

will be Chinese – and in three or four years, Maple hopes to send a baby panda back to Beijing.

Abridged and adapted from Bill Hendrick in *Atlanta Journal Constitution* (4 November 1999)

News in Brief

Conserving black rhinos in the wild is considerably less expensive than in captivity, according to a study sponsored by the African Wildlife Foundation, which analysed costs and outcomes at seven sites representing various management approaches. The average annual cost of protecting one rhino was US\$1,657 in protected areas, US\$3,315–14,399 in sanctuaries and US\$16,300–28,176 in captivity.

African Wildlife News (Summer 1999)

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On 1 September 1999, the eve of his 70th birthday, William Conway stepped down as President and General Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society and Director of the Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Park. He joined the WCS in 1956 as Associate Curator of Birds for the Bronx Zoo, and became director of both the zoo and the society within ten years. Under his leadership the society increased its conservation efforts from six projects to 326 in 52 countries. Dr Conway will continue to advise WCS as Senior Conservationist. His successor as President is Christopher H. Smith.

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Two (0.2) yellow-throated martens (*Martes flavigula aterrima*) were born at Leningrad Zoo, St Petersburg, Russia, in 1999, one of whom survived. The cub was mother-reared. Yellow-throated martens have bred four times

at Leningrad during the last 40 years, but only two young have been raised (the first was in 1966). This species breeds in only a few other zoos – Novosibirsk and Ekaterinburg in Russia and Nikolaev in Ukraine.

Natalia Popova in *EAZA News* No. 29 (January–March 2000)

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In December 1999, a female white rhino at Werribee Zoo (Victoria's Open Range Zoo), Australia, had her horn reduced by 60 centimetres. She has spent ten of her 14 years at Werribee with a male rhino some five years older, and although they both regularly rub their horns on logs in their enclosure, the female's horn seemed to get longer and more tapered. In October four more rhinos arrived from South Africa, and the female's horn was shortened to minimise risk of injury when the animals are introduced.

Christina Dennis in *Zoo News* Vol. 20, No. 1 (January 2000)

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A highly endangered Hawaiian bird species, the puaiohi (*Myadestes palmeri*), is breeding in the wild after 14 captive-reared individuals were released in the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve on the island of Kaua'i, early in 1999. At least seven birds nested and four young fledged. The young puaiohi are the first endangered Hawaiian forest birds to be raised in the wild by birds raised in captivity. Apart from the released birds, only 200–300 individuals survive in the wild.

'Elepaio 59:6 (1999), 49–50

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A male aye-aye was born on 8 August 1999 at Jersey Zoo (Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust). This is the sixth

aye-aye birth at the Trust and the fourth surviving. It brings the total captive aye-aye population to 17. In August 1992 Jersey became the first zoo in the world to breed the aye-aye.

Richard Johnstone-Scott in *EAZA News* No. 29 (January–March 2000)

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The world's first known identical twin koalas, born in April 1999 at the University of Queensland, Australia, made their public debut in February. Female koalas have only two nipples, and frequently when an infant is born its mother is still suckling the previous year's offspring; so on the rare occasions when twins are born in the wild, only one is likely to survive. The fact that these twins are identical has been confirmed by DNA fingerprinting.

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The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo has agreed to allow over 100 animals in Kinshasa Zoo to be relocated to safe havens in South Africa and Zambia. More than two-

thirds of the zoo's animals have died in the past year, primarily because of ongoing civil disturbances and starvation conditions which lead people to look to the zoo's animals as a source of food. Animals still at the zoo include leopards, crocodiles, pythons, antelopes, various primates and some domesticated species. The plan is to move the primates to the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia, and the other animals to South African zoos and wildlife parks.

WildNet Africa News Release, 22 November 1999, reported in *Animal Keepers' Forum* Vol. 27, No. 1

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The World Wide Web's biggest reptile taxonomic database has been created by Peter Uetz at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany. The database, started in 1995, has photos of more than 1,000 species and gives taxonomic information for nearly all 7,900 living species of reptiles. The Web address is: <http://www.embl-heidelberg.de/~uetz/LivingReptiles.html>.

New U.K. aquarium website

Natural Habitats Ltd of Bristol recently set up a website to provide information on all the major U.K. aquariums, whether independent or within zoological gardens. In its initial form, the website offers a directory currently including 18 aquariums with details of location and special features. In the longer term, and depending on what aquarium operators want, the site has the potential to include regularly updated information on joint captive-breeding programmes, field conservation, marine research, etc. The facility is being offered to aquariums free of charge at this stage. Natural Habitats is bearing the cost of creating the website on a 'give something back' basis, though their costs obviously have to be kept to a sensible minimum.

The site may be visited at www.aquariauk.com. If you are an aquarium owner or manager and would like to add a page to the site featuring your own aquarium, or if you have any suggestions at all for the further development of this site, please contact Bob Golding, Natural Habitats Ltd, Charlton, Abbots Leigh Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol BS8 3PX (E-mail: bob.golding@natural-habitats.co.uk).