

Conservation Breeding Programme

The Conservation Breeding Programme is a science of conserving a species by preventing imminent population collapse in the wild due to a large number of eliminative pressures (i.e. habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, industrialization, poaching, illegal trade and climate change etc.). The aim of the Conservation Breeding Programme is to conserve the genetic diversity of the species and restock or reintroduce the species to re-establish self sustaining population in its natural wild habitat.

The zoo plays major role in helping conserving a species through *ex-situ* conservation breeding programme. But there should be a concept and theme to initiate a breeding programme and that is, the conservation breeding programme is initiated to prevent the imminent population collapse in the wild due to a large number of eliminative pressures. *ex-situ*' conservation is that the individuals of species are maintained in off exhibit under different selection pressure that those in natural conditions in a natural habitat till they are release in wild.

The Conservation Breeding Programmes are governed by policy statements of national and international organizations. Conservation over long term requires management to reduce risks, including *ex-situ* conservations which could support and interact demographically and genetically with wild population. Prepare a red data list for such species require immediate *ex-situ* breeding interventions.

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) follows IUCN red list and prioritized the funding opportunity for the conservation breeding of such species worldwide. Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) is a Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC).

The objective of the Conservation Breeding Programme is not oriented on the taking individuals from the wild but to give to the wild. The zoo individual are used as insurance for the use in future with aim only to complement and supplement the *in-situ* population or should be only used for restocking/reintroduced if the species got extinct from wild. Zoos should maintain these population in such a way that the individual should be used for display and have a surplus stock that can be used to bolster the *in -situ* population or for reintroduction to in case of extinction. Such population is also used as education tools for the public to spread the awareness for the conservation of these endangered species. Further, it is our moral value to conserve the natural resources to maintain a healthy ecological balance for the benefits of our environment and so as our future.

The Zoos in India are playing a very important role in Conservation Breeding and Species recovery of many endangered species. The knowledge towards husbandry, diet, reproduction etc. gained by zoo personnel's helps to conserve the species.

Today zoos have experience in housing wild animals in captivity and developing husbandry and care protocols. In future, these zoos can function as repositories of the founders for many species and as base for the survival of the species toward self sustainable population.