

To: Board of Management

From: Robin D. Hale
Chief Operating Officer

Subject: **AFRICAN RAINFOREST PAVILION SOUTH
EXHIBITS REFURBISHMENT**

Date: 2010-04-23

Summary:

This report recommends the reallocation of funding for use at the south half of the African Rainforest Pavilion.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that \$309,000 be transferred from the Siberian Tiger Exhibit & Holding Refurbishment Project to the African Rainforest Pavilion South Exhibit Refurbishment project.

Financial Impact:

There are no financial implications to this report, as the required funds are within the approved 2010 - 2014 Capital Works Program.

Background:

The African Rainforest Pavilion South Exhibit Refurbishment project was awarded in the fall of 2009 and is nearing construction completion. The south half of the African Rainforest Pavilion has not had any significant public or exhibit area refurbishments since 1974. The completion of the Gorilla I Project in the north half of the Pavilion with new and improved habitat detailing and rockwork highlighted the need for the south half of the Pavilion to be upgraded to the same quality to complete the visitor experience and best display animals in their habitat context.

Not all of the refurbishment requirements in the Pavilion could be accommodated within the budget allocated for the project. Items not funded included skylight glazing replacement, barrier free access to the lower exhibit viewing areas, palisade replacement, and exhibit and perimeter wall upgrades.

Comments/Discussion:

The replacement of the Siberian Tiger Holding Building was planned to commence in 2010 with funding in the amount of \$309,000 allocated for this purpose. The Eurasia Redevelopment project is not scheduled to proceed to construction until 2011. To minimize the disruption to our visitors, better coordinate the work and obtain better pricing as part of a larger project it is proposed to undertake the tiger holding replacement at the same time as the Eurasia project.

By transferring the funding to the African Rainforest Pavilion much needed improvements can be completed in 2010, at a time when the area is already closed to the public. Completion of this work will ensure the Pavilion is fully in compliance with barrier free standards and other deteriorating building elements are fully repaired or refurbished.

Robin D. Hale
Chief Operating Officer