

CZA legislation/ regulation and support/ assistance for bringing up standard in zoos: My experience

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What is the agenda offered by CZA for improving zoos?

CZA has the following Legislation / Regulation

- National Zoo Policy, 1998
- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (chapter-IVA Central Zoo Authority and Recognition of zoos.
- Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992 (with up to date amendments)

Various Guidelines (based on needed compliance)

- Guidelines for Safari Parks which are working either as zoos or as extension to zoos.
- Guidelines for setting up of Deer Parks.
- Upkeep of elephants in zoos.
- Disposing carcass of zoo Animals.
- Supply of quality feed for zoo animals.
- Population control measures for hybrid Lions and Tigers of doubtful lineage
- Establishment of new zoos.
- Display of common Animals in Zoos.
- Constitution of Health Advisory committee.
- Monitoring of Hygiene and incidence of blood borne diseases in zoos.
- Guidelines of IUCN on management of *ex-situ*. populations for conservation and also on reintroductions.
- Article 9 of the Convention on Biological diversity.
- Evaluation of zoos.
- Grant of recognition & cancellation of recognition.
- Examination of various issues on regular basis and also through it's expert or expert panel or through committees.
- Exchange programmes.

CZA Support and Assistance for improving the condition of zoos.

- Technical support.
- Financial support.
- Collaborative programmes.
- Support for conservation breeding of highly endangered species.
- Technical guidance at the time of need.
- Role of expert committees of CZA.
- Supporting exchange of information among zoos.
- Education and training and development of technical / professional skills.
- Support and Assistance for improving the condition of zoos.
- Acting as facilitator on technical matters related to zoos.
- Co-ordination with other scientific/professional/ technical organisations for improvement of zoos.
- International exchange programmes/ exchange programmes among zoos within the country.

Research

- Promotion to field projects.
- Acting as platform for zoos to access many areas

of interest and concern.

- Umbrella body.

How could we bring up standard of our Zoo by connecting to CZA?

Number of recognized zoos: 180

Number of derecognized zoos (since inception of CZA in 1992): 328

Number of physically closed zoos (since inception of CZA in 1992): 259 (present position of all categories of zoos in India as on 25.01.08)

Large scale assistance of CZA to Nandankanan in recent times

- On damages due to Super Cyclone in 1999 renovation and improvements in animal housing, health care facilities and other areas of delivery system (Restoration phase, 2000-2004).
- Tiger death crisis, 2000: Follow up Action: Technical support and strengthening of health care management System.
- Strengthening of animal housing facilities, health care and other improvements including approval and support of conservation breeding programmes during 2005-2006.

On damages due to Super Cyclone in 1999 Renovation and improvements

Rs 120 lakhs in three phases for animal housing, health care facilities and other improvements (2000-2001 to 2002-2003)

Tiger death crisis, 2000: Follow up Action

- Strengthening of veterinary unit of Zoo and zoo hospital (Support by CZA).
- A five member "Technical Committee" constituted by Govt. of Orissa on the recommendation of CZA for regular monitoring of various aspects of health care and related matters and for rendering advice on these matters.
- Formation of "Health Committee" of Orissa Veterinary College, Bhubaneswar (consisting of reputed veterinarians of OVC from different disciplines and specialization) for assisting Nandankanan in health care management.
- CZA entered in to MoU (through State Govt.) with Orissa Veterinary College, OUAT, Bhubaneswar and provided financial assistance for upgradation of specialized facilities so as to ensure proper diagnosis, health care assistance etc.
- Scientific findings and integrated control management of Trypanosomiasis suggested by the scientists of Defence Research and Development

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Establishment , Gwalior (M.P.) - facilitated by the management of Nandankanan and CZA.

- Shifting of tigers (due to over population) to other zoos due to regulation of CZA.
- Development of protocol and preventive measures (eg. De weeding & cleaning, proper sanitation and disposal of biomedical wastes and garbage/ left over feed, Implementation of recommendations of DRDE/ Technical Committee/ Health Committee etc).
- Placement of an integrated health care management systems (facilitated by CZA and explored / implemented by Nandankanan.)
- Encouraged by initial success, a high degree of overall improvements ensured in the zoo subsequently by better upkeep of animals, good health care, timely intervention and regular monitoring.

Result :

Mortality percentage among wild animals of the zoo came down from around 11% to 6%.

Nandankanan Biological Park received "Pollution Control Appreciation Award 2003" (State level award instituted by State Pollution Control Board, Orissa) in appreciation for implementing effective pollution control measures and adopting good environment management practices and constant efforts being put for further protection of environment.

Strengthening and Improvements of various facilities of Nandankanan zoo including approval and support of Conservation Breeding Programmes during 2005- 2006.

- Technical and financial support provided by CZA for animal housing, enrichment, veterinary health care, security fence, education signage, training etc.
- An amount of Rs 109.75 lakhs of grant of CZA

provided to attend the same.

- Technical design of housing facilities of endangered species approved by CZA.
- CZA after due assessment approved the conservation breeding of selected endangered species (sps. include vulture, pangolin, mouse deer and tiger) in Nandankanan for support under Planned Coordinated Conservation Breeding of wild animal species programme.
- Ongoing process for identifying more projects of significance for CZA support.
- Improvements through evaluation of zoo.
- Monitoring of animal species by CZA.
- Approval and monitoring of animal exchange programme by CZA.

Education, Training and Development of technical / professional skill

- Support for visitors' awareness / education
- Zoo Keepers' Training
- Sponsoring of Directors and Managers of zoo for training/ workshop/ conference/seminar organizing training/ workshop etc.

Research

- Study on "Prevalence of blood sucking flies, Vector of Trypanosomiasis in Nandankanan Zoo and their control by integrated pest management" during 2000-2001 by the scientists of DRDE, Gwalior and Nandankanan management.
- Assisted reproduction programme with the involvement of CCMB, Hyderabad.
- Study on "Ecto and Endo-Parasites of Captive Zoo animals of Nandankanan Zoological Park" approved and supported by CZA for 3 years.
- Facilitator on technical matters related to zoo and co-ordination with other organizations for improvement of condition in zoos
- Acting as platform for zoos and umbrella body

Forthcoming zoo related events -2008

PAAZAB Annual Meeting, May, 7-9, 2008, Durban, South Africa. <http://www.paazab.com/news.htm>

Avian Reintroduction Biology, 8-9 May 2008, Zoological Society of London, UK. <http://www.zsl.org/science/scientific-meetings>

Measuring Zoo Animal Welfare, 29 -30 May, 2008, Chicago Zoological Society <http://www.BrookfieldZoo.org/AWSymposium>

19th Working Meeting of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, 2-7 June 2008, FEXPOCRUZ, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. <http://www.19thworkingmeetingcsg.com>

Endangered Species Recovery Course, 7-25 July 2008, Jersey, Channel Islands. www.durrellwildlife.org

International Primatological Society XXII Congress, 3-8 August 2008-Edinburgh. <http://www.ips2008.co.uk>

AZA Annual Conference , September 12 -18, 2008, Milwaukee County Zoo, USA. <http://www.aza.org>

EAZA Annual Conference, September 16-20, 2008, Antwerp Zoo, Belgium. <http://www.eaza.net>

4th IUCN World Conservation Congress, October 05-14, 2008, Barcelona, Spain. <http://www.iucn.org/congress/2008>

CBSG Annual Meeting, October 16-19, 2008, Adelaide, Australia. <http://www.cbsg.org>

63rd Annual Conference of WAZA, October 19-23, 2008, Adelaide,

Australia. <http://www.waza2008.com.au>

19 Biennial Conference of International Zoo Educators Association , October 19-23, 2008, Adelaide, Australia. <http://www.ize2008.com.au/>

7th International Aquarium Congress, Oct 19-24, 2008, Shanghai, People's Republic of China. www.iac2008.cn

Zoological Registrars Association Annual Conference-2008, October 22-25, 2008. The Saint Louis Zoo, USA, <http://www.stlzoo.org>

Exotic Animal Diagnostic Endoscopy Course, Dec 5-6, 2008, University of Georgi, USA. www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/conferences/2008/Dec/05/exotic_endoscopy.phtml