



C.Z.A. SPONSORED TRAINING ACTIVITIES ABOUND IN 1995

The Central Zoo Authority is addressing the issue of Training for Indian Zoo Personnel in a big way. CZA is now regularly sending two zoo directors per year abroad for training. CZA has provided equipment and some funding for a Nine-month Wildlife Veterinary Training Course at IVRI. CZA has taken on the sponsorship of the Wildlife Institute of India Zoo Management Training Course which is held every year. Now CZA is sponsoring Regional Zookeeper Training courses at different zoos.

This section is devoted to the different training courses and what subject matter is being offered and the Resource Persons teaching it. Hopefully this information will serve several purposes -- to interest zoos who have not yet sent someone for the zoo management course; to interest other zoos in hosting a regional keeper training course and for our readers in other developing countries, as an inspiration and an instruction on how to set up training in your country.

ENDANGERED SPECIES AND ZOO MANAGEMENT TWO- WEEK TRAINING COURSE

From 27th November to 9th December, 1995 the 6th Annual Zoo Management Training Course was held organised by the Wildlife Institute of India, hosted by Mysore Zoo and the Zoo Authority of Karnataka, and sponsored by the Central Zoo Authority.

Every year for the past six years the Wildlife Institute of India Zoo Consultancy Project has offered alternate courses, one year for Directors and the alternate year for middle level managers. This course was for Technical and Curatorial Zoo Personnel.

This year's course was unique as it was the first year it has been organised without its founder, Dr. J.H. Desai at the helm. Dr. Desai put together the Zoo Management as part of an ambitious mandate given him by the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the auspices of the Zoo Consultancy Project of which he was Principle Investigator. The Project was to inventory all zoos and create a data base of zoos and their animals, investigate ways and means for zoos in India to become better coordinated, draw up a form for inspection of zoos and minimum standards, plan zoo management training and other activities.

The first Zoo Management Training Course for Directors was held at Nandankanan Zoo in 1990. Subsequently courses for middle level zoo personnel and Directors were held at Dehra Dun, Hyderabad, Madras and New Delhi.

In previous years Dr. Desai had been assisted by Mr. B.C. Choudhury who also did much of the work for this year's course. The new course Coordinator however is a newcomer to the zoo field, Dr. Ravi Chellam, Scientist SD and Coordinator of Research at Wildlife Institute of India. Both B.C. Choudhury and Ravi Chellam took the advice of Dr. Desai in organising this year's course. Chellam spent four months in the United States studying zoo management at the American Zoo Association's one-week management course in St. Louis, then at the Conservation and Research Centre/ National Zoo for practical training as well as New York Conservation Park.

The syllabus for the course was more or less the same. Some major differences were that there were fewer Resource persons with Ravi and B.C. handling much of the teaching load. Some new and young faces were added such as N.V.K. Ashraf of Coimbatore Zoo, R. Raju of Mysore Zoo, Ajith Kumar of SACON and Sanjay Molur of Zoo Outreach Organisation. Also the coordinators kept the participants busy with homework almost every night. There were many written assignments which were graded and commented upon with personal counseling.

Listed below are the days of the course and the subject matter with Resource persons.

Day - 1 Monday 27.11.95

Objectives of this training course. Binod C. Choudhury
Objectives and role of a modern zoo. Ravi Chellam
History, development, diversity of zoos in India. J.H. Desai
Introduction to Mysore Zoo. R. Raju
Tour of the zoo

Day - 2 Tuesday 28.11.95

Field work. Stores, supplies, ordering procedures, food preparation and distribution. Choudhury
Setting up a zoo. Pushp Kumar
Guidelines, principles and policies for an *ex situ* conservation programme. Choudhury
Housing and exhibit design. Pushp Kumar
Procedures and protocols for acquiring animals. J.H. Desai
Exhibit design - A slide show Discussion. N.V.K. Ashraf

Day - 3 Wednesday 29.11.95

Evaluation of enclosures, Field work. Kumar
Master Plan and Management Plan. Kumar



Participants in the VI Zoo Management Course held by Wildlife Institute of India.

Transportation of animals, Designing and labelling crates. Desai

New arrivals, Quarantine, Shifting to display area. Ashraf

Care and maintenance of primates. Desai

Organisation and Management of Personnel. Chellam

Day - 4 Thursday 30.11.95

Visit to the zoo hospital. Ashraf

Care and management of birds. Desai

Diet and nutrition; Hand rearing. Ashraf

Marking of animals. Choudhury

Health care and management for wild animals in captivity;

Physical and chemical restraint of wild animals in captivity.

Ashraf

Day - 5 Friday 1.12.95

Care and management of reptiles. Choudhury

Research in zoos. Ashraf

Care and management of aquatic species. Choudhury

Days - 6 - 7 Saturday/ Sunday 2.12.95/ 3.12.95

Field trip to Madras Zoo and Madras Croc Bank

Day - 8 Monday 4.12.95

Environmental enrichment in captivity. Chellam

Media and publicity campaign. Choudhury

Specialised zoos. Choudhury

Management of visitors, Preventing. Choudhury

Vandalism, Discussion. Chellam and R. Raju

Day - 9 Tuesday 5.12.95

Evaluation of reptilian enclosures. Choudhury

Modern concepts in captive animal management. Chellam

Record keeping. Stud books. Chellam

Day - 10 Wednesday 6.12.95

Zoo Education from 1800 to 1996. Sally Walker

Introduction to visitor attitudes, visitor behaviour and visitor

surveys. Field practical: Conduct a visitor survey -- Walker

Captive breeding and rehabilitation -- Choudhury / Chellam

Ex situ & in situ conservation - Case Study LTM. Ajith Kumar

Day - 11 Thursday 7.12.95

Evaluation of large cat enclosures. Chellam

Beginning with Bugs: First step towards exhibiting the largest and most important animal group. Sanjay Molur

Threats to biodiversity conservation Genetic Management of captive animal populations. Chellam

Evolving zoo management time tables. Choudhury

How to be creative. Walker

Practical activity: Create an educational message. Walker

'Front-end' evaluation. Walker

Day - 12 Friday 8.12.95

Evaluation of deer and rhino enclosures. Choudhury/ Chellam

Visit to the Natural History Museum

Visit to the zoo for the blind. Raju

Evaluation of the course. Choudhury/ Chellam

Role of CZA. S.C. Sharma

Valedictory Function

Day - 13 Saturday 9.12.95

Visit to Bannerghatta Safari Park

The participants seemed pleased with the excellent arrangements at Mysore and with the content of the course in general. During evaluation ways and means were discussed to make the course more practical.

Dr. Desai, who was snapped up immediately after his retirement from Wildlife Institute of India by the Central Zoo Authority as a Consultant, can feel very proud that the course he started can continue and evolve after his departure from WII. The Zoo Management Course is the first zoo management course which has been developed entirely incountry and to take place regularly in a tropical country. This is no small achievement and the whole Indian zoo community can feel very proud of this.