

Procedure and Process for Acquiring Animals from Zoos Abroad

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Step 1: Animals to be acquired should be part of your approved collection plan

Verify whether the animals you propose to acquire are part of your approved collection plan by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA). If not, obtain prior approval of CZA for your collection plan before negotiating with a foreign zoo.

Step 2: Negotiating with foreign zoo and obtaining veterinary protocol for importing animals

a) While negotiating with the foreign zoo, try to acquire at least 2 pairs or more number of specimens you propose to add to your collection plan. This will ensure that even if one animal dies during transit, you are left with at least three or more specimens.

b) While agreeing to part with animals, the foreign zoo would ask for veterinary protocol to be followed for import of the animals. An application has to be made to Assistant Commissioner (Trade), Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 seeking guidelines for the same. (Again, this again takes time, as one has to pursue it by telephone). All correspondence to Assistant Commissioner should be marked to The Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 for his information.

Step 3: NOC of Chief Wildlife Warden and approval of Central Zoo Authority

Once you have firmly entered into an agreement with the foreign zoo for an exchange, move the proposal to Chief Wildlife Warden of the State for seeking no objections certificate NOC from the State's point of view. Thereafter submit the proposal to Central Zoo Authority for their approval.

Step 4: NOC of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Govt. of India

As soon as Central Zoo Authority approves the proposal, move an application to the Director (Wildlife Preservation), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, New Delhi for obtaining a no objection certificate towards import of the animals.

Step 5: Submission of Application to regional office of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, MoEF for issue of CITES import permit and Director General of Foreign Trade for import certificate

a) Communicate your approvals to the donor foreign zoo for facilitating the issue of CITES export permit / NOC from CITES angle by their concerned CITES management authority.

b) Obtain a copy of CITES export permit from the foreign Zoo and submit an application to the Regional Deputy Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau of the region / port of entry (where the zoo is proposing to disembark the animals into India) for issue of CITES import permission. The NOC obtained from the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State shall also form part of the application.

c) Submit an application to Director General of Foreign Trade, New Delhi for seeking permission to import animals. 3 copies of ANF1 (Aayat Niryat Form-1) and 3 copies of ANF2B (Aayat Niryat Form 2B) shall be submitted with copies of all approvals. A copy each of these forms should also be submitted to the Joint Director, General Foreign Trade of the region where the zoo is located (Offices of Joint Director General Foreign Trade are located in most of state capitals barring a few.)

d) An Import Export Code (IEC) is required to be obtained prior to getting the import certificate. Government-run zoos need not obtain the same as they are exempted and permanent IEC has been allotted by DGFT. Private zoos run by registered societies and trust also need not obtain IEC (exemption for the same has to be obtained by informing the DGFT that animals being imported are not for commercial purpose- visit DGFT website for details)

Step 6: Engaging a Customs House Agent (CHA) for helping in airport quarantine, CITES and customs clearance

Once all above permissions are in place and dates finalised for import of animals, hire a registered Customs house agent (CHA) having prior knowledge of dealing in customs clearance of animals. (Help of Regional Animal Quarantine Officer at the airport could also be obtained for identifying a responsible CHA of experience.) A copy of the veterinary certificate of the animals being imported should be obtained from the foreign zoo and submitted to the Regional Animal Quarantine Officer beforehand. This will facilitate faster release of animals at the airport.

It is mandatory to keep imported animals under quarantine at the port of entry for a minimum period of 30 days before they can be taken to the zoo. However, it has been noted that most of the time, the expected holding facility for animals at the quarantine centre does not exist. Thus the zoo themselves take responsibility for keeping the animals under quarantine in their campus. A letter from the veterinary officer of the zoo would be required declaring that proper quarantine arrangements exist in the zoo and submitted to the Regional Animal Quarantine Officer beforehand.

Step 7: Transportation of animals from airport

If your zoo happens to be near the international airport or port of entry, transportation of the animals can be carried out on a truck. One has to ensure that prior to loading of animals the truck should be sterilized.

If one is proposing to carry animals a long distance (1000km or more), Indian railways is always preferable, as animals will be subject to less stress. However, prior permission of the concerned regional railways must be obtained. Generally the Chief Commercial manager of the concerned zone or region deals with the matter.

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Secondly, the Animal Welfare Board of India has brought in legislation for transportation of animals by road and railways. Therefore before embarking upon transportation, one has to obtain prior permission of the board or from a recognized animal welfare officer on the prescribed form. This is mandatory for transporting animals by Rail.

Important Notes:

It is mandatory to obtain prior NOC from the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden of the state before applying to Central Zoo Authority.

It is mandatory to seek prior permission of the Central Zoo Authority for importing any animal into an Indian Zoo. Very young and very old animals should not be imported. The animals should have been properly weaned and need not depend on their mothers for food. The importing zoo

should obtain detailed history sheets of the animals being acquired prior to agreeing to receive them. (All accredited zoos in the world are on the ISIS data base and maintain records as per the ISIS norms.)

If the importing zoo is receiving exotic animals for first time, they must train their keepers on husbandry matters for those species either at the exporting zoo or in any Indian zoo having the animals before bringing the animals to the zoo.

Zoos are exempted from payment of customs duty for import of animals into India.

As permissions are required to be obtained from multifarious government agencies, continuous persuasion is required.

Announcement: Save Western Ghats Meet

Date: 30th Nov. to 2nd Dec. 2012.

Venue: Mahabaleshwar Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Complex

Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF) in collaboration with Save the Western Ghats group is happy to announce the celebrations of 25years of Save the Western Ghats March. A meeting of civil society organizations will be organized from 30th Nov. to 2nd Dec. 2012.



'This Conclave is open to all the stakeholders of the Western Ghats including researchers, activists, academicians, artists, students and all Environment Lovers and Nature Enthusiasts'

The celebration named as "Practitioners' Conclave" aims at bringing together Civil Society members and a range of stakeholder groups active in the Western Ghats landscape to share their experiences, deliberate on new policies, social , ecological and economic issues and most importantly to discuss strategies and solutions for the pressing environmental and social issues from this important landscape. The meeting will carve new partnerships & strengthen the existing ones.