

Central Zoo Authority
(Ministry of Environment & Forests)
APPLICATION FOR SMALL GRANT FELLOWSHIP

Please read instructions on last page of this document
Form must be filled in English
Internal Project Number (To be filled in by CZA) :

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Date of application: 09/01/2019
Name of the Zoo organization: Chennai Snake Park
Contact person/ project leader: Dr.S. Paulraj, Executive Secretary

2. CLASSIFICATION OF PROPOSAL

Improvement of the Zoo Scientific Management Ex-situ Conservation
Welfare of the animals Any other, please specify – Ex-situ Conservation

AWARENESS ON SNAKE BITE AND ANTI-VENOM TREATMENT IN GREATER CHENNAI AREA

3. DATE OF INITIATION OF THE PROJECT - Within one month from the date of sanction

4. DURATION OF THE PROJECT: one year

5. LOCATION OF THE PROJECT. In and around Chennai (Tiruvalluvar and Kanchipuram district)
Region /State : Tamil Nadu
Closest main city : Chennai

6. STAFF INVOLVED IN PROJECT (please include Curriculum Vitae of the individuals):

1. Name (+ title) + Dr.M.Arumugam – Director for Research and Training
Zoo/Organization – Chennai Snake Park
Period to be spent on the project from: ...01.08.2019. to: 31.07.2020
For 40 hours/week
Role / Function in the project: Principal Investigator

2. Name (+title) + Zoo/Organization: Dr.G.Kannan – Education Officer
Period to be spent on the project from: ...01.08.2019. to: 31.07.2020
for 40 hours/week
Role / Function in the project: Co-Investigator

3. Name (+title) + Zoo/Organization: Project Assistant (to be recruited)
Period to be spent on the project from: . 01.08.2019. to: 31.07.2020
for 48 hours/week
Role / Function in the project: Project Assistant

7. PROJECT PROPOSAL

7a. Background and history of the project

India is home to both a large human population and snake diversity. Venomous snakes with their lethal toxins and elusive nature are one of the few wildlife in India that occur even in peri-urban areas and yet pose a grave danger to human lives. While most life-threatening wild animals of India such as the big cats and mega fauna like elephants only occur in well-forested

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regions, venomous snakes, because of their widespread and adaptable nature occur in far greater magnitude in almost every human-inhabited region in the country. Annually around 1,46,000 people die from snakebite in India. Thus, venomous snakes are being encountered by a far higher number of people every day and they often lead to loss of lives, of either the snake, or man, or both. So much so, that snakebite has been classified as one among the neglected tropical diseases. Though Govt.-run services provided by the Forest Dept. are involved in stray snake-translocation operations, snake-encounters, snakebite incidents do continue to happen and hence, public are to be educated for conservation of snakes and herpetofauna and eradication of superstitions and myth related to snakes as well as successful anti-venom treatment.

7b. Main problem or question (max 200 words)

While most of rural India is still far from fully-educated, the urban population fares well. But still, in India, even the educated lot is quite unaware of proper know-how and first aid for snakebite. In the city of Chennai, even urban inhabitants still have lots of superstitious beliefs and myths on snakes and snakebite. Snakebite is often considered a bad omen or an incurable precursor to death. Many people in this city still do not know that not all snakes are venomous and that not all bites are fatal. Still worse, many even go for traditional cures or other quack remedies and do not present the case to proper hospitals. The result is a widespread death of both people and snakes. This in-turn instills irrational morbid fear towards all snakes, be it venomous or not. Indiscriminate killing of all snakes by people out of fear has resulted in a disproportionate increase of rodent population and in future, will create ecological imbalances. Thus the proposed work of snakebite awareness programmes and antivenom campaigning in Chennai and adjoining districts will result in a better understanding of this important subject by the residents, which may in turn lead to conservation of snakes.

7c. Aims and objectives of the project (max 200 words)

Aim:

The aim of this programme is to create awareness of poisonous snakes, snake bites, anti-venom treatments as well as conservation of snakes among school children's, student and public.

Objectives:

1. To create awareness among student community (School and Colleges) in Snake bite awareness and Anti-venom treatment.
2. Capacity building of stakeholders (farmer, agriculture coolie, labourers and industrial staff on the first aid and anti-venom treatment.
3. To improve the efficiency primary health centre staff in identification of Snakes, Snake bite symptoms and first aid.

7d Methodology and/or proposed activities (max 300)

The proposed project is aimed to conduct 100 awareness programmes @ 10 programme in a month. 70 programmes will be conducted for both school and college students in and around Chennai. 15 programmes will be conducted for stakeholder and Primary health centre staff respectively. The awareness programme will be having following theme;

Detailed Power point presentation on Role of snakes in the ecosystem, Common Big four snakes and other non-venomous snakes, Simple technique to identification of snakes, Snake bite symptoms, first aid and Anti-venom therapy in hospitals.

Identification: By visiting Snake Park and by using preserved animal big four snakes identification will be done.

Posters and pamphlets of Snake bite symptoms and Anti-venom treatment will be distributed to students/stake holder/Primary health centre staff and general public.

1. Pre-evaluation test – in the form of objective type questions related to Snakes to assess the knowledge of students/stakeholder/Primary health centre staff.
2. Post-evaluation test- After completion of awareness programme objective type question will be framed to assess the impact of awareness programme.

8. COLLABORATION (IF ANY) : Please specify with which institutions/organisations will collaboration take place and type of the collaboration & support should also be indicated.

NGO's NAME LOCATION

Ministries

Universities

Research institutes / or any other

Type of the collaboration and support.....

8a. Support from host zoo: (Please specify what support the host zoo will be providing, it could be in the form of laboratory, equipment, space or personnel).

Chennai Snake Park will provide space, laboratory, equipments and expertise.

9. BASIC TIME SCHEDULE

S. No	Objectives	Time chart for one year period (in months)												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1.	Identification of target group	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Report preparation
2.	Awareness to students	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3.	Awareness programme to stakeholders	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.	Awareness programme to Primary health centre staff	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓		

10. OUTPUT:

10a. Describe which output can be expected from this project (reports, (scientific) publications, management plans, educational tools, etc. etc.) and how they will be disseminated.

At the end of the project, about 10000 students / public will become aware of Snake bite awareness and Anti-venom treatment and importance of snakes in the ecosystem.

This project will fetch results in the form of technical reports, articles, and give us education / outreach material in the form of pictures, posters. Thus the findings would serve in sensitizing and popularizing Snake bite awareness and anti-venom treatment among stake holders and student community. This finding will be published in our "COBRA" Journal.

10b. Describe the (practical) relevance of this project for ex-situ conservation and scientific management of animals in general

Lack of knowledge on Snake bite awareness and Anti-venom treatment leads to unnecessary killing of/injury of all snake by the public in general. Further, expansion of human population and their basic needs cleared barren and cultivated land in metropolitan city (Chennai) and their adjoining district (Tiruvallur and Kanchepuram) and challenging the survival of Snakes. Hence, Snake bite awareness and Anti-venom campaign to the stake holder and students is the need of the hour for the long term survival of the species and biodiversity as whole. The capacity building on following aspect will be done;

- i. Knowledge on the common venomous snakes of the region
- ii. what to do if one sees a snake at home
- iii. snake venom effects and bite symptoms
- iv. snakebite first aid, based on WHO guidelines
- v. whereabouts of anti-venom-therapy hospitals in the area

10c. Describe how results/output will be evaluated (timelines and benchmarks)

The project will be evaluated by conduct a workshop at the end of the programme with subject experts as well as school students, stakeholders with evaluation of outcome.

11. FEASIBILITY (How well is the execution of the project guaranteed? Possible risks such as logistics, permits, other finances and how are these risks dealt with)

Since 1972, the Chennai Snake Park, the India's very first organization that was commissioned for the express objectives of education and conservation of Indian herpatofauna. Located in the heart of the bustling metropolis of Chennai, the Park is well-attended, with nearly 5-6 lakh visitors per year. One of the major objectives of our park is to create awareness on Nature, Environment especially on snakes and other reptiles. School children are our main target groups in all our programme. Chennai Snake Park is one of the few zoo's having fulltime Environment Education Officer for the purpose of interactive learning and other exercise to benefit to student community.

It is one of the handful of wildlife organizations in India with a prime focus on snakes. Snake Park is equipped with renowned experts in the board, both honorary and employed, associated in

various capacities. Most of the field staff here belongs to the Irula community, who are well-known for their traditional knowledge on snakes. Over the 45 year history, this Park, apart from being a reptile zoo, has also played a very active role in disseminating knowledge and demystifying the false-beliefs on Indian snakes among the masses. An active R&D cell in the Park conducts regular research on herpetology, to fuel the demands of many academic organizations in Chennai.

To our understanding and long years of experience we don't perceive any risks in executing objectives of this project/programme.

12. FINANCIAL ASPECTS (please include budget overview (in Rs.) in an appendix)

Attached (Appendix-1)

12a. Other financial sources applied for and/or guaranteed

- In case of Forest Dept./Corporation/Trust: please also mention the details
- Indicate if source is applied for or already guaranteed

2. Name Department / Institute:
Address:

Amount applied for or guaranteed:
Rs.

3. Name Department / Institute:
Address:

Amount applied for or guaranteed:
Rs.

13. DECLARATION

The information submitted in this application is true, to the best of my knowledge. Should any significant developments arise after this application is made, I shall notify the Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority. .



SIGNATURE

S. Paulraj
(S. Paulraj)

Executive Secretary
Chennai Snake Park Trust

APPENDIX-1**12. FINANCIAL ASPECTS (please include budget overview (in Rs.))**

S. No.	Details	Amount in (Rs)
A	SALARIES & WAGES	
1	Honorarium for PI (@ Rs.20,000/month (50% of time)	2,40,000
2	Honarium for External experts @ Rs.20,000/month (Rs.2000 per programme for 10 programme in a month) for 10 months	2,00,000
3	Honorarium for Co-PI (@ Rs.25,000/month) – 50% of time /month	3,00,000
4	Stipend for Project Assistant (@ 15,000/month for 12 months)	1,80,000
5	Field Assistant @ 12,000/month	1,44,000
B	PERMANENT EQUIPMENT	Nil
C	TRAVEL EXPENSES	
8	Hiring charges(Vehicle/Driver/Use of Public transport Rs.40,000 /month) for 10 months	2,00,000
D	OTHER EXPENSES	
9	Poster and pamphlets preparation etc.,	1,00,000
11	Workshop expense	20,000
12	Preparation final report & publication etc	10,000
E	GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C+D)	13,94,000