

The magazine for Britain and Ireland's best zoos and aquariums

BIAZA

NEWS

Spring 2014 • Issue 2

2014. The year we
SAVE THE RHINO?



inside

- 80 years of Belfast Zoo
- The truth about fruit
- BIAZA Buy an Acre launches with WLT
- Gentoo does it for The Deep
- Barberry carpet moth

BIAZA

BRITISH & IRISH ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS



Cover Story calf

Animals like this rhino calf at Dublin Zoo may not be around in a few years if we do not take action against illegal wildlife trade.

Our Vision - To be a powerful force in the care and conservation of the natural world

Our Mission - BIAZA is a professional organisation which represents its members and promotes the values of good zoos and aquariums. It leads and supports its members to:

- inspire people to help conserve the natural world
- participate in effective cooperative conservation programmes
- deliver the highest quality environmental education, training and research
- achieve the highest standards of animal care and welfare in zoos, aquariums and in the wild

BIAZA is a member of -



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Breeding Specialist
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International Species
Information System
ISIS



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Association of Zoos
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EAZA



World Association
of Zoos and
Aquariums
WAZA



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news from the office



Dear Members

Over the past few months, zoos have had quite a bit of negative press attention and while we may have wished that the PR storm had not been quite so wide ranging, there are definitely lessons to be learned in terms of what to expect from media on a European scale.

BIAZA will be using our recent PR lessons to improve and strengthen our dealings with the media in the future.

However I have been very much heartened by the strength and positivity of BIAZA members. This was evidenced, not least, by the attendance of our members at the Parliamentary lunch event in February. While some of our European counterparts may have felt uneasy about facing parliamentarians at this point in time, BIAZA and BIAZA members hosted a drop-in lunch in Westminster Hall (see page 10). The event was very well attended and a resounding success.

This issue has been a joy to put together with the range of achievements from the new exhibits (pages 4-5), overseas conservation (pages 14 and 16), and native species work (page 15). I would also like you all to join me in congratulating the intrepid Kilimanjaro team (page 14). It was such an achievement for the whole team to make it to the top, raising awareness for the Pole to Pole campaign and raising money for their own specific projects. Good job, guys!

Despite much of our time in the office being taken up with extraneous events, the BIAZA office has still managed to make a number of resources available to the membership. This includes a new handbook for BIAZA members and indeed the new three-year strategy. This will be presented to the membership at the BIAZA AGM and conference in June at Yorkshire Wildlife Park.

In the midst of all the media issues BIAZA was asked to host a lunch for the President of the IUCN (report page 10). This was an exciting opportunity for us to meet President Zhang and find out more about his thoughts and ideals. Particularly interesting given that he is a Chinese president and his trip coincided with the symposium on Illegal Wildlife Trade (read our report on the situation facing rhinos on page 12).

In truth there will always be those who refuse to understand the mission, and the passion of BIAZA members and their staff. However we have demonstrated in the past weeks that we can act as a community, that we do achieve many amazing things, and I for one am proud to be part of this family.

Kirsten Pullen
CEO



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regulars

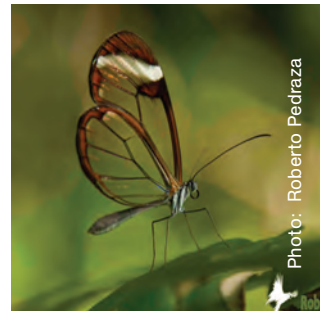
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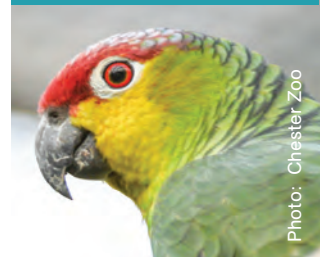
11 acre buy acre

WLT. Saving the world

acre buy acre

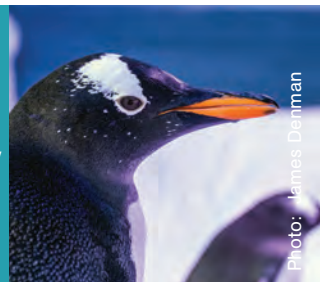
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Chester Zoo goes in search of the beautiful Ecuador Amazon parrot



17 Gentoo does it

The Deep in Hull takes delivery of 10 Gentoo penguins in the North's first Antarctic display 'The Penguins of Grytviiken'



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2014. Year of the Rhino?

Cathy Dean Director
Save the Rhino International

Our collective action – or inaction – during 2014 will signal the future for rhinos.

On 17 January, we got the news we had all been dreading. The Department of Environmental Affairs revealed that a shocking 1,004 rhinos had been poached in South Africa during 2013.

At least 100 more rhinos were poached in other countries last year, with Kenya and India suffering the biggest losses. The rate of poaching has escalated so steeply since the current crisis began, that this is the year when experts predict that deaths will overtake births, i.e. overall African rhino numbers will go into decline.

There is no silver bullet that would solve the problem instantly. Instead, we need a combination of approaches: law enforcement and biological management of rhinos, capacity building, coordination and community engagement, and demand-reduction programmes in user countries, primarily Vietnam and China.

We also need political pressure to enforce international agreements about wildlife trafficking. Between 11 and 13 February several high profile meetings took place in London, which aimed to tackle the illegal wildlife trade. This included a

two-day symposium hosted by United for Wildlife, Prince William's new foundation, and a one-day State summit meeting convened by William Hague and attended by 40 nations including China and Vietnam. This has resulted in the signing of the London Declaration on the Illegal Wildlife Trade.

Top of our wish list for immediate attention is that illegal wildlife trafficking is recognised as a serious crime and therefore is given the necessary attention, resources and support. Strengthening cross-border law enforcement is essential and demand reduction work with consumers will help to ensure long-term change.

To keep up to date with rhino news, please visit our website www.savetherhino.org, follow us on twitter @savetherhino, like us on Facebook, or attend our annual Rhino Mayday, on Thursday 1 May (details on our website).

Implementing controlled legalised trade

Hot Topic

The illegal wildlife trade is worth over £6 billion each year, with ivory fetching £1,200 per kg and rhino horn more valuable on the black market than diamonds or cocaine. Some believe a heavily controlled legalised trade in animal-sourced materials could help meet demand and generate funds for conservation. Others aren't so sure...

For...

The current ban on trade is not working – the illegal ivory trade has more than doubled since 2007, a rhino is poached every 10 hours, and the global population of tigers now stands at just 3200. Over 1000 park rangers have been killed over the last decade alone. It has been suggested that attempts by authorities to control the illegal trade have simply driven it underground and that legalisation would take control away from criminal syndicates, moving it instead to the authorities. By flooding the market

with confiscated animal products, their value would decrease, reducing incentives for poachers. Animals such as elephants, rhinos and tigers would also gain a tangible monetary value that could help motivate policy-makers and authorities to protect them.

Against...

The illegal wildlife trade will always undercut legal operators because the costs of poaching are so much lower than the legal alternatives e.g. running National Parks. Corruption within some authorities means that it may also be difficult to ensure that any funds are effectively channelled back into conservation. Authorities have been unsuccessful in policing the current ban and despite new technologies such as DNA finger-printing, it is felt that controlling a legal trade would be even more difficult and far beyond current capabilities. There is also the danger that legal trade may stimulate more demand, and many people feel that it could be more effective to reduce demand through education and dispelling traditional beliefs about the medicinal qualities of some artefacts.

