



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

भारत सरकार

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

Central Zoo Authority

केन्द्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण



F.No.9-1/2008-CZA(NS)/2896/2018

To

The Director,
Sepahijala Zoological Park,
P.O. Vishalgarh, Distt. Tripura (West),
Agartala – 799 012, Tripura

By Post/Email
DATE: 11.04.2018

Sub:- Status and report of research project titled "Behaviour Study of Clouded Leopard at Sepahijala Zoological Park" - reg.

- Ref:-** (i) Your Office letter no. 4-6/CBC/DSZP-17/596-99, dated 14.06.2017 of the Director, Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura.
- (ii) This office letter no. 9-1/2008-CZA(NS)/1032/2017 dated 07.06.2017.
- (iii) This office letter no. 9-1/2008-CZA(D)/2745/2016 dated 03.10.2016.
- (iv) This office letter no. 9-1/2008-CZA(NS)/1084/2016 dated 06.07.2016.
- (v) This office letter no. 9-1/2008-CZA(NS)/549/2016 dated 04.04.2016.
- (vi) This office letter no. 9-1/2008-CZA(NA)/1295/2016 dated 27/30.07.2012.
- (vii) This office letter no. 9-1/2008-CZA(NA)/827 dated 16/21.05.2012.
- (viii) Office Letter no. 8(127)/For-WL-2008/Biologist/232-34 from the CWLW dated 21.12.2011.
- (ix) Office Letter no. 8(127)/For-WL-2008/Biologist/232-34 from the CWLW dated 23.06.2011.
- (x) This office letter no. 9-1/2008-CZA(M) dated 02.05.2011.
- (xi) This office letter no. 9-1/2008-CZA(M) dated 23.03.2011.
- (xii) Office Letter no. 8(127)/For-WL-2008/Biologist/1215-17 from the CWLW dated 05.03.2011.
- (xiii) Office Letter of the CWLW no. 8(127)/For-WL-2008/Biologist/1053-54 dated 04.02.2011.
- (xiv) Your office letter no. 8-13/Research/DSZP-08/1105-06 dated 06.07.2010.
- (xv) This office letter no. 9-1/2008-CZA(M), dated 21.05.2010.
- (xvi) Your office letter no. 8-13/Research/DSZP-08 dated 20.04.2009.
- (xvii) This office letter no. 9-1/2008-CZA(M), dated 24.07.2009.
- (xviii) This office letter no. 9-1/2008-CZA(M), dated 02.04.2009.

Sir,

The Central Zoo Authority had signed an MoU with the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura for the above mentioned project to be completed within 24 months from 15.04.2008 with a grant of Rs. 3.86 lakhs. As per the MoU, the grants of Rs. 1.93 lakhs (Rupees one lakh and ninety three thousand only) and Rs. 1.20 lakhs (One lakh and twenty thousand only) were released to the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura on 10.10.2008 & 21.02.2011 respectively.

2. The Central Zoo Authority vide reference (xviii) above requested the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura to furnish progress report to the Central Zoo Authority as on 31st March, 2009. However, no report has been received from your end.

3. The Central Zoo Authority vide reference (xvii) above, requested you to submit annual progress report of the project. In response, the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura vide reference (xvi) above submitted the primary report of the project for the period from 21.11.2008 to 28.02.2009. The report was observed to be very brief.

4. The Central Zoo Authority again requested the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura to submit a progress report of the project including the expenditure incurred upto 31st March, 2010 vide reference (xv) above. In response, the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura vide reference (xiv) above submitted a progress report of the project which was found to be very brief. In the meantime, as per the request of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Tripura vide reference (xiii) above, the Central Zoo Authority released the second installment of Rs. 1.20 lakhs to carry out the project work.

5. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Tripura vide reference (xii) above requested the Central Zoo Authority to release the remaining grant of Rs. 0.73 for completion of the project activities. However, the Central Zoo Authority vide reference (xi) above has referred the Article 5 (iii) of the signed MoU and informed the Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Tripura that the remaining amount of grant i.e. 20% shall be released only after the completion of the project, submission of the report and its appraisal. However, no report has been received by the Central Zoo Authority.

6. The Central Zoo Authority vide reference (x) above requested the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura to submit an annual progress report of the project including details of the objective achieved, utility of the study in ongoing management of the species, future plan and utilization of fund etc.

7. In response, the Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Tripura vide reference (ix) above submitted progress report of the project. Further, the Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Tripura requested for re-appropriation of the available funds within the project vide letter referred (viii) above. The Central Zoo Authority vide references (vii) above requested the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Agartala to submit the progress report of the project and communicated the approval of re-appropriation of the funds with an advise to ensure hiring of the Biologist and payment of its fellowship till completion of the project work vide reference (vi) above.

8. The Central Zoo Authority vide references (v) & (iv) above, requested the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Agartala to submit the detail final report of the project for approval on or before 15.04.2016 to this authority or surrender the grant released towards the project with interest accrued to this effect. However, no response has been received from your end.

9. The status of the Central Zoo Authority sponsored research projects was placed before the Technical Committee, CZA in its 79th meeting held on 24th August, 2016. The Committee decided that the concerned authority should submit the pre-final draft report of the project within one month for review and approval or refund the amount released towards project. The same was communicated to the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Agartala vide reference (iii) above. However, no report has been submitted from your end.

10. The Central Zoo Authority vide reference (ii) above, provided one another opportunity by requesting the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Agartala to submit the pre-final draft report of the project for approval. In response, the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Agartala vide reference (i) above, submitted draft reports of the project. The same has been examined as per signed MoU at the office of the Central Zoo Authority and it has been observed that the work has not been done as per the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

11. The following observations on the project report alongwith the status of the project was placed before the Technical Committee of the Central Zoo Authority in its 85th Meeting held on 23.03.2018 for deliberation and decision:

The objectives as per the Article I of signed MoU are:

| Sl. | Objectives as per MoU Article 1 | Work conducted | Remarks |
|-----|--|---|---|
| 1 | Clause (i). The SZP shall collect all relevant information of Clouded leopard on: behavior, ecology and upkeep in captivity from individuals, libraries and internet. | The report includes the information on the taxonomy, habitat, distribution, status, home range, habitat use, physical description, feeding habits etc. | As per the MoU, information of Clouded leopard on behaviour ecology and upkeep in captivity not included in the report. |
| 2 | Clause (ii) The SZP will review existing upkeep of clouded leopard in Indian and Zoos at abroad based on literature, and also implement feasible practices. | The report includes only the pedigree details of the clouded leopard housed in Indian Zoos. | The existing upkeep of the clouded leopard in Indian and Zoos at abroad has not been mentioned in the report. |
| 3 | Clause (iii) The SZP shall develop proper methodology for conducting behavioural study of Clouded leopard's in consultation with Tripura University as suggested in the proposal. | The report includes the observations on the general behaviour (rest, sleep, movement, grooming, playing etc.) of 10 number of clouded leopards housed at Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura. | It is not clear from the report whether it has been done as no format for the behavioural study has been incorporated/ mentioned in the final draft report. |
| | Accordingly formats shall be designated and information will be collected and analysed. | | The report does not mention about the format which has been designated and on the basis of which the data is to be collected and analysed. |
| | Behaviour study of clouded leopards may include all aspects which are directly or indirectly are related to behaviour of the animal e.g. activity pattern of animal, designing of enclosures, enrichment, housing, veterinary care, dietary breeding care and visitors impact etc. | The report mentioned the activity pattern of the animal and the study on the breeding behaviour/ mating behaviour of the clouded leopards. | The report has not covered the designing of enclosures, enrichment, housing, veterinary care, dietary breeding care and visitors impact etc. which are directly or indirectly related to behaviour of the animal. |
| 4 | Clause (iv) The SZP will prepare Conservation Breeding Management Plan for Clouded leopard. | The report includes the general recommendations. | As per the MoU, the Conservation Breeding Management Plan for Clouded leopard has not been prepared. |
| 5 | Clause (v) The SZP may take inputs from various organizations e.g. WII, B.N.H.S., and WWF- India and individuals in refining the methodology for | | It was observed from the final draft report that inputs from the various organizations e.g. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; Bombay Natural History Society and World |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | collecting the information on behaviour of clouded leopard and utility of the study for SZP and animal as well. | Wildlife Fund - India and individuals in refining the methodology for collecting the information on behaviour of clouded leopard and utility of the study for SZP and animal as well, has not been taken. It seems that these institutions has not been consulted or involved in the study. |
|--|---|---|

The research proposal for the study received from the Sepahijala Zoological Park mentioned following objectives for the study. The CZA approved grant based on this proposal. However, it is observed that the same has not been followed. The details in this regard are mentioned below:

| Sl. | Objectives as per proposal | Work conducted | Remarks |
|-----|--|--|--|
| I | To create the data base for the clouded leopard on the following for proper management in captivity: | | |
| 1. | actual feeding | Brief information about the feeding habits, prey selection of clouded leopard has been included. Feeding schedule, both in wild and captivity, has been given. | Details about the feeding habits, feeding requirement etc not included in the report. |
| 2. | requirement | Development of hunting skill in the clouded leopard housed in the zoo mentioned. | Basic requirements for the clouded leopard in captivity not mentioned. |
| 3. | enclosure | Enclosure management given. | Enclosure type/ design, dimension/areas, requirement and enclosure design impact has not been studied. |
| 4. | breeding | Breeding behaviour, selection of pair for breeding, Pairing, mating, post mating behaviour, pregnancy, parturition, post natal care etc mentioned. | Carried out |

11. Other general observations made are as follows:

- i. Two reports have been submitted by the zoo, one for the period from 20.08.2013 to 20.08.2014 and other one for the period from 04.03.2015 to 04.01.2016. However, the report seems to be the progress report for the project. It should have been consolidated one detailed research project report.
- ii. In the report, at many places, the reference cited in the text has not been mentioned in the Reference Section of the report.
- iii. The photographs used in the report have not been numbered and are without caption. The sources of the photographs used are not acknowledged.
- iv. The report does not include Preface, foreword and acknowledgment.
- v. The map showing the worldwide distribution of clouded leopard is not legible.

- vi. At page no. 26, under the head "Description of studied individuals of clouded leopard" in the report for the period from 04.03.2015 to 04.01.2016, the observations have been given in power point presentation slides, it lacks detailed description of the study as mentioned in other report submitted for the period from 20.08.2013 to 20.08.2014. The research project report has to be in narrative form and not as power point presentation slides.
- vii. Separate sections for Methodology, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion etc. are not included in the report.

The Technical committee, CZA noted that the project work has not been carried out as per the objectives of the MoU and decided not to accept the project report. Further, the committee decided to recover the grant released earlier towards the project alongwith the penal interest at the rate of 10% per annum as per provision under Rule No. 258(1) of GFR, 2017 from Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura.

Keeping in view of the above, you are requested to surrender the earlier grant released alongwith penal interest at the rate of 10% per annum against the grants of Rs. 1.93 lakhs and Rs. 1.20 lakhs respectively released towards the project to this authority. The amount may be deposited in the account of the Central Zoo Authority through RTGS as per the details given below:

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Name of Beneficiary | Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority |
| 2 | Name of Bank | SBI, Pandit Deendayal Anjyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi 110003 |
| 3 | Account no. | 35743814303 |
| 4 | Branch Code | 07837 |
| 5 | IFSC Code | SBIN0007837 |
| 6 | MICR | 110002131 |
| 7 | BSR Code | 0007837 |
| 8 | Shift Code | SBININ BB 382 |

As decided by the Technical committee of the Central Zoo Authority the above mentioned project stands closed.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. D. N. Singh)
Member Secretary

Copy for information and necessary action to:

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Tripura Aranya Bhawan, Nehru Complex, Kunjaban, Tripura West, Agartala -799006

