

LION SAFARI VASONA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR
2023-24



Lion Safari
Vasona - Silvassa



WILDLIFE DIVISION, FOREST DEPARTMENT,
U.T. OF DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU.



Prepared by
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SILVASSA
LION SAFARI VASONA

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1. Report of the Officer-in-charge

The Lion Safari, Vasona, Dadra and Nagar Haveli is one of the wildlife conservation center in Dadra & Nagar haveli 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 safari/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. Further, QR code provided Tree boards 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 2023-24 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 history of Dadra & Nagar Haveli dates back to the year 1779 when the Marathas gave the revenue of 72 villages in the area to the Portuguese. Portuguese rule continued till 1954 when they were driven out of the territory by rebellion. Then followed Dadra & Nagar Haveli Free Administration till 1961, after which this territory merged with the union of India. 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, as per Census 2011 is 3,43,709 of which male and female population is 1,93,760 and 1,21,666 respectively. The tribal population is about 60% with Varli, Dhodia, Kokna, Kathodi, Koli, Dubia and Naika tribes. Now the population increased and as per details from, the total population was. The recorded forest area 204 sq.km which is 41.55 % of Geographical area.

The continuing existence of zoos and their role in conservation, research, education, and recreation are recognized worldwide. Realizing the importance of zoos, the UT Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, in the year 1987, decided 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.

Major works of the zoo 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 housed in the Safari. But due to illness, two of them (one male and one female) died and there was only one lioness namely, LS-2 (Geerja) left in the Zoo in the year, 2021-22. During the year 2022-23 two lions (Male -1 and Female-1) namely L-1(Ashok) and LS-1 (Meera) were brought from Shakkarbaug Zoo

and Rajkot Zoological Park, Gujarat respectively. Efforts are on move to bring one more breeding pair of lion from Gujarat.

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 Jan. 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 (i) Gaothan/hamlet area -0.04 sq. km., (ii) Industrial area-0.08 sq.km., (iii) Irrigation command area - 3.96 sq. km., (iv) Reserves forest area- 0.55 sq.km., (v) Roads - 0.18 sq.km and (vi) Water body-0.04 sq.km. The population of Vasona is 4,707 (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 main tourist attraction where nearly 90 thousand tourists visit the safari every year. The habitats inside the Lion safari has been especially created and maintained as per the natural habitat of the Asiatic lion. Lion Safari was opened for public w.e.f. 04th October 2005. The Forest Department has 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 was expanded to19.64ha 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 of the lion. Breeding programmes with others 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 captive breeding of Asiatic lion. Earlier, through the breeding programme, two cubs were born, but both died soon. Efforts are being made by the Wildlife Division in coordination with the Junagad Veterinary facility and the CCMB, Hyderabad, Anand Vet College to carry out scientific investigation into the reasons for this failure and the means to rectify the same.

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).

5. Objective

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

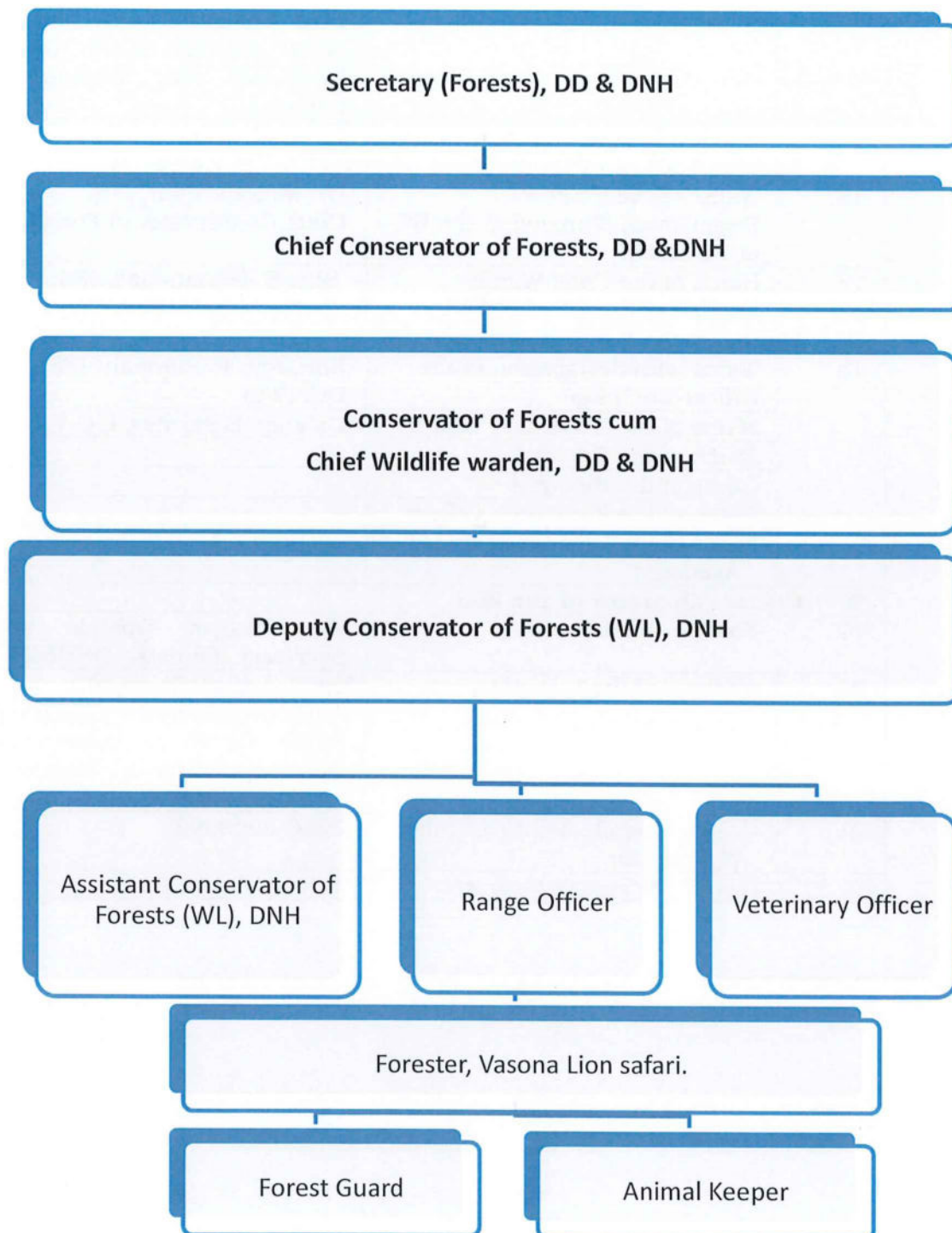
- 1) Conservation of an endangered species – The lion available in this Lion Safari is of pure breed of Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*). Presently there are three lions available in the Lion Safari.
- 2) To develop eco-education facilities and general awareness regarding the importance and conservation 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 (2023-24)	Adult: 65595 Children: 23886

		Total Indian: 89481
		Total Foreigners: 32
		Total Visitors: 89513
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 the UT of DD&DNH	Dr. M. Rajkumar, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests.
17	Name of the Chief Wildlife warden in the UT of DNH	Shri B. Mohandaas, IFS, Conservator of Forests.
C. Management Personnel of the zoo		
18	Name with designation of the Officer In-charge	Shri Joju P. Alappatt, IFS DCF(WL)
	Name of the Veterinary Officer	Dr Vijay B Parmar, I/C V.O
	Name of the Curator	--
	Name of the Biologist	--
	Name of the Education Officer	--
	Name of the Compounder/Lab Assistant	--
D. Owner /Operator of the Zoo		
19	Name of the Operator	Shri Sagar Doifode, IAS, Secretary (Forests), DNH&DD
20	Address of the Operator	The Secretary (Forests), Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Vidyut Bhavan, Daman
21	Contact details/Phone number of Operator	0260-2963693
22	E-mail address of Operator	dcfwl-dnh@gov.in

7. Organizational Chart



8. Human Resources

Manpower of the Zoo*

Sl. No.	Designation	Number of Posts	Names of the incumbent	Remark
1	Deputy Conservator of Forests (WL)	01	Shri Joju P. Alappatt, 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. Kailash S. Gaikwad.	
3	Forest Ranger	01	Shri. D. M. Ganvit	
4	Forester	01	Shri. Rajendra Kumar Karsandas Parmar	
5	Veterinary Officer	01	Dr. Vijay B Parmar, I/C V.O	Posts at Sl.No.5&6 are managed by the Officer/ Staff of Govt. Veterinary Department.
6	Stockman	01	Shri. N.D.Bhandari.	
7	Forest Guard	02	Shri Vicky Kumar. Smt. Bhavisha D. Ahir	
8	Animal Keeper cum attendant	03	Shri Jitesh Kashi Mahala Shri Somu Bablu Bhoya Shri Suresh Arjun Boba	Posts at Sl.No. 8&9 is managed by Experienced Mazdoor (DW)
9	Driver	03	Shri Pankaj Devu Tumbda Shri Sanajy Bediya Tumbda Shri Parshot Ishwar Gavli	
	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
1	-	-	-	-

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

b. Members:

06

c. Dates on which Meetings held during the year: 22.04.2023

Statement of income and expenditure of the Zoo

1. Income Rs. 18,15,655.00

2. Expenditure Rs. 80,81,709.00

12. Daily feeding Schedule of animals

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

13. Vaccination Schedule of animals

Sl. No.	Species	Local Name	Disease vaccinated for	Name of the Vaccine and dosage/ quantity used	Periodicity	Remarks
1	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	Lion Ashok (L-1)	Against feline pan leucopenia, herpes virus, calici virus, rabies virus.	Nobivac Tricat Trio Vaccine (1 ml per Animal)	Annual	Vaccinated on 19.12.2023
2	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	Lioness Meera (LS-1)	-do-	Felocell (3)	Annual	Vaccinated on 20.01.2024
3	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	Lioness Geerja (LS-2)	-do-	Felocell (3)	Annual	Vaccinated on 12.12.2023

14. De-worming Schedule of animals

Sl. No.	Species (with local name)	Drug used	Month	Remarks
I	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>			
(1)	Lion Ashok (L-1)	1. Fenbendazole Bolus 2. Albomar liaide 3. Fenbendazole Bolus	May(11.05.2023 to 13.05.2023) August (09.08.2023 to 11.08.2023) November (09.11.2023 to 11.11.2023)	De-worming by changing of drug on Quarterly basis.

		4. Albomar liaide	February (09.02.2024 to 11.02.2023)
(2)	Lioness Meera (LS-1)	1. Fenbendazole Bolus 2. Albomar liaide 3. Albomar liaide	June (15.06.2023 to 17.06.2023) September (12.09.2023 to 14.09.2023) December (08.12.2023) March (08.03.2024)
(3)	Lioness Geerja (LS-2)	1. Fenbendazole Bolus 2. Fenbendazole Bolus 3. Fenbendazole Bolus 4. Fenbendazole Bolus	June (08.06.2023 to 10.06.2023) September (08.09.2023 to 1.09.2023) Dec (06.12.2023 to 10.12.2023) March (08.03.2024 to 10.03.2024)

15. 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

16. 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 Kashi Mahala	Zoo Keeper	13.06.2023	Normal
2	Shri Somu Bablu Bhoya	Zoo Keeper	13.06.2023	Normal
3	Shri Suresh Arjun Boba	Zoo Keeper	13.06.2023	Normal

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

The major works like Tree shade, Children playing area, Visitors Parking area, Shade in the Bus waiting area and Automation of Main Gate works are done and maintained. New signages on local flora with QR code has been fixed on trees in and around visitor area.



18. Education and Awareness programmes during the year

Education awareness Programme carried out during celebration of wildlife week 2023. 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.

19. Important Events and happenings

No such events and happenings

20. 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 cage to keep down the temperature of the area.

21. 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.

22. Conservation Breeding Programme of the Zoo

One of the objective of the Mini Zoo is conservation breeding. This practice involves breeding endangered species in captivity with the goal of increasing their population numbers and ensuring their survival. Earlier, through the breeding programme, two cubs were born, but both died soon. Efforts are being made by the Wildlife Division in coordination with the expert institutes and Zoos to boost the conservation breeding programme of the zoo.

23. Animal acquisition / transfer / exchange during the year

A. Animals arriving in the Zoo					
H. No.	Species	Number (M:F)	From which Zoo	Date arrival in the zoo	
-NIL-					
B. Animal going from the zoo					
H. No.	Species	Number (M:F)	Going to which Zoo	Date of deposition from the zoo	
-NIL-					

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

Sl. 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	
					Date and place of rehabilitation in their habitat	Reasons for housing in the zoo, if not released in their habitat
-NIL-						

25. Annual Inventory of Animals

Form-II
[See Rule 11(1)]
Part - A

Inventory Report for the Year: 2023-24

Endangered Species*

Sr. No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Opening Stock as on 01.04.2023				Births			Acquisitions			Disposals			Deaths			Closing Stock as on 31.03.2024					
			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T		
I	Mammal:																							
1.	Lion	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	1	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
Total	Lion	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	1	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3

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

Note: Presently Lion Safari (Mini Zoo) having only one Lion.

Part - B

Other than Endangered Species

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

26. 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
1	----- NIL-----				

27. Compliance with conditions stipulated by the Central Zoo Authority

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	Twelve Months	Matter is under correspondence with UT Administration of DNH& DD
2	10.2 (2)	Advised to make a demand for prescribed staff to meet the future expansion of the Lion Safari, Vasona.	Fifteen Month	Matter under correspondence with Competent Authority of UT Administration of DNH& DD
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 animal			


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 Month	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	Minor OT with hydraulic OT table, surgical light, monitoring equipments, microscopes, surgical instruments, autoclave, laboratory kit etc. has been set up in the veterinary dispensary. Further development of the veterinary and infrastructure facilities are on planning 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	Nine Months	Signages on local flora with QR code has been displayed in and around visitor area.

			around the Visitors area wherever feasible with eco-friendly manner.		
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	5 vials of Anti-venom has been kept in the veterinary dispensary.

28. 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's Viper, Rat Snake, Water Snake, and Indian rock python, tortoise etc. are sighted in the area.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX


 12/12/24
 Deputy Conservator of Forest (WL)
 Dadra & Nagar Haveli
 SILVASSA

