

Resolutions of SAZARC Conference 2004

The South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation (SAZARC) conducted its Fifth Annual Conference, from 1-5 December 2004, in Lahore, Pakistan. A total of 45 individuals from 31 institutions 9 countries attended. After attending a training in Zoo Population Management taught by Dr. Bob Lacy, Chairman, IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group and Dr. Miranda Stevenson, Director, British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria, and two long working sessions to develop a SAZARC Action Plan based on the new World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy, and a marathon business meeting, participants recommended the following :

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

grateful thanks to Mr. Abdul Qadeer Mehal, Director, Wildlife Department and Mr. Raja Muhammad Javed, Director Lahore Zoo and their devoted staff for the excellent hospitality and help enjoyed by all at the Conference.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

grateful thanks to all international and local sponsors for making the SAZARC conference possible this year and all previous years.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

grateful thanks to Dr. Miranda Stevenson, Director, BIAZA, IUCN SSC CBSG Chair Dr. Bob Lacy and IUCN SSC RSG Executive director Mr. Pritpal Soorae for their training input and conviviality.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

grateful thanks to the World Association of Zoos and Aquarium for awarding membership for SAZARC in 2004.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

to recognise and thank Ms. Sally Walker, Director SAZARC and Founder/Hon. Director of the Zoo Outreach Organisation, host office to the SAZARC Secretariat and all highly devoted staff for their efforts on behalf of SAZARC for last five years.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

to recognise the commitment and devotion of Ms. Sally Walker, Wildlife Conservationist and congratulations to her for being awarded the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA) "Heini Hediger Award" for outstanding and dedicated service to the zoo and Aquarium profession on the November 4th 2004.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

to elect Dr. R. K. Sahu, Superintendent, Kamla Nehru Zoo, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India as the new President for SAZARC 2005 and Co-host of the 2005 SAZARC meeting.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

to continue the SAZARC convention as tradition of retaining the President and Host of the Annual Conference as Chairman for the following year, thus Mr. Abdul Qadeer Mehal was enthusiastically endorsed as the Chairman of SAZARC for the coming year.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

to accept the bid of the Zoo Outreach Organisation and Coimbatore Zoological Park Society to host the next conference of SAZARC to be held in 2005 in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

that Record keeping and Taxonomy (in particular as relates to South Asian Primate Taxonomy) as the training themes for next SAZARC meeting.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

to accept the Reports from different committees, which were presented in the house and approve the new committees and their Chairs which were formed for different conservation activities :

Functioning Committees handing in Reports were :

- Conservation committee- Ms. Sally Walker, India
- Education Welfare Committee- Ms. Uzma Khan, Pakistan
- Training Committee- Dr. R. K. Sahu, India
- Veterinary Committee- Dr. G. K. Dubey, India
- Nutrition Committee- Dr. Jayanthi Alahakoon, Sri Lanka
- Stock/Animal Exchange Committee - Mr. M.M. Qazi, Pakistan

New Committees and their Chairs :

- Species Coordination (Studbook keeping) Committee- Mr. Raja Muhammad Javed & Uzma Khan, Pakistan
- Wildlife Trade Committee- Dr. R. K. Sahu & Mr. Kartik Satyanarayan, India
- Law and Policy Committee- Dr. Ravi Sharma Aryal, Nepal
- Zoo designing of Enclosure Committee- Mr. B.K. Gupta, India
- Transportation of Animals Guidelines Committee- Mr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, Bangladesh
- Vandalism Control Guidelines Committee – Mr. B. S. Bonal, India
- Aquarium Committee- Ms. Renuka Bandaranayke, Sri Lanka
- Reintroduction Committee- Mr. S. K. Sinha & Mr. Sanjay Molur, India
- Fund Raising Committee- Mr. Abdul Qadeer Mehal, Pakistan

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

that SAZARC should establish an Annual Conservation Award for the zoo or individual who has contributed most to conservation over the years. SAZARC should create the modalities for this in consultation with relevant related organizations (e.g. CZA, IZA, BZA, PZA).

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

that the Draft Constitution and by-laws and Code of Welfare and Ethics of SAZARC submitted to WAZA office for purpose of membership be unanimously endorsed for the time being.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved that any amendment that is to be brought to same Constitution should be submitted to SAZARC Office latest by 28th February 2005 for review, distribution and finally placement of the 6th Annual SAZARC Conference for approval.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

that Aquaria be included in the SAZARC in view of the trend of WAZA and other national and regional associations around the world.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

that communication with South Asia's economic, social and political association, SAARC, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat for affiliation be undertaken by the SAZARC Secretariat.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

that communication and cooperation with South Asia's national and regional IUCN offices (located in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal (national) and IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme. Asia (Regional, based in Colombo, Sri Lanka) be continued and expanded by the SAZARC Secretariat.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved that SAZARC should coordinate among the SAARC countries for conservation and cooperative breeding program and would facilitate the exchange of animal between the zoos of SAZARC countries.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

that networking between all SAZARC countries and individual participants should be developed by the SAZARC office.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

to facilitate Genetic analysis of species as per requirement to the extent possible.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved

that the SAZARC office should establish an email-list-serve for its members and participants to make better networking and exchange of information.

SAZARC Conference 2004 unanimously resolved endorsement of three international activities and agreed to cooperate with these campaigns by involving the zoos and zoo personnel of South Asia to the extent possible. These include

1. The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Shellshock Campaign for Conservation of Turtles and Tortoises,
2. The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) campaign for Conservation of Rhinoceros, and
3. The International Zookeeper Congress. IZC. campaign currently based in Melbourne, Australia for highlighting the importance of and improving the professional competence of zookeepers.