

South East Asian Zoo and Wildlife News

Sri Lanka

Legal judgment sets minimum standards for keeping elephants

Elephants in Sri Lanka have won the right to be well looked after by their owners through a recent court agreement. From now on, anyone wishing to buy or hire an elephant has to demonstrate a bank balance capable of supporting the animal's dietary habits and its health care.

Such a person must also own "adequate land" on which to keep the elephant, so that it has enough space to stretch its limbs, and a proper shelter.

The court agreement between the National Zoological Gardens and Friends of Animals applies only to the sale or hire of elephants from the zoo and the government-run elephant orphanage in central Sri Lanka.

"Many owners don't feed their elephants well," said Friends of Animals convener Sagarica Rajakarunanayake. "We know of one case where the elephant is fed only 20 buns a day."
By Nirupama Subramanian

New National Zoo for Sri Lanka Over 100 acres allocated for National Zoo in Hiriwadunne Kegalle

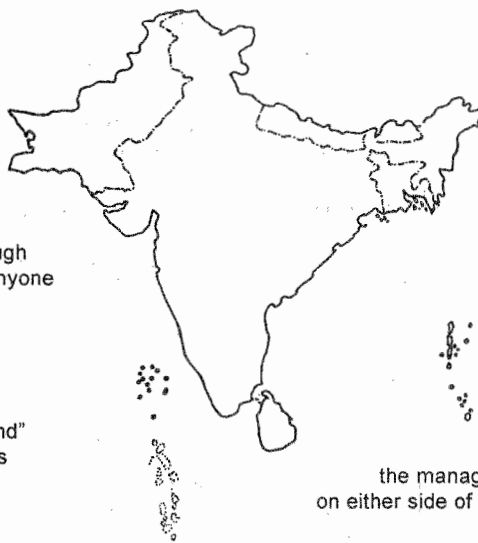
The Government has already separated over one hundred acres of land for the National Zoo project at Hiriwadunne situated between Kegalle and Pinnawala. Plans are in the offing to shift the National Zoo to the present Wagolle Government farm and a new farm managed by the Department of Agriculture to be started elsewhere.

Preparations are going on for the shifting of the zoo to former Wagolle Farm near Hiriwadunne, two and half miles away from the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, towards Kegalle. The construction of buildings and the infrastructure has already begun and on completion of all requirements the National Zoo will be installed at Hiriwadunne.

The Road Development Authority, with the co-operation of the road Construction and Development Company has started to convert "Hiriwadunne to a township, with a view to meeting the requirements of tourists, both foreign and local that will flow into the Orphanage and also to the proposed National Zoo, when the project goes into operation before the first half of the year 2000.

In addition to the Government buildings that are being constructed here, the private sector has commenced construction of buildings for hotels, inns, restaurants and various other resting places, in selected places of interests, with panoramic views, by the perennial flowing "Maha Oya," and on blocks of rising grounds amidst coconut plantations in the locality.

As the Government is providing incentives by way of loans through the government sponsored lending organisations there is a big impetus in the development of tourist resorts in this locality.



On completion of these projects thousands of inhabitants around Rambukkana, Pinnawala and Kegalle will find get employment in these ventures.

South Asia in General

Peace Parks by WWF, International

WWF International has proposed "Peace Parks" meant to ensure contiguous forest areas across borders. There is a tremendous wildlife movement across borders of South Asian countries according to WWF, Intl. President S. Babar Ali, but due to major differences between the management of forest areas in the adjoining countries on either side of the border, the animal habitat generally shrinks, resulting in a drop in population.

There are at least seven Indian National Parks and reserve forests in India which touch Nepal, Burma, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. The concept of Peace Parks involves an improved dialogue between the park management on both sides so that there is no damage to the animal habitat. This concept is apparently in place in Africa and working well. *Poomima Joshi, Hindustan Times, New Delhi.*

Bangladesh

Killing of migratory birds goes on in Rangamati,

Despite stringent law against it, a section of people hunting migratory birds indiscriminately from various water bodies of the district, reports UNB. The birds come from cold parts of the world, including Siberia and have migrated to Bangladesh where they are staying in beels, haors and river areas since the middle of October. An organised gang of hunters randomly catching and selling the birds in different markets of three hill districts at high price. As the meat of migratory birds is delicious, it occupies the dishes of the affluent section of the people including high government officials who also often go for hunting. Some 50 people are seen selling migratory birds at different points of the town, including Assam Basti Bazar. Some of them are vending the birds in residential areas. But the country's law provides for a maximum punishment of seven years for hunting or catching guest birds without permission of administration. Although the unscrupulous people are hunting and selling the birds openly in the market violating the law, the administration is playing the role of a silent spectator. The police said a separate body is to look into the conservation of wild birds and beasts, which is not carrying out their responsibility.
The Independent, Dhaka, Bangladesh Issue 857 January 14 2000 Friday

Pakistan

Feature Article : Accidents at zoological gardens are preventable. By Dr A A Quraishy

KARACHI, Dec 2: Accidents at the zoological gardens caused by violent behaviour of animals are not a new phenomenon. But some little precautions can help prevent such happenings. Although incidents involving violent behaviour of animals have been reported at a number of zoological gardens. Recently a bear took the life of a child at the Lahore Zoo. Some of the incidents at the zoological gardens within the country and abroad which reflect the behaviour of these animals are narrated here:

About a decade back, an irate lioness at Colombo Zoo after being hooted and mocked by a visitor leapt across the moat, designed and built to prevent any big cats from clearing the distance in one leap. The man was mauled, but not killed.

Fifteen years ago, one of the keepers in Karachi Zoo entered a cage to offer meat to a lion. He was killed when the partition between the lion and the retiring room dropped.

A tamed elephant at Hyderabad Zoo was killed by police when they thought he had gone 'mad'. A male elephant at Lahore zoo was similarly shot dead by police, because they too thought that the animal had gone berserk. (He was just briefly excited for a fortnight when all males go into 'musth'). And a very docile, friendly chimp was shot down by police at Lahore Zoo because he had gone 'berserk'.

Only recently a tamed lion in a circus that had been performing for years under the command of his master, killed him with one swipe.

To consider wild animals as idiotic duds, which go only by programmed instinctive behaviour, has now proved wrong by ethologists. Animals are far less intelligent than men but to apply the human IQ scale to wild animals would be a grave mistake. All animals, from ants to elephants, can react in a way that is not expected of the species. Wild animals in the same species can vary in their line of predicted actions. There is a definite line of demarcation in the parameter of their behaviour, but variations must be expected.

And that is exactly what makes a difference between the success and failure of a person keeping wild animals. At times the line can be very narrow; it would also be greatly influenced if he or she can use his or her knowledge at the spur of the moment.

Designing enclosures for wild animals is a highly specialised undertaking; the animal behaviour expert must guide the designer fully well and give several options and concepts. Only then the best can be achieved. Zeroing on to the Lahore accident, it boils down to one conclusion: it was a wrong cage for a bear. The bars are too far from each other, from the photograph they look spacious enough for a black bear to push half of his arm; the distance between the visitor and the bear's arm is dangerously close; it was made worse by the short-sighted father who held the baby by the waist by which the child got within the reach of the bear's talons. He actually handed over the baby to the bear. This eventuality might have been foreseen. Bear is short-sighted, remains in fear of man, eats every type of food but human food is never on his menu.

It is possible that the bear of Lahore thought the child was something offered to him and he grabbed it not to eat it up but to play with. They love to play with any thing for hours. That the bear was hungry or was hankering after food due to starvation or underfeeding is a very unlikely theory. Other reasons weigh more to the gruesome death of the child. Bears do not perspire and want to bath for hours to cool themselves. If this facility is not available, it can add fuel to the fire. Accidents can be prevented whether in human beings or in animals; but somewhere the unexpected is lurking behind the fence. A.A. Quereshi

Corrections ref. Karachi Zoo

Correction for list of Zoos of Pakistan and history of zoos of Pakistan (December 1999 and January 2000 issue of ZOOS' PRINT)

Dr. Aamir Ismail Rizvi, Veterinary Officer at the Karachi Zoological Gardens, Karachi, Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Pakistan has informed that there is another zoo in Karachi besides the old Gardens and the Safari Park. That is the Landhi-Korangi Zoo, which is a small zoo in the Korangi area of Karachi. Like the Gardens and Safari Park it is under the administrative control of the Karachi Zoo and is popularly known as LK Zoo).

Dr. Rizvi has also corrected an erroneous impression in the history that although the writer includes the Mugger Pir's crocodile's pond in the Karachi zoo's history, it has no connection with the KMC, but is under the control of Department of Religious and Cultural affairs.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh's biggest wetland set to get international recognition

Tanguar Haor, the biggest wetlands (10,000 ha) of Bangladesh, is now set to get international recognition very shortly. The Haor, located in eastern Sunamganj district, is being declared a " Ramsar " site. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already approved the proposal of the Environment Ministry in this regard. Bangladesh is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention and became its member in 1992. The convention makes it binding on the countries ratifying it to protect the wetlands and ensure proper management of their resources. The wetlands of 112 countries have so far been declared Ramsar Sites.

Declaration of wetlands as Ramsar Sites entitles the countries concerned to receive international assistance to protect their wetlands. Bangladesh already declared the Tanguar Haor as an " ecologically critical area " in 1996 under the country's relevant law. The law forbids any activity that may destroy the flora and fauna of areas declared ecologically critical. The Ministry of Environment is expected to take over the management of Tanguar Haor on April 14 following expiry of their lease. Officials said, declaration of Tanguar Haor a Ramsar Site and taking over its management by the Environment Ministry will help stop the unabated plunder of its natural resources. Tanguar Haor is not only the biggest wetland of Bangladesh but also a big sanctuary for waterfowls and migratory birds. Rahman Jahangir, Dhaka, January 14.

India

Siberian cranes killed and eaten

Six highly endangered Siberian cranes were killed and served up for dinner in Udhwa Bird Sanctuary in Bihar!! Apparently by shack dwellers having a get together! Their heads & feathers were then apparently used for poaching fish from the lake!! Thinking of how people manage to get away with such atrocious acts, makes ones blood boil. The perpetrators were poor Bangaldeshi refugees, who settled and built shacks in the sanctuary. *Times Of India (Bangalore)* on 13/1/2000. URL : www.timesofindia.com

Mahananda Wildlife Squad - living dangerously

"Oie Wildlife! Oie Wildlife! the frightened Sukna villagers yelled. It was 5 a.m. and still dark. The figure lumbered menacingly towards them. "Do you hear, the elephant's come! Elephant menace is common in this Nepali-populated village, 8 km from here, bordering Mahananda wildlife sanctuary. But the death of Shiv Pradhan (36) earlier was fresh in everyone's mind. Villagers know it was a makhna that killed Shiv. The elephant is also believed to be responsible for some other deaths in the area this year. One morning, villagers recognised the same animal closing in on them. Members of the wildlife squad sprang to their feet at their quarters, north of the paddy fields. Only two hours previously, the squad had returned from an emergency call from the nearby tea garden. Fortunately, this time the makhna had broken only a wall. One of the squad members rushed out with a powerful searchlight. Others were close behind, bursting firecrackers. The explosions sent the animal into the courtyard of a house, where it stayed put. In desperation, one of the men blank-fired the gun.

The squad is made up of only eight persons and is responsible for a large area "from Malda onwards to Teesta. Wildlife squad # 1 has one van, four searchlights, firearms, firecrackers and special uniforms to catch animals like tigers and snakes. But there is no

time to put on such unwieldy contraptions during operations, say the staff. More seriously, the staff complain that there isn't enough specialised training. "We have to attend to all sorts of calls. Once we had to catch four civets that were found at the town hall; said Mr Karmakar, range warden and squad in-charge. While bad moods are common in ferocious animals, the squad also has to take care of humans injured by wild animals. While out nabbing the shy civets, if there is another call to attend - say, a leopard with suspicious movements at the rims of a remote village - all that the office attendant can do is to pray that the team returns soon. The squad has also met with active support from people during its recent operations. As dawn breaks, the squad returns to the quarters after a noisy 30 minutes of explosions and yellings to get the elephant back into the forest. But the squad would not be surprised if the intruder was back again at night. *Niraj Lama Statesman News Service, Siliguri, Dec. 13, 1999*

Illegally imported alligators and iguanas confiscated

Forty-seven alligators, seven green iguanas and a large tree-climbing lizard of tropical America which were in captivity without any valid permit at a farm on the outskirts of Bangalore, were rescued by the sleuths attached to the Criminal Investigation Department on 5 December 1999. Acting on a tip-off, the sleuths conducted a raid on Dee Jay Research and Breeding Farm at Chokkanahalli village near Yelahanka and took the exotic species into their custody. The farm reportedly belongs to David J Lobo, a resident of Convent Road in the City. Police are yet to apprehend the suspect.

According to Inspector General of Police, CID (Forest & Food Cell) S T Ramesh, preliminary investigations have revealed that the species were brought from South America. He said the rescued species were being reared at the farm without a legal permit. Without the owner of the farm, David Lobo, being present at the farm during the raid, the reasons for keeping these species in captivity is not yet established, Mr Ramesh said.

Though the species are not scheduled under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, the very possession of alligators and iguanas without any documents or permit is a violation of the Act, he said. Moreover, the possession of these species may be a violation of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) as they are of foreign origin. Further, the transport of the species from a foreign country without a permit is a violation of the Customs Act 1962. *Bangalore, Jan 4, Deccan Herald News Service*

Animal skins worth Rs. 2 crore seized from truck

Authorities unearthed a massive racket of selling animal skins when state sales tax officials seized 50 leopard, 3 tiger and 5 jungle fox skins from a truck in Ghaziabad end December. It was, according to some officials the biggest such skin seizure in recent times. Forest Department officials suspect that bones of big cats might have already been sold and were worth over Rs. 50 lakhs in foreign countries. Truck driver and cleaner were arrested and the truck impounded. A case has been reistered. The pelts were tightly packed in jute bags and were wrapped in layers of denim and polythene to keep the odour from revealing the identity of the skins. The skins appeared to be only about one month old as congealed blood was visible on the insides. No bullet or other injuries were visible leading to the conclusion that the animals were electrocuted or poisoned. It was not ascertained at the time where the skins were collected but it was thought they were being taken to Nepal for sending to other countries. *Lalit Kumar Times of India News Service*

Police seize black buck from an autorickshaw

Delhi police confiscated a 5-month old black buck from two men in an autorickshaw where it was being taken from Seelampur to Old Delhi. The men were stopped by Kotwali police at the old railway bridge at Yamuna Pushta. The blackbuck was sent to Delhi Zoo hospital to medical investigation. Officials learned that the animal was fully domesticated, having been kept as a pet for a long time.

A number of blackbucks have been seized in Delhi in last two years, more than 30. They have been taken from farmhouses, Old Delhi areas, and even eunuchs.

Animal smuggling ring broken up in Bangalore

Police in the southern Indian state of Karnataka report having confiscated hundreds of rare animals and birds, many of them endangered species following a raid earlier in the week.

I.G. Police, S.T. Ramesh, said that officers of a special branch of the Karnataka police force, known as the forest unit, found more than 600 star-crossed tortoises and five Alexandrian parakeets in a raid on the house of a suspected smuggler who owns a shop in the local market specialising in the sale of rare birds. He was probably attempting to ship the tortoises to Europe and Japan - where there is much demand for their meat. Although the price for a tortoise on the Indian black market is little more than one dollar, a tortoise fetches much more on the international market. According to wildlife experts, these tortoises have a market in countries like Korea, Japan, US and Mexico, where they are sold for \$60 to \$200 a piece. So there is an international market," Ramesh said.

In the last year, the forest unit recovered ivory, leopard skins and shatoosh shawls. Observers say Bangalore has become a centre for wildlife smuggling as it is located near thickly forested areas in the adjacent states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Seizure of tiger and leopard skins in Uttar Pradesh

Officials in north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh say they have arrested four people carrying a large number of tiger and leopard skins. The chief wildlife conservation official in Uttar Pradesh, Dr R. L. Singh, said that 74 tiger and leopard skins were recovered from an illegal taxidermy workshop in the town of Khaga, about 150 km south of Lucknow.

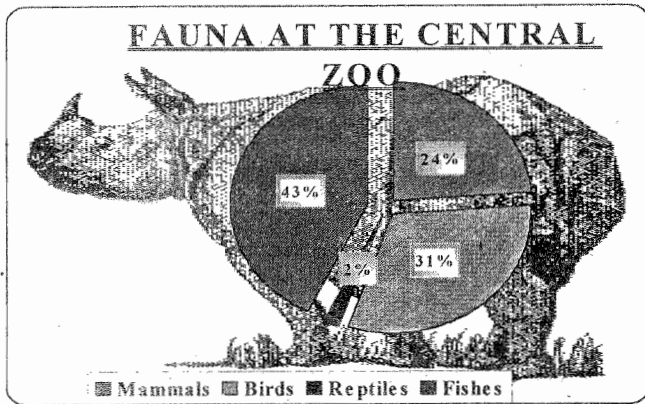
Forestry officials also recovered more than 1,800 tiger and leopard nails and over 200 black buck skins. It is described biggest ever seizure of tiger and leopard skins in India. There were no signs of bullet holes and it is believed the tigers and leopards were killed by poisoning. Similar cases have been reported in the past, usually when tigers and leopards stray out of reserved forests.

Police say that interrogation of the four people arrested has revealed that after processing, the skins are taken to Delhi, from where they are smuggled to south-east Asian and Gulf countries. Dr Singh said there is no domestic market for tiger skins because few Indians display these items in their houses, but in other countries, he said, the display of tiger skins is still considered a matter of pride. Forest officials say they are now requesting the Central Bureau of Investigation to look into the case because of its national and international links. With these two recent arrests, the pattern is becoming clearer. These raw skins are brought to smaller towns like Khaga where they are treated and then sent via Delhi to other parts of the world.

Since there is no forest nearby, these have come from far-flung places like the UP hills and Himachal Pradesh, where the leopard population is the most. These traders are merely a link in the long chain of wildlife crimes. This points to another bitter truth: These are committed in collusion with locals and tribals living within the periphery of the jungles. "Since the livestock of these tribals are sometimes killed by the carnivores, they do not mind poisoning them," explained Singh.

These numbers defy logic considering that there are only 5,000 leopards in North India and the tiger population is around 3,000 in the entire country. Four tiger skins in this one, three in Ghaziabad and one two days back in Haridwar means that eight tiger skins have been recovered in a month. The Conservationists are outraged at this second large haul in a span of one month.

Central Zoo Nepal -- List of Animals



4. Yellow Sivrum	00.00.18.18
5. Black Tiger Shark (<i>Morulus chrysopekadion</i>)	00.00.02.02
6. White Tiger Shark	00.00.01.01
7. Gold Fish	00.00.02.02
8. Silver Shark (<i>Balantiocheilus melanopterus</i>)	00.00.17.17
9. Goldfish Fantail	00.00.05.05
10. Black Moor Goldfish	00.00.01.01
11. Rayking Goldfish	00.00.01.01
12. Red Cap Goldfish	00.00.08.08
13. Subun King	00.00.03.03
14. Manila Carp	00.00.11.11
15. Koi Carp	00.00.03.03
16. Chocolate Gourami (<i>Sphaerichthys osphromenoid</i>)	00.00.01.01
17. Blue Gourami (<i>Trichogaster sumatranus</i>)	00.00.11.11
13. Kissing Gourami (<i>Helostoma temmincki</i>)	00.00.01.01
19. Pearl Gourami	00.00.25.25
20. Tenfoil Barb (<i>Barbus schwanenfeld</i>)	00.00.02.02
21. Fire Mouth	00.00.13.13
22. Oskar Black	00.00.05.05
23. Oskar White	00.00.02.02
24. Red Oranda	00.00.49.49
25. Koi and Zebra Angel	00.00.58.58
Sub Total	00.00.340.340

Mammals

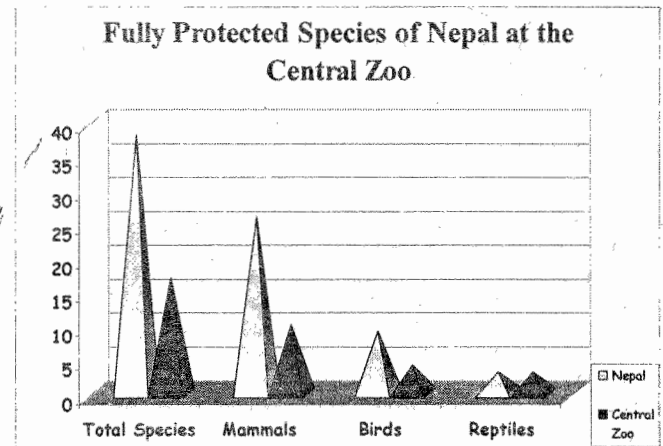
1. Spotted Deer (<i>Axis axis</i>)	07.11.03.21
2. Black buck (<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>)	18.36.16.70
3. Clouded Leopard (<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>)	00.02.00.02
4. Large Indian Civet (<i>Viverra zibetha</i>)	01.01.00.02
5. Himalayan Palm Civet (<i>Paguma larvatta</i>)	00.01.00.01
6. Lynx (<i>Felis lynx</i>)	01.00.00.01
7. Jackel (<i>Canis aureus</i>)	01.01.00.02
8. Flying Squirrel (<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>)	01.00.00.01
9. Common Squirrel (<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>)	00.01.00.01
10. Hog Deer (<i>Axis porcinus</i>)	01.01.00.02
11. Barking Deer (<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>)	06.03.02.11
12. Common Langur (<i>Presbitis entellus</i>)	02.02.01.05
13. Porcupine (<i>Hystrix indica</i>)	00.00.01.01
14. Angora Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	01.00.00.01
15. Rabbit (<i>Domestic</i>)	08.13.00.21
16. Royal Bengal Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris</i>)	01.02.00.03
17. Guinea Pig (<i>Cavia aperea</i>)	00.00.55.55
18. OneHornedRhinceros (<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>)	01.01.00.02
19. Gaur (Bison) (<i>Bos gaurus</i>)	01.00.00.01
20. Mongoose (<i>Herpestes nepalensis</i>)	01.01.00.02
21. Himalayan Black Bear (<i>Selenarctus thibetanus</i>)	01.01.00.02
22. Sloth Bear (<i>Melurus ursinus</i>)	00.01.00.01
23. Striped Hyena (<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>)	01.01.00.02
24. Common Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)	02.01.00.03
25. Asian Elephant (<i>Elephus maximus</i>)	00.01.00.01
26. Lion Tailed Macaque (<i>Macaca silenus</i>)	02.00.00.02
27. Wild Buffalo (<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>)	01.00.00.01
28. Francois Langur (<i>Trachypithecus francoist</i>)	01.00.00.01
29. Blue Bull (<i>Boselaphus tragacamelus</i>)	01.01.01.03
30. Leopard Cat (<i>Felis bengalensis</i>)	00.00.01.01
31. Asiatic Lion (<i>Panthera leo</i>)	00.01.00.01
Sub Total	60.83.81.224

Reptiles

1. Giant Land Tortoise (<i>Testudo gigantia</i>)	01.02.00.03
2. Yellow Headed Turtle (<i>Indotestudo elongata</i>)	01.02.00.03
3. Pond Turtle (<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>)	00.01.00.01
4. Kachuga (<i>Kachuga smithi</i>)	00.00.01.01
5. Golden Monitor Lizard (<i>Varanus flavescens</i>)	00.01.00.01
6. Asiatic Rock Python (<i>Python mohurus</i>)	01.00.01.02
7. Cobra (<i>Naja naja</i>)	00.00.03.03
8. Chinese Alligator (<i>Alligatoridae sinensis</i>)	00.00.01.01
9. Gharial Crocodile (<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>)	01.01.03.05
Sub Total	04.07.09.20

Fishes

1. Yellow & Blue Aurtus	00.00.69.69
2. Tiger Barb (<i>Barbus tetrazona</i>)	00.00.12.12
3. Silver Dolour (<i>Metynnis roosevelti</i>)	00.00.20.20



Birds

1. Blue Peafowl (<i>Pavo cristatus</i>)	06.05.00.11
2. Coachin fowl (Family: Phasianidae)	00.01.00.01
3. Golden Polish (Family: Phasianidae)	00.02.00.02
4. Japanese Bantam (Family: Phasianidae)	00.03.00.03
5. Arukena Fowl (Family: Phasianidae)	00.01.00.01
6. Hamburg Fowl (Family: Phasianidae)	05.10.00.15
7. Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>)	00.00.03.03
8. White Ibis (<i>Therakiornis melanocephala</i>)	00.00.07.07
9. Grey Heron (<i>Ardrea cinerea</i>)	00.01.00.01
10. Cattle Egret (<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>)	00.00.01.01
11. King Vulture (<i>Torgus calvus</i>)	00.00.01.01
12. Eurasian Vulture (<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>)	00.00.01.01
13. Sarus Crane (<i>Grus antigone</i>)	02.01.02.05
14. White Neped Crane (<i>Grus cipio</i>)	01.01.01.03
15. Common Crane (<i>Grus grus</i>)	00.00.01.01
16. Demossile Crane (<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>)	00.00.02.02
17. Black Necked Stork (<i>Xenerhynchus asiaticus</i>)	01.01.00.02
18. White Stork (<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>)	00.00.01.01
19. Lesser Adjutant Stork (<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>)	01.01.00.02
20. Impcykan Pheasant (<i>Lophophorus impejanus</i>)	01.00.00.01
21. Silver Pheasant (<i>Lophura nectinea</i>)	02.03.03.08
22. Nepali Kaliz (<i>Lophura leucomelana</i>)	03.03.00.06
23. Crimson horned Pheasant (<i>Tragopan satyra</i>)	01.01.00.02

24. Chukor Partridge (<i>Alectoris graeca</i>)	02.02.00.04
25. Grey Partridge (<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>)	03.03.00.06
26. Pink-Crested Cuckoo (<i>Cacatua moluccensis</i>)	00.00.01.01
27. Pied Horn Bill (<i>Anthracoceros malabaricus</i>)	01.01.00.02
28. Budgerigar (<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>)	00.00.30.30
29. Love Bird (<i>Agapornis personata</i>)	03.04.00.07
30. Java Sparrow (<i>Padda oryzivora</i>)	00.00.03.03
31. Jungle Myna (<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>)	00.00.01.01
32. Rosy Pastor (<i>Sturnus roseus</i>)	00.00.01.01
33. Black-throated weaver (<i>Ploceus benghalensis</i>)	00.00.02.02
34. Cockateal (<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>)	04.04.00.08
35. Red billed blue magpie (<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>)	01.00.00.01
36. White Turkey (<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>)	01.00.00.01
37. American White Turkey	00.01.00.01
38. Black Headed Munia (<i>Lonchura malacca</i>)	00.00.02.02
39. Red Munia (<i>Amandava amandava</i>)	00.00.02.02
40. White throated Munia (<i>Lonchura malacca</i>)	00.00.06.06
41. Spotted Munia (<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>)	00.00.14.14
42. Rose Ringed Parakeet (<i>Psittacula krameri</i>)	07.02.00.09
43. Alexandrine Parakeet (<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>)	03.00.00.03
44. Comb Duck (<i>Sarkidiomis melanotos</i>)	03.01.00.04
45. Spotbill Duck (<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>)	01.01.00.02
46. Purple Gallinule (<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>)	02.02.00.04
47. Tufted Pochard (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)	00.00.01.01
48. Lesser Whistling Teal (<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>)	00.00.08.08
49. Common teal (<i>Anas crecca crecca</i>)	00.00.01.01
50. Bar Headed Goose (<i>Anser indicus</i>)	02.00.00.02
51. Brahminy Duck (<i>Tadorna ferrugina</i>)	00.00.01.01
52. Pin tail Duck (<i>Anus acuta</i>)	01.01.00.02
53. Blue Rock Pigeon (<i>Columba livia</i>)	00.00.05.05
54. Fantail Pigeon (Family: Columbae)	02.02.00.04
55. Common Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	00.00.60.60
56. White Pelican (<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>)	00.00.05.05
57. Falcon (<i>Falcon peregrinus</i>)	00.00.01.01

Sub Total 59.58.167.284

NEPAL

Central Zoo News -- Kathmandu, Nepal

Animal list provided by Central Zoo Nepal

See preceding pages for list of animals from Central Zoo, Nepal. Other zoos in the region may be able to think of some meaningful exchanges with this information.

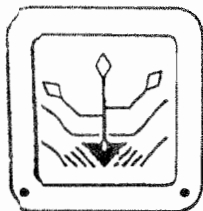
Mr. R.K. Shrestha, Director of Central Zoo, participated in 8th SEAZA conference from 1-3 December. On his return he met authorities of the Zoo Organisation of Thailand and finalised an animal exchange between Central Zoo and Khao Khao Zoo.

Dr. Madhav Ghimire, Vet. Doctor of the Central Zoo attended a 12 week long training in "Diploma in Wildlife Conservation Biology" sponsored by the Durrell Trust.

Dr. B.K. Jha Veterinarian of the Central Zoo attended a workshop on Health and Management of Zoo Animals at the College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University, Guwahati, India from 28-30 October. This course was sponsored by the Central Zoo Authority, India. It is Dr. Jha's second training in India.

Miss Kerstin Koch of Germany and **Mr. Sebastien COGNET** of France visited the Central Zoo for Field Study of visitors to Central Zoo on the theme "Recreational Facilities at Kathmandu Zoo."

from KMTNC / CENTRAL ZOO
NEWSLETTER, November 1999
Quarterly Publication Volume 3.1.



South Asian Zoo Educator course venue set for Central Zoo, Nepal

Central Zoo has been selected as a venue for the "First South Asian Zoo Educators Training" scheduled for 2000. The training has been organised under the auspices of ARNIZE, Central Zoo and Zoo Outreach Organisation. The 10-day course features basic information for starting an Education Programme in any size zoo. The course is for and by South Asian Zoo educators.

In this training situation, the target audience consists of a region, e.g. South Asia containing 7 countries, 5 of which have zoos (India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka). In all the countries virtually all of the zoos (but for a few in India) are of the old fashioned variety with old style cages and small area. There are severe budgetary and staffing constraints. Lip service is paid to conservation and undoubtedly there is a will to utilise the zoo as a conservation resource, but the South Asia zoos are not organised either by country or as a region. Although a few zoos conduct regular public education activities, there is only a scant handful which have organised education. Most of these countries are served by only one zoo. Exceptions are India, which has a large number of zoos, and Pakistan, which has 5 zoos. It is ironic that several of the smaller countries which have 1 - 5 zoos already have a post of Education Officer while India - with all its zoos - has so few. Also Pakistan with only 5 zoos and Nepal with only 1 zoo nonetheless have 1 Education Department each. All of the zoos have indicated in a questionnaire that Education is a priority in their institution and would like to initiate, improve and expand their education potential.

Virtually all of the zoos in South Asia are government run. Therefore, the primary objective and project associated with this course will be the creation of a Master Plan for each participant's zoo which he can take back with him to show his director. This will have the effect of demonstrating that the tour has been a genuine work effort and not a pleasure trip, as suspected by many bosses.

Because of these two requirements, e.g. the need to instill confidence into the participants and the need to create a project document, e.g. a Master Plan for Education, the Central Zoo in Kathmandu Zoo was selected as an ideal venue. Some more reasons for selection of Central Zoo are

-- Central Zoo is an evolving zoo; in the last few years it has come under new management and is improving steadily. It is small and still dominated by old style enclosures but has a very active Education Programme. No participant can say that his zoo is not large enough or rich enough to run an Education programme with Central Zoo as an example.

-- Although a small zoo, the Central Zoo has an Education Officer, Education Department, Friends of the Zoo, Friends of the Zoo Coordinator and a Master Plan. In addition there are educational activities going on every day, conducted by the zoo itself and also in association with other institutions. The Central Zoo has brought out low cost but very attractive educational materials.

-- Central Zoo, being located in Kathmandu, Nepal, is in a politically neutral country to which any of the other countries can send their personnel without fear of political implications.

-- Nepal has Chitwan National Park which has a variety of attractions, some of which have good interpretation. Nepal, Kathmandu, and Chitwan are attractive places to visit and will insure a better participation. Kathmandu has inexpensive but safe, clean and comfortable hotels, one of which is located within walking distance of the zoo. The zoo has an Education Centre with all facilities for conducting workshops.

The course schedule and components will consist of didactic lectures in the morning; hands on sessions and working groups in the afternoon; participants presentations in the evenings and into the night; a field trip to Chitwan Natl Park and a course project for each participant which will result in a one-year (or more) Draft Master Plan for Education for their zoo.

Trainers from the Kathmandu Zoo and other institutions in Nepal, India, and Pakistan will run the course but a great deal of the training will take place by sharing of experience by participants

Course literature will be extensive. Also a Course Report in the form of a Manual of South Asia Zoo Education Ideas will be brought out. Indigenous trainers and participant sharing will insure that no subject matter is too far out of the budget or understanding of the participants. Also, participatory sharing of ideas and problems will – hopefully – create a sense of community for the region and make a start towards creating a regional zoo identity. (At the present time, South Asia is not organised as a zoo region, although South East Asia has an active and effective zoo association.

Invitations for the course will be sent out when dates are confirmed.



Chitwan Park launches investigation into rhino loss

Shocked by the fact that 42 one-horned rhinoceros roaming in Royal Chitwan National Park have died in the past 15 months, officials of Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) have announced a detailed investigation into the causes of this loss. Preliminary findings reveal that the rhinos' deaths were mostly due to poaching and poisoning. Officials at the DNPWC say this is the first time in 10 years that the endangered one-horned rhinoceros, living in one of the finest habitats in Asia, have suffered such a large number of deaths in little more than a year's time.

Department officials told journalists that a total of five rhinos were killed by poachers. Six others were found killed by the villagers living in the park's buffer zone - three poisoned and three electrocuted by the angry villagers because rhinos frequently destroy their crops. Similarly, two rhinos died after they were swept away by floods during monsoon this year, while two others died by drowning. Nine rhinos died as a result of mutual fighting, while one was killed by tiger, and another dead rhino was found "hanging on a gabion wire," according to wildlife officials. The Department says that the remaining 10 rhinos died of natural causes. Between 10 to 15 rhinos die natural deaths every year. A total of 14 rhinos died during the period 1997 to 1998, while the death toll stood at nine last year, DNPWC records show.

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Royal Chitwan National Park in the Terai, the southern plains of the Kingdom of Nepal, is now home to over 500 one-horned rhinos. Their numbers are up from a census five years ago which put the rhino population in the park at 466. Wildlife officials claim that there are as many as 600 rhinos currently in Chitwan National park. Including 52 rhinos in Royal Bardia National Park in the western Nepal, officials put the total rhino population in Nepal over 650.

Covering an area of 1,000 square kilometers, Royal Chitwan National Park was established in 1973, with fewer than 80 rhinos. A government policy of substantial financial investment and strict conservation strategy resulted in an increased rhino population. The census being conducted after five years is expected to come up with the exact number of rhinos roaming the park. Many experts say that rising rhino population can not be sustained in the limited area of Chitwan National Park, and the rhino habitat there is shrinking. Congestion is considered one of the causes of this year's rhinos death toll. No scientific study has been carried out on the sustainability of rhinos in terms of territory and the number of animals in Chitwan. However, growing occurrence of rhinos outside

the park and abundant number of them everywhere in the park suggests over-crowding. To safeguard the park from getting over-crowded with rhinos, officials have even translocated around 40 rhinos to Royal Bardia National park in the western Terai in past years. These 40 animals have now multiplied to reach 52 at Bardia, according to the Department. "The Department is also in the process of translocating more rhinos from Chitwan to other feasible parks and reserves," officials at the Department said. Dr. Maskey announced that rhinos would also be translocated to Shukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in the far-western Terai. Shukla Phanta is famous for its vast stretch of grassland which, officials say, could turn out to be a suitable habitat for rhinos. Deepak Gajurel, *Environment News Service (ENS) 1999*. KATHMANDU, Nepal, December 14, 1999.

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