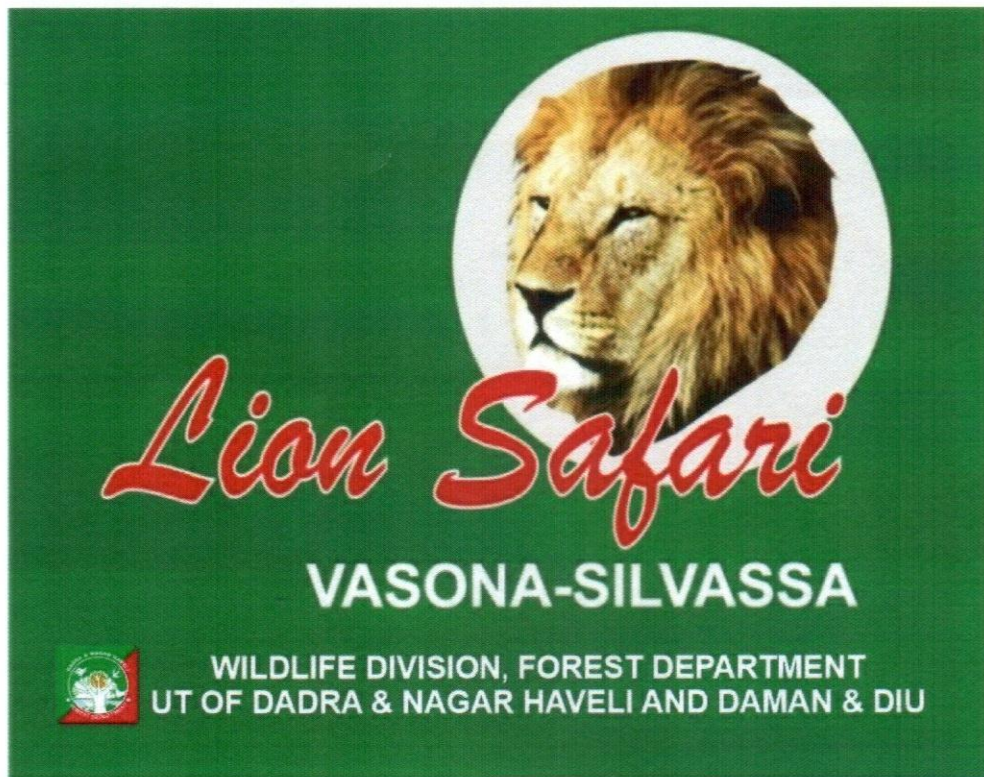


LION SAFARI VASONA

**Annual Report for the year
2022-23**





Prepared by

**LION SAFARI VASONA
FOREST DEPARTMENT
WILDLIFE DIVISION
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI
SILVASSA**

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1. Report of the Officer-in-charge

The Lion Safari Vasona Dadra and Nagar Haveli is one of the center of wildlife conservation through which recreation and environmental education is imparted. Every effort has been made to provide required housing, feed and health care to all the animals in the zoo. The number of visitors visiting to the Lion Safari, Vasona is increasing year after year. Adequate measures are carried out to provide required visitor amenities like Resting Shelters, Drinking Water, and Toilets. Awareness programmes are conducted regularly to educate the visitors especially students and teachers about the significance of wildlife conservation for the general wellbeing of the people and the role played by the zoos in this regard. Top priority is given to animal health care. It is our endeavour to ensure that the animals are screened regularly for preventing the occurrence of any disease by adopting prophylactic measures timely. The animal sanitation and hygiene is also maintained well. During the year 2022-23 all the zoo staffs worked sincerely, shown devotion towards their job and ensured a healthy environment for the animals.

2. History of the Zoo

The UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu has a history starting from 1779 when the Marathas gave the revenue of these 72 villages to the Portuguese. Portuguese rule continued till 1954 when they were driven out of the territory by rebellion. Then followed a Dadra & Nagar Haveli Free Administration till 1961 after which this territory merged with the union of India. The Dadra & Nagar Haveli has 72 villages spread over an area of 491 sq.kms in 2 enclaves in "Dadra" and "Nagar Haveli" areas. The population was 343709 as per the 2011 census of which male and female is 193760 and 121666 respectively. The population of tribal includes Varli, Dhodia, Kokna, Kathodi, Koli Dhor and Naikada tribes. The recorded forest area 204 sq.km which is 41.55% of Geographical area.

The continuing existence of zoos and their role in conservation, science, education, and recreation are recognized worldwide. Realizing the importance of zoos, the UT Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu decided in 1987 to establish Lion Safari at Vasona in Dadra & Nagar Haveli by adopting innovative methods of display of zoo animals that is congenial to the welfare of the animals and motivates the visitors for conservation by providing highest standards of housing, upkeep and healthcare to significant number of animals.

The proposal to create a Lion Safari at Vasona was initiated in 1987-88 due to the proximity of the site adjacent to Gujarat State and owing to its favorable locality factors. Major works were accomplished in the year 1999-2001 and the CZA gave permission for functioning of mini-zoo in the year 2002. In 2017-18 three lions (one male and two female) were kept in the Safari. But due to illness two of them (one male and one female) died and there was only one lioness namely Girija left in the Zoo in 2021-22. During the year 2022-23 two lions (Male -1 and Female-1) namely Ashoka and Meera were brought from Shakkarbaug Zoo and Rajkot Zoological Park respectively.

3. Vision

CARE (Conservation, Awareness, Research & Education)

4. Mission

To promote wildlife conservation through quality recreation and educational environment (i.e. to provide conducive facility to promote captive breeding of Asiatic Lion and to advance wildlife conservation through research, by creating general awareness, while simultaneously serving as a quality eco-educational facility, for the visitors).

Climate – The climate is warm humid and equitable due to the proximity to the Arabian Sea. The diurnal range variation in temperature normally does not exceed 17°C. The months of October and November are warm, cloudy and humid followed by wintery December, January, and February. The summer is severe from March to June and the monsoons are from July to September. The average annual rainfall is about 100-120 inches. There is no frost occurrence in the area; however, dew is observed till the end of January. Dew in the non-rainy months significantly contributes to precipitation. The humidity varies from 30% to 85% throughout the year.

Demography of the surrounding area — The existing land use pattern of surrounding areas in the village Vasona is 0.04 sq. km. as Gaothan/hamlet area, 0.08 sq.km is industrial area, 3.96 sq. km. is irrigation command area, 0.55sq.kms is reserved forest area, 0.18 is road, and 0.04 is water body. The population of Vasona is 4707 (2011 census). There is no urban center in Vasona,

Legal status of the land – The Lion Safari is a part of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary as notified by Gazette number 7-2/30- FD/WL/133, dated 23-11-2000. The Lion Safari is situated 10 km away from Silvassa and is well connected by road. The UT is visited by more than 1 (one) lakh tourists per year and the lion safari is one of source for tourist attraction where nearly 80 thousand tourist visit per year. The habitats inside the Lion safari has been especially created and maintained as per the natural habitat of the Asiatic lion. The Lion Safari was opened for public w.e.f. 04th October 2005. The Forest Department had initiated the lion safari project at village Vasona survey No. 147 and 148 by initially enclosing 6.68 hector area of Reserve Forest on 04/07/88 in the first phase. This area of the safari was expanded to 19.64ha in the final phase.

Collection Plan- The Lion Safari is dedicated to the pure Asiatic lion and the overall collection plan is with the objective of maintaining a viable population level of the lion. Breeding programmes with other zoos will be executed only after checking their pedigrees for pure breeds. At present there are three Lions (Male-1 and female-2).

Conservation breeding- The Lion Safari is a part of in-situ captive breeding of Asiatic lion, however breeding of two cubs are on record but there was mortality. Efforts are being made by the Division in coordination with the Junagad Veterinary facility, the CCMB, Hyderabad, Anand Vet College to carry out scientific investigation into the reasons for this failure and the means to rectify the same.

5. Objective

The objectives of the Lion Safari (Mini Zoo) are given below: -

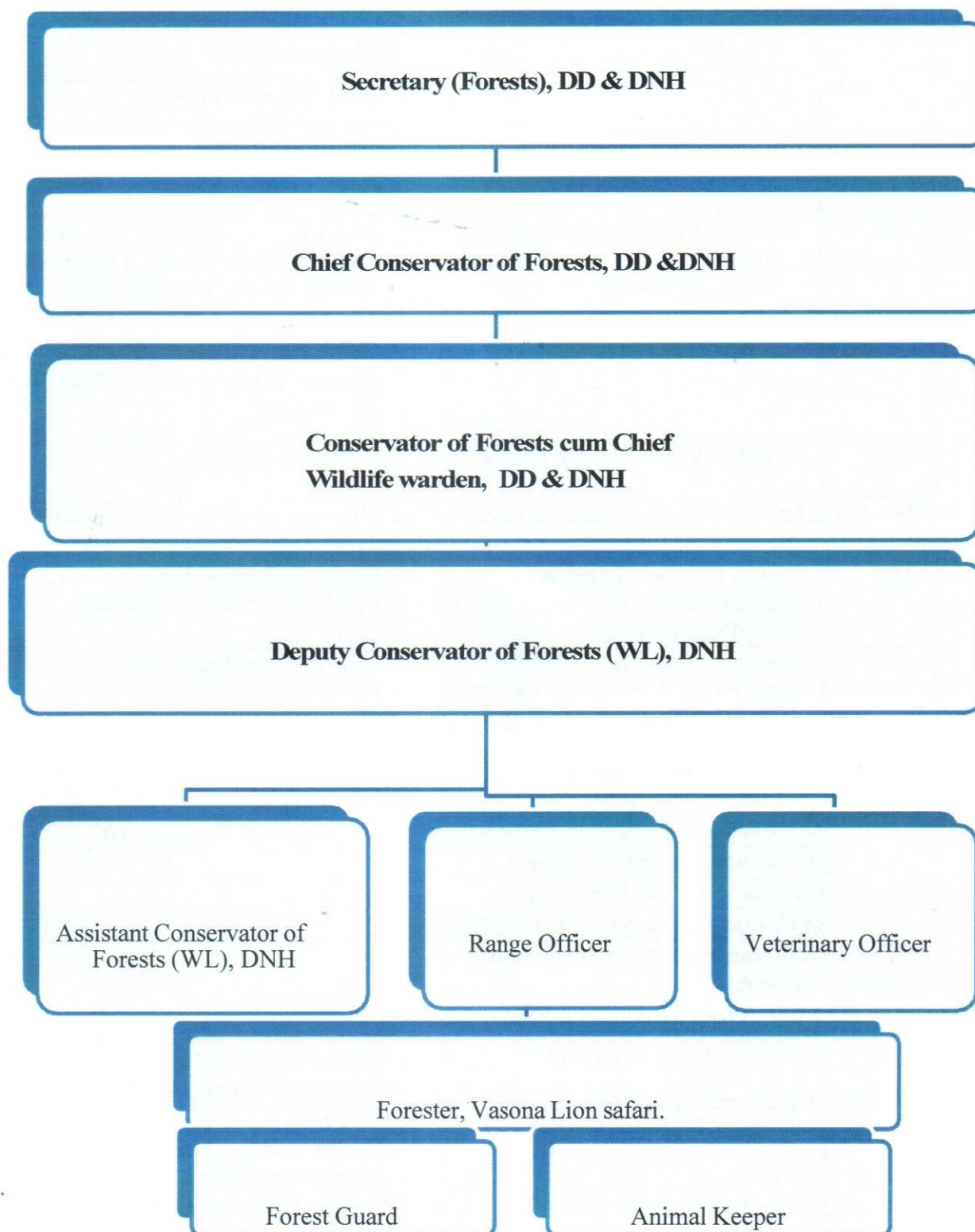
- 1) Conservation of an endangered species: The lion available in this Lion Safari is of pure breed of Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*). During the year two Lions (Male-1 and Female-1) namely Ashok and Meera were brought from Shakkarbaug Zoo and Rajkot Zoo respectively and presently there are three lions available in the Lion Safari.
- 2) To develop eco-education facilities and general awareness regarding the importance and conservation of wildlife and its natural habitat through interpretation at the adjoining Nature Education Center.
- 3) To provide an opportunity for scientific study and creation of a database useful for ex-situ conservation.
- 4) To increase the ecotourism potential of the Union Territory by establishment of the Zoo.

6. About us

Sl. No.	Particulars	Information
A. Basic Information about the Zoo		
1	Name of the Zoo	Vasona Lion Safari
2	Year of Establishment	04/10/2002
3	Address of the Zoo	Vasona Lion Safari, Vasona village Road, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, PIN 396230
4	State	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (UT)
5	Telephone Number	0260-2963693
6	Fax Number	--
7	E-mail address	dcfwl-dnh@nic.in
8	Distance from nearest Airport	Surat-147 km & Mumbai-149 km
9 (a)	Distance from nearest Railway Station	Vapi- 26 km
(b)	Distance from nearest Bus Stand	Silvassa 10 km
10	Recognition Valid up to Date)	22 nd December, 2024.
11	Category of zoo	Mini Zoo

12	Area (in Hectares)	19.64 Ha
13	Number of Visitors (2022-23)	Adult:60227
		Children:26877
		Total Indian:87104
		Total Foreigners: 33
		Total Visitors:87137
14	Visitors Facilities Available in Zoo	Parking Area, Reception/ waiting area, Kiosk, Ticket Window, Wheel chair for Divyang Visitors, Garden area, Tree Shade sit out, Drinking Water Facility, Wash Rooms, First Aid Kit, Vehicles for Safari.
15	Weekly Closure Day of the Zoo	Every Monday
B. Administration of Department of Forest & Environment		
16.	Name of the Head of Department(Forests) in UT of DD&DNH	Dr. M. Rajkumar, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests.
17.	Name of the Chief Wildlife warden in UT of DD&DNH	Shri. Prashant Rajagopal, IFS, Conservator of Forests
C. Management Personnel of the zoo		
18	(i)Name with designation of the Officer In-charge	Shri Thomas Varghese, IFS DCF(WL)
	(ii)Name of the Veterinary Officer	Dr. Vijay B Parmar, I/C V.O
	(iii)Name of the Curator	--
	(iv)Name of the Biologist	--
	(v)Name of the Education Officer	--
	(vi) Name of the Compounder/ LabAssistant	--
D. Owner /Operator of the Zoo		
19	Name of the Operator	Shri. Arun T, IAS, Secretary (Forests).
20	Address of the Operator	The Secretary (Forests), Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Vidyut Bhavan, Daman.
21	Contact details/Phone number	0260-2963693
22	E-mail address	dcfwl-dnh@gov.in

7. Organizational Chart



8. Human Resources

Manpower of the Zoo*

Sl. No.	Designation	Number of Posts	Names of the incumbent	Remarks
1	Deputy Conservator of Forests (WL)	01	Shri Thomas Varghese, IFS	All the posts at (Sl. No. 1, 2.3, 4 & 7) are functioning from existing strength of the Wildlife Division.
2	Assistant Conservator of Forests (WL)	01	Shri. Vijay A. Patel, ACF	
3	Range Forest Officer (WL)	01	1. Shri. Kiran kumar B. Parmar, FR. (01/04/2022 to 18/01/2023) 2. Shri Balu Rohit, I/c Forester (18/01/2023 to 31/03/2023)	
4	Forester	01	Shri. Rajendra Kumar Karsandas Parmar, Incharge forester.	
5	Veterinary Officer	01	Dr. Vijay B Parmar, I/C V.O	Posts at Sl.No.5 & 6 are managed by the Veterinary Officer and Staff of Govt. Veterinary Department.
6	Stockman	01	Shri. Bipinbhai K Gavit, I/c Stockman	
7	Forest Guard	03	Shri. Udaynath Magansihn Yadav	Posts at Sl.No. 8 & 9 is managed by Experienced Mazdoor (DW)
			Shri. Hemendra Pravindas.	
			Smt. Bhavishaben Durlabhbhai Ahir.	
8	Animal Keeper cum attendant	03	Shri Jitesh Kashi Mahala	
			Shri Somu Bablu Bhoya	
			Shri. Suresh Arjun Boba	
9	Driver	02	Shri. Pankaj Devu Tumbda	
			Shri. Sanjay Bediya Tumbda	
	Total	14	-	

*Please give above mentioned information in respect all zoo personnel, from the Office In-charge up to the Animal Keeper.

9. Capacity Building of zoo personnel

Sl. No.	Name and designation of the zoo personnel	Subject matter of Training	Period of Training	Name of the Institution where the Training attended
	-	-	-	-

Note: Training to manage the Zoo and its animals are provided to the Zoo personnel regularly by the Veterinary officer at local level.

10. Zoo Advisory Committee –

- Date of constitution: --NIL--
- Members
- Dates on which Meetings held during the year: -

11. Health Advisory Committee –

- Date of constitution: 21/11/2022
- Members: 06
- Dates on which Meetings held during the year: 26.05.2023

12. Statement of income and expenditure of the Zoo

- Income Rs. 17,77,635.00
- Expenditure Rs. 35,88,946.00

13. Daily feeding Schedule of animals

Sl. No.	Species	Feed item	Quantity (per day)		Day of fasting
			Winter	Summer	
1	<i>Panthera leopersica</i>	Buffalo Meat	8 Kg per Animal		Monday

14. Vaccination Schedule of animals

Sl. No.	Species	Local name	Disease vaccinated for	Name of the Vaccine and dosage/ quantity used	Period-icity	Remarks
1	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	Lion Ashoka	Against feline pan leucopenia, herpes virus, calicivirus, rabies virus.	Nobivac Tricat Trio vaccine (1 ml per Animal)	Annual	Vaccinated on 26.11.2022
2	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	Lioness Geerja	-do-	-do-	Annual	Vaccinated on 24.12.2022
3	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	Lioness Meera	-do-	-do-	Annual	Vaccinated on 21.01.2023

15. De-worming Schedule of animals

Sl. No.	Species (with Local name)	Drug used	Month	Remarks
I	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>			
(1)	<i>Lion Ashoka</i>	Tab Prazisam, Praziplus Boil, Albomar Liquid, Praziplus Boil	May (09/05/2022) August (12/08/2022) November (12/11/2022) February (10/02/2023)	Provided drug on Quarterly basis.
(2)	<i>Lioness Geerja</i>	Albomar, Praziplus Tab, Albomar, Praziplus Boil	May (10/05/2022) August (12/08/2022) November (12/11/2022) March (08/03/2023)	
(3)	<i>Lioness Meera</i>	Panacur Bolus Praziplus Boil	October (08/10/2022) March (10/03/2023)	

16. Disinfection Schedule

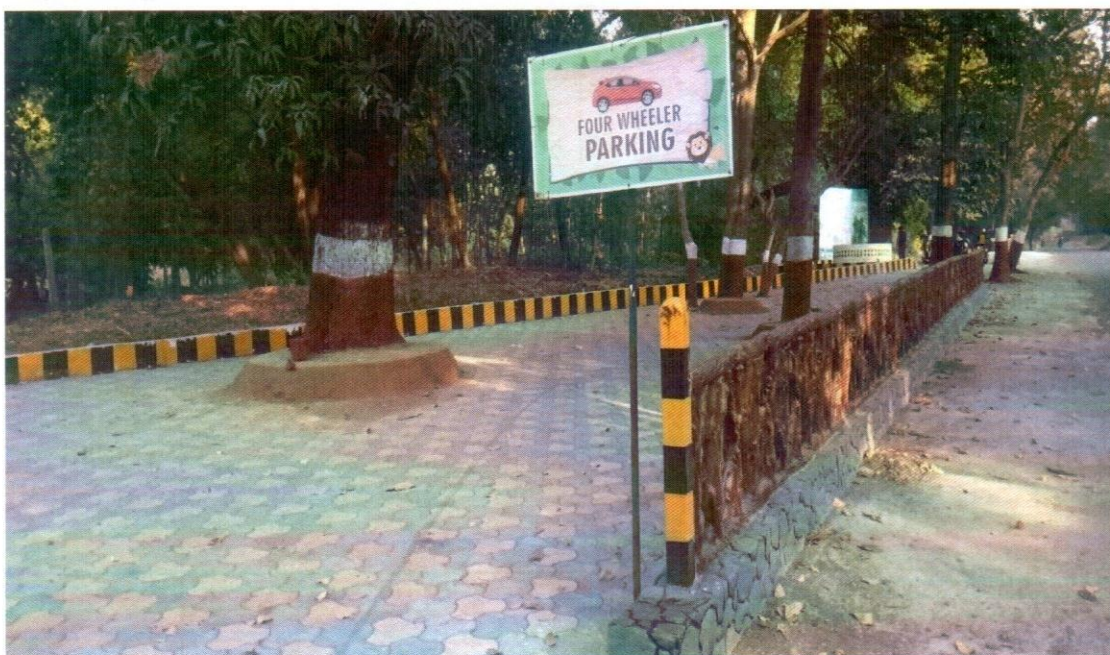
Sl. No.	Species	Type of enclosure	Disinfectant used and method	Frequency of disinfection
1	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	1. RCC with Iron Cages 2. Secondary Cages 3. Krawl	1. Kohrsolin is used for as Disinfectant 2. Gas fire treatment to floor and walls /corner	Daily Every Fifteen (15) days

17. Health Check-up of employees for zoonotic diseases

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date of Health Check up	Findings of Health Check up
1	Shri Jitesh K Mahala	Zoo Keeper	29/04/2022	Normal
2	Shri Somu B Bhoya	Zoo Keeper	29/04/2022	Normal
3	Shri Suresh A Boba	Zoo Keeper	29/04/2022	Normal

18. Development works carried out in the zoo during the year

The major works like improvement in Tree shade, Children playing area, Visitors Parking area, Shade in the Bus waiting area and Automation of Main Gate works are done and maintained.



19. Education and Awareness programmes during the year

Education awareness Programme carried out on important days as well as during celebration of wildlife week 2022. Students and Children from different localities of territory visited the safari and the Zoo- In- charge briefed them about the importance of zoo and animals. Safai Abhiyan awareness works were carried out with people's participation in the nearby villages.

20. Important Events and happenings

During the year two Lions (Male-1 and Female - 1) namely Ashoka and Meera brought from Sakkarbaugh Zoological Park, Junagadh and Rajkot Zoological Park respectively.

21. Seasonal special arrangements for upkeep of animals

Arrangements for the cooler cum heater are made for summer and winter respectively. During summer to protect the animals from heat wave jute cloth are placed from outside the cages and moistened by sprinkling water regularly. In summer during early morning and evening hours water is sprinkled on ground in and around the cage to keep down the temperature of the area.

22. Research work carried out and publications

Although no such research and publication works carried out during the period but monitoring of the Zoo animals are carried out on regular basis.

23. Conservation Breeding Programme of the Zoo

One of the objective of the Mini Zoo is conservation breeding. During the year two Lions (Male – 1 and Female - 1) namely Ashoka and Meera brought from Sakkarbaugh Zoological Park, Junagadh and Zoological Park, Rajkot respectively. Now the Lion Safari got three lions (male-1 and Female-2)

24. Animal acquisition / transfer / exchange during the year

A.	Animals arriving in the Zoo				
	H. No.	Species	Number (M:F)	From which Zoo	Date arrival
1		<i>Pantheraleo persica</i>	01 (1:0)	Sakkarbaugh Zoological Park, Junagadh	29/07/2022
2		<i>Pantheraleo persica</i>	01 (0:1)	Rajkot Zoological Park, Rajkot.	21/12/2022
B.	Animal going from the zoo				
	H. No.	Species	Number (M:F)	Going to Which Zoo	Date of deposition from the zoo
-NIL-					

25. Rescue and Rehabilitation of wild animals carried out by the Zoo

S. No.	Date of Rescue	Species with number of animals rescued with their Sex (M:F:U:T)	Received from	Date of Submission of Report to the CWLW/CZA	Action taken
-NIL-					

26. Annual Inventory of Animals

Form-II

[See Rule 11(1)]

Part – A

Inventory Report for the Year: 2022-23

Endangered Species*

S.No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Opening Stock as on 01.04.2022			Births			Acquisitions			Disposal			Deaths			Closing Stock as on 31.03.2023		
			M	F	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	T
1		Mammal:-																		
1.	Asiatic Lion	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Total	Asiatic Lion	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-

*Animals under Sch. I and II of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Note: Presently Lion Safari (Mini Zoo) having three Lions (male-1 & female-2).

Part – B

Other than Endangered Species

Sr. No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Opening Stock as on 01.04.2022			Births			Acquisitions			Disposals			Deaths			Closing Stock as on 31.03.2023		
			M	F	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	T
1.																				

-----NIL-----

27. Mortality of animals

Sl. No.	Animal Name(with individual Identification mark, if any.	Scientific Name	Sex	Date of Death	Reason of Death as per the post- mortem report
	---- NIL----				

28. Compliance with conditions stipulated by the Central Zoo Authority (vide letter/ computer No.147578 dated 24.12.2022)

Sl. No	Norm No.	Condition Stipulated	Time Period to Comply	Status with regard to compliance of the conditions
2.	Administrative and Staffing pattern			
1	10.2(1)	At present the In-charge of the Zoo, the DCF (WL), DNH having only the powers of Head of Office which is not sufficient to manage a Lion Safari where multifarious management activities are involved and improvements are to be done on daily basis. The Administration may consider appropriate delegation of financial powers to the CWLW/ DCF (WL) for smooth day to day functioning of the Lion Safari Vasona.	Twelve Months	Matter is under correspondence with UT Administration of DD & DNH.
2	10.2(2)	Advised to make a demand for prescribed staff to meet the future expansion of the Lion Safari, Vasona.	Fifteen Months	Matter under correspondence with Competent Authority of UT Administration of DD & DNH.
3	10.2(4)	A trained stand by Veterinarian should be kept in the event of emergency when the regular Veterinarian is not available.	Six Months	Action is being taken to engage one Veterinary Doctor on outsourcing basis in addition to the available Doctor from Veterinary Department of DNH.

5.	Upkeep and healthcare of animals			
4	10.5(2)	Buffalo meat is brought from Mumbai on daily basis from a long distance to feed the Lion. The arrangement shall need a re-thinking when the population of Lion shall increase in the Safari. Presently, the slaughter of cattle is banned in UT, but considering the subsequent increase in number of animals in due course of time permission is to be obtained from the competent authority of the DD&DNH Administration to slaughter the animals locally to feed the Lions.	Twelve Months	Matter is under consideration of the higher authorities and suitable decision will be taken by the Administration in due course of time.
6.	Veterinary and infrastructure facilities			
5	10.6(1)	Infra-structure facility at Veterinary Dispensary can be expanded by adding one minor OT with hydraulic OT table, surgical light, oxygen facility etc. To perform minor /major surgical operations, physical examination of animal under sedation or in recumbent position etc.	One Year	Action has been initiated to develop the veterinary and infrastructure facilities under the guidance of the Govt. Veterinary Department.
11.	Education and outreach activities			
6	10.11(1)	Lion Safari, Vasona is visited by Students and Tourists in large numbers; hence it is suggested to display the signages of flora of the local forest standing around the Visitors area wherever feasible with eco-friendly manner.	Nine Months	Action has been initiated to display new signages and maintaining the existing one.
12.	Visitors Facilities			
7	10.12(2)	Anti-venom a life-saving drug should be kept in the Veterinary Hospital of Lion Safari as a practice to meet the situation of emergency in addition to the nearby Government Hospital where is available.	Three Months	Action has been initiated to procure the same and for keeping it in Lion Safari.

29. List of free living wild animals within the zoo premises

- a. Mammals: - No such free ranging mammal has been seen in the area.
- b. Birds: - Peacock, kingfisher, Crow pheasant, Woodpecker etc. commonly sighted in the forests.
- c. Reptiles: - Cobra, Russel Vipers, Rat Snake, Water Snake, and Indian rock python, frog, tortoise, are rarely sighted in the area.

