



**NEW ARRIVAL AT LINCOLN PARK ZOO**

Lincoln Park Zoo welcomed an infant male white-cheeked gibbon (*Hylobates leucogenys*) on 2 September 2001. The 11-year-old sire was hand-reared in Duisburg, Germany and the 13-year-old dam was mother-reared at the Smithsonian National Zoological Park. They were introduced to each other at the Helen Branch Primate House at Lincoln Park Zoo in 1995.

With this birth, the sire's status rises from potential founder to a founder of the captive white-cheeked gibbon population. The new male will help support the Gibbon Species Survival Plan's (SSP) goal of increasing the current population of 32.32 to the target population of 100.100.

**BLACK RHINO BIRTH IN COLUMBUS**

The Columbus Zoo's 13-year-old female eastern black rhinoceros, Kulinda, delivered a male calf 2 January 2002. Kulinda is on loan from the Cincinnati Zoo and has been a part of the Columbus Zoo's population since April 1989. The sire of the infant is Kijito, an eight-year-old on loan from the Chicago Zoological Park who has been in Columbus since June 1999. In order to give mother and infant a chance to bond, the two are currently not on exhibit.

The Columbus Zoo has been an active participant in the AZA Black Rhinoceros Species Survival Plan (SSP) since its inception. Since 1 January 2000, there have been nine eastern black rhino births in captivity: four male and five female. The black rhino has suffered the greatest rate of decline of all five endangered rhino species. The wild population dropped to its lowest in 1993 with a count of only 2,300. With intense conservation efforts, this number is steadily increasing.

**FOSSIL RIM WELCOMES MANED WOLVES**

After a year of planning, a sibling pair of three-year-old Brazilian maned wolves from the Araxá Zoo in Brazil has been successfully moved to the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Texas. The wolves are to be incorporated into the Maned Wolf Species Survival Program (MWSSP) and will be bred to establish two new genetic lines and improve the genetic diversity of the current captive population. The purpose of the transfer is to augment the North American



MWSSP with animals from Brazil. The wolves will inhabit an enclosure currently housing a pair of capybaras, the world's largest rodent species. The two species live together peacefully in the wild, and although there is no record of cohabitation in captivity, there seem to be no serious threats to a peaceful co-existence.

**OREGON ZOO ADDS INFANT SWAMP MONKEY TO EXHIBIT**

On 28 December 2001, the Oregon Zoo introduced to the *Africa Rainforest* exhibit the newest member of their Allen's swamp monkey population, bringing their total population to six. The infant male, named Gouda, is the fourth offspring of 11-year-old mother Dannon and 14-year-old father Devon, both on breeding loan from the San Diego Zoo.

The Allen's swamp monkey is native to the riverbank forests of the Congo and western Zaire. Like all African primates, it is believed that their numbers are in continuous decline. Although habitat loss is often cited as the primary threat to wildlife, commercial hunting for the meat of wild animals has become the most significant immediate threat for this species. The Oregon Zoo participates in the AZA Population Management Plan (PMP), a cooperative breeding program that aims to provide a sustainable, genetically diverse population in North America, and to develop conservation links to in-country programs in Africa.

**7,500 TURTLES CONFISCATED IN HONG KONG**

In late December 2001 and early January 2002, the Ft. Worth Zoo pooled resources for a rescue mission of nearly 7,500 critically endangered turtles. Destined for food trade, this illegal shipment of turtles valued at \$3.2 million was en route to China when intercepted on 10 December by Hong Kong customs. According to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), it is illegal to import or export endangered species without proper permits. This shipment, the largest seizure of live turtles in Hong Kong, was immediately transported to Kadoorie Farms Botanic Gardens in Hong Kong for identification and initial triage.



Although the turtle trade has occurred for thousands of years, it has only recently depleted the wild populations at unsustainable rates. When Chinese currency became convertible in 1989, it became possible for the Chinese to import turtles from other countries, including Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia and Cambodia, exhausting their wild populations.

At present, every country in the region has national legislation that affords at least some protection to some turtle

species. In addition, all countries except Bhutan and Lao PDR are signatories to the CITES, the provisions of which should be implemented through national legislation. Overall, the scope and extent of existing laws are adequate to protect most turtle species, though not all. In addition, enforcement of existing legislation is frequently insufficient. Among other factors, the inability of customs officers, wildlife enforcement agency staff and others to identify turtle species with any accuracy is a serious obstruction to effective enforcement. In response to the Asian turtle crisis, the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) was organized under the auspices of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) with a mission to develop and maintain a global network of living tortoises and freshwater turtles with the primary goal of providing maximum future options for the recovery of wild populations. The number of freshwater turtle species added to the world's critically endangered list has more than doubled in the last five years, primarily as a result of their use as a food source (in Asia) and traditional Chinese medicine.

Of the twelve turtle species confiscated in Hong Kong, ten were identified as critical, endangered or vulnerable by the IUCN. The seizure is a unique opportunity for the TSA to develop captive populations through animals that would otherwise be destroyed. After arriving in Florida, the turtles will be used in the development of "Assurance Colonies" by the TSA, which will maintain these species for their eventual recovery.

Other organizations involved in the seizure and conservation efforts were: Conservation International, University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Lab, Memphis Zoo, University of Miami, Alapattah Flats Turtle Preserve, New England Turtle Hospital, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Southwest Texas State University, UC Davis, and Florida Atlantic University.

**CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS VISIT LOUISVILLE**

In March 2001, the Louisville Zoo welcomed visiting Cuban conservation authority Damarys Lopez, manager of the Cayo Potrero Crocodile Farm which is the reintroduction facility for Cuban crocodiles (*Crocodylus rhombifer*) managed by Cuba's national conservation agency, Flora y Fauna, and has



Bill McMahan, Dr. Elsie Perez Dulon, and Marcelle Gianelloni at Louisville Zoo's Cuban Crocodile exhibit

worked closely with the AZA Cuban Crocodile Species Survival Program. In November 2001, the Zoo welcomed Dr.

Elsie Perez Dulon, director of the Havana Zoo, who is helping plan a major conservation education initiative for Cuba involving the Havana Zoo, Flora y Fauna, the Louisville Zoo and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). AZA has provided a Conservation Endowment Fund (CEF) grant dispensed through the Cuban Crocodile SSP for \$21,057 to be used for teacher training workshops and programs designed to help bring the *in situ* conservation message home to Cuba. Because of its size, physiographic and resultant biologic diversity, Cuba is a linchpin for Caribbean conservation efforts.

**SSP BIRTH AT ROLLING HILLS**

On 16 November 2001, a Malayan tapir (*Tapirus indicus*) was born at the Rolling Hills Refuge to 4-year-old mother Cody, on loan from the Toronto Zoo, and three-year-old father Cole, on loan from the Cincinnati Zoo. This is the first Malayan tapir birth at the Refuge, and both mother and infant are doing well.



**ELEPHANT CARE INTERNATIONAL: SUMATRA PROJECT UPDATE**

July - December 2001: At the end of August 2001, 11 wild elephants were captured by KSDA, the Indonesian government agency in charge of the existing Elephant Centers. The family group of five adult females, four juveniles and two calves were brought to Minas after raising a palm oil plantation. Some of the elephants sustained preventable injuries that were treated, but which prompted Elephant Care International (ECI) to suggest some simple measures to KSDA that could be instituted to prevent dart abscesses and other injuries.

The problem of human-elephant conflict in Riau and other parts of Sumatra is likely to worsen. Logging (both legal and illegal) is largely responsible for the loss of elephant habitat, and once logged, the land is often converted to agriculture rather than allowing natural secondary forest to grow, which would be suitable elephant habitat.

Currently, the existing Elephant Centers are at capacity. A proposed moratorium on elephant captures was endorsed by WWF-Indonesia, Fauna and Flora International (FFI), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and the International Elephant Foundation (IEF). Staff at WCS are in the process of drafting a protocol "alternatives to capture" to deal with the elephant conflict that could be instituted during the moratorium.

Additionally, a Conservation Endowment Fund (CEF) grant awarded by the AZA will be used for uniforms, books, veterinary supplies, and translation of elephant healthcare information into Indonesian. For more information on the Sumatran Elephant Project, visit [www.elephantcare.org](http://www.elephantcare.org).

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