

SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS IN CONSERVATION

Significant Arrivals in Miami



For the first time in zoo history a marabou stork hatched on 2 February. The clutch consisted of two eggs, one of which was infertile. The chick is being parent reared on exhibit. This is believed to be only the second pair of marabou storks to have reproduced in the U.S.

An eight month old Matschie's (*Dendrolagus matschiei*) tree kangaroo is on exhibit at Miami Metrozoo.

The Zoo is participating in the tree kangaroo SSP. As a member of the SSP, Metrozoo contributed from the Zoo's Conservation Fund to assist with financing a survey conducted by the Department of Environment and Conservation of Papua New Guinea to count these animals in the wild.

The Zoo purchased two adult tree kangaroos and tried for two years to breed them. When it became painfully obvious that they were not the least bit interested in each other, the Zoo purchased a second female. The pressure of competition spurred the original female to breed with the male after all!

The joey has ventured in and out of its mother's pouch for almost a month, to explore a little, and then jump back in if spooked or just for extra security. The joey should be completely out of his mother's pouch within the next month or so.

When the keepers discovered that the first female had a joey in her pouch, the tree kangaroos were separated. While mother and joey are together on exhibit, the male and second female are housed behind scene. Their keepers are hoping that this pair will also produce a joey.

Javan Gibbon Born at ICGS

The International Center for Gibbon Studies (ICGS) recently announced the birth of a male Javan gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*) on 29 January. This is the second birth in two years of this species at ICGS. The dam is a 10 year-old Javan gibbon on loan from Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The sire is

a 16 year-old male Javan gibbon born at the Perth Zoo, Western Australia.

The pair were introduced on 18 August 1996. These two births demonstrate the first and second time the Javan gibbon has been successfully bred in the United States. ICGS houses 38 gibbons, this is the second largest group of gibbons in the world other than groups found in the countries of origin. There are only seven Javan gibbons housed in the United States; all are currently housed at ICGS, which is one of only four institutions in the world that houses breeding pairs of Javan gibbons.



There are only seven captive breeding pairs worldwide, with fewer than 70 Javan gibbons housed in institutions throughout the world. The Javan gibbon is the rarest of the 11 species of gibbon. The current census of the Javan gibbon in the wild is estimated to be 300 to 400 individuals. They are one of the 25 rarest primates in the world.

Endangered Species DNA Focus of New Team

The Zoological Society of San Diego and Molecular Dynamics, the California based subsidiary of the global biotech company Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, are joining forces to unlock the mysteries of evolution. Using DNA samples from the Zoological Society's "Frozen Zoo"®, the biotech firm will work with researchers from the Society's Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species (CRES) to sequence the mitochondrial DNA of endangered species.

Mitochondria, the energy powerhouses of animal cells, have their own DNA; which is ideal for evolutionary and conservation research projects because it evolves at a constant rate and is passed on through the mother.

Researchers from Amersham and CRES hope to use information gleaned from these studies to build a library of information which will assist zoologists and conservation biologists around the world to understand the genetic basis of species behavior, biology and evolution.

The collaboration between CRES and Amersham will seek to collect and sequence complete mitochondrial DNAs from one member of each of the 146 mammalian families.

The resources for this study will come largely from CRES's "Frozen Zoo®." Begun in 1976, the "Frozen Zoo" holds viable cell lines from more than 3,200 individual mammals, representing