I would like to help

ZSL relies on external support and voluntary donations to sustain its valuable conservation work and scientific research, and to ensure our Zoos continue to engage visitors, inspiring future generations to protect and conserve the natural world. Whether you are an individual interested in any aspect of our work, or are involved in a company, charitable trust or foundation which shares our aspirations and goals, there are numerous ways that you can support the Society.

If you would like to find out more about the ways in which you can get involved, please complete the form below and send it back to the Development Department, c/o Lucy Cannock, Zoological Society of London, Regent’s Park, Outer Circle, London NW1 4RY. Alternatively, please contact us on 020 7449 6583 or email lucy.cannock@zsl.org for more information.

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Fast track
The opening of Cheetah Rock at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo was just one of the many exciting new developments at ZSL during 2008.
Sir Patrick Bateson reflects on ZSL’s many extraordinary achievements during 2008, across the various aspects of conservation, science, education and the Zoos.

Full speed ahead for ZSL in 2008

It is among the many pleasures granted to the role of President to be able to bring you our Annual Review. In 2008, that pleasure is even greater than usual.

The year has been an exceptional one for ZSL. We have seen significant conservation developments and successes around the world, we have witnessed great strides by our researchers and scientists in the Institute of Zoology, and we have enjoyed wonderful new attractions at ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.

First, however, I would like to pay tribute to our many staff, supporters, members and volunteers. The enthusiasm and dedication they display year upon year is the backbone of our work. Without you all, we could not achieve everything that we do.

The year was one of exciting progress at the Zoos. The beautiful creature you see opposite is a denizen of ZSL Whipsnade Zoo’s wonderful new Cheetah Rock exhibit, while the Blackburn Pavilion at ZSL London Zoo is now full of a magnificent array of glorious tropical birds.

Both new exhibits have offered a fine opportunity to develop the educational side of our work, and the interactive interpretation at Cheetah Rock as well as the fascinating ‘digital book’ at the Blackburn Pavilion are both good examples of what our Discovery and Learning team can achieve.

Science and conservation combined once more this year in the launch of a brand-new EDGE programme which, similarly to last year’s mammal programme, focuses on amphibians that are not just endangered but also genetically distinct.

As before, the long-term aim is to create conservation programmes in the animals’ range countries to protect those whose futures are in peril.

EDGE Fellowships will add to our growing conservation and scientific network around the world. In these fields in 2008 we became the first organisation to photograph the elusive okapi in the wild, discovered more about the pygmy hippo of West Africa than was previously known, established new programmes to protect the tiger, discovered a new fish species in the Thames, and led and participated in literally hundreds of other programmes of conservation importance.

You’ll discover much more about these many projects in the pages ahead. I’m sure you will agree with me that, across the board, 2008 was a year for ZSL to be proud of.

Sir Patrick Bateson FRSE
President, Zoological Society of London
As the human population continues to increase, and our use of resources grows at a similar rate, so the chance of long-term survival for wildlife and habitats lessens. How can ZSL meet this growing threat?

The challenge that lies ahead

The growing human population and the accompanying increasing need for resources, have been putting intolerable pressures on the planet’s wildlife in recent decades. A mere 50 years ago that population stood at under three billion. By 2000 it had reached six billion. In less than a decade since then, a further three-quarters of a billion have been added.

The world isn’t getting any larger to accommodate our increasing numbers, and so something has to give. Today it’s the wildlife and their habitats. Tomorrow it could be the human race itself.

As a result, maintaining sustainability is no longer just about trying to preserve what already exists. As the human population continues to grow, our emphasis has to be on finding a way in which humankind and nature can more successfully coexist.

Signs that the fabric is already beginning to tear lie everywhere. As climate change forces polar bears further south, they’re now beginning to come into conflict with other wildlife and humankind itself. As deforestation continues to devastate huge swathes of ecosystems, so entire habitats are beginning to disappear, and the natural barriers against the effects of climate change are starting to fail. As global traffic increases, so does the international spread of disease, and many amphibian species are disappearing faster than we can track them.

The latest IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (the world’s most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species), with great input from ZSL, shows that at least 1,141 of the 5,487 known mammal species are now threatened with extinction – and there could be many more.

This may seem a very gloomy picture, but it is a realistic one. This planet is, in fact, quite capable of housing many more billions of people alongside all its current wildlife, but only if we can find a way to coexist more successfully and with far less consumption.

There is a way, but it will take thorough research, powerful lobbying, practised conservation skills and a deep understanding of wildlife and its needs in order to develop it.

ZSL is uniquely placed to spearhead the search for a solution. With more than 180 years of experience in science and conservation, an extensive network of conservation projects around the globe, internationally recognised scientific leadership and the presence to educate and inform, ZSL can – and must – play a leading role.

Today the wildlife is struggling. Tomorrow it will be humanity itself. ZSL, along with many partner organisations and the support of people around the globe, is working very hard to stop that happening.
How ZSL is meeting the challenge

The challenge ahead is clear and the problem is increasing, but what does that mean in reality? How does ZSL focus to achieve the greatest impact on the conservation of animals and their habitats? Our overall mission is defined by four strategic aims, which help us to focus resources and efforts to achieve the greatest result.

STRATEGIC AIM 1

We will undertake and promote relevant high-quality zoological and conservation research, to help us achieve our conservation objectives and to inform and influence conservation policy.

ZSL will achieve this strategic aim by:

■ Encouraging and rewarding excellence in the performance and communication of science, conservation and animal husbandry

■ Using our unique convening role as a leading learned society to foster and achieve international excellence in science relevant to our core conservation priorities

■ Managing and developing a relevant and useful body of zoological knowledge

■ Attracting and engaging a diverse range of people and organisations in the science of zoology and conservation – from students to leaders in their field

■ Raising the profile of conservation issues and priorities, and ensuring they are well represented at policy level and in the media

■ Providing policy makers, conservationists and the general public with the information needed to make informed decisions on conservation issues
To encourage and motivate all our stakeholders to support and engage in conservation

ZSL will achieve this strategic aim by:

- Enabling and inspiring all ZSL staff, students and volunteers to become ambassadors for our conservation mission
- Running world-class Zoos with the highest standards of animal welfare, husbandry and exhibit design
- Ensuring that all visitors have an enjoyable, inspiring and educational experience
- Communicating science-based conservation messages
- Improving and developing our contributions to the education and conservation awareness of groups of all ages and to education providers
- Raising and maintaining our profile among target audiences
- Using our research and field activities to inspire and educate people about conservation
- Enhancing the value delivered to ZSL members
STRAATEGIC AIM 3

To implement and achieve effective and appropriate in situ and ex situ conservation programmes for priority species and habitats

ZSL will achieve this strategic aim by:

■ Ensuring that conservation efforts are informed by the best science

■ Applying objective criteria for setting priorities for our conservation activity and measuring against successful outcomes

■ Predicting, prioritising and responding effectively to new conservation issues

■ Working with other organisations and across disciplines to achieve our common conservation objectives

■ Measuring conservation efforts and evaluating their outcomes to enable more effective management

■ Developing our own and others’ capabilities, expertise and resources in order to build capacity in zoology and conservation

■ Engaging and working with communities in support of conservation and sustainable livelihoods

■ Working with government and industry in support of conservation
STRATEGIC AIM 4
To further ZSL’s mission by maximising opportunities to generate funds

ZSL will achieve this strategic aim by:

■ Making continued investment in our sites and infrastructure

■ Developing our business acumen

■ Building up and extending our supporter base

■ Utilising ZSL assets and resources to generate funds within the framework of a registered charity

■ Developing innovative opportunities to generate revenue

■ Raising our profile to increase funding to ZSL
JANUARY

Highlights

Launch of EDGE Amphibians
ZSL launched the EDGE (Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered) Amphibians programme, a conservation initiative, which highlights some of the world’s extraordinary creatures threatened with extinction.

Stocktaking at both Zoos
All keepers are involved in this annual event and we had a bumper year in 2008 for babies and new arrivals at both Zoos.

New elephant calf at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo
Donaldson, born to mother Azizah, arrived quickly after a short labour, while keepers kept a close eye on the proceedings. The calf was born after a 630-day gestation period and the birth was the first daytime delivery of an elephant calf at the Zoo. He is 24-year-old Azizah’s second-born calf and he weighed in at a healthy 103kg (220lb).

EDGE is a unique ranking system for highlighting animals in dire need of conservation focus, based on a combination of their Evolutionary Distinctiveness (ED) and their Global Endangement (GE). It helps us to pinpoint animals that are close to extinction, and which once lost leave behind nothing similar.

Following on from the great success of EDGE Mammals in 2007, EDGE Amphibians was launched on 21 January to huge media coverage. Features in national newspapers and BBC programmes helped to highlight the plight of many of the world’s amphibians to millions, and it wasn’t long before strong funding started to arrive. Already, four EDGE Fellows have been identified for the EDGE Amphibians programme and they are due to begin receiving support in early 2009. The programme will focus on the Sagalla caecilian (Kenya), purple frog (India), South African ghost frog and Chile Darwin’s frog.
This latter species is of particular interest, and Helen Meredith, Sally Wren and James Reardon undertook a three-week expedition to central Chile late in the year to survey for this possibly extinct focal species. They also sought to elucidate the reasons for its decline and train EDGE Fellow Claudio Soto-Azat in amphibian surveying and long-term conservation techniques.

Meanwhile, the EDGE Mammals programme moved on in leaps and bounds in 2008. There was an EDGE Fellows training course in late summer at ZSL London Zoo to provide training on various aspects of conservation, including practical monitoring skills, project planning, environmental education, fundraising, communicating conservation and conservation action planning. A host of expeditions were also held throughout the year.

One particularly caught the media’s eye, when the Institute of Zoology’s Ben Collen, Janna Rist and Olivia Daniel travelled to Sapo National Park in Liberia. They established a monitoring programme using camera traps, focusing on the pygmy hippo and other rare and threatened species in the area. Unique images of pygmy hippos were quickly captured, and the new evidence has been fed into a wider biodiversity monitoring programme at the park, run by the Liberian Forest Development Agency.

Other conservation work included a trip by Kate Jones to Thailand where she ran an iBats workshop on monitoring bat populations using vehicle-mounted bat detectors; a visit by Raj Amin and Carly Waterman to Sri Lanka where they met potential EDGE collaborators and Fellows to initiate the red slender loris project in the country, an important area rich in biodiversity; two expeditions to the Boni Forest in northern Kenya by EDGE Fellow Grace Wambui to carry out an inventory of mammal fauna in the area (which resulted in the possible discovery of a new species of elephant shrew); and an expedition to China by the Institute of Zoology’s Sam Turvey to investigate possible causes of extinction in Yangtze freshwater cetaceans.

**EDGE Amphibians** was launched in 2008 with great success, while the EDGE Mammals programme moved on in leaps and bounds.

**Top** Donaldson was an exciting and popular new addition to the herd at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo Centre Malagasy rainbow frog, one of the EDGE amphibians **Bottom** Stocktaking at both Zoos was carefully monitored.
The year began with a major planting of the Clore Rainforest Lookout, using plants from a sustainable nursery in Costa Rica.

The year began with a major planting of the Clore Rainforest Lookout, using plants from a sustainable nursery in Costa Rica.

January was also the month in which ZSL Research Fellow Trent Garner was awarded £1.5m from EU BiodivERsA for European chytrid surveillance and amphibian conservation work.

Furthermore, Chris Ransom organised a meeting at Portcullis House, chaired by Jonathan Baillie and attended by Barry Gardiner MP, CEOs and directors of NGOs and businesses, to discuss additional legislative options to combat illegal logging. A second meeting was held a few months later in the year to discuss draft legislation on illegal timber ahead of its first reading in April as a Private Members’ Bill.

The horticultural team oversaw the planting in the Blackburn Pavilion, designed and carried out the soft landscaping for the new Outback exhibit, and oversaw a developing role for plants in animal enrichment techniques and exhibit furnishings. At ZSL Whipsnade Zoo the planting around the new elephant arena, as well as the meerkat exhibit, were high on the team’s list for 2008. The Butterfly Garden was successfully revamped by a weekly horticultural volunteer.

At ZSL London Zoo, the year began with a major planting of the Clore Rainforest Lookout, using plants sourced from a sustainable nursery in Costa Rica.

Good progress was also made with the work on the Zoo Plant Wiki, a British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) Plant Working Group project that was initially trialled at ZSL. The team and contractors also nearly completed all recommendations made in the December 2006 tree risk assessment survey of the grounds and the car park.

**FEBRUARY**

**Highlights**

**Opening of Rhinos of Nepal**

The new Rhinos of Nepal exhibit at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo highlights ZSL’s work with the Nepalese government and provides a fantastic new home for these giants. The £1m development features indoor heated pools so the rhinos can enjoy wallowing in muddy water all year round. A spacious viewing area allows the public to get a close-up view of the rhinos indoors.

**Thermal imaging**

A set of thermal images taken around ZSL London Zoo showed the variety of ways that animals use or reserve their own body heat, from hot-headed penguins to cold-nosed sloths.

**Titi monkey makes an appearance**

A tiny red titi monkey was the first baby to be born in ZSL London Zoo’s new rainforest biome.

_Above left_ Thermal images, such as these showing tamarins in the Clore Rainforest Lookout, provided useful information for vets and keepers alike. _Above right_ That same exhibit also produced its first baby, a tiny titi monkey.
The birth of the titi monkey in the Clore Rainforest Lookout was just one of a host of significant births at ZSL’s Zoos during the year. Mammals included Panay bushy-tailed cloud rats, a warthog, two Sulawesi crested macaques, two white-naped mangabeys, two guereza colobus and a Malayan tapir at ZSL London Zoo, while ZSL Whipsnade Zoo welcomed a southern white rhino, a Przewalski’s horse, a scimitar-horned oryx, a reticulated giraffe, a Persian onager and a gemsbok. In addition to Donaldson, the new baby elephant, Karisha the elephant was also confirmed as pregnant, while Kaylee’s foetus appeared to be doing well. The new elephant arena was completed during the year, too, and the animals’ demonstrations went down very well with the public.

There were plenty of exciting chick hatchings across the two Zoos too, including toco toucans, a parent-reared hyacinth macaw, Mindanao bleeding-heart dove, Abdim’s stork, hooded pitta, Mount Apo lorikeet, hammerkop, Stanley cranes, smew, black-billed whistling ducks and rosy flamingos.

Significant breeding achievements with reptiles and amphibians included beaded lizards, red-tailed racer snakes, bicolored dart frogs, Saharan spiny-tailed lizard, blue poison dart frogs, Himalayan newts, rhinoceros rat snakes, plumed basilisk, death adders, emerald tree boas, Gila monsters, and Philippine and sailfin lizards. Breeding trials were established for the ZSL Whipsnade Zoo Annam pond, Kwangtung River and striped box turtles.

Not to be outdone, the invertebrates provided 108 daughter colonies of various corals in the aquarium, Partula rosea (extinct in the wild), Hercules beetles, imperial scorpions, Bermudian land snails and red barbed ants.

Great progress has also been made on the native species front, with an extra grant from Natural England being approved for fencing off the Site of Special Scientific Interest area at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.

Research is key to ZSL’s scientific endeavour, and an example of the kind of work undertaken by our teams was the paper published by ZSL’s Kate Jones and colleagues in Nature. It analysed spatial and temporal global patterns in emerging infectious
human diseases and revealed that most diseases come from areas where large human populations come into contact with areas of high biodiversity. This highlights the importance of managing human-wildlife interactions to minimise the risk of future outbreaks, and emphasises again the importance of conservation to human health and well-being.

It is important for scientists to publish in key journals, and ZSL produces two such publications itself. *Animal Conservation*, now in its 12th year, provides a forum for the rapid publication of peer-reviewed research on the conservation of animal species and their habitats.

The *Journal of Zoology* is a monthly publication dedicated to academic zoology. In 2008 ZSL launched the *Journal* podcast, which features interviews with authors of recently published papers.

The *International Zoo Yearbook* is an international forum for the exchange of information on the role of zoos in the conservation of biodiversity, species and habitats, and the timely focus of 2008’s *Volume 42* was the global extinction crisis facing amphibians, and the coordinated response of zoos and aquariums, governments, museums, universities, botanical gardens and private-sector collaborators. All volumes are now available online.

The *Conservation Science and Practice* book series has continued apace, with each title in the series addressing the multidisciplinary aspects of conservation.

Being published is one thing – giving speeches is another. Helen Meredith’s talk to 200 people at the ‘Life in Cold Blood’ event at the University Museum of Zoology in Cambridge was just one example of many presentations given by ZSL staff throughout the year, both in the UK and around the world.

**MARCH**

**Highlights**

**Sprinters speed in to open Cheetah Rock**
British Olympic sprint hopefuls, Chris Clarke and Joey Duck, cut the red tape on ZSL Whipsnade Zoo’s new £1m exhibit, *Cheetah Rock*. Visitors have close-up views of the fastest land mammal on their landscaped rock lookout.

**Secrets of the sky revealed**

The new £2.5m tropical bird experience, *Blackburn Pavilion*, brought the beauty and tranquility of the tropical skies to the heart of London. Its opening day was widely covered in the press.

**Pygmy hippos survive two civil wars**

ZSL conservationists set up a network of camera traps to monitor the endangered pygmy hippo, and discovered it had survived in Liberia despite two civil wars.

**Rhinos counted from elephant-back**

ZSL and in-country partners carried out a Nepalese national greater one-horned rhino count. More than 200 field personnel, with 50 elephants, implemented a standardised system for counting, and found 408 rhinos.

*Above* Camera traps revealed pygmy hippos in Liberia
The decline of India’s white-backed vultures has been shocking in its acceleration. Research carried out by ZSL’s Andrew Cunningham and collaborators revealed that its population has fallen by more than 40% each year, and has plunged by 99.9% since 1992. The cause of the catastrophic decline is diclofenac, an anti-inflammatory treatment for livestock. Captive breeding is now the last hope for these vultures and, encouragingly, two oriental white-backed vultures were hatched in Pinjore captive breeding centre and fully reared – the first recorded successful breeding of this species in captivity in the region. ZSL’s Andrew Routh has been a technical adviser on this programme. Meanwhile, construction of the first phase of the vulture centre in Kasara, Nepal was completed, with 14 white-backed vultures introduced there.

The opening of the Blackburn Pavilion was a true highlight of the year, and to date, even though the building has only been open for a short period, the exhibit has produced excellent breeding results. The building’s restoration, generously supported by the Blackburn family, has retained elements of the historic nature of the building while providing an excellent visitor attraction and upgrading the facilities for both birds and staff. The operation of moving the birds back into the house ran smoothly and the first bird released into the free-flight area was a Socorro dove, an iconic first species – due to it being extinct in the wild – to celebrate the building.

Work began to refurbish the aquarium too. Reproduction was very successful in the aquarium during the year, with six spiny seahorse fry being reared.

There were also the first eggs from the newly arrived endangered Charco pupfish, Corfu killifish hatchings, significant reproduction of programme livebearers, pupfish and native seahorses, with spawning also observed in black bar myleus for the first time.

ZSL staff were busy attending meetings around the world. These included input into a new Shark Trust strategic plan and application to the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Brian Zimmerman’s presentation on ‘Aquarium Freshwater Fish Conservation’ in Chester, a sustainable acquisition workshop at the International Aquarium Congress in Shanghai, discussions on coral trade issues, and Heather Koldewey’s presentation at the first Wildlife Reintroduction Symposium at Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, USA.

The surveys that revealed seahorses in the Thames were just one example of the underwater projects that formed a vital part of ZSL’s conservation work in 2008 – work that is increasingly drawing support from funders around the world. Alex Rogers, for example, was awarded £358,397 from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to assess the benthic biodiversity of seamounts in the south-west Indian Ocean. Seamounts...
host spectacular communities of corals, sponges and other attached fauna, along with a high diversity of associated species. This project will deploy the UK’s remotely operated vehicle, capable of diving to 6,500m depth, to film, photograph and sample species.

There was a further award of £344,680 from the European Commission for the CoralFISH project, which will assess the interaction between corals, fish and fisheries, in order to develop monitoring and modelling tools for ecosystem-based management in the deep waters of Europe and beyond. The project is a consortium of 16 European partners from academia and industry.

April was also the month in which a new six-session evening class on the animal kingdom was launched for all new volunteering recruits at the two Zoos. Volunteers are an integral part of the Society, and a new post of Volunteer Programmes Manager was created to demonstrate our recognition of the important role they play.

Throughout the year, 123 ‘Learning’ volunteers and 95 ‘Assistance’ volunteers were recruited, each receiving full induction before launching into their many vital aspects of work, which in 2008 included a presence in Meet the Monkeys and the Clore Rainforest Lookout, as well as Gorilla Kingdom and Butterfly Paradise public areas, providing live interpretation.

A similar role was carried out in ZSL Whipsnade Zoo’s Lemur Island exhibit, where two roles – Horticulture Volunteer and Graphics Volunteer – were created.

Groups of volunteers are always welcome, and this year the RAF and volunteering organisation Yu-Act provided one-day volunteer events to refurbish the railway station, remove scrub from the penguin pool and clear bamboo for the new butterfly garden at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.
Highlights

**Painless technique for blood-sampling zoo animals**

Vets at ZSL London Zoo employed kissing bugs as part of a revolutionary pilot project, to suck blood samples from animals who would normally need to be anaesthetised for the simple procedure. Kissing bugs successfully took blood samples from a hippo, cheetah, giraffe, elephant and white rhino.

**Recycled Sculpture Show**

ZSL London Zoo showed that modern art is rubbish, showcasing 21 remarkable sculptures made of recycled materials, including discarded hubcaps, plastic bags and old tyres, as part of the Love London Recycled Sculpture Show.

**New female gorilla joins Gorilla Kingdom**

New addition Mjukuu, affectionately known as Jookie, joined Gorilla Kingdom and proved popular with all the gorillas on the island. She was a hit with the late silverback, Bobby – the pair consummated their relationship 17 times in just four days.

Research continues to play an important role in the veterinary department and, this year, management of the meerkats and their diets has been one example of ongoing research, in particular with respect to their cholesterol levels. The department submitted a summary of this work for consideration of an award with BIAZA and received a commendation. Other ongoing research includes the use of a thermography camera to detect seats of lameness in larger mammals, troponin as a marker of cardiac disease, assessment of UV light supply to a number of species, faecal hormone levels in the female giant anteater and the value of sainfoin as a food for forage.

On the international scene, ZSL took part in the formation of a new Wildlife Health Conservation Programme, which focused on enabling countries throughout the world to address the growing number of conservation-related wildlife health challenges. Meanwhile, Richard Kock completed a six-week consultancy in

At the Mikongo Conservation Centre in central Gabon, habituation and research into gorilla ecology and health was ongoing throughout the year. A total of 254 tourists visited the site in 2008. Meanwhile, Stella Kondylas, a successful applicant to the ZSL Field Conservation Fund, spent three weeks in Gabon working on an eco-tourism strategy for Mikongo. The findings of this work and the eco-tourism strategy were presented later in the year.

Also in west-central Africa, collaborations with timber companies and local universities continued for the Wildlife Wood Project (WWP) in Ghana and Cameroon, with new MoUs signed with Pallisco and SFID companies in Cameroon. The WWP is supervising MSc students’ field projects and training them and timber company staff in wildlife-monitoring techniques and socio-economic investigation, ahead of making wildlife management recommendations to the companies later on in the three-year Darwin Initiative-funded project.

May’s pilot blood-sampling project was just a part of the expansive role of ZSL’s vets this year. Among the many intriguing projects was major surgery on a Jamaican boa that had failed to give birth, insulin injections for a diabetic crested macaque, surgery for a rhino’s abscess and continued veterinary care for the ravens at the Tower of London!
Gondar, Ethiopia, to produce a wildlife health module for the University Veterinary Faculty. He also spent time in Gujarat State, India, on request of the state government and Indian Forest Department, to examine the problem of nilgai antelope, crop depredation and advise on potential solutions, including capture and translocation.

In May Nepal was declared a republic. Despite ongoing political upheaval the Nepal Darwin Initiative project produced a number of key outcomes, including: a major census of rhino (and invasive species); introduction of new policy initiatives on anti-poaching and rhino sanctuaries; and a revitalised education output in the Bardia National Park communities, including the development of a significant community theatre initiative in Nepal performed locally in Kathmandu and around the Terai parks, attracting many thousands of people. The play was also performed in London and at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona.

Also in May, ZSL hosted an international symposium – ‘Avian Reintroduction Biology: Current issues for science and management’.

A second symposium was held later in the year – ‘Halting the Global Decline in Amphibians: Research and practice’.

For the first time in the corncrake project, chicks were blood-sampled for sexing. Eventually 94 chicks were released and 15 were kept behind for overwintering at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo for release next spring. The fantastic result of 14 males returning to the Nene Washes is hopefully the start of a sustainable population of corncrakes in South East England.

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo also saw the introduction of meerkats, in a new exhibit funded by Sir Donald Gordon. Four moved up from ZSL London Zoo, dubbed John, Paul, George and Ringo after the Fab Four.

Meerkats are extremely popular with schoolchildren, who flocked to both Zoos this year. In total, 102,388 pupils visited ZSL London Zoo during 2008. This is a record and exceeded the previous record set in 2007 by 4%. Meanwhile, 33,698 pupils visited ZSL Whipsnade Zoo during 2008, an increase of 7% over 2007 figures. At ZSL London Zoo, 431 outreach sessions were delivered to 17,115 pupils at 137 schools from 16 Local Education Authorities. A small number of outreach sessions were also delivered from ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.

There was a big move at both Zoos to introduce more experiential learning sessions – to get out of the traditional classrooms and use the unique resources of the collections. At ZSL London Zoo, new sessions included a safari at Into Africa, a look at birds in the Blackburn Pavilion, and the use of teaching areas in the Clore Rainforest Lookout. The Zoos continued to offer an Edexcel A-level science course, which increased in popularity in 2008.

**JUNE**

**Highlights**

**Corncrakes calling again**

Hand-reared corncrakes, bred at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, were successfully reintroduced at the Nene Washes reserve in Cambridgeshire. The distinctive call of this bird that had become scarce in England can now be heard again thanks to the successful breeding programme at ZSL.

**Giant butterflies land at ZSL London Zoo**

An exhibition showcasing giant butterfly prints, photographed in microscopic detail, revealing features like cells, hair and scales, launched in BUGS as part of National Insect Week.

**Keeper swaps Father’s Day for feathers day**

ZSL London Zoo bird keeper Darren Jordan became a surrogate dad to three young owlets. The first-time father, who’s worked at the Zoo for eight years, rescued the burrowing owl chicks from their underground nest box after heavy rains threatened to flood it.
course where students interact with ‘real’ scientists from the Institute of Zoology. A number of Animal Encounter days were run for schools from deprived areas. Classrooms at both Zoos were completely redesigned, with exciting new graphics, models and, at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, lifesize animal banners.

Teaching training programmes were further developed at ZSL London Zoo, with sessions for Postgraduate Certificate in Education students and links with London University’s Institute of Education.

Rosie Davison, a ZSL Education Officer, won the BIAZA annual award for the best formal education project for her work with a clinical psychologist on phobias. Commendations were received for the Edexcel programme and the Climate Change exhibit in BUGS.

A growing Discovery and Learning department needs funding and ZSL is pleased to report that the Mayor of London’s scheme to fund visits by Greater London state schools entered a new three-year agreement in 2008. The new Mayor, Boris Johnson, strongly supports the scheme as did his predecessor, Ken Livingstone.

June was also the month of the AGM and Sir Stamford Raffles Lecture, delivered this year by Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General. ‘Common Wealth: Economics for a crowded planet’ examined the challenges of sustainable development in the twenty-first century.

In addition, Scientific Meetings were held monthly throughout the academic year, covering diverse topics ranging from ‘Shark Biology and Conservation’ to ‘Biodiversity and Oil Palm: Integrating science and policy’ and ‘Saving Africa’s Athletes: Conserving cheetahs and wild dogs’. These increasingly popular meetings were extremely well attended by Fellows, conservation practitioners and scientists, and a lively programme of meetings is already underway for 2009.

Top Three burrowing owl chicks take a liking to their surrogate father Above A meerkat explores its new home at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo
JULY

Highlights

Health checks for the nation’s frogs
ZSL and Froglife called on the public to look for and report sick and dead frogs in an attempt to expand research into the state of the nation’s amphibians. The UK’s amphibians are being affected by two significant diseases – ranavirus and the chytrid fungus. Ranavirus kills thousands of frogs, toads and newts in the UK each year and the chytrid fungus, implicated in extinctions of amphibian species around the world, has been identified in the UK.

Zoo Nights at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo
Dom the sea lion was the star of the show at Zoo Nights, which was his first late-night experience. Tiger talks, acrobatics and a breathtaking firedance finale made for a memorable night.

ZSL works to understand strandings
ZSL veterinary pathologists were in the spotlight after 26 dolphins stranded around the south Cornwall coastline. Post-mortem examinations were carried out on 11 dolphins at the scene and more dolphins were transported back to the pathology lab for further investigation.

The Cornish dolphin strandings this month received huge media coverage, and this year the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP), coordinated by ZSL and project managed by Rob Deaville and Paul Jepson, received significant funding from Defra to develop a web-accessed database to allow the integration of all data collected on strandings of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) in the UK since 1990. The database will enable partner organisations to enter information on strandings directly via a web portal.

Elsewhere this month, ZSL contributed to the first-ever monitored translocation of wild ‘problem’ tigers for Indonesia (and only the second in the world) by lending our satellite radiocollar to the Indonesian government for use on one of two tigers translocated from Aceh.

Also in Sumatra, in 2008 ZSL established a base in Berbak National Park, Indonesia, and carried out exploratory survey work. Berbak is a peat swamp and extremely important for carbon sequestration. As well as basic protection and survey work in the park, ZSL is leading the Berbak Carbon Value Initiative, which is the subject of an application to Darwin for 2009-2012 and of a partnership with...
A cold spot where polar bears once roamed was heated up in August after becoming a new home to wallabies and emus. The Mappin Terrace, once home to ZSL London Zoo's polar bears, now resembles Australia's outback, emus and wallabies included.

**Highlights**

**Zoo Nights at ZSL London Zoo**

Another fantastic night-time bash, showcasing the Zoo to an evening audience. With a popular bar area on the main lawn and regular talks and feeds to show off the gorillas, tamarins, penguins and hunting dogs, there was plenty for everyone to see and do.

**First Green Fair at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo**

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo was the place to have fun and learn about how to be green. The Zoo's first-ever Green Fair had plenty to inspire and inform, including green trails.

**Excelsior turns 100**

The Jumbo Express celebrated the 100th birthday of the engine Excelsior with a special time-warp trip featuring explainers dressed in period costume.
SEPTEMBER

**Highlights**

**Flexible elephants**
The ZSL Whipsnade Zoo herd participated in a study with the Royal Veterinary College about elephant joints and demonstrated their flexibility and movement by enjoying a kick-about with giant pilates balls.

**Okapi caught on camera for the first time**
Camera traps set up by ZSL and the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) captured landmark pictures of the mysterious okapi in Virunga National Park – proving that the species is still surviving there despite more than a decade of civil conflict.

**BIAZA awards**
ZSL scooped a handful of BIAZA awards at the annual ceremony, taking away three awards for Best Field Conservation Project for Project Seahorse, Best Education Project for the development of the post-16 phobias session at ZSL London Zoo and Best PR Campaign for the Blackburn Pavilion. ZSL was also awarded seven commendations, including one for Best Sustainable Collection for the eco-friendly Rhinos of Nepal exhibit at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.

During a special event hosted by Sir David Attenborough, ZSL scientists reported that half of Europe’s amphibians could be extinct by 2050, due to factors including climate change, habitat destruction and disease, unless important steps were made in planning for future amphibian conservation. With generous support from Professor John Beddington, a new display was produced for the mountain chicken frog unit at ZSL London Zoo to highlight ZSL conservation and research into this species.

With climate change one of the main threats to amphibians, the Climate Change Impacts Group was particularly busy in 2008. The ‘Climate Change and Biodiversity’ database was further developed and distributed, a ZSL site-based mosquito-monitoring project was implemented, a display at ZSL London Zoo on the effects of climate change was created, and ZSL was commended in the BIAZA awards for our climate change visitor engagement feature in BUGS.

Back on the amphibian front, there was ongoing research at the Institute of Zoology into Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis, the agent of chytridiomycosis, the disease that has caused amphibian species declines and extinctions around the world. The research revealed the emergence of the pathogen in up to nine countries in Europe. A new Institute of Zoology collaboration with Zirichiltaggi SWC, a Sardinian-based NGO, led to the discovery of the pathogen in the endangered Sardinian brook newt. This discovery was cause for great concern, as the Sardinian amphibian fauna is the most distinct and highly endemic in Europe and B. dendrobatidis has the capacity to spread with alarming speed. Surveillance has now been established across Sardinia in order to monitor progress of the disease.

Following a three-month joint ZSL-ICCN survey of okapi and other wildlife of the Watalinga Forest in the northern sector of Virunga National Park, ZSL held a workshop in Goma to discuss the study’s results and produce an action plan for okapi conservation in the park. This was detailed in a report published by ZSL, available at www.zsl.org/virunga, where you can also read the DRC project blog.

Over 300 of Britain’s rarest ants were released back into the wild this month on Chobham Common, Surrey, after being reared in a specially-designed quarantine facility at ZSL London Zoo. Red barbed ants only survive on the Isles of Scilly and in Surrey and were reintroduced as part of a three-year project. By the end of the year it was confirmed that around 10 of the 20 released colonies were still surviving.

Additionally this month, the process of Field Conservation Education was included in the EDGE Fellows training course. The programme is a new one, and it aims to help Conservation Programme Managers, and others throughout ZSL, integrate human elements into their conservation programmes and projects. Understanding the human elements of conservation is central to the success of almost all ZSL conservation projects and this is now a main strategic theme in the new ZSL Discovery and Learning Policy.
Top This was one of the very first photographs of an okapi in the wild, taken by camera trap during a joint ZSL and ICCN survey in the northern Virunga National Park. Left EDGE Fellows get together. Right Sir David Attenborough draws attention to the plight of amphibians worldwide.

ZSL held a workshop in Goma to produce an action plan for okapi conservation in the Virunga National Park.
October

Highlights

New fish species discovered in the Thames
ZSL discovered a new species of fish in the tidal Thames – the greater weever fish. The fish was found as part of a two-year monitoring programme looking at fish populations.

New hope for the red squirrel
Scientists at ZSL discovered that a number of red squirrels have developed an immune response to the squirrelpox virus, responsible for huge declines in red squirrel populations.

New home for Kenyan rhinos
A milestone was reached in Kenyan black rhino conservation when the Tsavo Intensive Protection Zone was set up and a free-ranging rhino population was re-established in the park by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), ZSL and partners.

In addition to the discovery of the fish species in the Thames, an MSc research project was completed on the population increase of pipefish in the Thames Estuary linked to the population explosion in the North Sea. Further afield, Project Seahorse, BIAZA Best Field Conservation Project, also gained a further £40,000 from BBC Saving Planet Earth to support ‘Rapid Assessment of Seahorse Populations and Habitats Across the Danajon Bank (central Philippines) for Conservation Action’.

Heather Koldewey and Alison Debney co-hosted a well-attended scientific meeting at ZSL on UK seahorse and pipefish populations. A series of posters on Project Seahorse’s work in Europe was presented, and the documentary film featuring research by its biologists was awarded the Algarve Maximus Award for the media category.

Other fish projects included the Darwin Initiative Sustainable Management of Ornamental Fish in Mamiraua, Brazil, where ZSL is assessing the feasibility of a sustainable trade in ornamental fish, and a workshop on sustainable acquisition in aquariums at the International Aquarium Congress in Shanghai. In addition, the 11th annual Reef Conservation UK conference was hosted by ZSL.

October was the month that the 2008 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species was released, and showed that at least 1,141 of the 5,487 mammals on Earth are known to be threatened with extinction. ZSL’s own Indicators and Assessments Unit is directly linked to these issues, and work there in 2008 continued to provide clear evidence of how practical objectives can be underpinned by good-quality research. The unit facilitated the addition of 4,850 newly assessed species to the IUCN Red List, enhancing knowledge of poorly known groups of animals, and setting a baseline from which biodiversity decline can be more accurately gauged.

The development of scientifically robust global biodiversity indicators is essential to provide the information that underpins national and international conservation planning towards the Convention on Biological Diversity and UN Millennium Development Goals. To further this work, Jonathan Baillie and Ben Collen were awarded £184,800 from the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation to fund the project ‘Delivering the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and Global Biodiversity’. A website with an online database will also be established for Regional Red Lists, to support nations in understanding the conservation of biodiversity in their countries and at a regional level. The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation also awarded Jonathan Baillie and Ben Collen £271,950 to fund the IUCN Sampled Red List Index.

Finally, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, ZSL’s Tim Wacher conducted a two-and-a-half-week training course in mammal identification, which was attended by rangers from Virunga National Park.

Top Pumpkins were a great treat in Gorilla Kingdom
Above A monitoring programme in the Thames revealed a new species.
ZSL’s Jakob Bro-Borgensen discovered this month that male eland antelopes use a novel approach to entice females. Not content with the usual muscle flexing, they click their knees. The signal is used to establish mating rights among the males, without the need to resort to physical fights. Also in November, Jon Bielby organised and attended the annual swift nest box check at BUGS.

As the year drew to a close, it became clear that ZSL’s technical support is in much demand. Technical partnerships were initiated with zoos in Ghana and Nepal, with MoUs prepared for a five-year programme, while discussions and planning continued for a proposed Centre of Excellence in Ghana. ZSL provided technical support to a number of other zoos too, including Giza Zoo, Kabul Zoo and Lahore Zoo, through correspondence and visits. Funding was obtained from the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) for a project in the Zanzibar islands.

With the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Technical Assistance and Animal Welfare Committee, Nick Lindsay contributed to programmes in Romania as well as in Belgrade Zoo.

**NOVEMBER**

**Highlights**

**ZSL breeds rare snake for the first time**

Zookeepers at ZSL London Zoo captured on camera the moment a rare rhino rat snake emerged from its shell. This is the first time that this species of snake has been bred in a European zoo and has greatly helped with the captive breeding programme.

**ZSL opens photo archives**

Elephant rides through Bedfordshire are just one of the incredible images featured in historic photos released from the ZSL photo archive. The images are on sale through the ZSL print store at www.zsl.org/printstore.

**Model helicopter catches whale blows**

The inventive work of a scientist from ZSL was showcased on a major BBC TV series, *Oceans*. The innovative method of looking for whale diseases by flying a toy helicopter over whales’ blows to collect the gases and mucus that they exhale is groundbreaking. Scientists can use the samples to find out what pathogens are being carried.

Above From ZSL archives: two camels and an elephant are walked through Dunstable on their way to Whipsnade in 1932.
December

Highlights

Review of the academic departments

December saw the release of the results of the government’s 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). The RAE is a six-yearly review of the quality of all UK academic departments and the Institute of Zoology received an excellent score of 2.55, higher than comparable departments at top universities including Bath, Durham, Liverpool and University College London. This score reflects the exceptional quality of research being carried out at the Institute of Zoology.

Adopt a zookeeper in time for Christmas

For the first time ever, two of ZSL London Zoo’s zookeepers were put up for adoption to help raise extra funds for animal conservation. Mark Habben and Darren Jordan joined the likes of Lucifer the lion and proved to be successful adoption candidates.

Keepers’ Little Helpers return

The keepers at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo were given a helping hand to prepare festive treats for all of the animals at the Zoo. Every weekend throughout December, young visitors were able to become a Keeper’s Little Helper and make a unique Christmas treat for a chimp.

There was sad news at the end of the year when Bobby, the male silverback gorilla, died overnight after a number of periods of ill health throughout the year. ZSL was overwhelmed at the response it received from the public.

In Russia, our three-year Darwin grant for Amur leopards and Wildlife Health finished on 31 December, although work on sampling continued until the end of March 2009 with additional funds. A major achievement here was the renovation of a wildlife diagnostics laboratory owned by project partner the Primorski State Agricultural Academy.

ZSL London Zoo opted for a less traditional approach to Christmas 2008 and hosted ‘Jungle Bells’ – a celebration of all things tropical. The explainers led a fun-packed new stage show, and visitors were encouraged to bask in the humid weather of the Clore Rainforest Lookout, Blackburn Pavilion and Butterfly Paradise.

ZSL recognises outstanding achievements in conservation and zoological research through the presentation of awards and prizes throughout the year, and we round off our review of 2008 by congratulating the many people out there who are actively furthering our understanding and protection of the natural world around us. The awards are relevant to all levels of achievement, from the Prince Philip Award and Marsh Prize for best sixth-form project (won by Anthony Ng) and Charles Darwin Award for best undergraduate thesis (Janet Maclean) to the Thomas Henry Huxley Award and Marsh Prize for an exceptional PhD thesis (Dr Tim Hawes). Significant and original contributions by professional zoologists are acknowledged with the Scientific Medal (Professors Tim Coulson and Sunetra Gupta) and Frink Medal (Professor Tom Cavalier-Smith), while the work of eminent amateur zoologists is celebrated with the Stamford Raffles Prize (Professor Ted Benton). The Marsh Awards for Conservation Biology recognise achievements in conservation and research through its presentation of awards.

ZSL recognises outstanding achievements in conservation and research through the presentation of awards.

The prestigious ZSL Gold Medal was awarded to Dame Vivien Duffield DBE in recognition of her, and her family’s, long-standing and continuing support of ZSL and ZSL London Zoo. The ZSL Honorary Fellowship was awarded to Professor John Beddington CMG FRS, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and Head of the Government Office for Science.
It's a fact

Although keepers are no longer up for grabs, there are at least 17 different animals at ZSL’s two Zoos that can now be adopted.

ZSL Scientific Awards

From left to right: Brian Marsh OBE (Marsh Christian Trust), Ian Andrews, Professor Ted Benton, Dr Simon Jennings, Janet Maclean, Professor Sir Patrick Bateson FRS, Dr Stuart Butchart, Professor Tom Cavalier-Smith FRS, Dr Tim Hawes, Dr Matthew Cobb, Professor Sunetra Gupta, Nigel Robinson (Thomson Reuters), Professor Tim Coulson, Ruth Upsall (Concord College)
ZSL has achieved plenty of success in 2008, but there is still so much more to be done. Here we take a look at how we plan to take our work into 2009 and beyond.

Looking ahead

From 2009 ZSL will continue to build upon the strategic aims established in 2008. At ZSL London Zoo, the new children’s zoo, Animal Adventure, has been launched with great success. Animal Adventure gives children the chance to immerse themselves in the sights, sounds, smells and experiences of life in the animal kingdom. Meanwhile at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, the Big 5 is a celebration of five large and amazing mammals.

While the Zoos increase awareness of wildlife and the issues it faces, ZSL’s conservation and scientific teams will continue to explore and protect that wildlife across the globe. To showcase just two examples, ZSL will be supporting the Bangladesh government in its Tiger Action Plan through 2009/10.

We will also be helping Thailand incorporate our elephant conflict project into the country’s environmental plans from 2009 to 2011. In both cases, ZSL’s work will be directly impacting the conservation of endangered species at a national level.

In addition:

- By raising our charity profile and improving our customer service, we will maximise our opportunities to generate funds while further striving to improve our cost efficiency.
- The new corporate communication strategy will renew the emphasis on amphibian decline, the state of our oceans and Thames Estuary conservation.
- We will continue our commitment to field conservation initiatives, with focus on the South Asian Vulture Recovery Programme, gorillas in Central Africa and EDGE top 100 priority species.
- Priorities for action in the Zoos are the Galapagos tortoise exhibits at ZSL London Zoo and the improved brown bear enclosure at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.
- Engaging tomorrow’s decision-makers will be a major focus, building on Animal Adventure and the launch of a children’s zone on the website.
- We will improve visitor experience through better customer care and a new customer relationship database.
- Scientific priorities for the year will continue to include wildlife health and disease, behavioural and population ecology, and The Bushmeat Research Programme.
- We will play an active role in the celebration of Darwin’s bicentenary and through this we will enhance our on-site communication of science, in addition to a special programme of scientific meetings, symposia and awards.
- These achievements will only be possible with the continued hard work and dedication of staff and volunteers. To support this we will be continuing training and offering a professional qualification programme.

Left: Elephants in Thailand will continue to get our support. Right: Red pandas are just one of the many attractions at Animal Adventure.
It’s a fact
Through our scientific accomplishments and research, active conservation work and commitment to raising awareness of wildlife conservation in the UK and around the world, ZSL is perfectly placed to tackle the many environmental issues that lie ahead.
ZSL recorded a consolidated surplus on operations of £0.7m, but an overall deficit of £0.3m after £1m losses on the revaluation of investments. These compare with figures of £3.5m for operating surplus and overall surplus achieved in 2007, with only minimal losses on investments. The actuarial loss on the Pension Fund was £4.1m (2007 no loss or gain). This leaves Net Movement in Funds as a deficit of £4.4m.

ZSL remains dependent on its two Zoos for the bulk of its income. In 2008, ZSL London Zoo visitor numbers were 1,039,030, a decrease of 69,511 (6.3%) on the previous year, which was the highest for 15 years. ZSL Whipsnade Zoo visitor numbers were 468,669, a decrease of 6,953 (1.5%) on the previous year, also the highest for 15 years. The total number of visitors for the two Zoos was 1,507,699 (2007 1,584,163).

Income figures benefited from Gift Aid recoveries on day membership, which amounted to just over £1.9m (2007 £1.8m), and in total on all sources of income £2.2m (2007 £2.1m).

Both the Institute of Zoology and conservation programmes maintained their revenues with new grants received in 2008, but these related to specific projects and, while supporting the mission of the Society, they do not add to the overall surplus to fund future development.

Our costs rose compared to 2007, in areas that included utilities, maintenance, depreciation and revenue expenditure on new and existing facilities to improve the effectiveness of ZSL, as well as general wage and inflation rises.

The total capital spend of £6.4m (2007 £7.9m) included: completion of the new 2008 exhibits – Blackburn Pavilion (Tropical Birds) and Outback at ZSL London Zoo and Cheetah Rock, Rhinos of Nepal and Wild Bite Café at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo; continued commitment to improving the Society's compliance to the Disability Discrimination Legislation and its sustainability profile; and significant progress on the Animal Adventure exhibit which opened at ZSL London Zoo in spring 2009.

As a result of the stock market turbulence during the credit crunch and economic downturn, the value of investments held in ZSL’s Pension Fund decreased significantly and the fund fell into a deficit position. The pension scheme deficit of £0.4m (2007 £3.4m asset) will be held within ZSL’s unrestricted Pension Reserve. This leaves the Society’s overall General (Free) Reserves at £4.9m. The ZSL Trustees increased the funding to 13% in 2008 and further to 15.5% from 1 January 2009 to fund future liability levels. This will continue to be monitored by ZSL and the Pension Fund trustees on a regular basis.

Our main trading subsidiaries, Zoo Enterprises Ltd and Whipsnade Wild Animal Park Ltd, continued to produce results in accordance with Trustees’ expectations. The investment in the refurbishment and expansion of Wild Bite Café (formerly Café on the Lake) at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo was completed on time and has increased both capacity and our ability to produce improved food choices. Early results are very encouraging.

Trustees’ statement accompanying the group summarised financial statements

The group summarised financial statements are not the statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to the group statement of financial activities and the group balance sheet. The full Trustees’ Report and financial statements, from which the summarised financial statements are derived, have been externally examined by Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP and its audit report on them is unqualified. The full Trustees’ Report and financial statements and Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP’s audit report on them were approved on 21 April 2009 and 27 April 2009 respectively and will be submitted to the Charity Commission. Copies can be obtained from the Finance Director at The Zoological Society of London, Regent’s Park, London NW1 4RY.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on 27 April 2009.

Paul Rutteman CBE BSc (Econ) FCA
Treasurer
Group Summarised Financial Statements
Summary group statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year to 31.12.08</th>
<th>Year to 31.12.07</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£000</td>
<td>£000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incoming resources</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incoming resources from generated funds:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary income</td>
<td>2,727</td>
<td>2,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities for generating funds:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidiaries’ trading turnover</td>
<td>9,763</td>
<td>10,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and investment income</td>
<td>842</td>
<td>1,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incoming resources from charitable activities:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal collections</td>
<td>20,053</td>
<td>21,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and research</td>
<td>4,583</td>
<td>4,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation programmes</td>
<td>1,753</td>
<td>1,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other incoming resources – <em>Biota</em></td>
<td>539</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total incoming resources</strong></td>
<td><strong>40,286</strong></td>
<td><strong>40,107</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Resources expended**   |                  |                  |
| Cost of generating funds: |                  |                  |
| Costs of generating voluntary income | 604              | 591              |
| Fundraising trading: |                  |                  |
| Subsidiaries’ costs of goods sold and other costs | 7,093            | 6,941            |
| Other                    | 958              | 865              |
| Investment management costs | 28               | 31               |
| Charitable activities: |                  |                  |
| Animal collections       | 22,220           | 21,237           |
| Science and research     | 5,264            | 4,710            |
| Conservation programmes  | 2,646            | 2,062            |
| Governance costs         | 159              | 166              |
| Other resources expended – *Biota* | 615              | -                |
| **Total resources expended** | **39,587**       | **36,603**       |

| **Net incoming resources before other recognised losses** | 699 | 3,504 |
| Other recognised losses: |                  |                  |
| Loss on investments | (972) | (8) |
| Actuarial loss on pension scheme | (4,100) | - |
| **Net movement in funds** | **(4,373)** | **3,496** |

Reconciliation of funds

| **Total funds balance brought forward** | 50,167 | 46,671 |
| **Total funds balance carried forward** | 45,794 | 50,167 |

The above results are in respect of continuing operations. No statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared as all such gains and losses have been included above.
## Group Summarised Financial Statements (continued)

Summary group balance sheet at 31 December 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31.12.08 (£000)</th>
<th>31.12.07 (£000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>35,573</td>
<td>32,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>2,862</td>
<td>3,902</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>38,435</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,196</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>2,933</td>
<td>3,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td>8,894</td>
<td>11,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,398</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,342</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</strong></td>
<td>(4,629)</td>
<td>(4,697)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net current assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,769</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,645</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets less current liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,204</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,841</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</strong></td>
<td>(10)</td>
<td>(74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets excluding pension scheme (liability)/asset</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,194</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,767</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defined benefit pension scheme (liability)/asset</td>
<td>(400)</td>
<td>3,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>45,794</strong></td>
<td><strong>50,167</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted – General</td>
<td>4,949</td>
<td>37,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Designated</td>
<td>35,596</td>
<td>3,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted funds excluding pension (liability)/asset</strong></td>
<td><strong>40,545</strong></td>
<td><strong>41,380</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted – Pension reserve</td>
<td>(400)</td>
<td>3,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>40,145</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,780</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted – Endowments</td>
<td>986</td>
<td>1,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Other</td>
<td>4,663</td>
<td>4,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>45,794</strong></td>
<td><strong>50,167</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We have examined the group's summarised financial statements set out on pages 33 to 34.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements within the summarised Annual Report, with the full annual financial statements and its compliance with the relevant requirements of the charities SORP.

We also read the other information contained in the summarised Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Basis of opinion
We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 ‘The Auditors’ statement on the summary financial statement’ issued by the Auditing Practices Board. Our report on the charity’s full annual financial statements describes the basis of our audit opinion on those financial statements.

Opinion
In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements of The Zoological Society of London for the year ended 31 December 2008 and comply with the recommendations of the charities SORP.

We have not considered the effects of any events between the date on which we signed our report on the full annual financial statements (27 April 2009) and the date of this statement.

Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor, 46 Clarendon Road
Watford, Herts WD17 1JJ
27 April 2009
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Further thanks
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Above: The Blackburn family mark the opening of the Blackburn Pavilion after generously supporting its redevelopment.

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- Patrons enjoy exclusive insights into ZSL, including a special events programme

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**Trust and statutory support**
- The Mayor of London’s free school visits programme continues to go from strength to strength

**Unique events**
- Mitsubishi organised an employee volunteering day

**Individual support**
- Dame Vivien Duffield DBE received ZSL’s Gold Medal in recognition of her, and her family’s, support of ZSL London Zoo through the Clore Duffield Foundation
Our Vision
A world where animals are valued, and their conservation assured.

Our Mission
To achieve and promote the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats.

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