

News of Central Zoo Authority (Ministry of Environment & Forests) -- Guidelines for Exchange or Transfer of Animals between Zoos



Preamble:

Initially the zoos were functioning as Centres for exhibition of wild animals for satisfying the curiosity of the visitors. Over a period of time, their role has changed from mere exhibition centres to centres of conservation. The new role has put upon the zoos a responsibility of providing the animals in their stock better housing and upkeep which can ensure that there are no premature deaths and the animals live a quality life of adequate longevity. Such measures are crucial for developing self-sustaining population of endangered species in zoos and provide viable groups of compatible animals of breeding age. This objective can be achieved only through expeditious transfer/ exchange of animals from one zoo to another. Keeping single animals or unpaired animals merely for the sake of increasing the number of species on display is counter productive. The zoo owners and zoo managers have to respond to the need for conservation of various species of wild animals and contribute to it by way of donating and loaning or giving in exchange of some other species, the single/ unpaired and surplus animals of endangered species for the conservation programmes identified by the Central Zoo Authority.

The Central Zoo Authority will take every care that all the Zoos are benefited from the exchange programme. To achieve this goal, following guidelines are being issued:

Guidelines:

1. The exchange proposals submitted by zoos will be decided primarily on the basis of the housing and upkeep facilities available at the recipient zoo and viability of the species population group at the donating zoo.
2. Single animals, unpaired animals and animals in non-viable groups will be transferred to zoos with appropriate housing and upkeep facilities. Preference has to be given to the zoos in the normal habitat range of the species concerned.
3. While approving exchange programme the past track record of the zoo with regard to success in breeding and infant healthcare and upkeep shall be given proper weight age.
4. Animals of wild origin shall be treated as precious commodity and their heterozygosity and genetic variability to an optimum level. Such animals shall not be permitted to stagnate at rescue centres/mini zoos.
5. All animals of endangered species shall be marked or implanted with a microchip and detailed stud book for such animals maintained. When approving the exchange

PROFORMA FOR EXCHANGE OF ANIMALS BETWEEN ZOOS	
Details about species to be given	Details about species to be acquired
A. General Name of the species Number of individuals in stock and sex ratio Number of individuals to be given and sex ratio	A. General Name of the species Number of individuals already in stock and sex ratio Number of individuals to be acquired and sex ratio
B. Animal Details 1. Age 2. Specify whether wild origin/captive bred and generation (F1, F2) 3. Breeding record (whether sired/ given birth) 4. Studbook number (national/international) 5. Whether marked, then specify (Transponder no./ring/tag etc)	B. Animal Details 1. Age 2. Specify whether wild origin/captive bred and generation (F1, F2) 3. Breeding record (whether sired/given birth) 4. Studbook number (national/international) 5. Whether marked, then specify (Transponder no./ring/tag etc)
C. Purpose 1. Breeding 2. over crowding/surplus 3. single or unpaired 4. other	C. Purpose 1. Breeding/introduce new blood 2. Pairing / Provide mate 3. Forming social group/viable population 4. other
D. Nature of housing 1. Open air/ Closed (specify area in sq.mts.) 2. Feeding cells/ kraal (specify dimension in mts.) and number of cells/kraal	D. Nature of housing 1. Open air/ Closed (specify area in sq.mts.) 2. Feeding cells/kraal (specify dimension in mts.) and number of cells/kraal
E. History of the zoo in: 1. Upkeep 2. Breeding 3. Infant care 4. Mortality	E. History of the zoo in: 1. Upkeep 2. Breeding 3. Infant care 4. Mortality

proposal due safeguard shall be taken to prevent breeding the animal from the same lineage.

6. Random removal of animals from a breeding group/ herd will not be permitted. Preferably only sub-adults shall be removed and allowed for exchange or transfer.

7. Exchange of animals to zoos outside India, shall be permitted only if it is in over all interest of the conservation of species concerned and also helpful in enriching the population of indigenous species in the country.

8. Import of exotic animals in non viable numbers shall be avoided. Such imports will be permitted only for planned breeding of species identified by Central Zoo Authority.

9. Prior to entering into an exchange with a foreign zoo, the antecedents of the foreign zoo and the nature of housing and health care facility available in the zoo shall be verified.

10. The donating zoo must provide all the details of the animal such as date of birth/ estimated age, feed chart, healthcare measures adopted etc. along with the animal while making transaction with the recipient zoo.

Note: The Member Secretary may issue approval of Central Zoo Authority for exchange proposal which satisfy the guidelines, with the approval of the Chairman Technical Committee, if cases are urgent and meeting of the committee is not likely to be held immediately. However, ex-post facto approval will be taken for all such proposals in the next meeting of the committee

Research activities of CZA



In pursuance of the National Zoo Policy objectives, to provide opportunities for scientific studies useful for conservation in general and creation of data base sharing between agencies involved in *ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation and the matter relating to supporting scientific and innovative works in Indian zoos, the Central Zoo Authority in its meeting held on 27.1.2005 decided to constitute a Sub-Committee on Research to identify the areas of zoo management that need to be addressed through scientific studies. As a result of this decision, a Sub-Committee of the five members with specific Terms of References, was constituted : S. K. Patnaik, Dr. Rahul Kaul, Dr. Mathew C. John, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority.

The terms of reference of the said Sub-Committee are to:

1. Identify the areas of zoo management that need to be addressed through research.
2. Invite proposals from identified institutions/zoos for initiating research.
3. Make suggestions to the Technical Committee for providing necessary grants to the institutions/zoos so identified for initiating research programmes.
4. Make suggestions to the Technical Committee for commending/ supporting innovative activities undertaken by Indian zoos, and
5. Monitor the progress of the research programmes.

Research activities undertaken :

To bring in holistic development of zoos in India and to infuse more technical and scientific culture in operation of our zoos, the CZA has decided to initiate scientific studies in some areas of zoo management involving scientists/ Institutions working in the field of wildlife conservation or related fields of animal science. Some of the areas/ field along with the institutions dealing with the issues taken up

for conducting such studies are, **Zoo Design and Architecture** – School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi; **Standardization of Animal Diet in Captive Conditions** – National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bangalore; **Disease Diagnosis & Cure** - Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly; **Use of Bio-Technological Interventions** – Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology, Hyderabad; **Zoo Education & Interpretation** – Centre for Environmental Education, Ahmedabad and **Training for Zoo Personnel, Stakeholders and Policymakers** – Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has also been asked to have a **Studbook Cell** for maintenance of National Studbooks for the endangered animal species kept in Indian Zoos.

The CZA has also decided to grant **Small Grants Fellowships** for initiating research activities at the Zoo level to address to the local issues related to *ex-situ* wildlife conservation. The Authority has also initiated an **Annual CZA Award** in appreciation of most innovative works in Indian zoos.

In order to infuse new technology in the field of assisted reproduction and molecular characterization of endangered species, a Laboratory (**Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species – LaCONES**) has been established at Hyderabad in collaboration with the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, Department of Forests, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Department of Bio-technology, Government of India and Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). The Laboratory has already standardised signature of 2000 species of wild animals. Research activities in the field of Assisted Reproduction (AR) have been initiated in vultures. Births through AR technique have been achieved in ungulates like black buck and spotted deer. Efforts to breed large cats through AR technique are also under way.

CZA Supporting Scientific Research in Indian Zoos

Small Grant Fellowships - for initiating Research Activities at Zoo Level



Background

Due to lack of technical personnel in Indian zoos and keeping in view the existing ban on recruitment of technical and scientific staff in zoos, there has not been any progress towards basic and applied research in field of *ex situ* conservation and scientific management of animals particularly in the Indian Zoos. Though lot of scientific information is available with the zoos, yet this is not being utilized properly due to lack of proper analysis and inference. There are many issues which can be addressed locally at the zoo level, provided proper scientific/technical help are provided to the zoos, so that they can meet the desired objectives of complementing the *in situ* conservation efforts as enshrined in the National Zoo Policy.

The Central Zoo Authority shall provide a grant of up to Rs. 2.00 lakhs per year (upto maximum 3 years) for local need based zoo research projects in the field of *ex-situ* conservation and scientific management of animals in Indian zoos. The zoos may appoint fresh postgraduates in the field of wildlife science, veterinary science, zoology and botany to work on project mode on the identified areas of research.

Who is eligible?

• Large, medium and small Indian Zoos (recognized by the Central Zoo Authority)

Critical components of the application

Impact must be pragmatic, measurable and long lasting

Funds must be used predominantly in zoos

The application will not be reviewed unless the application form is filled out in full and three references are provided. The project should generally be of approx. 12-36 months duration

Who/what is generally not eligible?

- Projects outside the zoos
- Pure research
- Field research
- A conference or seminar

Notes

Filled applications should reach the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) by 30th June & 31st October for consideration during the financial year, along with the references. The applications will be assessed by the Central Zoo Authority and decisions will be conveyed within six months. The Central Zoo Authority reserves the discretion of requiring interview/presentation if felt absolutely necessary. The official application form or photocopy thereof must be used and recipients of grants must supply updates of their project during the year in addition to a formal report on completion. The Central Zoo Authority reserves the right to publish these reports partly, fully or in any form in any of its publication or publications of Indian Zoo Directors

Association (IZDA) and Association of Indian Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (AIZWV) or any other publication deemed fit for the same.

Projects should preferably be of a year's duration although each application is assessed on its own merit and the project length can be flexible.

Critical components of the Small Grant Fellowship

- Must have submitted interim reports on first grant before subsequent instalments of the grant are released.
- Must include a forwarding letter from the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.
- Where research involves capture and handling of Schedule I animals listed under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, prior permission of the Director, Wildlife Preservation, Government of India and/or Chief Wildlife Warden of the concerned states shall be obtained.
- Must include a detailed budget.

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