

CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ZOOS

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Zoos have existed since many of centuries; lately they now play a highly significant role in conservation of biodiversity, through the captive breeding of species, research, learning and education of the general public. The responsibilities of the zoos have changed radically in the last hundred years. They are no longer merely collections of exotic animals held in cramped cages for the entertainment of the general public, but have vital roles to play in the conservation of extinction animals. Modern zoos have five main functions: 1) conservation; 2) education; 3) learning; 4) research; 5) recreation; (CELRR). The main role of zoos in conservation is the captive breeding, and ultimately reintroduction into the wildlife. All of the other roles listed above are essentially subsidiary activities that improve and assist the capability of the zoos to carry out there function, so zoos consider as a breeding center for the rare animals. Moreover, zoos play a major role as education and learning center. Education is an important part of conservation, as it is fundamental to increase the community awareness to the need for conservation. Beside the previous, zoos can play a key task in learning of undergraduate and postgraduate veterinarian students through courses that deal with wild and zoo animal medicine to augment their practical and professional skills as a professional employees. Zoos also serve as centers for research into the physiology, ecology and behavior of endanger species. The purpose of zoos as a recreation source for the public is necessary for protection by raising money to fund their conservation activities.

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