

South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation (SAZARC) Activity Report for the period October through September 2013 Sally Walker

ZOO & SAZARC Director attends Arabian Zoo and Aquarium meeting in Al Ain

On 12-14 December, Sally Walker joined delegates from throughout the Arab world and Executive Directors, Dr. Gerald Dick from WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums) and Dr. Stephen van der Spuy from PAAZAB (South African Zoo Association) in discussions to set up a Regional Zoo Association for the Arabian world. There were over 30 zoo and aquarium personnel from different parts of Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan and Bahrain. On the first full day of the meeting, guests and zoo directors from throughout the Middle East delivered presentations about their associations and zoos. The invited resource persons delivered presentations about associations and on the second meeting day participated in working groups to discuss if, when and how the Arabian zoos would establish an association. The meeting ended with an enthusiastic agreement to start an Arabian Zoo and Aquarium Association.

National Associations to be linked with CBSG South Asia

SAZARC, the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation, has been in existence for nearly 13 years. Sally Walker proposing to encourage formation of *national* zoo associations within these South Asian countries, so that they can meet colleagues of that country annually and follow principles of or similar to other zoo associations. Sally and another association chair (if available) are visiting the countries in South Asia region for which a national association would be appropriate. The purpose of these is to establish, strengthen and energise country zoo networks, which should ultimately result in greater regional cooperation and activity under the SAZARC umbrella.

Pakistan Visit by Ms. Sally Walker, 28 July through 03 August 2013

World Wide Fund for Nature – Pakistan invited Ms. Sally Walker to Pakistan to discuss the formulation of a National Zoo Association in Pakistan. World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-P) organised a workshop to this on 30 July 2013. The workshop was attended by representatives of National Zoos, including Lahore Zoo, Lahore Zoo Safari, Karachi Zoo and Lalazar Wildlife Park (KP), World Wildlife Fund, Pakistan. The workshop provided an opportunity to the zoo directors to share views regarding the formulation of National Zoo Association in Pakistan. Participants observed that establishment of a zoo association is critical in order to improve animal welfare standards, improve animal gene pool, and enhance technical expertise and conservation education programmes. Sally is travelling the region introducing this idea. Pakistan was the first country visited and the response was excellent.

[Detailed report can be viewed at www.zoosprint.org/2013/August/6-7.pdf](http://www.zoosprint.org/2013/August/6-7.pdf)

Kathmandu, Nepal Visit (August 8-11, 2013) by Ms. Sally Walker and Dr. Caroline Lees

The Kathmandu Zoo Director, Sarita Jnawali, had invited Ms. Sally Walker to discuss with selected government officers and discuss national zoo associations and zoo legislation. Dr. Caroline Lees who had been the chair of the Australian Zoo Association for some years and is now the regional convenor of CBSG Australia accompanied Sally Walker. During the three days, both worked through a number of topics with Sarita Jnawali, and met also with her colleagues at the National Trust for Nature Conservation as well as government representatives.

[Detailed report can be viewed at www.zoosprint.org/2013/August/1-5.pdf](http://www.zoosprint.org/2013/August/1-5.pdf)

Jamshid Noory, Veterinarian, Kabul Zoo visits India for advanced veterinary study.

Zoo Outreach Organisation organized training for a month in August 2013 for **Dr. Jamshid Noori**, Kabul Zoo Veterinarian to participate in a programme at Arignar Anna Zoo, Vandalur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, one of the largest and most highly regarded zoos in India. The training programme was designed and is under the supervision of the Dr. Thiru, one of the senior veterinarians and other zoo personnel. ZOO also organized a tour of different zoos in Coimbatore, Chennai, Mysore, Bannerghatta. R. Marimuthu, Sr. Education Officer at ZOO accompanied him. [Detailed report can be viewed at www.zoosprint.org/2013/August/8-11.pdf](http://www.zoosprint.org/2013/August/8-11.pdf)

WAZA's UN Decade on Biodiversity Projects

As part of the UN Decade on Biodiversity, WAZA has set up a 3-year multi-institution project *to understand more about what visitors to zoos and aquariums worldwide understand and appreciate by the term 'biodiversity'*. The project will focus on animal species, as this is the strength of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums community. Throughout this project a tagline "*Biodiversity is us*" will be used. This slogan is like a golden thread leading through all the tools developed and used in this project. It is the signature of the communication part of the project. The WAZA project has two parts: 1. Education tools to be developed by WAZA team (of WAZA's selection) and 2. a survey to a) understand awareness about biodiversity on a global scale and also to b) understand whether the tools that we will offer are recognized by the visitors. Survey: Chester Zoo, UK together with some external experts of the US and Europe have designed a set of questionnaires. The survey using these questionnaires has to be done before and after the tools are used in the zoo. The first survey has been initiated at Mysore zoo in September 2012 and will end at April 2013.

ZOO's Climate change network

The Climate Change network run by Dr. B.A. Daniel, Zoo Outreach Organisation continues circulating climate change news and publications to members which increase every week.

Director's CBSG WAZA travel

October 2012 – Sally Walker, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) Annual Meeting, 4-7 October 2012 and 67th World Association for Zoo and Aquarium (WAZA) conference, 7-11 October 2012 held at Melbourne, Australia.

March 2013 - Sally Walker and Sanjay Molur, regional convenors of CBSG South Asia attended the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group Regional Network meeting held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1-3 March 2013. Nearly all Convenors were present at this meeting. The purpose of the gathering was to strengthen, energize and inspire one another to make another big commitment to one of the most active specialist groups of IUCN. Every regional network developed goals and plans for the future four years and encouraged one another by sharing experience, tools, initiatives, and advice for implementing CBSG's activities both within their region and on a global scale. Sally and Sanjay benefited much by the meeting.

CBSG WAZA Mid-year meeting in Gland (April 13-15, 2013)

CBSG began with Chair request for the Regional Networks to i. engage in CBSG's global initiatives, ii. to help increase the diversity in CBSG membership, looking out for members outside the zoo and aquarium community; iii. Regional Networks to help implement the One Plan approach into workshops. We did not explicitly say this was a target for other Networks besides North America; iv. The One Plan

Approach to be put into a paragraph of standard text for ease of understanding;
v. Sanjay to make AZE posters for each CBSG Regional Network

Task Forces got an opportunity to give short reports about their work, e.g. i. Structured decision-making, ii. Branding; and iii. Conservation Welfare. The 2013 CBSG Annual Meeting was reviewed by Onnie followed by the AZE Initiative. AZE, the Alliance for Zero Extinctions, is gaining momentum. Now there are several projects in India. Sanjay Molur is associated with AZE which enables CBSG South Asia to also be involved. Onnie highlighted the importance of AZE which has a very rational technique for saving species.

April 2013 – Sally Walker, CBSG WAZA Mid-year Council meeting in IUCN offices Gland (13-15 CBSG midyear, 16 Ethics and animal welfare workshop), 17-18 WAZA council meetings. In the WAZA meeting Council issues were covered with Council officers and members discussing them. The day after, **WAZA's Animal Welfare Strategy workshop**, was conducted also in the same room. It was facilitated by Dr. Laura Penn, Ph.D. The workshop brought together selected persons on WAZA's newly created Animal Welfare Committee chaired by Council Member and Animal Welfare Chair, Dr. Susan Hunt, Perth Zoo, Australia. The participants included zoo personnel from WAZA Council and WAZA zoos, zoo designers and other experienced animal welfare advocates from Europe, USA, Africa and Australia.

May 2013 – Sally Walker attended the World Zoo Conservation Strategy revision in Houston, USA, 3-4 May 2013. A wide variety of zoo person had been invited to discuss the update ... some who had worked on WZACS before and others keen to help. It had been about 8 years since the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation strategy had come out and our fast-paced zoo world and real world had changed sufficiently to require an update. Sally represented both Zoo Outreach Organisation and SAZARC, both members of WAZA.

In previous iterations of the strategy ZOO had designed and brought out education packets and as well as summary for the WZACS for South Asian countries. All the WZACS chapters were covered with a précis of each chapter, an explanation of how it could be used in South Asia and information about South Asian zoos and WAZA.