

BIJNI DEER PARK

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022-23



**DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,
SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, KOKRAJHAR**

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1. REPORT OF THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

The Bijni Park is located at about 80 KM from the Division Head Quarter, Kokrajhar. The deer park erstwhile known as Bijni Mini Zoo just after the establishment of the park with four nos. of hog deer (*Axis porcinus*) some other animal like reptile, amphibians, birds were also kept in the park and it gradually turned into a small size zoo. The area is 3.7 Hac. including 0.8 Hact. water body. But due to paucity of fund the maintenance of the animal become difficult and other animals except deers transferred to Guwahati Zoo. This process was done in the year of 1992-93 and completed till 2007.

Meanwhile in the event of submission of evaluation report by an evaluator from CZA passed an instruction either to shift the animals or shift there to new location owing to the limitation of space and absence of infrastructure like veterinary unit, carcass disposal ground, isolation zone etc.

Since then right from 2010, the process of shifting was initiated by the then DFO in-charge. The initial proposal for trans-shiftment was not possible due to the non compliance of the guidelines of CZA specially the master plan of the new site. A new site was selected at Elachijhar R.F under Kachugaon division which is situated at 3.5 KM distance from the Head Quarter and Council's Head Quarter from Kokrajhar.

The matter then was re-submitted but there was also some technical defects in Master Layout Plan etc. Finally a complete master Plan along with Layout Plan was submitted by the reporting officer during March 2017 through proper channel. But to approval of the same has been awaited till date and the status of the deer park remain the same for more than a decade. Now, today there is some constraints in maintaining the deer park due to the following few points.

- a.* Fund : Fund for maintenance of the deer park is sanctioned and released by the BTC authority once in a year annually in the Financial year 2017-18 the concern authority has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1000000.00 (Rupees ten lakh) only for the maintenance of the Bijni Deer Park. This is not sufficient because everything like food, medical treatment, sanitization, cleaning of entire park area has to be covered by this small amount.
- b.* There are seven number 7 (seven) number of staff against the deer park, only one building inside the compound is there for office and staff accommodation. All the rest of staff resides in rented house.
- c.* Inbreeding : There are cases of inbreeding within the Bijni deer park cum Mini Zoo due to not having provision for breeding with others the deer are kept in a single compound in a captivated mood.

Whatsoever may be the constraints, the deer are monitored constantly and the health of the animals are maintained amidst lot of difficulties.

Now there is quite ample of scope of collection of other animals in the Bijni Mini Zoo / deer Park Campus area as many animals are being rescued from forests like hog deers, python, porcupine, bear, slow loris, etc. If the Mini Zoo is established in a new site there will be a very good and suitable new Mini Zoo at Kokrajhar as per availability of suitable area for the Zoo as per guideline of CZA.

2. HISTORY OF THE BIJNI MINI ZOO

The Bijni Social Forestry Park cum Mini Zoo/ Deer Park was established in 1982-83 at Bijni town adjacent to Bijni Forest Depot.

The Park has a total area of 3.70 Ha. including a water body of 0.80 Ha.

The park was created with an intention to provide recreation to the local people of Bijni area.

The park was originally looked after by Social Forestry Division, Kokrajhar and later on handed over to Social Forestry Division, Bongaigaon in 1993 at the time of creation of Bongaigaon Social Forestry Division. But the same park was again handed over back to Social Forestry Division, Kokrajhar in 2007 since the Bijni Park cum Mini Zoo area falls under BTC area but the Bongaigaon S.F. Division headquarter falls outside BTC area. Since then, the Park cum Mini Zoo is being looked after by Social Forestry Division, Kokrajhar although the Park is far away of about 80.00 KM from Kokrajhar Social Forestry Division, H.Q.

Originally it is learnt that 5 Hog deers were released in the enclosure of the Park.

A few rescued/procured animals had also been rehabilitated/released in the Park time to time.

The inventory of stock of animals & birds in the park during 2000-2001 are shown below –

(Source –Report of the Forest Range Officer, Social Forestry Range, Bijni under Social Forestry Division, Bongaigaon vide Memo No. BSR/Park/15(B)/333 dt 15.02.2001.)

Name of birds and animals	No. of spp. during 2000-2001 assessment	Casualty due to flood and other reason/released to natural forests	New born birds/animals during 2000-2001	Present stock position (In 2000-2001)
1. Python	4 nos.	4 nos. released to natural forests	Nil	Nil
2. Monkey	5 nos.	5 nos. released to natural forests.	Nil	Nil
3. Palm Civet	1 no.	1 no. released to natural forests.	Nil	Nil
4. Rabbits & Guinea Pig	16 nos.	9 nos. died due to natural calamity.	Nil	7 nos.
5. Deer & Hog deer	23 nos.	2 nos. died. 1 no. natural death during 5/2000. 1 no. during 8/2000 due to flood.	3 nos.	24 nos.
6. Porcupine	2 nos.	1 no. died on 1/2/2001 & natural death.	Nil	1 no.
7. China duck	5 nos.	2 nos. died natural death	Nil	3 nos.
8. Dive	5 nos.	5 nos. released to natural forests.	Nil	Nil
9. Goose	11 nos.	3 nos. 2 nos. natural death. 1 no. washed away by flood.	Nil	8 nos.
10. Tortoise	2 nos.	Nil	Nil	2 nos.
11.Kite	1 no.	1 no. released to natural Forests.	Nil	Nil.
12. Peacock	1 no.	Nil	Nil	1 no

Remarks-

1. Out of 8 Nos. of Goose, 2 Nos. are known to be died and 2 are shifted to Guwahati Zoo.
2. 2 Nos. of Tortoise are also known to be shifted to Guwahati Zoo in 2007.
3. 1 no Peacock also known to be shifted to Guwahati Zoo in 2007.
4. Information about 7 Nos. of Rabbits & Guinea Pigs could not be obtained due to damage of office records by termites (as told) in Social Forestry Division, Bongaigaon.
5. Information regarding 1 Porcupine is also could not be traced due to damage of office records by termites as above.

The Bijni Social Forestry Park which is also popularly known as Bijni Mini Zoo was recognized by Central Zoo Authority but now the status has been changed & recognized as Bijni Deer Park and the Registration extended upto 19-08-2021 by Central Zoo Authority, Govt. of India

As per guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Mini-Zoo animals needs to be transferred to Assam State Zoo, Guwahati and the Zoo is to be closed down.

Majority of animals and birds like Tortoise, Peacock etc. have already been shifted to Guwahati Zoo while some are known to be died due to various reasons. But still odd 25 Nos. of Hog deer, 1 Barking deer and 4 Nos. of Geese are there in the Park those are neither shifted to Guwahati Zoo nor other alternative and appropriate/suitable refuge for their sustenance and maintenance are arranged due to various factors.

The reasons are enumerated as under-

- ☞ First of all, shifting such a large number of deer over a distance of more than 200 KM from Bijni to Guwahati is not easy and would require a considerable amount of manpower and expenditure for cages, hiring of trucks and handling of animals besides other allied matters. The whole exercise will itself be a huge one irrespective of shifting to any suitable Zoo or location.
- ☞ Secondly, the deer are highly susceptible to shock and trauma during entire exercise of capture and transportation by road to such a long distance i.e. Assam State Zoo, Guwahati. In this case probability of arising severe problem or mortality etc. cannot be ruled out.
- ☞ Thirdly, The Assam State Zoo, Guwahati is already overcrowded with a variety of deer species and adding another significant number those are possibly from inbreed genetic stock may not be desirable.
- ☞ Fourthly, the local people have sentimental values attached to these deer and have informally requested the officials again and again to suitably rehabilitate these deer within BTC area. Still, it cannot be ruled out that some local people even objected / denied against shifting of these deer from Bijni Park cum Mini Zoo to other location due to sentiments they have created in them.
- ☞ Finally, keeping in view the large number of wild animals rescued time to time in BTC and lower Assam area, it is felt that it will be a good strategy to establish a rescue cum animal rehabilitation / facility centre in this area preferably near BTC headquarter, Kokrajhar.

So, it is with this justification, a proposal for establishing an animal facility near Kokrajhar at Elasisjhar Reserve Forest (R.F.) under BTC is suggested and sent to the Central Zoo Authority of India for appraisal and approval. If it is deem to be fit.

3. Vision

VISION

To conserve Biodiversity especially the endangered and charismatic species

To maintain an earth of our only living planet with healthy environment with human values, protect and preserve the flora and fauna with their relationship with human beings.

To conserve the animal species providing their natural habitat inside in the Deer Park.

To provide emergency relief to the wildlife in distress.

To spread the message of nature conservation and protection by way of awareness and educational programmes.

4. Mission

MISSION

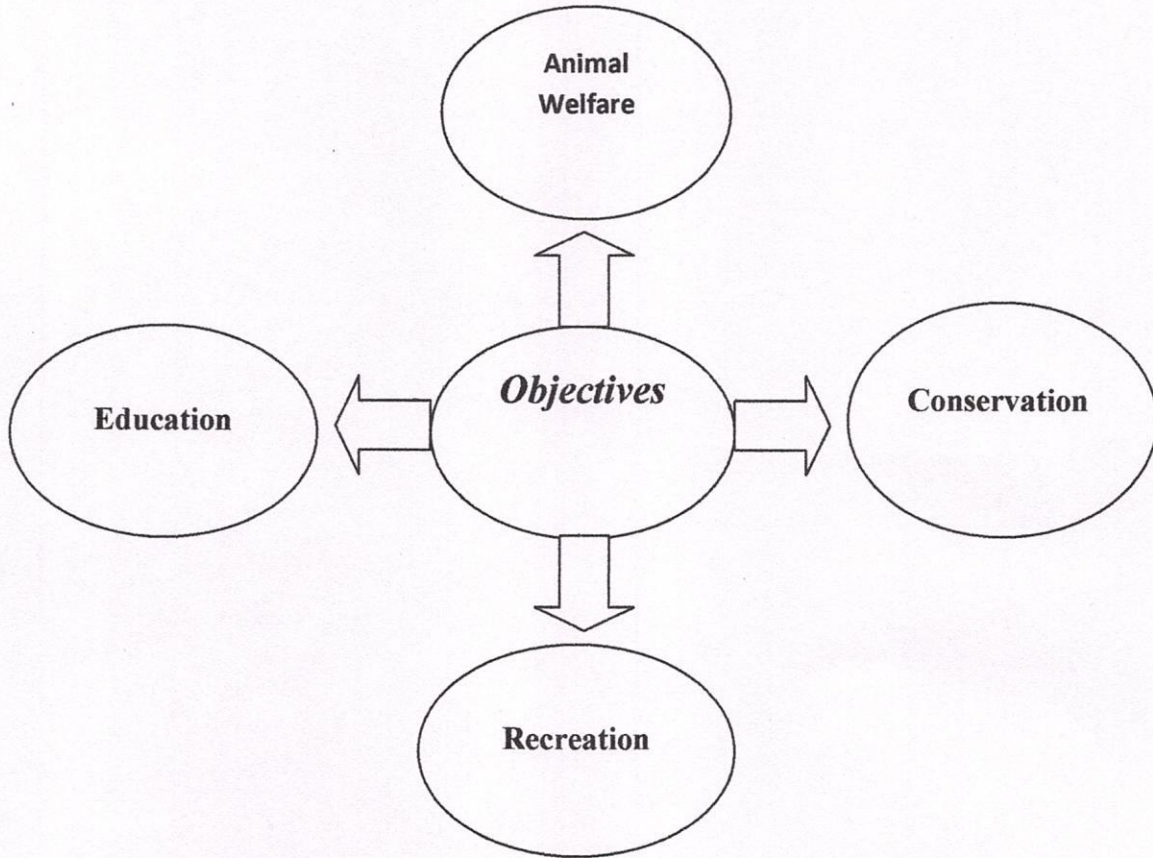
Besides providing biological education to people, Bijni Deer Park is dedicated to reproductive biology and conservation research in situ and ex situ, maintaining populations of deer that are endangered and seeking to minimize the negative impact of human activities on wildlife..

The park was created with an intention to provide recreation to the local people of Bijni area as well as to gather knowledge on Wildlives

We save wildlife and their habitats through conservation, research, education and engaging experiences. Our efforts connect people to animals and inspire conservation action.

5. Objectives:

OBJECTIVES

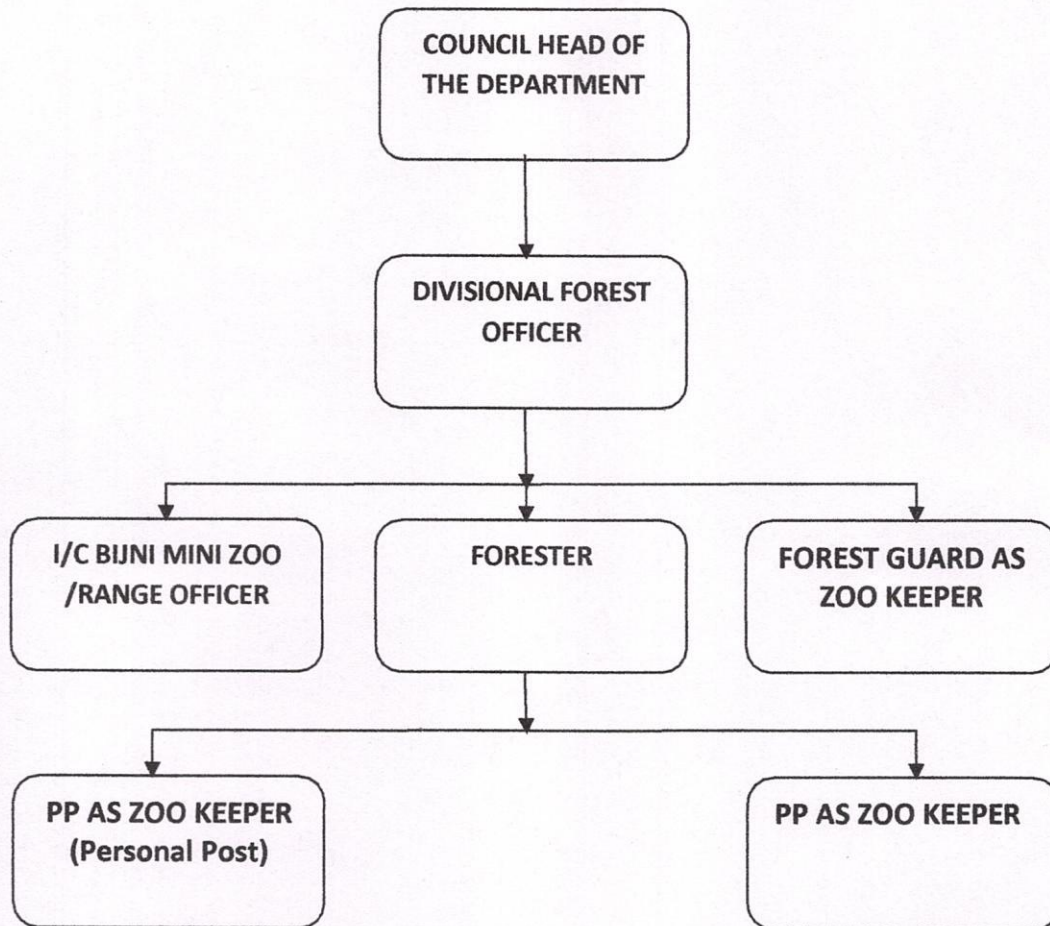


6. About us

SI No	Particulars	Information
Basic information about the ZOO		
1	Name of the Zoo	Bijni Social Forestry Deer Park
2	Year of Establishment	1982-83
3	Address of the Zoo	P.O.:- Bijni, District:- Chirang, BTC
4	State	Assam
5	Telephone Number	03661295251
6	Fax Number	
7	E-mail address	dfosfdkoj@yahoo.com
8	Website	
9	Distance from nearest	Airport: 180 km
		Railway: 1 km
		Bus Stand: Half km
10	Recognition valid upto (Date)	19.08.2021 (No. B/SFK/2/31/5/Bijni Park/937 dtd.18.06.2021
11	Category of Zoo	Deer Park
12	Area (in hectare)	The Park has a total area of 3.70 Ha. including a water body of 0.80 Ha.
13	Number of Visitors (Financial Year)	Adult: 3000 Nos.
		Children: 2500 Nos.
		Total Indian: 5500
		Total Foreigners: Nil
		Total Visitors: 5500 Nos.
14	Visitor's Facilities Available in Zoo	At present are sitting bench, Drinking water & Toilet etc. facilities in Bijni Deer Park.
15	Weekly Closure Day of the Zoo	Thursday
Management Personnel of the Zoo		
16	Name with designation of the Officer in-charge	Sri J. K. Brahma, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Kokrajhar
	Name of the Veterinary Officer	Nil
	Name of the Curator	Right now there is no such post exists
	Name of the Biologist	Nil
	Name of the Education Officer	Right now there is no such post exists
	Name of the Compounder/Lab Assistant	Right now there is no such post exists
Owner/Operator of the Zoo		
17	Name of the Operator	Sri J.K. Brahma, DCF, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Kokrajhar
18	Address of the Operator	Kokrajhar Town
19	Contact details/Phone number of Operator	8638172422
20	E-mail address of Operator	dfosfdkoj@yahoo.com

7. Organizational Chart

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



8. Human Resources

MANPOWER OF THE ZOO

Sl No.	Designation	Number of Sanction Post	Names of the incumbent
1.	Dy. Ranger	1	Sri Bhasan Sarkar
2.	Forester –I	2	Sri Pradip Basumatary Sri Chobin Nath
3.	Forest Guard	1	Sri Bikash Das
4.	PP Post	4	Sri Depak Das Sri Kamal Biswas Sri Budheswar Roy Sri Babul Ali

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.	Sri Bhasan Sarkar, Dy. Ranger			
2.	Sri Pradip Basumatary, Fr-I			

10. Zoo Advisory Committee –

Sl. No.	Date of Constitution	Members	Dates on which Meetings held during the year
1.	5 th January 2016	Sri J.K. Brahma, DCF	5 th January & 5 th December 2018
2.		Sri R.N.Boro, IFS, Deputy Director, Manas Tiger Project	
3.		Dr. D.K. Bhuiyan BV.Sc. & AH,	
4.		Dr. Daoharu Baro, B. VSc	
5.		Dr. P.K. Aditya	
6.		Dr. H.J. Singha	
7.		Dr. Nilotpal Saha	
8.		Sri Narayan Sarkar	
9.		Sri Bablu Dey	

11. Health Advisory Committee:

Sl. No.	Date of Constitution	Members	Dates on which Meetings held during the year
1.		Dr. D.K. Bhuiyan, CHD, Deptt. of Veterinary , BTC	No advisory committee constituted formally but this team monitor and manage the health of the animals
2.		Dr. Prabhat Basumatary, B. VSc	
3.		Dr. Daoharu Baro, B. VSc	

12. Statement of income and expenditure of the Zoo:

NIL

13. Daily feed Schedule of animals

Sl. No.	Species	Feed item	Quantity		Day of fasting
			Winter	Summer	
1.	Indian Hog deer	Gram	350 gm.	400 gm.	Saturday
2.		Wheat	350 gm.	400 gm.	-do-
3.		Rice dust	300 gm.	350 gm.	-do-
4.		Carrot	200 gm.	250 gm.	-do-
5.		Salt	100 gm.	150 gm.	-do-
6.		Green Fodder	3 kg.	4 kg.	-do-
7.		Prepared Food supplement, Minarex Power / Minarex forte power / Minfa Gold power / Ostovet forte liquid	10 gm.	10 gm.	-do-
1.	Goose	Paddy	100 gm.	150 gm.	-do-
2.		Rice	100 gm.	150 gm.	-do-

14. Vaccination Schedule of animals

Sl. No.	Species	Disease vaccinated for	Name of the Vaccine and dosage/ quantity used	Periodicity	Remarks
1.	Deer				Vaccination not done but special attention given on individual sick animal and treatment given accordingly in isolation

15. De-worming Schedule of animals

Sl.No.	Species	Drug used	Month
1.	Deer	Panacur / Fentas / Albomar bolus	March & September

16. Disinfection Schedule

Sl.No.	Species	Type of enclosure	Disinfectant used and method	Frequency of disinfection
1.	Deer	Open	Citronella, Bleaching Powder	Monthly

17. Health Check-up of employees for zoonotic diseases

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date of Health Check up	Findings of Health Check up
1.	Sri Bhasan Sarkar	Dy. Ranger	01.01.2022 & 31.03.2023	Normal
2.	Sri Pradip Basumatary	Forester- I		
3.	Sri Chobin Nath			
4.	Sri Bikash Das	Forest Guard		
5.	Sri Depak Das	PP Post		
6.	Sri Kamal Biswas			
7.	Sri Budheswar Roy			
8.	Sri Babil Ali			

18. Development Works carried out in the zoo during the year 2022-23

Development work like earth filling improvement of roads was carried out inside the Bijni Social Forestry Deer Park, Bijni.

19. Education and Awareness programmes during the year :

With Children visitors on awareness for conservation of Wildlife

20. Important Events and happenings :

Observed Wildlife week during October 1st Week

21. Seasonal special arrangements for upkeep of animals :

During winter the open enclosure covered by tarpaulin, temporary PVC shed and spreading of dry paddy stalk and arranged control heating provision by burning of fuel wood. During summer raised temporary thatch shed hut for resting of the animals in addition to existing sheds.

22. Research Work carried out and publications

No provision for such subjects.

23. Conservation Breeding Programme of the Zoo

There is no such provision in the Deer Park at Bijni

24. Animal acquisition / transfer / exchange during the year

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

25. 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	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

26. Annual Inventory of animals

Form – II
[See Rule 11 (1)]
Part – A

Inventor Report for the Year :

Endangered Species*

Sl. No.	Animal Name	Scientific name	Opening Stock as on				Births			Acquisition			Disposal			Death			Closing Stock as on			
			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T
	Indian Hog deer	Axis Porcinus																				
1	Total		16	18	0	34	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	15	20	0	35

*Animals under Schedule I and Schedule II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

Part – B

Other than Endangered Species

Sl. No.	Animal Name	Scientific name	Opening Stock as on				Births			Acquisition			Disposal			Death			Closing Stock as on			
			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T
	Goose	Anser Spp																				
	Total		1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	5

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
			M	F		
1.	Indian Hog deer	Axis Porcinus		1	10.05.2022	Infighting, injury
2.			1		20.05.2022	Infighting, injury
3.			1		09.06.2022	Infighting, injury
4.			1		25.02.2023	Tract infection

28. Compliance with conditions stipulated by the Central Zoo Authority

Sl. No.	Relevant Norm No.	Details on the conditions stipulated by the CZA	Time Period to Comply	Since when pending	Remarks	
					Status with regard Compliance of the conditions as submitted by the Officer-in-Charge of the zoo	Status with regard to compliance as noted physically by the evaluator during the visit
General						
1.		Guide line for establishment and scientific management of Zoos in response to letter No.26-2/2008-CZA (M) dtd.25.08.2008	---	---	Guidelines for establishment and scientific management of Zoo has been received and has been adhered to in preparation of plan of Mini Zoo	
2.		The park authority should relocate the existing Deer Park to the new site at Elasiyhar and ensure that the animals are provided appropriate housing facility as per the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009 and guidelines issued by the Central Zoo Authority for the Scientific Management of the Zoos and close the Bijni Deer Park	With immediate effect	2010	Due to non receipt / communication from the CZA regarding approval of the Master Plan & Master Layout Plan the relocation could not be done as yet	

3. Development and Planning

1.		Preparation of Master layout plan of the Elasiyhar Mini Zoo (To be shifted) in compliance to the letter No.19-96/92-CZA (26) (M) dtd.11.02.2009	31.03.2009	Complied and submitted	<p>(a) Master layout plan for the New Mini Zoo at Elasiyhar was prepared only during March, 2017 due to want of fund and skilled person. The Master layout plan was submitted along with the revised Master plan to the PCCF Wildlife, Assam (Later on copy submitted to CZA) vide this office letter No.A.SFK/2/31/5 (Part) /319 dt.29.03.2017.</p> <p>(b) A Forest Ranger has been made i/c of the park.</p> <p>(c) Regular contact with the veterinary officer maintained</p> <p>(d) Staff as per needs have been deployed in the park</p>	
2.	3(1)	The park authorities should prepare a Master Plan for the long-term development of the zoo at new site keeping in view of format and guidelines issued by the Central Zoo Authority for the same and submit the same for its approval.	01.11.2010	2010	<p>Draft Master Plan for Elasiyhar Mini Zoo/Deer Park was prepared and submitted to the CCF, BTC, Kokrajhar vide letter No.A/SFK/2/31/Bijni Park/ 452-53 dt.15.12.2010 for perusal and onward submission to the Member Secretary, CZA, MoEF, Govt. of India with copy to the MS, CZA, GOI in December/2011 and resubmitted later on vide this office letter No. A/SFK/2/31/5/Bijni/99 dt.23.12.2011. Revised Master Plan along with master layout plan were submitted to the PCCF, Wildlife, Assam Guwahati vide letter No. B/SFK/2/31/ 5 (Part) /319 dt.29.03.2017 (Advance copy submitted to CZA)</p>	

4. Animal housing, display of animals and animal enclosures

3.	4(2)	The zoo authorities before shifting the animals to the new site should construct enclosure for Hog deer and Barking deer. The design for the same should have got prior approval from the Central Zoo Authority.	---	---	Proposals are included in the Master Plan. A separate proposal along with and estimate for Rs.47,70,000.00 also been submitted to the CCF & CHD, Forests, BTC, Kokrajhar in 2011 vide this letter No. A/SFK/2/31/5/ Bijni/386-87 dt.16.12.2011. As such the proposal is not yet approved and no fund received from any source for construction of minimum infrastructure	
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5. Upkeep and healthcare of animals

4.	5(8)	De-worming schedule should be prepared and acted upon.	Immediately	---	De-worming of animals done from time to time	
5.	5(9)	The health screening of the staff should also be taken up regularly.	Six Months	---	Complied upon	

9. Acquisition and breeding of animals						
6.	9(4)	It would be better to maintain Hog deer, Barking deer and Sambar deer in their new location as all these deer are endemic to the forests of Assam.	Immediately	---		
11. Education and outreach activities						
7.	11(1)	Zoo should publish leaflets, brochure etc. for environmental education.	Six Months	2012	Action will be taken dully Subject to receipt of fund	
8.	11(2)	Zoo should publish annual reports.	Annually	---	Action will be taken dully reports being prepared	
12. Visitor facilities						
9.	12(1)	The Bijni Deer Park is going to be relocation in Elasihar, the park authority should provide all the civic facilities for the visiting public which is totally lacking in the existing site i.e. at Bijni.	Immediately	---	Action will be taken on relocation of the Deer Park at Elasihar (new site) subject to approval of Master Plan and receipt of Fund.	
11. Maintenance of records and submission of inventory						
1.	(1)	Maintain stock register as well as post mortem reports.	Immediately	---	Stock register, post mortem reports are being maintained regularly	

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

MAMMALS

Sl. No.	Name of Mammals	Remarks
1.	<i>Indian fox</i>	
2.	<i>Fruit bat</i>	
3.	<i>House bat</i>	
4.	<i>Indian mongoose</i>	

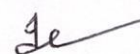
BIRDS :

Sl. No.	Name of Birds	Remarks
1.	<i>Common myna</i>	
2.	<i>Indian sterling (Pied myna)</i>	
3.	<i>Jungle myna</i>	
4.	<i>Grey headed myna</i>	
5.	<i>Commom crow</i>	
6.	<i>Jungle crow</i>	
7.	<i>Golden backed wood pecker</i>	
8.	<i>Green pigeon</i>	
9.	<i>Ashy swallow shrike</i>	
10.	<i>Common wood shrike</i>	
11.	<i>Bay backed shrik</i>	
12.	<i>Jungle babbler</i>	
13.	<i>Rose ringed parakeet</i>	
14.	<i>Alexandrine parakeet</i>	
15.	<i>House sparrow</i>	
16.	<i>Red breasted parakeet</i>	
17.	<i>Indian kuckoo</i>	
18.	<i>Peid kuckoo</i>	
19.	<i>Pond heron</i>	
20.	<i>Cormorant</i>	
21.	<i>Water hen</i>	

REPTILE

Sl. No.	Name of Reptile	Remarks
1.	<i>Common cobra</i>	
2.	<i>Banded krait</i>	
3.	<i>Indian water snake</i>	
4.	<i>Copper head</i>	
5.	<i>Rat snake</i>	
6.	<i>Trinket snake</i>	

Submitted by,



Divisional Forest Officer,
Social Forestry Division,
Kokrajhar.