

Zoo Outreach Organization Trust
Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society
Activity Report 2010-2011



Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO)/Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society (WILD)
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**Zoo Outreach Organization Trust (ZOO)
Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society (WILD)
Activity Report from 1 April to 31 March 2011**

Organisational Structure

Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) engages in active holistic conservation of species through its unique principles of conservation network engineering; providing a platform to organisations and individuals to share and promote issues and concerns that help improve policies for conservation in South Asia. ZOO's commitment of promoting education and training provides a sound scientific basis for networking and gathering information for assessments of species in the wild in South Asia and help with prioritization and development of action plans for individual species conservation.

ZOO works with other institutions and individuals to link captive facilities with wildlife activities for the purpose of education, research, animal welfare and conservation action. ZOO is registered under Karnataka Society's Act in 1985 and moved from Mysore to Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu by 1987. In 2006 ZOO Founder/Secretary Ms. Sally Walker registered a Trust in the same name, Zoo Outreach Organization Trust, in Tamil Nadu to insure the activities could go in a better way. ZOO Society will continue until ZOO Trust's legal formalities such as 12A, 80G, FCRA are completed. ZOO is also registered in USA as a charity with 501c3 status. Wildlife Information Liaison Development WILD is a registered society in India working along with ZOO and with its own activities. ZOO and WILD publish two monthly periodicals, ZOOS' PRINT Magazine and Journal of Threatened Taxa JoTT respectively. In keeping with the names ZOO has attempted to focus on *ex situ* conservation and WILD on *in situ* conservation but in actual practice it seems one continuum, as promoted recently by CBSG. ZOO and WILD support the various taxon and thematic networks mentioned above running each network as an organisation but without taxing formalities. ZOO also supports the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation, SAZARC.

Elephant Projects

Refresher Course: Getting along with Elephants in Sumatra, Indonesia

A refresher course was held for Indonesian HECx participants at Green Lodge Resort in Tangkahan, North Sumatra from 7-8 June 2010. Bapak Subhan, Gunung Leuser National Park inaugurated the course. A total of 22 participants attended this refresher course. The trainers were R. Marimuthu from ZOO and Harmita Desmerry of FFI-SECP. This was organized by Zoo Outreach Organisation, India and coordinated by Fauna Flora International-Sumatran Elephant Conservation Programme and the whole project was sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife Service - Asian Elephant Conservation Fund.

Bhutan Refresher Course: Getting along with Elephants HECx 28-29 June 2010- Jaigaon, West Bengal

A follow-up refresher course for the Getting Along with Elephants-Human Elephant Coexistence HECx Bhutan workshop participants was held at Jaigaon from 28-29 June, 2010. The main workshops were held in March 2010 at College of Natural Resources, Lobesa and College of Business Studies, Gedu in Bhutan. A total number of 58 participants attended the two workshops. Based on their performance in imparting the training contents to others 15 participants were selected for this course from Bhutan and two participants were selected from West Bengal 2008 HECx workshop. This course was sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife Service - Asian Elephant Conservation Fund and coordinated by Nature Conservation Division, Department of Forest and Park Services, Bhutan.

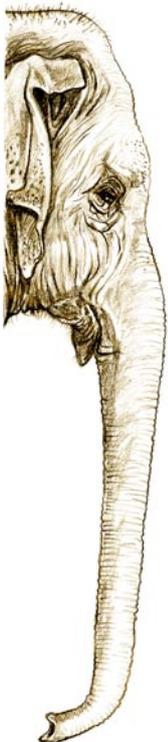
The objective of the refresher course was to understand the effectiveness of the HECx training programme towards changing the behaviour and attitude of the people who live in HEC areas; to evaluate the educators after 6 months to understand the utilization of the training; to know

their education activities on HECx; to teach additional active teaching/learning tools. As per the objectives all the activities carried out during the refresher course.

HECx workshop (Tamil Nadu and Thailand) -- May and August 2011: The objective of this Human-elephant Coexistence Education Training is to teach positive attitudes and bring about behavioural change of human beings in relation with elephants. A series of three workshops each in India and Thailand will be organised addressing teachers, NGOs, forest and wildlife staffers, volunteers, wildlife researchers and selected others who live and work in or near Human-elephant Conflict areas.

This is a uniquely successful training module which has been modified to address different species and even issues by using many activity-based sessions. Whereas most teaching is primarily didactic, the workshops envisioned are activity based. These workshops will be conducted in three districts of Tamil Nadu, South India and in

Salakpara, Thailand. The sponsors of the Thailand workshops are US Fish and Wildlife Service, USA; Columbus Zoological Garden, USA, and Koln Zoo, Germany. The Tamil Nadu series is sponsored by International Elephant Foundation, USA.



SAZARC Annual Conference, Chitwan National Park, Nepal. 22-27 Nov 2010: The 10th Annual Conference/Training of South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation was themed "Emergency Response Protocols for 21st Century Crises in Zoos, Climate Change, Emerging Diseases, and Terrorism". Dr. Wendy Foden, IUCN Species Programme and Dr. Mark Irwin, State University of New York, were the resource persons. SAZARC Secretariat is hosted by Zoo Outreach Organisation. Participants from all South Asian countries enjoyed the training and tours around Chitwan National Park e.g. Afghanistan (5), Bangladesh (6), Pakistan (1), Sri Lanka (3), Bhutan (1), India (12) and Nepal (20). CBSG and RSG meeting was combined with SAZARC with special presentations. There was also a training session on climate change for public education. The programme was hosted by the Central Zoo and National Trust for Nature Conservation. Zoo Outreach Organisation hosts the SAZARC Secretariat, plans the Training/Conference and raises funds from numerous sponsors from the western zoo community. Sponsored by Chester Zoo UK, Universities Federation for Animal Welfare UK, CBSG USA, Columbus Zoological Garden USA, North Carolina Zoo USA, Zoological Society of London UK, German Nepal Friendship Association Germany, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo USA, Sedgewick County Zoo USA, and St. Louis Zoo USA.

Other SAZARC activity: Training for Kabul Zoo Staff

Three senior officers of Kabul Zoo, Afghanistan underwent a 10 day training on a wide range of topics in zoo and wildlife management, hosted by ZOO/CBSG South Asia and 7 South Indian Zoos from 20-30 December 2009. The purpose of this training was to enable the officers to see a variety of zoos in India, obtain technical training on pertinent topics and interact with their peers in the zoo community. This training tour was fully sponsored by the North Carolina Zoo with assistance from a small group of behind the scenes advisors who have been actively involved with the Kabul Zoo since its catastrophic near destruction several years ago. They are David Jones, Director, NC Zoo; Nick Lindsay, Curator, London Zoo/Whipsnade, UK; James Hogan, Director, Mayhew Animal Hospital, UK; Brendan Whittington, Zoo Cowboy, South Africa and Sally Walker.

This training was followed up by a visit to Kabul Zoo by Sally Walker in July to assess progress and discuss further training. As earlier reported by Mr. M.Amadi, she found that training tour participants had implemented a very respectable number of activities devolving from or associated with their training. She met with senior officials in Kabul Municipality to discuss various aspects of Kabul Zoo and to personally invite a group from administration and management to attend the annual SAZARC conference and CBSG South Asia, RSG South Asia meeting to be held in Nepal. The Afghanistan contingent will include Mr. Ahmadi, advisor to the Mayor of Kabul, Mrs. Rohella, Director of the Kabul Municipality Cultural Dept. under which the zoo is administered, and the three officers who attended the Indian training in India, Aziz Gul, Sabique, Director; Dr. Khader, Veterinarian, and Najib Nazari, Education officer.



The Afghan group successfully participated the SAZARC conference and afterwards we took them on a tour of a few zoos in North India, including National Zoological Park, New Delhi, Kanpur Zoological Park and Mahendra Chaudhury Zoological Park in Chhatbir, Punjab. The objective of the visit was to learn further about basic zoo management, health management including preventative medicine, animal welfare measures and Zoo education.



Third Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium and Training (ALCS), 25-29 Oct 2010

The programme was organised by IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group SAISG and ZOO/CBSG South Asia in collaboration with Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India and Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, Hong Kong who were also sponsors along with Sponsored by Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, Hong Kong, Dept. of Science and Technology, New Delhi & Woodward Family, Hong Kong, Chester Zoo, UK and CBSG, USA. The symposium-covered topics related to conservation through community involvement, assessment of priority areas and community initiatives at the local level, which have global conservation impact. Also included were tools for species status assessment, public education and training in moth and butterfly identification as well as field research methods.

About 260 delegates representing Brunei, China, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Taiwan and Sri Lanka attended this event. Addressing the theme 'Local community conservation meeting Asian Lepidoptera Conservation needs' the five day event included presentations on topics related to flagship Lepidoptera species, habitat conservation, community involvement, taxonomy, species status assessment, Lepidoptera conservation ecology and management and public education; hands on training on genitalia dissection, insect preservation methods, and demonstration on various light traps for moth research, moth and butterfly identification and Lepidoptera puppetry training. Researchers, academics, students, scientists, biologists, NGOs, government officials were benefited out of this. Roger Kendrick, Mark Sterling and Paul Waring were the trainers for moth related training while Krushnameesh Kuntae and Isaac Kehimker handled butterfly related training during training sessions. The puppetry training was lead by Bhanumathai, R., Chennai.



Red Panda Population and Habitat Viability Assessment: A Species Conservation Strategic Plan. Lalithpur, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2-6 September 2010. Sponsored by Rotterdam Zoo, WWF Germany and EAZA. Following a “pre-PHVA” meeting initiated by Angela Glatston of Rotterdam Zoo, held in Sikkim and a series of studies following on, a PHVA had been scheduled in Nepal covering the whole of Nepal and areas where India and Nepal share borders where Red Panda occurs.

The PHVA workshop process was developed by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) and this was one of the first PHVA’s to incorporate the visioning component of the IUCN Species Conservation Strategy approach. The workshop was attended by 60 delegates, including representatives of three range countries – Nepal, Bhutan and India. The vision expressed by the participants was to “Secure viable populations of Red Panda distributed in contiguous natural habitat throughout the Himalaya regardless of national boundaries where this flagship species brings benefits to the region and is valued and protected by all stakeholders”.



One working group used GIS technology to map the confirmed and possible occurrence of Red Pandas in Nepal. They identified 11 subpopulations and concluded that the metapopulation was likely to hold roughly between 230 to 1060 individuals. A Vortex computer model helped to establish that the majority of the subpopulations are so small that they have a high probability of extinction, even in the absence of human threats. Larger subpopulations also have a high risk of extinction in the short to medium term if current levels of threat persist. A second working group identified the threats and prioritised them for each of the six complexes identified as management units. Both working groups developed goals, objectives and concrete actions, taking account of the vision and all the information gathered in the meeting. These actions will provide the first steps towards achieving the vision for this flagship species of the Himalaya.



Eastern Ghats Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Project: In 2009 ZOO/CBSG South Asia collaborated with IUCN and its partners in assessing the status of selected groups of the Eastern Himalayan freshwater ecosystems. A total of 1,073 fresher water species of fishes, molluscs, and dragonflies and damselflies currently known in the Eastern Himalaya region were assessed. Zoo Outreach Organisation organised one training workshop and two evaluation workshops in Nepal, Kolkata and Coimbatore respectively. The assessments of all three groups from the region can be found on www.iucnredlist.org, IUCN website. The Report of the Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment of Eastern Ghats, India has been published. On 13 January 2011 a press release announced the publication of "The status and distribution of freshwater biodiversity in the eastern Himalaya". The project sponsor was MacArthur Foundation.

Western Ghats Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Part II, 24-28 Jan 2011: IUCN and ZOO/CBSG, South Asia are collaborating to conduct Red List assessments of Western Ghats freshwater ecosystem, which includes fishes, molluscs, odonates and aquatic plants. A total of 1200 species occur in the Western Ghats and drainages, mostly restricted to peninsular India. Part I assessment, conducted in October 7-11, 2010, covered 490 species and Part II assessment, conducted in January 24-28, 2010, assessed 450 species. Karunya University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India was the venue for both the workshops. The project sponsor is CEPF, Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund.



Indian Post Special Cover Release - Western Hoolock Gibbon and ZOO's 25th

The India Postal Service provides a facility for organisations to design their own Special Cover and conduct a function dedicating it to the issue they want to promote. The covers can contain a letter or blurb about the issue and should be mailed the same day as the function with a special frank or seal provided by the organisation and approved by Indian Post. It is an official cover and ZOO wanted to use the opportunity to promote the Western Hoolock Gibbon.

Naturally there are very clear and stringent regulations as the public is involved with government here and the Indian Post should not face embarrassment. The regulations stated that the subject must be important at the state level. Well Western Hoolock Gibbon is not, to be fair, of particular interest to Tamil Nadu so we had to combine it with something that had more relevance. The 25th Anniversary of ZOO was relevant as ZOO is a registered society in the state and our office is based in TN for 24 years.

Why didn't we have it in Assam or another NE India state, as it is mostly NE Indian Hoolock Gibbon researchers who trek many miles in the North East Indian forests studying this shy primate and keeping track of its status. We began this postal project in order to lobby for a Project Hoolock Gibbon (as in Project Tiger, etc), as ZOO has been seriously involved with Hoolocks for some years now and concluded that nothing can save it except a Project Hoolock. We had a small grant for the Special Cover from Primate Action Fund also. We would surely have had it in NE India if the regulations and procedure had not been so onerous and the cost so high. We couldn't do it in another state, particularly one so far away as the NE. We had to have our own office to help and, even more, our officers of almost 25 years, President and Treasurer G. Rangaswamy and R. Nandini, who had done this function many times. Thus, our 25th Anniversary saved the Hoolock Gibbon promotion.

We had to be a person of established credibility, not indulging in activities which could be embarrassing to the Government. We seem to have passed all those inspections, surely helped by our association with the Rangaswamys. The rest of the points dealt with the design, which had to be secular in nature and devoid of possibly embarrassing nuances. The legend had to be bilingual, first in Hindi and then English with date and event being commemorated. There is MUCH more, but you get the point! It was hard work but finally the cover was ready.

The Primate Action Fund PAF of CI on behalf of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group provided funds for this project of the Special Cover.

The Chandra group provided advice, Venue and a very nice tea afterwards. Many thanks to them for last 25years of help with various things.



Educator Skills Training programmes on Bears

Alertis-Fund for Bear and Nature Conservation, Netherlands has funded Zoo Outreach Organisation to conduct two teacher training workshops for forest department personnel, teachers, NGO's and others. The theme includes bear conservation and the plight of dancing sloth bears, some of which are now comfortably housed in the Bear Rescue Centres of Van Vihar National Park, Madhya Pradesh and Bannerghatta National Park, Karnataka where the workshops had taken place.

The first workshop was conducted at Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal from 28-29 July 2010 with 29 participants, most of them teachers. There were also a few NGO's as well as middle level forest officers representing almost all National Parks of Madhya Pradesh. To view complete report: www.zooreach.org/2010%20Projects/Bear_workshop_report.html

The second training was hosted by Bannerghatta Biological Park, Karnataka 29-30 September 2010. Bannerghatta has a bear rescue centre run by Wildlife SOS, coordinator of this workshop. Twenty eight participants attended the educator training: Wildlife SOS staff including the Veterinary Officer, bear and other keepers of the zoo, NGO's, teachers from colleges and schools, volunteers etc. To view the complete report: http://www.zooreach.org/2010%20Projects/Bear_Bannerghatta_workshop.html



Wildlife Welfare and Conservation : Educator Training Workshop, 19-20 Feb 2011

The theme of the training was '*Linking Wildlife Conservation with Wildlife Welfare ... tools for making both work for the benefit of wildlife.*' The objectives were:

- to empower educators of all kinds to teach about wildlife conservation and wildlife welfare;
- to understand the link between wildlife conservation and wildlife welfare and issues related to it
- to demonstrate innovative teaching and learning techniques designed to understand the above concept. The first and second authors were the trainers for the programme.

Participants were zoo volunteers, animal rescue team members, research/graduate students, education interpretation assistants, members from NGOs involved in wildlife education, police involved in wildlife rescue, school teachers and wildlife photographers.

The programme module involved a pre- workshop assessment to understand the attitude of the participants and their knowledge about the subject i.e., wildlife conservation and wildlife welfare. Two assessments were tried i.e., attitude assessment and content survey – written. People's attitudes vary from individual to individual when they hear some news. A set of questions related to conservation and welfare was read out to the group to assess the attitude of group or individual based on their expression. In the second assessment they were asked to give their reply on a piece of paper. The assessments are usually done before and after the workshop, which help the organizers to measure acquisition of facts about conservation and welfare, comprehension, feelings and effect on behavior. As part of the programme, an activity called "know each other" was also carried out. This helped the group to break social barriers and to interact among each other without inhibition.

After introducing the background of the subject, issues related to wildlife conservation and wildlife welfare were discussed by way of activities, analyzed and adverse effect of people on animals from conservation and welfare point of view were discussed through active learning / teaching tools that helped them to understand the subject easily.



To ensure understanding of the subject, i.e., conservation and welfare, to understand impact of human on animals and to understand welfare in animal conservation, a map activity was conducted. The history of former distribution of Asian elephant (200 years ago) was compared with the present distribution to understand adverse effects of people on the animal. The participants were asked to form three groups of equal size. Each group was given a set of 'past' maps in pieces and the task was to assemble all parts of the set to complete the past distribution range maps of Asian elephant. Subsequently current distribution map of Asian elephant was given. After assembling both the maps, based on the information in the maps, they were asked to list down country wise distribution of Asian elephants. About 200 years ago the Asian elephants had a continuous distribution in 17 countries ranging from Iraq in the west up to Eastern China and from the foot hills of Himalayas in the North up to Indonesia in the south. However the present distribution is restricted to 13 countries with a patchy distribution with high number of elephants left only in India. Now the elephant populations have limited movements due to fragmentation of the habitat. The present distribution Asian elephant is facing both conservation and welfare issues.

Keeping this as an example the participants were asked to list out issues (adverse effect of human on animal) to Asian elephants from conservation and welfare point of view. The group listed about 16 issues of which 13 was common for both conservation and welfare issues.

Apart from learning facts about conservation and welfare during the training, participants also learned about active teaching tools. All the participants got the privilege to be the member of ZOO's Educator Network *ZEN*, so that they can avail all support form ZOO to carry out education programmes in their respective places/institutes. It is necessary that they learn how to plan an education programme since this methodology is new to most of the people. As a member of ZOO's Educator Network, they are entitled to receive all publications of education materials of ZOO. During this session they were taught how to use education packets of ZOO effectively and make best use of it. A full demonstration was given explaining the ways to use the education packets at various occasions by way of *rakhi*-tying, marching with placards and committing people to promote wildlife conservation and welfare.

The sponsor of the programme is Universities Federation of Animal Welfare, UK.

Western Ghats Reptile Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) Workshop, 28 Feb-04 Mar 2011

The Western Ghats reptile Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) Workshop held in Coimbatore from 28 February to March 2011) at Karl Kubel Institute. A total of 245 species of reptiles were assessed, several endemic to the Western Ghats, and others occurring in the Western Ghats or in southern India. Species endemic to the Eastern Ghats and peninsular India were also considered in the assessments. 40 participants with expertise in the field represented 28 organizations in the assessments. While the 1997 Indian reptile CAMP organised by ZOO had several well-established herpetologists of that era, the 2011 Western Ghats reptile CAMP workshop had a fairly young representation with a majority of the participants attending the CAMP workshop for the very first time; many of them having developed their expertise in this field since the first reptile CAMP workshop nearly 14 years ago!



As a follow up of the workshop, consistency checks of the data are underway. Once that is completed, all working PDFs will be reviewed by all the participants to input data that were not compiled during the workshop. Since all the information were compiled on the online Species

information Service (SIS) database developed by the IUCN, the consistency checking and finalization is expected to be more systematic and rapid. Maps using ArcView were generated before the workshop based on the extensive information supplied by several participants and others who did not attend the CAMP workshop. Point locality data were digitized and polygons were defined after discussions in the working groups, which also gave a better idea of the species' distribution, extent of occurrence and area of occupancy, likely threats and therefore a more accurate assessment. These maps are being worked on and finalized currently, which will also be sent to the participants for finalization.



Final outputs will include a complete account of information in the Threatened Taxa Monitoring System (TTMS) website at www.southasianreptiles.org where all point locality data, text, maps, etc. will be provided open access, hopefully by July 2011. Later in the year, around October, the IUCN Red List will publish the assessments for all endemic reptiles of the region on the www.iucnredlist.org website.

The Western Ghats reptile CAMP workshop is part of the global reptile assessments (GRA) of the IUCN SSC, similar to the global mammal and amphibian assessments. However, workshops to assess reptiles are more ad hoc depending on availability of funds. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) under the large grant awards to the Wildlife Information Liaison Development (WILD) Society funded this workshop. Collaborators include Zoo Outreach Organisation, the South Asian Reptile Network and the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, South Asia network, working along with the IUCN GRA.



The Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT) on-line peer reviewed Journal

The **Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT)** is a monthly (aiming to be more frequent), online, open access, free access, peer-reviewed journal on wildlife, conservation, taxonomy, ecology and all aspects contributing to the science and action thereof. The objective of **JoTT** is to publish timely, articles of importance for promoting conservation and encouraging wildlife studies in the biodiversity-rich countries of the world. The lag time after final acceptance of manuscripts from January 2009 will be two months or less depending on the completeness (in content and format) of submissions by authors and timely returns of the galley proofs.

JoTT is **not restricted** to taxa (phyla, groups, families, orders, species, subspecies, varieties, forms or populations) that are threatened with extinction as defined by the IUCN Red List. The term "threatened" is used broadly to include all forms of taxa and their ecosystems, with the premise that the natural world today is threatened and therefore its taxa. Taxa could be threatened in several different ways and not only in their status in the wild. Lack of knowledge about a species or subspecies or a population is a threat as priorities could be compromised due to deficiency in data. Taxa scientifically described for the first time are under threat from data deficiency in their distribution, status, ecological needs, etc. Any taxon could be under threat in a location due to the changes in habitat or quality. Ecological changes, changes in land use, socio-economic changes, human influenced changes, alien introduced species, wrong reintroduction practices, new emerging diseases, social and political unrest, improperly planned national and international wildlife and conservation legislations, constant changes in taxonomy, global climate change, and other factors that keep our environment and ecosystems in a constant flux can have widespread or localized impacts on taxa. In some instances even the so-called "Least Concern" species could be impacted locally or widely due to the above factors.

The **Journal of Threatened Taxa** is global in its coverage and is a direct progression from eight years of experience with *Zoos' Print Journal (ZPJ)*, whose coverage was South Asia. The objectives of **JoTT** are very similar to that of ZPJ with respect to the subject areas covered. Once manuscripts are reviewed and finally accepted and the authors have submitted all relevant files, attachments and documents, including the final galley proof, publication lag time will be kept to a maximum of two months.

The categories of articles published in **JoTT** include Papers, Communications, Reviews, Notes, Opinions, Book Reviews and Comments. Contents include:

Content:

Conservation, Wildlife, Taxonomy, Zoo, Botanic Gardens, Veterinary, Ecology, Biology, Biogeography, Ethology, Natural History, History of Natural History, Biography, Bibliography on fauna, flora and fungi.

The following contents are desirable, but not exclusive:

1. Conservation of wild flora, fauna or fungi, issues, techniques, tools, legislation, assessments.
2. Population studies, management, genetics, biology.
3. Threats to wild populations or habitats, factors, management.
4. Conservation actions, management actions, reviews.
5. Biodiversity inventories, range extensions, new records, checklists.
6. Taxonomy, new descriptions, taxonomic reviews.
7. Behaviour (wild or zoo), plant-animal interactions.
8. Ecological research on wild flora, fauna and fungi.
9. Veterinary research in zoo and wild, findings, reviews.
10. Welfare issues of scientific nature
11. Trade, effects, legislation, issues, economics.
12. Observation studies, informal sightings
13. History of natural history, zoo and botanic garden history, biography.



- 14. Education techniques, comparative tools of education, education as related to conservation, zoos, botanic gardens, aquaria
- 15. Letters, short communications on current conservation, welfare, trade, legislation issues.
- 16. Scientific contributions from zoos and botanic gardens.

In the year of 2010:

Volume 2(1-13)

Number of articles published - 139

Number of issues - January-December 13 issues

Special issue - Monograph (A key to the bats (Mammalia: Chiroptera) of South Asia by C. Srinivasulu, Paul A. Racey & Shahroukh Mistry)

Total number of pages 633-1400 - 768pp

In the year of 2011

Volume 3(1-3) (January-March)

Number of articles published - 39

Number of issues - January-March 3 issues

Total number of pages 1401-1636 - 238pp

Special Themes:

ALCS - 5 articles have been published

CEPF Western Ghats - 2 articles have been published (Funded by Critically Endangered Partnership Fund)



Survey of Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) in Arunachal Pradesh, India. This important preliminary survey (generously funded by BIAZA and monitored by Sanjay Molur, CBSG South Asia) has been carried out at East Kameng, West Kameng and Upper Siang of Arunachal Pradesh on current status, distribution, anthropogenic threats to Red Panda, etc. Project P.I., Dr. Awadhesh Kumar, Arunachal Pradesh has carried out the study based on the past distributional pattern of red panda through literature, information gathered from Forest Department of Arunachal Pradesh, detailed interviews, observations and discussion with local people inhabiting the villages in East and West Kameng and Upper Siang districts of the state.

WILD/CBSG South Asia project on globally threatened species of reptiles in the Western Ghats

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, CEPF, Western Ghats Ecosystem Profile highlights the gaps in conservation knowledge for several important taxonomic groups, especially reptiles and freshwater ecosystems. WILD was awarded a project the conservation status of globally threatened reptiles in the Western Ghats, including two components, e.g.

- i) Global Reptile Assessment for Western Ghats Reptiles (held in Mar 2011), utilizing the CAMP process as well as other tools, and
- ii) Journal of Threatened Taxa to encourage over the next 2-4 years all scientific results emanating from Western Ghats region from CEPF grants or otherwise, to be published at a rapid rate in the journal.

Indian Theraphosid Project

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund also provided a grant for Theraphosid spiders this year to understand Tarantula (Araneae: Theraphosidae) spider diversity, distribution and habitat-use: A study on Protected Area adequacy and conservation planning at a landscape level in the Western Ghats of Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka. Surveys have been conducted in different parts of Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka to understand distribution and population status of different species of Theraphosid spiders. Ecological and biological information on several orders were collected and awareness programmes about them in field sites for foresters and local people were conducted. Updated country wide checklist of spiders of South Asia will be completed soon. Continuation of taxonomic identification of spiders collected during various surveys. Seven papers were published in 2009 till now and four papers accepted for publication.

**Thanks to our Donors (FY 2010–2011)
(via ZOO, ZOO Trust, WILD and ZOO USA)**

- Alertis-Fund for Bear and Nature Conservation, Netherlands
- Chester Zoo, UK
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, USA
- Columbus Zoological Garden, USA
- Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, USA
- Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund, USA
- German Nepal Friendship Association, Germany
- International Elephant Foundation, USA
- IUCN, Switzerland
- Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, Hong Kong
- Koln Zoo, Germany
- North Carolina Zoo, USA
- Rotterdam Zoo, Netherlands
- EAZA, Netherlands
- SeaWorld and Busch Garden, USA
- Sedgewick County Zoo, USA
- St. Louis Zoo, USA
- The Zoological Society of London, UK
- Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, UK
- US Fish and Wildlife Service, USA
- Woodward Family, Hong Kong
- Zoological Society of London UK

ZOO/WILD Network News

CBSG-SA network

CBSG Taxon Networks working from ZOO office are based on the processes and principles of CBSG and all works are done with an aim of conducting Training, Conservation Planning, PHVA, CAMP, Education, Conservation, etc., using the CBSG tools to promote and deliver effective conservation in the region. All the networks CBSG, RSG, PSG (primates), ANSA (amphibian), SARN (Reptile), RILSCINSA (Rodent & Insectivore), CCINSA (bats), SANIZE (educators) and ICINSA (which is a network as well as a full SSC IUCN South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group maintain a detailed member directory, web module, newsletter, etc. in which the convenors or chairs circulate current news, announcements, opportunities and articles of interest to all the members by email. This year CBSG supported the following ZOO projects: SAZARC Conference, Red Panda Population and Habitat Viability Assessment, and the Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium.

CCINSA/RILSCINSA newsletters joined to become Small Mammal Mail found at www.zoosprint.org under newsletters. CCINSA will conduct training in South India for local small mammal students and field biologists from around the region. Member directory updated and uploaded on the website www.zooreach.org.

South Asian Reptile Network: as mentioned the IUCN SSC Red List Global Assessment for Reptiles in South Asia will be conducted in February 2010 sponsored by CEPF. The recent on-line newsletter "Reptile Rap" is accessible at www.zoosprint.org under newsletters.

South Asian Primate Network - PSG SAPN representing IUCN SSC Primate SG us

- Release of a First Day Postal cover on 18 August featuring western hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*), to highlight the need of a "Project Hoolock Gibbon" in the Government of India. An appeal mailed on the same day reached over 1,500 government officials in New Delhi and concerned Ministries in the seven range states. Project to provide funds and focus for hoolock gibbon in all seven Indian states. Sponsor of Release: Primate Action Fund.
- Wild-to-Wild Translocation Training for Hoolock Gibbon – Under this project grant two training workshops were organized in 2008 and 2009 respectively. In continuation to that Sanjay Molur have participated the International Primatological Conference XXIII held in Kyoto by 12-18 September. Now the process of making the guideline for the reintroduction and the project report is going on.
- *Educational materials produced and distributed*
 - South Asian Primate Pocket guide (PSG-SA/CI) distributed throughout regions with guidelines on using for school and public programs. 100 odd distributed.
 - Brochure to accompany pocket guide for education produced and distributed at public events. About 1,000 distributed
 - Pocket guide offered to PSG members in bulk.
 - Primate and IYB theme featured during Indian Wildlife Week. 1-7 October 2010.
 - Bulk of education materials distributed during national and international "special days" to field biologists, foresters, teachers & other educators to conduct dynamic public learning programs.

Other activities and services

- PSG SAPN circulated current primate notices, news, articles, funding and other opportunities to all PSG network members in the region
- PSG SAPN constituent directory was updated on website. Any primate student, researcher, educator from South Asia is eligible for inclusion in PSG SAP regional network. <www.southasianprimatenetwork.org>. Currently there are 134 members.

IUCN SSC Invertebrate Specialist Group South Asia, (SAsISG). This IUCN Specialist Group which was formed earlier and dissolved during previous SSC Chair regime has been reinstated last February 2010. Dr. B.A. Daniel, Zoo Outreach Organisation again was appointed Chair and Dr. Ather Rafi, Pakistan, Co chair.

Invertebrate Network (ICINSA) and Sub-networks (Pollinator Network and Aquatic Invertebrates): Networking invertebrate specialists of this region is one of the primary activities of this group. This regional specialist group will have sub-networks based on the functional groups such as invertebrate pollinators, terrestrial, freshwater, marine, agricultural and under soil invertebrates. So far two sub networks namely Invertebrate Pollinator (59 members) and Aquatic Invertebrate (21 members) networks have been formed and experts were identified.

- IIIrd Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium, jointly organized by SAsISG, Kadoori Farms, Malaysia, Bharathiar University ZOO, WILD, CBSG South Asia to occur 25-29 October 2010, Coimbatore, India, themed as "Local community conservation meeting Asian Lepidoptera conservation needs".
- ICINSA supplies all its networks literature on their specialty and opportunity for rapid publication in Journal of Threatened Taxa.
- ICINSA helped Coimbatore Zoological Park with invertebrate education graphics.
- A directory of Invertebrate Pollinator Network of South Asia IPNSA has been brought out.
- The SG has also associated with IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment project for the assessment of Eastern Himalayan and Western Ghats Freshwater molluscs and odonates.
- The SAsISG in association with the host organisations is undertaking extensive work on the survey of distribution of Theraphosid spiders. A poster has been published for free distribution among the public to create awareness to stop collection from the wild which is in practice.
- An education material on Biodiversity and Climate Change was developed for distribution through Zoos during wildlife week celebration in India from 2-8 October 2010.
- Dr. B.A. Daniel represented the IUCN SSC Invertebrate Specialist Group of South Asia in the Invertebrate Conservation Sub-Committee (ICSC) meeting held at Cambridge, 13-14 September 2010.

Network & activities are supported Invertebrate Conservation Centre, London Zoo, Chester Zoo, UK and CBSG.

Reintroduction Specialist Group South Asia: Sanjay Molur attended a meeting in Guwahati of Hoolock Gibbon specialists and enthusiasts to discuss next action steps after the two translocation training workshop conducted there last year. Selecting an "activer" for Hoolock Gibbon and approaching government for a Project Hoolock Gibbon were some of the major topics. RSG South Asia section also has circulated a large number of documents and reports to the network of 45 experts and interested persons. A directory has been uploaded www.zooreach.org.

ZOO/WILD Education Network ZEN

- **Getting along with Elephants-Human Elephant Coexistence HECx educator workshop series**, 1-12 March, 2010-Lobesa and Gedu in Bhutan
- **Refresher Courses for Getting along with Elephants educator workshop series participants**, 22-23 April, 2010 –Dhaka, Bangladesh; 7-8 June 2010- Tangakhan, North Sumatra, Indonesia and 28-29 June, 2010-Jaigaon (Bhutan Border), India
- ZOO Education Officer R. Marimthu has been invited as a resource person for the Conservation Education and Zoos workshop by Central Zoo Authority, 6-9 April 2010-Patna, Bihar
- **World Environment Day 2010**: Zoo Outreach Organization took up the WAZA challenge of convincing educators to combine WED with the International Year of Biodiversity. We quickly created a simple WED IYB on a very stringent budget and wrote to our educator friends. We could afford to make only 1500 packets. Sixteen people from various institutions ordered them and celebrated WED IYB with ZOO and WAZA this year.
- ZOO Education Network (ZEN) Directory: ZEN network directory is updated and uploaded in our website.
- Raised travel funds for the South Asian Educators to attend the International Zoo Educator (IZE) Association Annual conference held at Disney, 27-31 Sept, 2010.
- **Educator Skills Training programme on Bears** held at Van Vihar National Park and Bannerghatta Biological Park in July and September respectively.
- **Indian Wildlife Week 2010-Free distribution of education materials**: In India, wildlife week is celebrated in the first week of October every year. This is mega wildlife event and has been celebrated by individuals, forest and wildlife departments and non-governmental organizations for over 50 years. ZOO/CBSG South Asia has been helping by providing free education materials whoever conducts meaningful education awareness programmes on that week using these materials. This year invitation was sent out throughout India and supplied 11812 items of 10 kinds for 62 persons on the theme climate change & biodiversity, amphibians, primates, elephants and spiders.
- **Education materials developed in 2010**: Education materials developed on the theme Biodiversity, Bears, and Climate Change.



ZOO/WILD Staff Travel (projects and attended)

- Conservation Education and Zoos workshop held at Patna, Bihar, 6-9 April, Marimuthu (Sponsored by Central Zoo Authority, Delhi)
- International Sea Turtle Conference held in Goa, 27-29 April 2010, Sanjay Molur (Travel sponsored by SeaWorld and Busch Gardens, USA)
- Species Conservation Planning Tools Workshop 2010, Abruzzi National Park, Italy, 31 May – 03 June 2010, Sally Walker and Sanjay Molur (sponsored by Chester Zoo and CBSG)
- Inception Meeting for RSG Guidelines involving Climate Change, 10-11 May 2010, Sanjay Molur (Sponsored by Al-Ain Wildlife Parks & Resorts, Dubai)
- Refresher workshop of "Getting along with Elephants HECx Education" held in Tangkahan, Indonesia, 07-08 June 2010, R Marimuthu (Sponsored by USFWS Elephant Project)
- IUCN - Eastern Himalaya Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment II Evaluation workshop, 13-18 June 2010, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, by Sanjay Molur and BA Daniel funded by (MacArthur Foundation through IUCN, Switzerland)
- Refresher workshop of "Getting along with Elephants HECx Education" held in Jaigon for Bhutan participants, 28-29 June 2010, R Marimuthu (Sponsored by USFWS Elephant Project)
- Dhaka Zoo Scoping visit, SAZARC, Sally Walker, Aug 2010 funded by Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
- Release of Special Postal Cover featuring Western Hoolock Gibbon project & ZOO 25th Anniversary, ZOO staff, Aug 2010, Coimbatore funded by the Primate Action Fund
- Sloth Bear Conservation Workshop, Van Vihar Zoological Park, Bhopal, 28-29 July 2010, Daniel and Marimuthu funded by Alertis, Netherlands.
- PHVA for Red Panda, CBSG South Asia, Dept. of Nature Conservation, & NTNC, Nepal, 2-6 September 2010, funded by Rotterdam Zoo, EAZA and WWF Germany
- International Primatological Conference XXIII, Kyoto, 12-18 September, Sanjay Molur funded by US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Assn of Zoos and Aquariums Annual Conference, 13-16 Sept 2010, Houston, Texas, Sally Walker, funded by Chester Zoo and CBSG.
- Invertebrate Conservation Subcommittee Meeting, Cambridge, UK, 13-14 Sept 2010, Daniel funded by IUCN, Switzerland
- Sloth Bear Conservation Workshop, Bannerghatta, 29-30 Sept 2010, Daniel, Marimuthu funded by Alertis, Netherlands
- IUCN Red List Assessment, W.Ghats Freshwater Biodiversity Evaluation Workshop, Coimbatore, 7-11 Oct 2010 funded by CEPF.
- CBSG SSC IUCN Annual Meeting, Koln Zoo, 14-17 Oct 2010, Sally, Sanjay funded by Chester Zoo, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group.
- WAZA Annual Conference, Koln Zoo, 17-21 Oct 2010, Sally. Funded by Chester Zoo and CBSG.
- 3rd Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium 2010, 25-29th October 2010, Coimbatore. Sponsored by Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, Hong Kong, Dept. of Science and Technology, New Delhi & Woodward Family, Hong Kong, Chester Zoo, UK and CBSG.
- Workshop on Indian Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises Conservation Priority Areas and the Initiatives, 22-24 October, Lucknow, Sanjay Molur. Funded by Madras Crocodile Bank Trust.
- Seminar and Workshop on Amphibians of Western Ghats, Delhi, 2-3 Nov'10, Sanjay Molur. Funded by WNPATA, Delhi
- 10th SAZARC and 7th Joint CBSG RSG meeting, Chitwan National Park, Nepal, Sally Walker, Sanjay Molur, BA Daniel and Marimuthu. Sponsored by Chester Zoo UK, Universities Federation for Animal Welfare UK, CBSG USA, Columbus Zoological Garden USA, North Carolina Zoo USA, Zoological Society of London UK, German Nepal Friendship Association Germany, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo USA, Sedgewick County Zoo USA, and St. Louis Zoo USA.
- Consultative Workshop on IUCN Red Listing process jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and IUCN India, Sanjay Molur, 01 February 2011, New Delhi.