

Zoo's Forest Observation Notes

The zoo area is 165 hectares, of which the forest area is about 75 hectares. In addition to Phoebe type and Oachestnut type broadleaf evergreen, it can also find some semi-deciduous broadleaf forest form; consisted of more than 10 species that have a preference for the sun and is a disturbance to the environment. Elephant's Ear (evergreen) and Paper Mulberry (deciduous) are the local dominant species of which, the existence of these early secondary forests is obviously closely related to the zoo area development. When we enter the zoo to explore the plant changing status of early secondary forest, we often can find some mixed mature trees of surrounding forests, such as Schefflera tree, Mori Cleyera, Roundleaf Rotala, White-flesh Fig, King's Fig, and some introduced species such as Toog tree and Flame Gold also join the succession series. These variety distributions are related to animal pollination, especially with the help of birds.

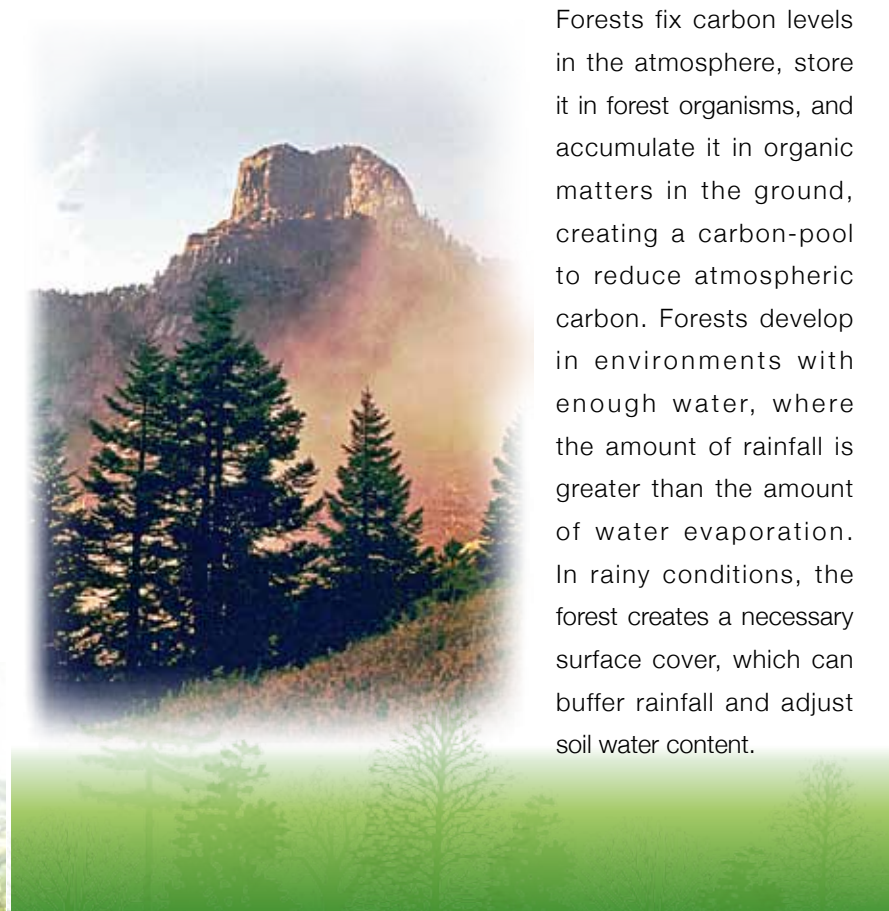


■ Chen Yi-ming and Zhang Xin-li

Some Thinking After Strolling Around the Evergreen Forest

■ Su Hong-jie

Taiwan is exceptionally rich in natural resources; more than half of its land is made up of forests and trees are able to survive everywhere we plant them, this is not true everywhere, as only about one third of the land in the world is covered in forests. Other land is either steppe/ bush or desert/snow, where forests can not grow. Forest plants absorb a large amount of water from the soil: Most of the water evaporates into the air and a small part is used for photosynthesis. The resulting organic matter not only builds up the plants, but also feeds the forest animals.



Forests fix carbon levels in the atmosphere, store it in forest organisms, and accumulate it in organic matters in the ground, creating a carbon-pool to reduce atmospheric carbon. Forests develop in environments with enough water, where the amount of rainfall is greater than the amount of water evaporation. In rainy conditions, the forest creates a necessary surface cover, which can buffer rainfall and adjust soil water content.

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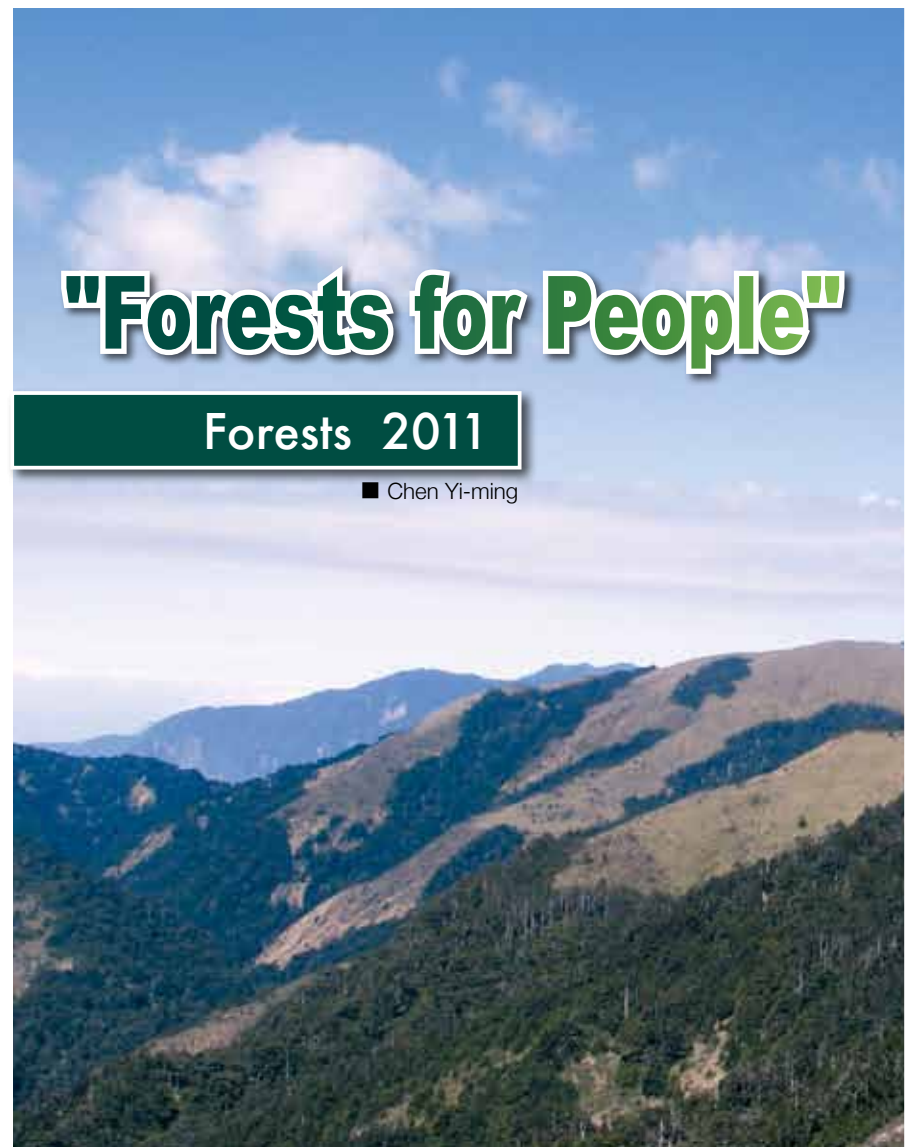
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Read more about "**Forests Special Collection**" special coverage in the No.123 issue of the Taipei Zoo Magazine !

TAIPEI ZOO PAPER



"Forests for People"

Forests 2011

■ Chen Yi-ming



The Origin of Forests 2011

The United Nations General Assembly No. 61/193 declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests in December 20, 2006, invited governments and other units of regional non-governmental organizations to make co-ordination and concerted efforts, to strengthen sustainable management to conserve all types of forests and to present benefits for the future generations. It is expected that the unique opportunity of International Year of Forests will raise public awareness, increase the understanding of the challenges that many of the world's forests and the people relying on it face, and encourage more public participation in forest activities.

Logo of the International Year of Forests is designed with the concept of "Forests for People", especially to highlight that people play a key role in sustainable management, protection and development in the world's forests; the logo shows the multiple values of the forests must be treated by 360-degree field of vision, emphasizing the importance of forests for well-being and quality of life of over 70 million of the population in the world.



Meeting the Corner of the Forest

■ Chen C-Hung

According to data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), more than 70% of mammals, 75% of birds, and 80% of amphibians live in a forest environmental habitat, however, when most people go into forest, they may hear a lot of insects and birds but it is difficult for them to find traces of animals. This is especially hard for the people who work indoors most of time, as their five

senses are not as keen as the people before them. It is a difficult task for them to find animals in the forest by themselves. However, as long as you are willing to explore and love nature, observation can be improved through training and knowledge of animal behavior can be accumulated through your experiences. Even in the seemingly chaotic Taiwan forest, you can find traces of a variety of animals everywhere.



Everyone Who Walks Through Must Leave the Trail Behind

■ William Chyi

In order to allow observers to appreciate mammals in the mountains and fields, one must be able to observe and recognize their traces, including footprints, animal tracks, excrement, bite marks, friction and food residues, etc., footprints being



the most common technique. With knowledge of these technique and good scientific analysis will help people understand the diversity of ecosystems and will produce more tour attractions.

Therefore, it is necessary to promote mammalian trace observation in eco-tourism; however, to observe the animals in the flesh, the Taiwan area of Taipei Zoo is a top priority. There, you can see animals and do footprints picture matching!

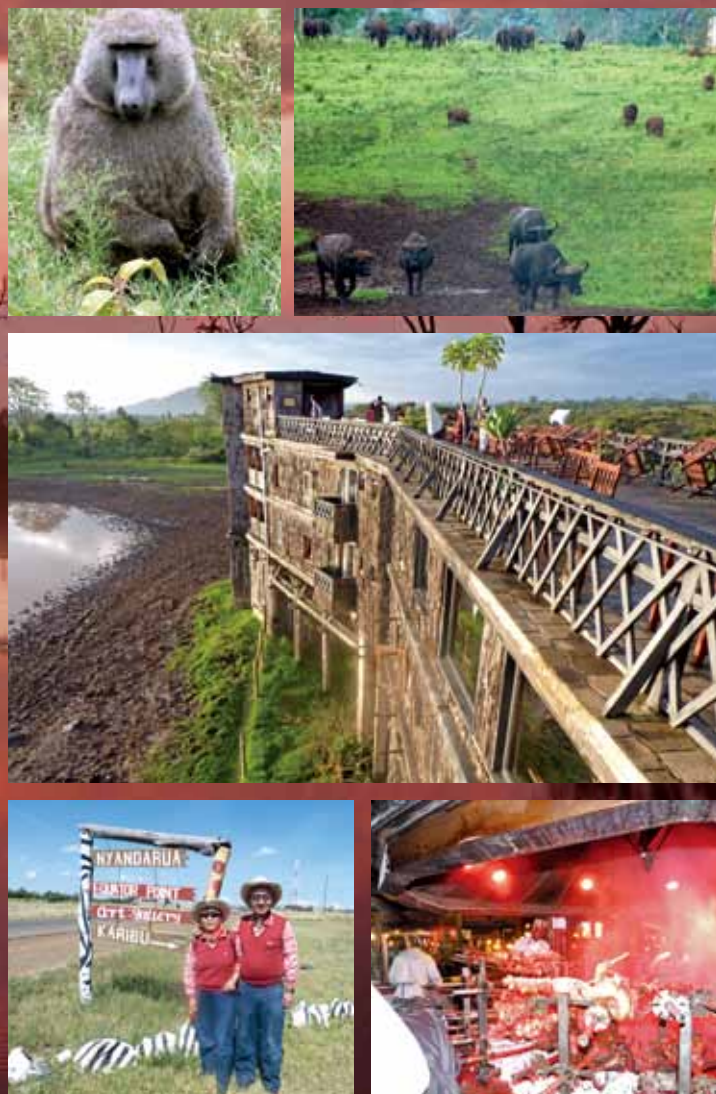


Kenya

Kenya Wild Animal Paradise (1)

■ Hung Li-wen and Wu Mei-hui

East Africa Kenya (Republic of Kenya, Swahili: Jamhuri ya Kenya), an area about 580 thousand square kilometers, is not only the world's leading wild animal paradise, but also Europeans favorite summer resort. It was vacation hunting place for many European, until the Kenyan government placed a comprehensive ban to protect animals in 1977. I yearn to visit Kenya for quite some time, mainly because I love wild animals. Wild animals gallop in the vast prairies and their large-scale migration on TV programs always touch me deeply. I really hope to "make pilgrimages" to Africa, to see the nature rhythms and miracles in person. Until November 2010, I finally had the opportunity to make the trip ...



Orangutan knows my heart ?!

Taipei Zoo Conservation and Research Center Summer practice results

■ Yu Ai-yun

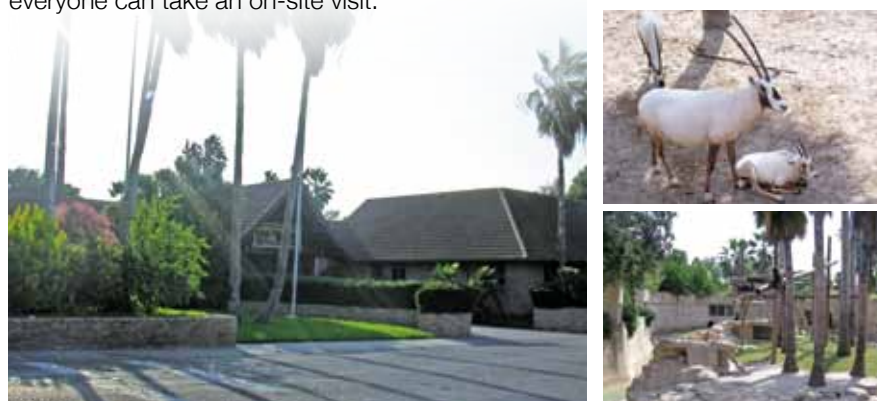
"Orangutan behavioral observation and behavior enrichment in practice" is for making the life of orangutans more "diverse" in the zoo and to improve their quality of life at the same time. To make their behaviors more like the wild animals, it is needed to give different behavior enrichment facilities regularly. We start with different sensory experiences: the "hearing", "vision" and "interactive game"; applying 6 different enrichment facilities. Take a look at our new ideas now!



Thoughts on the Texas Zoo Visit

■ Ye Zhen-ye

The annual conference of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (referred to as AAZV) was hosted at a holiday resort in South Padre Island, Texas, USA this year. AAZV is an important international wild animal veterinary medicine symposium, sponsored annually by different states each year; the conference gathers worldwide outstanding persons in the field of wild animals, and by means of seminar, practical operation, and published papers to pass down wild animal clinical medical experiences and to exchange the latest research results. The conference also arranged a visit to Gladys Porter Zoo located in the outskirts of Brownsville, Texas, which is a prestigious zoo in American wild animal conservation breeding and sea turtle rescue plans. Now, everyone can take an on-site visit.



-- The Promoter of Wild Animal Conservation -- the 3rd Asian Zoo Educators' Conference in Taipei AZEC 2011 @ Taipei Zoo

■ Wu Qian-ju

The purpose of holding the biennial Asian Zoo Educators' Conference (hereinafter referred to as AZEC) is to inspire, communicate and share conservation education experiences in Asia and to build relationships between zoo educators in Asia by means of exchanging and sharing

experiences to coordinate divergent view points, agglomerate regional consensus, innovate together, and cultivate Asian zoo educators' knowledge levels. In accordance with this purpose, the 1st AZEC was held in Singapore in 2007, followed by the 2nd AZEC in the Hong Kong Ocean

Park in 2009. The five-day 3rd AZEC will be held in 2011, sponsored by the Taipei Zoo. Let's see what will happen between the enthusiastic zoo (and aquarium) educators during this occasion !



Activities of Adopters Return Home Event 2011 Rural Eco-experience

■ Xu Fangling

The lunar "spring equinox" is the busiest time of a farm house every year, it is also the growth stage of spring crops. The Taipei Zoo especially planned the activity Adopters

Return Home 2011 this year—"The Fruitful History of Rice" Rural Eco-Experience, offering animal adopters actual practices of rice transplant and rice seedling raising, and by means of

a series of life experiences and parent-child interaction courses, hope that animal adopters learn the knowledge and skills of crop production and harvesting.

