore, India**

Sorry to know the news but she will be always with us in the field of conservation through her contribution.

-- **Tejab Pun, Nature Lover, Nepal**

A great loss to humanity. Let the legacy of the departed soul be continued. I too mourn the sad demise of Sally Walker and wish she will live for ever amidst her good works.

-- **Kanakeswar Sensowa, Lions Clubs International, Dibrugarh, India**

When i heard about her courage fight the love she had on wildlife, conservation..... All those in the time period it was.. Its unparalleled.. Its greatest loss for ever.. We need to take her spirit and becomes millions Sallys on Earth to continue the challenge ahead of us.

-- **Gee Prak, Bengaluru, India**

I'm saddened to hear you've departed this earth. I wished I'd known you weren't your full fierce self these past years .. you were an inspiring force to be reckoned with. Miss you.

-- **Wendy Husband, Natural Resources Consultant, PermaGrow, UAE**

I am so sorry to hear this. I had lunch with Sally about 5 years ago. She has done so many interesting things in her lifetime. She arranged for me to get her magazine online and I have read about all the amazing things she was doing as an animal advocate in India.

-- **Kitty Trotto Herring, Goldsboro, USA**

When we lose a loved one here on earth, we gain an angel in heaven that watches over us. May you take comfort in knowing that you have an angel to watch over you now. We/I extend our most sincere condolences to you.

-- **Subhendu Bhattacharya, Nature & Wildlife Conservation Society of Odisha, Bhubaneswar, India**

Very heart breaking my mentor Sally walker has passed away. My inspiration for love and care of wildlife, miss you Sally R. Walker.

-- **Bushra Nisar Khan, Assistant Professor, University of the Punjab, Lahore**

I meet many time Sally during my stay in India and remember their great passion and profesional view for zoobiology with conservation aspect.

-- **Jan Smielowski, Instytut Środowiska Rolniczego i Leśnego PAN, Poland**

Sad. May she rest in peace. Well what is happening this month first Richard Garstang and and now her. God help us all. Have to take up the flame full on now.

-- **Gaitee Joshua, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan**

It was great meeting her during the small mammal conference many years back.

-- **Sunita Khatiwara, Wildlife Conservationist, Bengaluru, India**

My deepest condolences. We lost a conservationist and zoo educator. Great memories working with Madam Sally Walker.

-- **Jegadeesan Balasubramaniam, TUV SUD SA Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore, India**

Sally was a great influencer in South Asia, especially because she was a white lady. Rest in peace my friend.

-- **Bernard Harrison, Principal Partner, Creativity and Design, Bali, Indonesia**

Very sad to hear that. RIP to a great lady. Had been a part of PHVA Workshop way back 1995.

-- **Saunand Somasi S, Pune, India**

First time it was known the word ZOO coined by the legend now she is no more.

-- **Shola Sandhwar, Advocate, Patna High Court, Patna, India**

Many animal keepers of Patna Zoo used to recall her as an organizer of Zookeeper Training Programs.

-- **Samir K Sinha, Patna, India**

It was great shock and an irreparable lose. She was a great teacher and a friend----- shall miss her.

-- **Abdul Qadeer Mehal, Lahore, Pakistan**

The world is a poorer and less vibrant place without you. Be at peace.

-- **Susie Jackson, UK**

I have ever seen the great man who inspired the professionals to create affection to zoo/ wild life and conservation as well.

-- **A.K. Saha, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Very sad. We lost a conservetionist and very good friend of animals and good humanbeing..

-- **Dilip Sawarkar, Assistant Professor, S.F.S. College, Nagpur, India**

Respects to all the great work and contribution towards conservation.

-- **Bharath Kumar, Hyderabad, India**

She will be remembered for her soul and contributions in the field of conservation.

-- **Srinivasulu Chelmala, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India**

Very sad. Have known her for many long years. Her dedication and persistence has been an inspiration. She will be missed.

-- **Bharat Bhushan, Professor, Environmental Planning and Dean (Academics), YASHADA, Pune, India**

I am truly sorry to hear of the loss Madam Sally Walker. I will never forget her kindness.

-- **Mahtabuddin Ahmadi, Head of Municipal District, Kabul, Afghanistan**

Sally was definitely a bridge builder and fabulous communicator. She will long be remembered!

-- **Catherine E. King, Keeper, King Foster Home for Dogs & Cats, Spain**

Very sad news indeed. She has dedicated her life to animals in zoos and their welfare. A great person.

-- **Shanta Manohar, Bengaluru, India**

She has left an incredible legacy. My heartfelt condolences to her family. What a remarkable life. It was a privilege to have met her.

-- **Gladwin Chakravarthy Joseph, Chief Project Officer, Conservation Biology Institute, Oregon, USA**

A Legend. Thanks Sally for your life of dedication.

-- **Ellen Dierenfeld, Honorary Professor, Nottingham Trent University, UK**

My deepest condolences and Great memories working with Sally.

-- **Pravin Kumar Radhakrishnan, Coimbatore, India**

Very sad moment..we lost a Legend.

-- **Neeraj Pal, Lucknow, India**

Really sad to hear. A loss for the conservation community.

-- **Sasindra Babu, Palghat, India**

You are a great inspiration to all present young researchers and conservationist in the world.

-- **Neelesh Rane, Pune, India**

What an inspirational contribution from the great lady.

-- **S. Mohsanin, Research Associate, Padma Bridge Museum, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Very sad news. She will live in our hearts and keep inspiring us.

-- **Sonika Kushwaha, Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society, Jhansi, India**

Great motivator for wildlife conservation.

-- **Tuhin Chakraborty, Kolkata, WB, India**

Certainly, she was a great figure in exsitu conservation.

-- **Mukesh K. Thakur, Kolkata, WB, India**

Helped to make first-ever policy on captive animal and zoos in India.

-- **Govindhaswamy Umapathy, Principal Scientist, CCMB, Hyderabad, India**

She was a model for all of us. I am honored to have shared the world with her.

-- **Jon Paul Rodriguez, Chair, IUCN SSC, Gland, Switzerland**

Praying to the almighty to shower more copies of Sally for the existence of this planet.....

-- **Ananda Boro, Pandu College, Guwahati, India**

She will always be remembered for all her conservation work and her open and honest personality.

-- **Steve H. Taylor, Ohio, USA**

lost one our veteran parents in our conservation world...

-- **Mak Aid, Bangladesh**

RIP. A loss for the conservation community

-- **Vijay Karthick, Pune, India**

Thank you for your selfless contribution to Zoo Outreach.

-- **Annoop S, General Manager, Olam International, India**

An inspiration to many.

-- **Bhargavi Srinivasulu, Hyderabad, India**

Absolutely ...a role model for so many.

-- **Meena Nareshwar, CEE-India, Ahmedabad, India**

Noble in heart and mind, wonderful conservationist, my deep condolences.

-- **Channakeshav Murthy, Zoological Survey of India, Kozhikode, India**

Sally remains an inspiration of what is possible for wildlife and conservation when someone has a vision and incredible drive.

-- **Scott Carter, Chief Life Sciences Officer, Detroit Zoological Society, USA**

We miss you but we remember your greatness in contributions to devote your life for the developing wildlife in the subcontinent

-- **Narayan Banik, Former Chief Scientific Officer, BLRI, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

She contributed a lot to the welfare of zoo animals and survival of species.

-- **Shrawan Kumar Sinha, Indian Forest Office, Bhubaneswar, India**

## ***Walkerana*, a new genus of Western Ghats Frog**

A new genus of Indian frogs was named after Sally Walker in 2016. The group, endemic to the Western Ghats was previously under one genus, *Indirana*. Molecular phylogeny of the entire group revealed two distinct lineages. The three species under *diplosticta* were transferred to the new genus *Walkerana*, in recognition of Sally's achievements in the field of wildlife conservation and zoos in South Asia.

