Conservation continued from p. 44

and staff are satisfied that the mothers and babies have established an appropriate bond and that all are healthy. They are expected to adjust well to their new family groups.

DETROIT ZOO SEES STRIPES

The Detroit Zoo proudly announced the recent birth of an endangered female Grevy's zebra. The 92-pound foal can be seen on exhibit with her mother. Currently, there are only 5,000 Grevy's zebras left in the wild, making this birth particularly significant. The Grevy's zebra is part of the Grevy's Zebra Species Survival Plan (SSP). Native to the grasslands of northern Kenya and southern Somalia, Grevy's zebras are very beneficial to their fellow grazers by clearing off the tops of coarse, thick grasses that are very difficult for other herbivores to digest. The species average a weight of 775 to 1,000 pounds, and can live up to 18 years in the wild and 30 years in captivity. Z

EXHIBITS

GRIZZLIES ARRIVE AT RIVERBANKS

On 31 October, two male grizzly bear cubs made their first public appearance at the Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Now a year old, the grizzlies were orphaned in Alaska and had become "nuisance bears," seeking out areas inhabited by humans. For their own safety and the safety of local residents, the two males and their sister cub were removed from the wild. Riverbanks received the two males, while the female cub was relocated to the Denver Zoo. The male siblings will grow to an average of 600-800 pounds each and up to 10 feet in height, and will be a permanent exhibit at the Zoo. They are currently housed in what used to be Riverbanks' polar bear enclosure near the Zoo entrance.

"LAND OF THE GIANTS" AT THE **RACINE ZOO**

At a cost of \$1.15 million, the Racine Zoo's newest exhibit, the Charles and Jennifer Johnson Land of the Giants is one of the



largest displays in the Zoo's history. The exhibit, based on the Eastern Arc Mountains and coastal forests of Tanzania and Kenya, will eventually be home to a mother and daughter pair of Masai giraffes from the San Diego Zoo, a male black rhinoceros from San Francisco

and a female from San Antonio, a European white stork, two helmeted guinea fowl and cattle egrets. Covering 100,000 square feet, Land of the Giants opened to the public in late June 2002. The exhibit includes new and renovated indoor quarters, a gift shop, a concession stand and restrooms. The Zoo will provide local teachers with information packets and educational tools for their classrooms, enhancing local students' learning experience. The Zoo's educational goal is to instill in guests a passion for threatened and endangered ecosystems. Through the Land of the Giants, the Zoo hopes to convey the story of one of the world's most endangered and biologically diverse ecosystems.

Donor Recognition continued from p. 40

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SPECIAL PROJECTS

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