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Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Central Zoo Authority

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November 4, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Revised guidelines for species composition in Animal Collection Plan of zoos recognized by the Central Zoo Authority – regarding

In partial modification of the Guidelines for Establishment and Scientific Management of Zoos in India (2008) circulated vide this office Circular 26-2/2008-CZA(M) dated 25th August, 2008, guiding principle for finalizing animal collection plan of zoos is revised.

2. To this effect, a uniform permissible limit of native and non-native (i.e. exotics) species composition as indicated in the table below will be applicable henceforth.

Category of zoos	Permissible limit
1. Large Zoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 75% of the species housed should be native species.● The number of non-native species housed should not exceed 25%.
2. Medium Zoo	
3. Small Zoo	
4. Mini Zoo	

3. Consequently, the zoos should adhere to the following points while proposing acquisition of non-native species to its collection:

- a. The focus on conservation of native species by *ex situ* means and advancing conservation awareness on native wildlife should be the primary focus of zoos.
- b. This should be considered as an avenue to contribute to the conservation of species which are of global conservation concern. By means of collaborating with international agencies such as World Association of Zoos and Aquarium (WAZA), IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG), American Association of Zoos and Aquariums and European Association of Zoos and Aquaria it should a priority to participate in inter-continental *ex situ* conservation programs and further contribute to species conservation in the global context.
- c. Increasing the number of exotic species consequently should also imply that state-of-the-art containment options are in place to ensure that escapes can be checked.

- d. Acquisition of exotics shall adhere to the extant guidelines and advisories and increasing non-native species in collections should not be done by means of adding rescued/confiscated/gift animals to the collection.
 - e. Zoos housing surplus of any exotic animals shall submit proposal as per standard procedure for disposal by the Central Zoo Authority.
4. Amended composition of exotic species in Animal Collection Plan of zoos recognized by the Central Zoo Authority is effective from date of issue of the O.M. Rest of the Guidelines for Establishment and Scientific Management of Zoos in India (2008) remains unchanged.

This issues with approval of the competent authority.

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(Dr. Sonali Ghosh)
Deputy Inspector General of Forest (HQ)

Distribution:

1. The Chief Wildlife Warden of all States / UTs.
2. The Officer in charge of recognized zoos

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