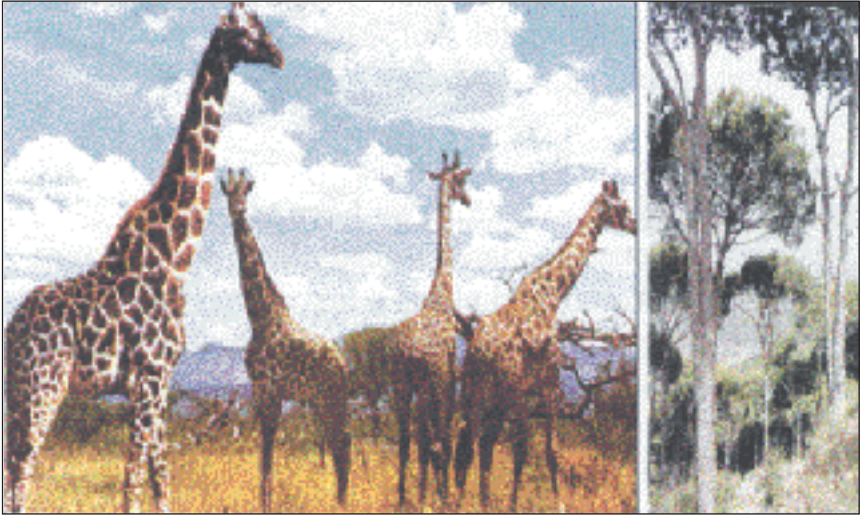




ROLE OF ZOOS AND BOTANIC GARDENS IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



The new role of zoos and botanic gardens

Zoos and botanic gardens are considered by universal thinkers and environmentalists as important means of conserving biodiversity. Zoos became not only places of entertainment and observing animal behaviour, but as institutions, museums,

research laboratories and information banks of rare animals.

Zoos and botanic gardens are small artificial forests in cities and places for animals, birds and reptiles in captivity, and centres for their reproduction. Zoos and botanic gardens are banks to keep sperms of rare animals and reptiles threatened by extinction.

Living in captivities and natural habitats:

Plants and animals face certain problems that need careful supervision if real biodiversity is to be maintained.

Plant species grown in captivity soon respond to their new habitat, and relatively quickly begin to differ from those in the wild. Great care and crossbreeding of stock between genders is necessary to preserve the full



wild variability. The same applies to animals bred in captivity, and animals breeders and zoos now have studbooks to major species and exchange breeding stock to prevent breeding problems.



Do you know?

◆ *That there are more than 1500 botanic gardens world wide. They represent one way of conserving plant species.*

◆ *That more than 50 percent of the seed banks at the international level are found in the developing countries.*

◆ *That the Aino zoo in the Japanese capital has conserved the sperms of eighteen species of monkeys to fertilise females in the future.*

◆ *That an aquarium has been built in the Japanese capital to conserve sea turtles endangered because of the decreasing Japanese shores.*

◆ *That Japan co-operates with the U.S.A. to have a complete archive for rare animals in zoos all over the world and already have information of 236 thousand animals of 6500 different species.*

Forbidden behaviours.....You have to avoid

◆ Throwing stones towards animals when visiting ZOOS.

◆ Pulling off flowers and plants when visiting gardens.

◆ Participating in any oppressive trading that deals with the leather and bones of rare animals.

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