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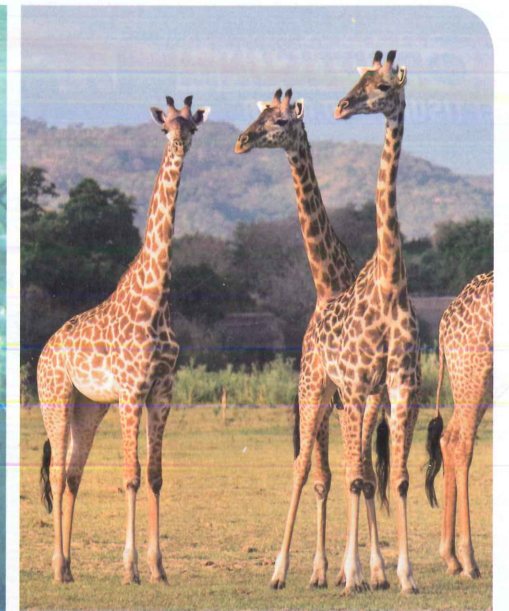
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ON THE COVER

Every year is the "Year of the Tiger" at Cameron Park Zoo. Residing in the Asian Forest habitat, the Sumatran tiger is a visitor favorite. The Asian Forest exhibit was recently expanded to also include orangutans and Komodo dragons, with all three of these species representing those that are rapidly disappearing due to the destruction of their natural habitats.

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COMMITTEE UPDATE

AZA Research & Technology Committee

In September 2009 the AZA board approved the development of a new committee named the Research and Technology Committee (RTC). The committee is chaired by Tammie Bettinger. Jackie Ogden serves as the board liaison. Paul Boyle, Debi Colbert and Candice Dorsey are AZA staff liaisons.

The board charged the RTC with advancing science and technology and increasing our understanding of the animals in our institutions and their populations in the wild. The board stated that "science is and must be a core underpinning of all that zoos and aquariums do for the animals in their care as well as for *in-situ* populations." To that end, the Research and Technology Committee has been tasked with:

- promoting the use of good science throughout our profession,
- identifying the best scientific practices and their applications,
- facilitating communication between our scientific, animal management and education communities,
- building relationships with the academic community.

At the Mid-Year Meeting the committee began development on its first strategic plan. The plan has three major areas of focus:

1. Communicating and interpreting research findings for our membership and those outside of AZA.
2. Integrating the RTC into existing AZA structure so we serve as a resource to other groups within AZA as they develop their research priorities on animal care and population sustainability, visitor studies, and wildlife conservation.
3. Expanding and enhancing relationships between AZA institutions and colleges, universities and other academic institutions.

These goals will be accomplished through a variety of activities, ranging from the creation of resources that can be utilized both within and outside of AZA to working with other committees to help them accomplish their goals. Look for us at AZA in Houston and plan on attending the RTC meeting to hear about our accomplishments and plan for the future. We welcome your input.



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SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS IN CONSERVATION

BLACK RHINO BORN AT BREC'S BATON ROUGE ZOO

BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo announced the first rhino birth at the Zoo. This important birth is the only black rhino born in North America and one of only three black rhino births in the past 12 months, worldwide. According to Sam Winslow, assistant director and general curator, mother and calf are doing well and will remain off exhibit while they bond.

Gemstone, the mother, is from the San Francisco Zoo and came to Baton Rouge in 2006. Her gestation period was 16 months. The Zoo's male rhino, Tatu, came to Baton Rouge in 2003 from Texas. The Zoo has not named the baby rhino, but has determined that it is female.

The black rhino is part of a Species Survival Plan® (SSP). The SSP began in 1981 as a cooperative population management and conservation program for selected species in zoos and

aquariums in North America. The Baton Rouge Zoo participates in the rhino and golden lion tamarin SSPs as well as many others. With less than 4,000 black rhinos left in Africa, a viable captive is a hedge against extinction.

OKLAHOMA ZOO CELEBRATES RED PANDA BIRTHS

Two red panda cubs made their official public debut at the Oklahoma City Zoo. Born on 18 June 2009 to mom

Celeste and dad Yoda, the cubs, one male and one female, are now enjoying their outdoor habitat. This was the first offspring for both parents. The cubs mark the fourth and fifth red panda births to occur at the Zoo, with the most recent cub born in 1997.

The birth of the two cubs is a great success for the Red Panda Species Survival Plan® (SSP), which helps manage captive populations in North America.

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