

Master Planning of Zoos Training Programme

Brij Kishor Gupta* and Brij Raj Sharma **

Preparation of a long term Master Plan for the development of a Zoo along with Management Plan for its implementation is mandatory for every zoo in India under Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992, Rule 10 (51). Unfortunately, most of the zoos in the country are still working/ developing without the required documents.

The Central Zoo Authority in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India organised a training programme “**Master Planning of Zoos**” for Director/ Manager level personnel working in recognised large, medium & special category zoos in the country. The training programme was held at Mayfair Hotel, Bhubaneswar from 11th – 16th April, 2006. Twenty-eight zoo directors/curators/managers participated in the training. Mr. Jon Coe from Australia and Mr. Bernard Harrison from Singapore were invited as the guest faculty for the course.



R.P.S. Katwal, Additional Director General of Forests (WL), Sh. Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister, Orissa and Sh. Prasanna Patsani, Member of Parliament (right to left), releasing the Indian Zoo Year Book being published by the Indian Zoo Director Association and Central Zoo Authority during the Master Planning for Zoo Training Programme

The training course was inaugurated by Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Orissa followed by welcome address by Sri S. C. Mohanty, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Orissa; address by Dr. B. R. Sharma, Member secretary, Central Zoo Authority, Shri S. P. Nanda, Principal Secretary, Forests & Environment Department, Government of Orissa and special address by Shri R.P.S. Katwal, Addl. Director, General of Forests (WL), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. The vote of thanks was delivered by Shri S. K. Sinha, Director, Nadankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar.

The objective of the training was to provide the required orientation to all the participants so that Indian zoos will be able to promote effective stewardship of the natural world by bringing people close to living animals, applying and advancing conservation, science and education, and setting standards and excellence in animal welfare, and environmental responsibility.

It was with this background and the fact that Indian zoos should come up to the expectations of the society, the need for having a special training programme on master planning for the in-charge of the zoos was planned; the need for having a master plan in place, as a beacon for the future development of the zoos.



Bernard Harrison, Brij Kishor Gupta, Tina Lim and Jon Coe evaluating the aviary at Nadankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar (from right to left).

During the training it was stressed that it is high time that a master plan is developed for the coordinated growth of the zoo's separate facilities and functions and helps avoid ad-hoc development of the zoo. If future decisions about the design and development of the zoo are all made with respect to the precedent and direction of the master plan, the future zoo will likely be a coherent, site-specific, unique institution that fulfills identified goals. Therefore the master plan should be a beacon for the development of the zoo. Of course, the master plan should, however, be reviewed and updated at least every five years, to keep up with the ongoing changes in the zoo.

The training programme utilized the full benefit of the presence of international experts Mr. Jon Charles Coe who brings in with him the knowledge of master planning many western and Australian zoos, and Mr. Bernard Harrison who brings the experiences of a Curator and a manager in planning and operation of zoos and night safari. Shri S. K. Patnaik, Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Orissa) who happens to be the first zoo in-charge in India to bring out a holistic plan of Nandankanan Zoological Park also shared his valuable experience with the participants.

The details on the course faculty, topics covered and zoos participated over the period of 6 days at Bhubaneswar is provided here.

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Course Facilitators

1. Shri. B.C. Choudhury, Head, Endangered Species Management, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
2. Shri Brij Kishor Gupta, Scientist, Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi



The guest speakers Chairing a technical session with Sh. S. K. Patnaik during during the training.

Topics Covered.

1. Policies, guidelines of the CZA & the need for the development of Master Plan.
2. Integrating *ex situ* conservation with *in situ* conservation in planning a zoo.
3. Master planning Process and deciding a theme.
4. Preparation of a strategic plan (fundamental goals and overall vision) – first step towards initiating master plan process.
5. Zoo administration and its role in master planning of a zoo
6. Deciding a concept plan, layout plan and determining the space allocation for various facilities (animal exhibits, visitors, animals, service staff)



Sh. Manoj Kumar, Executive Director, Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore discussing the master layout plan of his zoo.



Sh. S. K. Patnaik briefing the participants of features of tiger enclosure and its history

7. Prioritizing the goals for master planning of existing zoo & new zoo
8. Zoo exhibition – precedence and trend
9. Zoo master plan – why and how?
10. Nandankanan Zoological Park master plan – history, background, and its future development
11. How to prioritize animal collection planning?
12. Identifying research priorities in the management plan of a zoo.
13. Planned breeding programme in zoos and its role in *ex situ* conservation
14. Ongoing conservation breeding programme in Indian zoos and future prospects
15. Health care and management inputs in planning a zoo
16. Role of infrastructure development plan and concept of the zoo architecture.
17. Participatory planning - Nandankanan experience
18. Identifying the effective education awareness strategies and programmes for zoos
19. Designing of interpretation and signages
20. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints while implementing vision of the zoo and planned breeding programme of Lion-tailed macaque– a case study of Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai
21. Developing a good zoo administration model in the master plan
22. Developing visitor facilities in zoos

23. Marketing and fund-raising at zoo, involvement of corporate and others – a case study of Mysore Zoo
24. Components of management plan of a zoo and how to achieve?
25. Disaster management/contingency plan/ e-governance plan for a zoo and its role

Special lectures

1. Landscape immersion and beyond by Jon Coe
2. Advances in zoo design for animal welfare by Jon Coe
3. Barrier design for Zoo Exhibits by Bernard Harrison
4. Theme zoo – Night Safari by Bernard Harrison

Guest Speakers

1. R. P. S. Katwal, Addl. DGF (WL), MoEF, Government of India, New Delhi.
2. Jon Coe, Landscape Architect, Australia
3. Bernard Harrison, Principal Partner, Bernard Harrison & Friends Ltd., Singapore

Course Faculty

1. Dr. B. R. Sharma, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority
2. S. K. Patnaik, Member, Technical Committee, Central Zoo Authority Bhubaneswar
3. Dr. L. N. Acharjyo, Retd. Veterinary Officer, Nandankanan Zoological Park
4. Vinod Kumar, Special Secretary, Forests & Environment Deptt., Government of Orissa.
5. B. C. Choudhury, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
6. P. C. Tyagi, Ex-Director, Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai.
7. Manoj Kumar, Director, Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore
8. S. K. Sinha, Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar
9. Brij Kishor Gupta, Scientist, Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi
10. Rommel Mehta, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.

Film Screening:

“Cherub of Mist” – a film made by Bedi Brothers on conservation breeding and reintroduction of Red Panda.

Partner Organisation

1. Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi
2. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
3. Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar

Participants

1. Rakesh Kumar, Director, Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Patna
2. Manoj Kumar, Executive Director, Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore.
3. H.J. Bhandary, Director, Pilikula Biological Park, Mangalore.
4. M. L. Sonal, Dy. C. F. (WL), Jodhpur Zoo, Jodhpur
5. R. K. Sahu, Zoo Superintendent, Kamla Nehru Zoological Garden, Ahmedabad

6. R. Hemanth Kumar, Director, Kanpur Zoo, Kanpur
7. P. Bhaskar Reddy, Director, Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad.
8. B. Vijaya Kumar, Curator, Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam.
9. B. S. Bhadauria, Curator, Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior
10. R. K. Dixit, Asst. Director, Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal
11. G. Debbarma, Director, Sepahijala Zoological Park, Agartala, Tripura
12. Kuldip Kumar Lomis, CF & Director, M. C. Zoological Park, Chhatbir, Chandigarh
13. Ashok Kumar Mahar, Director, Bharat Ratna Pt. G. B. Pant High Altitude Zoo, Nainital
14. K. Sidasivan Pillai, Curator, Zoological Garden, Thiruvananthapuram
15. A. K. Jha, Director, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling
16. S. K. Thomas, Asst. Director, Haddo Zoo, Port Blair.
17. A. L. Paranjpe, Education-cum PRO, Veermata Jijabai Bhosle Udyan Zoo, Byculla, Mumbai
18. K.D. Batwe, Veterinary Officer, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali (East), Mumbai
19. R. Rajarathinam, Dy. Director, Chennai Snake Park, Chennai
20. B. Sundar, Curator, Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park, Tirupati
21. L. Lailung, Dy. C.F. (WL), Aizwal Zoo, Mizoram
22. Deepak Mitra, Proprietor, Calcutta Snake Park, Calcutta
23. S.K. Choudhury, Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata
24. Narayan Mahanta, DFO, Assam State Zoo, Guwahati
25. S. K. Sinha, Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar.
26. D. N. Singh, Director, National Zoological Park, Delhi.
27. Anupam Srivastav, Research Associate (CBZM Cell), Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun



Participants along with guest speakers and course faculty for a group photo at the venue – May Fair Hotel, Bhubaneswar