Note On Olive Baboons Of Nehru Zoological Park. Hyderabad

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Olive Baboon

Olive baboons are native to African countries. They are present in Senegal, Zaire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania etc., They inhabit open plain areas.

Stock status

There is one male and one female in the wet moat of the Primate Complex. To change the blood line, Olive baboons brought from National Institute of Immunology are mixed with the existing animals to make a group of 1 + 3. Hence one male and two females brought from National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, are initially left in the animal enclosure in a separate cubicle on 22/12/99. Immediate mating activity was observed in this group in the cubicle. The Two groups were separately kept in the cubicles till 25/12/99, and are left out in to the open moat on alternate days.

Tranquilising the male

To avoid fighting between the males and also to make a single group of 1 + 3 the male of the original stock is tranquilised on 26.12.99 morning and removed. A dose of one C.C. of 100 mg Ketamine Hydrochloride was injected in to the male by using the blow pipe. The animal came under full sedation with in ten minutes and was physically removed out of the cubicle. At this time, the old associate female became very restive and aggressive. In the open moat also the female moved frantically to and tro for about 30 minutes before settling down to normalcy. The male under sedation has become normal after one hour. This male and two females from National Institute of Immunology are proposed to be sent to Sri. Venkateswara Zoological Park, Tirupati.

References

1. "Management of wild animals in captivity" Lee S. Crandall
2. "Guide to Mammals" Simon & Schuster's.

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Nandankanan Zoo still suffering from October Cyclone

The Nandankanan Zoo and much of Orissa's wildlife sanctuaries and a mini-zoo were hit very hard by a super cyclone end October 1999. The zoo was practically destroyed according to press reports. The cyclone uprooted 90 % of the mature trees in the zoo and caused the death of a lioness, deer, birds and other animals. As the enclosures were not accessible, it was not possible for a long time to obtain a correct figure for loss of animals or extent of damage. A number of reptiles which were kept in glass enclosures escaped but their fate is not known. For several weeks it was not possible to provide care for the remaining animals due to the obstacles in the way of reaching them. The carnivores refused food due to the stress they suffered during the storm.
The zoo announced that it would be closed for at least three months to begin clearing the wreckage.

Elephants from the zoo were put to work clearing roadways, removing logs, boulders and other debris that the cyclone left behind.

Both officials and zookeepers were emotionally devasdated by the dramatic damage which took place as a result of the natural disaster. It may take as much as 50 years to restore the zoo and sanctuary attached to it to its former glory as the vegetation was the best feature of the zoo.

The cyclone, which took place on 29th & 30th October 1999, devastated 14 districts causing enormous loss of life & property. Wildlife habitats also have been greatly affected resulting in severe environ-mental degradation which is a matter of great concern. Important areas which were affected include :

1. Bhitarkanika Nat'l Park and Sanctuary & Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary- nesting site of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.
2. Nandankanan Zoological Park;
3. Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary near Bhubaneswar;
4. Similipal Tiger Reserve;
5. Kapilash Mini Zoo

Regrets

Zoo Outreach Organisation regrets that no educational handouts could be provided to zoos this year for Animal Welfare Fortnightly. This was due to inability to receive foreign exchange. Welfare organisations abroad are still willing to give and we hope to reinstate this facility to zoos next year.

It is the first time in the last decade that we were unable to provide handouts, packets, etc. for this important event. Since 1989 ZOO has produced thousands of items per year and offered them free of cost to zoos who wished to celebrate Animal Welfare Fortnightly. The theme was always the same -- do not tease of feed the animals -- but the design, language and variety of items changed from year to year.

While it is unfortunate that we do not have our FCRA clearance in time to obtain funds from abroad, what is truly regretable is that no Indian organisation is interested to support such projects. This was not always the case. In the past the Animal Welfare Board of India and even the Ministry of Environment came forward very generously for such projects but not today !