

GUIDELINES/ NORMS FOR CONSERVATION BREEDING PROGRAMME OF THE CENTRAL ZOO AUTHORITY

(Approved in the 60th Meeting of Technical Committee of Central Zoo Authority held on 14th December 2011)

The Central Zoo Authority (Central Zoo Authority) had already identified 73 species for planned conservation breeding programme. Out of that, CZA has prioritised around 35 species for providing financial assistance to zoos. 18 species have already been taken off for establishing off-display conservation breeding programmes (CBP) in different states.

It was observed that each species identified for conservation breeding (CB) should have a recovery plan for each species and must decide right from the onset of programme as to how many number of founder animals required for the programme. It is observed that there should be continuity of the staff (especially the project manager) and funds for the success of the programme. The prioritization of the species should be based on the field condition and each CBP should have linkage with in-situ conservation programme. Scientific partnership with institution in each programme has to be ensured to provide latest input & finding of research.

The guidelines & norms developed by the CZA for conservation breeding programme of endangered species in zoos are given as below:

1. Eligibility:

Coordinating zoos which have been identified for species will be eligible for receiving financial assistance for establishing off display conservation breeding centre (CBC) and the participating zoos for improvement in the existing enclosure from the Central Zoo Authority.

2. Pattern of funding:

The CZA would provide 100 % financial assistance for coordinating zoos and for improving the existing enclosures in participating zoos.

(i) Coordinating zoos:

The Coordinating zoo shall create a housing facility as per the design approved by CZA in off-display area of the conservation breeding centre. It was decided that the CZA shall provide 100% funding for the establishment of the facility. The maintenance of the off display conservation breeding centre shall also be funded subject to the availability of fund with the CZA on that point of time. Following items may be considered by the CZA while providing fund to zoos or state under the CBP:

(A.) Non-recurring:

- I. Construction of off-display enclosures including feeding/retiring cell, kraal, paddock (herbivores), water facility, approach road or service path, power fencing, animal kitchen, store and enrichment artifacts etc.

- II. Fencing around the CBC.
- III. Material for the marking of animals (radio transponders & applicator, receiver, leg bands & applicator, and ear tags & applicator).
- IV. Construction of Project office if require.
- V. Animal quarantine or isolation ward (away from zoo/CBC).
- VI. Squeeze cage and transportation cages or box as per the need.
- VII. Treatment kits, medicines and tranquilizing equipments.
- VIII. Kitchen utensils and food storage facility (freezer).
- IX. Computer, printer and UPS.

(B.) Recurring:

Financial assistance to CBC for the following expenditure will be made in project mode by CZA depending on availability of fund:

- I. Hiring of a biologist (one number)
- II. Hiring of a Veterinary assistant (one number)
- III. Hiring of a keeper (one number)
- IV. Food (subject to the availability of fund).
- V. Medicines and tranquilizing drugs.
- VI. Photos, printing, publication of reports etc.
- VII. Maintenance, cleaning and sanitation of enclosures and in and around.
- VIII. Annual maintenance of water, electricity, paints etc.
- IX. Stationary item.

(ii). Participating zoos:

(A.) Non-recurring:

- (I) Improvement in existing display enclosure including feeding/retiring cell, kraal, feeding shed, water facility, power fencing, kitchen, store and enrichment artifacts etc.
- (II) Material for the marking of animals (radio transponders & applicator, receiver, leg bands & applicator, and ear tags & applicator).
- (III) Improvement in animal quarantine or isolation ward.

(3) Initiation and duration of the project:

The project shall be considered initially for the period of five years for each species with yearly break up of activities. This project should be submitted to CZA through Chief Wildlife Warden of the concerned states.

Note: The zoo where CBC has already been taken off by constructing enclosures etc thus should also initiate the proposal i.e. preparation of project for 5 years.

(4). Processing of project proposal:

- (i). Preliminary screening at the CZA.
- (ii). Field appraisal of the site.
- (iii). Scrutiny of layout plan and design of animal enclosure by Expert Group of Zoo Designing of CZA.
- (iv). Approval for the project by the Technical Committee of the CZA.
- (v). Approval of Conservation Breeding Centre (CBC) from the governing body of CZA i.e. Authority.

(5). Sequence of steps to be adopted for the conservation breeding as per the guidelines ahead issued:

1. Identification of founders
2. Marking of founders (transponders, ear tags or rings)
3. Preparation of animal history sheets and animal observation sheets of the identified founders by the zoos
4. Compilation of Studbook by the National Studbook Keeper.
5. Liaison with the International Studbook Keeper of the species (if any)
6. Possibility of acquiring the founders from foreign zoos (if required) and details of the zoos from where founders can be acquired
7. Physical health check-up of the founders using the veterinary hospital in the Zoo as well as National Referral Centre (Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly)
8. Genetic health check-up of the founders using blood samples or body parts with help from LaCONES, Hyderabad
9. Engagement of Technical Assistant (Biologist, Veterinary assistant etc) in the coordinating Zoo.

Note: The zoo where CBC has already been launched by constructing enclosures etc, should ensure all these steps are followed & complied.

(6). Staff pattern:

The CZA will provide fund for hiring of a biologist, a veterinarian or veterinary assistant and a keeper. Remaining supervisory or additional staff has to be matched by the concerned zoo or state government.

(7). Release of fund:

Annual release of fund would be made as follows:

- (i) 50% of the approved grant as first installment
- (ii) 30% of the approved grant second installment

(iii) 20 % of the approved grant last installment

All CBC should submit half yearly progress report to CZA. Further grant of release will be subjected to the appraisal of report and submission of utilization certificate of the release fund. The CZA shall carry out mid-term evaluation of the CBP of the concerned species from time to time.

(8). Collaboration with institution:

Concerned zoo should collaborate with Wildlife Institute of India, Indian Veterinary Research Institute Bareilly, and Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES), CCMB and Bombay Natural History Society etc. to carry out the studies efficiently in order to achieve the objectives.

(9). Priority of species for funding the project:

As the CZA has been enduring to provide financial supports to zoos in addition to its main functions i.e. technical and other support to zoos; it will depend on availability of fund. However, to begin with following priority has been decided.

1. 18 species already been funded by the CZA for establishing off display centre.
2. Remaining 21 species from the prioritized list of 35 species + 1 species (Rusty spotted cat).
3. 72 + 1 (Rusty-spotted cat) species identified for the conservation breeding.
