

Dominique Tropeano, Francesca Gale and Emily Brickell, Colchester Zoo, United Kingdom

Colchester Zoo carries out training workshop at Trikala Zoo

Staff from Colchester Zoo recently visited Trikala Zoo in Greece as part of a training and guidance workshop. Trikala is a municipality zoo and has been in operation for twenty years and it is yet to become an EAZA member. Representing Colchester Zoo on this visit were Dominique Tropeano (managing director of Colchester Zoo and chairman of the EAZA Committee on Technical Assistance and Animal Welfare), Francesca Gale (senior education and conservation officer) and Emily Brickell (animal records and research officer). The aim of the visit was to provide training to staff at all levels at the zoo and to make them aware of how the EU legislation will effect the zoo's operations.

Extensive and varied programme

Training took place over three days. The first day covered the EU zoo legislation, the EAZA standards necessary for the zoo to reach to the level of EAZA membership, and how Trikala Zoo can get involved and form stronger links with the zoo community. Organisational structure of the zoo and the current roles and responsibilities of staff were also covered. The group also had a preliminary tour of the zoo facilities. This provided the opportunity to get staff thinking about how environmental enrichment could be used to improve the current levels of animal welfare.

The second day of training focussed on education, conservation and marketing, as well as animal records, animal transactions and husbandry guidelines. These sessions reviewed what was currently in place and how it could be developed further or improved.

The third day covered staff training, human resources and health and safety. The staff also took part in an extremely successful environmental enrichment exercise with the tigers. This was followed by a health and safety assessment of the site.

The staff worked together to create a zoo development plan and a collection plan.

Continuation

Overall the whole visit was a great success, and to further the staff's knowledge of zoo management and general operation practices, a delegation from Trikala Zoo visited Colchester Zoo in June 2005: an education officer, an engineer, the deputy mayor and a manager of Trikala Zoo spent a few days touring through the zoo and spending time with relevant staff. •

PHOTO ZURICH ZOO

A lemur species new to science detected at Zurich Zoo

It is the Zurich Zoo's intention to show the ecological relationships in a rainforest as well as to support Masoala National Park in Madagascar with its two-year-old Masoala Rainforest exhibit (see EAZA News 46/2004, p. 21 - 22). After intense discussions with our partners in Madagascar: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Association Nationale pour la Gestion des Aires Protégées (ANGAP; Madagascar's national park service) and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forest, Zurich Zoo curators Robert Zingg and Samuel Furrer collected a group of ten mouse lemurs with the help of WCS and the Mitsinjo organisation in Madagascar. The new group of mouse lemurs, originating from the same region that Elke Zimmermann collected a group several years ago for Hannover Zoo, will increase the biodiversity in the Zurich Zoo Masoala Rainforest exhibit and will support a European breeding programme.

The lemurs were released into the exhibit after a quarantine of more than 120 days, and can now be seen during the nightly guided tours. It was a surprise that the genetic research by Kappeler and Roos at the German Primate Center in Göttingen showed that our animals belong to a new species. The new and very small mouse lemur (30 - 60 g) has been named Goodman's lemur after Steven Goodman, the well known scientist for Madagascar biodiversity. The scientific name is *Microcebus lehilahysara* ('Lehilahy' meaning 'man' and 'tsara' meaning 'good' in Malagasy). •

