

Computer No. 147415
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Central Zoo Authority

B-1 Wing, 6th Floor,
Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi – 110 003
Tel.: 011-24367846, 24367851, 24367852,
Fax.: 011-24367849,
E-mail: cza@nic.in, Website: <http://www.cza.nic.in>
24-07-2024

To,

The Zoo Director,
Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park,
Hindustan Lever Godown Square, Fetri, Mahurzari Road,
Nagpur – 441501, Maharashtra.
(E-mail: dm gorewada@gmail.com).

Sub.-: Renewal of recognition to the Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park, Nagpur, Maharashtra for period beyond 28.08.2022 under Section 38(H) (1, 3 & 4) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 – reg.

Ref.-:

1. **This office letter Computer No. 158516, F. No. 21-1/2021-CZA dated 27.12.2023.**
2. **Your letter No. FEGZ/ZD/07/2022-23/667 dated 04.07.2022.**
3. **This office letter F. No. 23-11/99-CZA(403)(Vol. III(PKR)/1360/ 2019 dated 06.09.2019.**

Sir/Madam,

With reference to the above cited correspondences, it is to inform that the evaluation of the Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park, Nagpur, Maharashtra was carried out by Sh. P.C. Tyagi, IFS (Retd.) and Dr. Natasha S. Vashisth, Technical Assistant, CZA on 12-13.02.2024.

The evaluation report as submitted by the evaluating officers was placed before the Technical Committee of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) in its 110th meeting held on 14.05.2024.

The Technical Committee after deliberation recommended to the Central Zoo Authority for the renewal of recognition of the Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park, Nagpur, Maharashtra beyond the period 28.08.2022 under Section 38-H (1, 3 & 4) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for the period of 2 years. Further, the committee also recommended to regularise the intervening period from the date until the previously accorded recognition was valid till the date of issue of renewal. The renewal is subject to the conditions stipulated as part IV of the evaluation report (Copy enclosed).

Subsequently, the recommendation of the 110th Technical Committee, CZA were approved by the Chairperson, CZA.

The renewal of recognition to the Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park, Nagpur, Maharashtra as per the provisions of Section 38(H) (1, 3 & 4) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is for a period up to 18.07.2026 subject to the compliance of the following directives under the Recognition of Zoo Rules (RZR), 2009 and mid-term evaluation:

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Sl.	Norm No. under RZR, 2009	Particulars of suggestions/recommendation	Time period to comply
1. General requirements			
1.	10.1(2)	The Zoo should plant trees of appropriate species in the safari areas, near the feeding/ retiring cells of the animals and other appropriate areas in the zoo to provide a naturalistic environment within the zoo.	Within one month.
2.	10.1(2)	The feeding/retiring cells of the animals and the chain link fence should be camouflaged from all the sides.	Within one month.
3.	10.1 (3)	<p>I. The visitor circulation pathway and service pathway should be separated in the walking trail.</p> <p>II. The visitor circulation pathway in the walking trail needs to be realigned and gabion wall or natural structure like rocky outcrops and tree stumps may be placed so that the retiring cells are not visible to the visitors.</p> <p>III. The main entrance gate of the zoo should not be used as service gate. A separate entry and exit should be there for other services.</p> <p>IV. The visitor waiting area for boarding the safari bus is close to the visitor pathway for the walking trail and such proximity will be hazardous for visitors. There should be due safeguards in place so that visitor road/pathway does not pass through the areas adjoining the animal feeding cells, feeding kraals, animal service area, service road and off the exhibit areas.</p>	Within two months.
4.	10.1(4)	The brick masonry boundary wall with grills of the Zoo should be of at-least two meter in height from the ground level in the periphery of Zoo. At present the boundary wall with railings in between are present which may not safeguard against the un-regulated access of visitors to the zoo and entry of stray/feral animals in the zoo.	Within one month.
5.	10.1.(7)	The Zoo should construct a garbage disposal yard for solid waste management and for the walking trail the waste water from enclosures should be directed into a common sewage treatment plant.	Within three months.
2. Administrative and Staffing Pattern			
6.	10.2(2)	At present the Biologist is looking after the work of Education Officer also. It is advised to have full time Education officer for the zoo.	Within one month.
7.	10.2(1-3)	The duties and responsibilities mentioned under the Recognition of Zoo Rules (RZR), 2009 for the mandatory posts (Director/ In-charge, Curator, Veterinarian, Biologist, Education Officer) shall be followed.	Immediately.
3. Development and Planning			
8.	10.3(6)	The Master Plan including the Master (layout) Plan and animal collection plan of the zoo still needs to be finalised in consultation with Central Zoo Authority (CZA) as per the observations communicated by the CZA on Master Plan of the Zoo vide CZA letter dated 27-12-2023.	Immediately.
4. Animal housing, display of animals and animal enclosures			
9.	10.4(2)	The designs and dimensions of every enclosure in the	Immediately.

		walking trail shall be determined having due regard to the biological behaviour of the species and the number of animals to be housed therein as per the standards specified by the Central Zoo Authority in this regard from time to time.	
10.	10.4(6)	The zoo should make efforts to enrich all the four safaris, feeding/retiring cells, kraal areas and also the proposed walking trail.	Immediately.
11.	10.4(7)	In the walking trail adequate screening shall be provided between adjacent enclosures to safeguard against the animals getting unduly excited or stressed due to visibility of animals housed in these enclosures.	Within one month.
12.	10.4(7)	Efforts should be made to camouflage the night cells/retiring cells in the walking trail from visitor's pathway.	Within one month.
13.	10.4(9)	<p>I. In the walking trail the zoo shall provide appropriately designed and effective standoff barriers at every animal display enclosure to regulate the movement of visitors in the zoo in a manner that facilitates the visitors in getting unobstructed view of wild animals, without reaching in the vicinity or proximity of the animals and getting the opportunity to physically touch or provoke the animals and shall also display adequate sign boards so as to give warning to the visitors to keep a safe distance from the animals.</p> <p>II. Warning sign boards shall also be placed for all the safaris at appropriate places (near ticket counters, safari gates, inside the safaris, in the safari vehicles etc.).</p>	Within three months.
14.	10.4(10)	Appropriate signage with relevant information on the biology, behaviour and the population status of the species in the wild shall be placed at various places in the zoo (near visitor's facilities, safari vehicles, safari gates etc.).	Immediately.
5. Upkeep and healthcare of animals			
15.	10.5(2)	<p>The Zoo should have a centralised feed storage and processing unit. Following observations has been made during the evaluation with respect to feed storage and processing of feed:-</p> <p>I. At present the zoo is using open shade area in the feeding cell of the leopard safari for meat processing. The same is not fly process.</p> <p>II. The keeper room of the Sloth bear safari is used for storing and preparing food for sloth bears.</p> <p>III. The feeding cell of the Herbivore safari is used for storing feed for herbivores.</p> <p>IV. The keeper room of the Herbivore safari is used to store fruits.</p> <p>V. The rabbits are seen displayed in one of the</p>	Within one month.

		enclosures of walking trail and it has been informed that the live rabbits are used as feed for snakes. The Zoo should have a separate facility for housing of live feed for the animals in the zoo premises.	
16.	10.5(5)	Salt licks should be provided at appropriate places in the herbivore safaris as well as in the kraal areas. Sprinklers to be provided in the safaris as well as in the kraal areas of all the animals.	Immediately.
17.	10.5(5)	It is to ensure that the left-over feed of leopard is removed promptly from the feeding cells and kraals and the feeding cells and kraals are washed and disinfected.	Immediately.
18.	10.5(5)	The zoo should ensure having the facilities of foot bath (with Potassium permanganate, KMnO ₄) at every entry and exit point of the animal feeding/retiring cells.	Immediately.
19.	10.5(5)	The zoo should ensure having a tyre bath at the entry and exit gates of all the safaris and other entry/exit gates of the zoo.	Immediately.
20.	10.5(6)	At present the potable squeeze cage is used by the zoo. The zoo should have inbuilt facilities for restraining/examining and treating the animal at the enclosure itself.	Within one month.
6. Veterinary and infrastructure facilities			
21.	10.6(1)	The zoo should have basic veterinary facilities appropriate to the size and type of the animal collection of the zoo.	Immediately.
22.	10.6(3)	<p>I. The zoo should have a postmortem room, isolation ward, quarantine ward, and a veterinary care reference library.</p> <p>II. No incinerator facilities available in the zoo.</p> <p>III. The zoo has informed that the veterinary facilities available at the Rescue Center, Gorewada is been used by the zoo. The Zoo operator has assured that these facilities will used for zoo as well.</p> <p>IV. It is recommended that the zoo should have a basic veterinary facility in zoo premises only.</p>	Within three months.
9. Acquisition and breeding of animals			
23.	10.9(8)	In order to prevent inbreeding and the loss of heterozygosity, the zoos should maintain the studbook and herd book for the animals housed in the zoo and put appropriate identification marks.	Immediately.
24.	10.9(9)	<p>I. In order to limit the number of animals of each species as per the RZR, 2009, the zoo shall implement appropriate population control measures like segregation of sexes, vasectomy, tubectomy and implantation of pellets etc., with due consideration of the health and welfare of the animals and interest of their long-term survival.</p> <p>II. It has been noticed that the birth of three leopard cubs has been taken place few months back in the zoo i.e. there is breeding of leopard in the zoo. The CZA guidelines in this regard needs to be strictly followed.</p>	Immediately.

		III. The optimum number of animals (Tiger, leopard, Bear and Ungulates/Herbivores) to be housed in a zoo should be as per RZR, 2009.	
25.	10.9(10)	As the zoo having four functional safaris, therefore the zoo should take effective measures to safeguard against escape of the animals from the premises of the safaris/zoo and in the event of any accidental escape, immediate action shall be taken to retrieve the escaped animals.	Immediately.
10. Research activities			
26.	10.10	Zoo should make efforts to carry out research activities on various aspects of the animals housed in the zoo as well as on other aspects.	Immediately.
11. Education and outreach activities			
27.	10.11(1)	<p>I. The zoo should make efforts in carrying out various educational and outreach activities for school children and college students and also for visitors on regular basis.</p> <p>II. An annual event calendar may be prepared and implemented for generating awareness among people about the significance and conservation of wildlife.</p> <p>III. Effective and up to date education material shall be prepared and used for the visitors.</p>	Immediately.
12. Visitors facilities			
28.	10.12(1)	Zoo to provide more adequate civic facilities such cloak room for visitors, more water points, at appropriate and convenient places in the zoo which should also be used by Divyangjans i.e. ramps near all visitor facilities, easy access to safari vehicles, Divyangjan friendly seats in safari vehicles etc.	Immediately.
29.	10.12(2)	Snake anti-venom and lifesaving drugs, should be readily available in the zoo premises.	Immediately.
30.	10.12.(3)	<p>Arrangements should be made for providing access to the Divyangjans for viewing wild animals at various animal enclosures (including walking trail).</p> <p>The CZA letter File No. 25-1/2002-CZA(Vol-II)(Part), Computer No. 135034, Dated: 05/02/2021 regarding "Advisory for mandatory compliance of statutory provisions pertaining to Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in Zoos" should be followed.</p>	Immediately.
Other Observations			
31.		<p>I. The Zoo is illegally operating a Jungle drive of 22 kms for the visitors since the year 2015.</p> <p>II. It has been informed that the Jungle drive is a part of zoo only. However, the permission for operating the Jungle drive has not been taken from the Central Zoo Authority.</p> <p>III. It has been observed during the evaluation that the Jungle Drive is not been managed as per the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009. No animal</p>	Immediately.

		inventory and other requisite records as per the rule and guidelines of the CZA has been available with the zoo for Jungle drive. The zoo is required to submit detailed justification in this regard.	
32.		The Zoo is allowing morning walks in the park area of the zoo premises. The same is not allowed as per the CZA guidelines.	Immediately.
33.		The Zoo is housing two rescued Sloth bears of the Rescue Center, Gorewada in the kraal area of the Sloth bear safari without informing/taking permission from the Central Zoo Authority.	Immediately.
34.		<p>I. The zoo has informed that the merger of Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park, Nagpur with Rescue Center, Gorewada is proposed. Both these facilities are operated under administration of Gorewada Project, FDCM.</p> <p>II. At present, Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park, Nagpur and Rescue Center, Gorewada, Nagpur are recognised as separate zoos by the Central Zoo Authority.</p> <p>III. A separate proposal for the merger should be submitted to the CZA.</p>	Immediately.
35.		As recommended during the last evaluation, the water tank near the parking area and night shelter buildings attached to safari enclosures should be painted in olive green or camouflaged with surrounding area.	Immediately.

A time bound compliance report regarding progress made in implementation of the aforesaid conditions should be submitted to the Central Zoo Authority within 30 days of the date of issue of this letter and half yearly compliance report should also be submitted subsequently.

The renewal of recognition to the Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park, Nagpur, Maharashtra for period beyond 18.07.2026 would be considered on the basis of compliance of the conditions stated above and general performance of the Zoo.

The recognition to the Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park, Nagpur, Maharashtra shall be revoked by the Central Zoo Authority, at any point of time, if the, Zoo Operator is found not complying with the stipulated conditions.

Yours Sincerely,

Encl.: As Above.

**AKANKSHA MAHAJAN
DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FOREST**

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Department of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Van Bhawan, Ramgir Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001,

Maharashtra (Email: pccfwlngp@mahaforest.gov.in).

2. The Member Secretary, Maharashtra State Zoo Authority, B-Wing, 3rd Floor, New Administrative Building No. 2, Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440 001, Maharashtra (E-mail: mszooauthority@gmail.com).
3. The DPA, CZA – to update database.



भारत सरकार

Government of India

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change



केंद्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण
Central Zoo Authority

F. No. 23-11/99-CZA(403)(Vol. III)(PKR) | 1360/2019

By Post / E-mail
Date: 06.09.2019

To,

The Managing Director,
Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited,
FDCM Bhavan, 359/B, Hingna Road,
Ambazari, Nagpur – 440 036 (Maharashtra),
E-mail: md@fdcm.nic.in

Sub:- Recognition to the Gorewada International Zoo, Gorewada, Nagpur, Maharashtra under Section 38H(1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 – reg.

Ref:-

1. The Managing Director, Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd., Nagpur, Maharashtra application No. CGM/MPB/Gorewada/1428, dated 13.08.2019.
2. This office letter No. 23-11/99-CZA(403)(Vol. III)(PKR)/1261/2019, dated 20.08.2019.
3. This office letter No. 23-11/99-CZA(403)(Vol. III)(AK)/1270/2019, dated 23.08.2019.

Sir,

Reference is invited to correspondences cited above. It is to inform that the evaluation of the Gorewada International Zoo, Gorewada, Nagpur, Maharashtra was carried out by Dr. A.K. Sharma and Dr. Brij Kishor Gupta on 24.08.2019. The evaluation report of the Gorewada International Zoo, Gorewada, Nagpur, Maharashtra considered by the Central Zoo Authority in its 35th Meeting held on 29th August, 2019. After detailed deliberations, the Central Zoo Authority decided to grant recognition of the Gorewada International Zoo, Gorewada, Nagpur, Maharashtra for a period of three years. A copy of the evaluation report as submitted by the evaluating officers is enclosed with this letter for your perusal and needful action.

The recognition to the Gorewada International Zoo, Gorewada, Nagpur, Maharashtra as per the provisions of Section 38H(1) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is for a period up to 28.08.2022 subject to compliance of the following directives under the Recognition of Zoo Rules (RZR), 2009 and mid-term evaluation. The Gorewada International Zoo, Gorewada, Nagpur, Maharashtra should also submit time bound commitment for compliance within 30 days of communication of observations of the evaluation report and half yearly compliance report subsequently:-

Sl.	Norm No. under RZR, 2009	Particulars of suggestions/recommendation	Time Period to Comply
Rule 10 of Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009			
2. Administrative and Staffing patterns			
2	2(1)	The Zoo should post a full-time officer in-charge with adequate financial and administrative powers.	With immediate effect

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बी -1 विंग, 6 तल, पं.दीनदयाल अंत्योदय भवन, सी.जी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स, लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली – 110003
B-1 Wing, 6th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003

दूरभाष (Tel) : 011-24367846, 24367851, 24367852 फ़ैक्स (Fax) : 011-24367849

ईमेल (Email): cza@nic.in, वेबसाइट (Website): <http://www.cza.nic.in>

3	2(2)	Zoo should post full time Veterinary Officer, Education Officer and Biologist.	With immediate effect
4	2(3)	Zoo should appoint Animal Head Keeper and Keeper with adequate experience in work. (at least one in each enclosure)	With immediate effect
3. Development and Planning			
5	3(1)	Zoo should submit Master Plan of the Zoo for all the phases to the CZA for approval.	3 months
6	3(5)	Feeding and Retiring cells should be camouflaged by suitable plantations.	With immediate effect
4. Animal housing, display of animals and animal enclosures			
7	4(2 & 3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The design of the Leopard and Sloth Bear Safari should be as per the standards. These safaris should house animals only after they are fully audited for safety and security of animals, visitors and keepers and structural stability. 2. The safari area should be free from all the debris, metal pieces, sharp corners which may injure the animal. 3. The functionality of double gate system should be verified for electro-mechanical and manual operations. 4. The zoo operator should ensure that, adequate amount of soil is compacted along the safari fence so that animal does not escape through burrows. 5. The overhang steel plate expansion joints of leopard and sloth bear safari should be properly affixed in such a way that it does not allow any space for animal escape. 6. The drop gates in the animal houses should have a U-shaped channel frame to prevent any animal escape as well as the pulley of the drop gate should have a proper cover. The cable running for sliding door should be covered in Steel pipe and have locking system. 7. All gates opening in keeper gallery in feeding and retiring cell should have locking systems. 8. The strength of cable used for pulling drop gate should be checked periodically and should be maintained properly. 9. Feeding and retiring cells in leopard safari shall have meat drop windows. 10. The kraal provided for leopard and sloth bear shall have easy access for animals and keepers for cleaning and maintenance. Its design should be animal and management friendly. 11. There should be provision of squeeze cage in Leopard and Sloth Bear Cage. 	With immediate effect
8	4(6)	Zoo should make efforts to enrich feeding and retiring cells.	With immediate effect
9	4(10)	The zoo should provide appropriate signage with relevant information at suitable locations.	With immediate effect
5. Upkeep and healthcare of animals			
10	5(2)	The zoo should ensure to provide all animals timely supply of quality food and water.	With immediate effect

Continued....

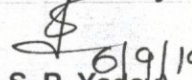
11	5(5)	The zoo shall provide tyre bath (as a bio security measure) at appropriate entry point.	3 months
6. Veterinary and Infrastructure facilities			
12	6(1)	As per the provision under Zoo Rules, 2009 the zoo should have a full-fledged Veterinary unit with diagnostic facility. Though the Rescue Centre, across the road in front of zoo has all these facilities. The Zoo operator has assured that these facilities will used for zoo as well. However, it is suggested that zoo may have a bare minimum veterinary facility in zoo premises.	6 months
12. Visitor facilities			
13	12(1)	The zoo operator should provide adequate civic facilities for visitors at appropriate and convenient places in the zoo including for physically disabled.	With immediate effect
14	12(2)	The zoo should have a first aid facility and emergency medicines at suitable location inclusive of Anti Snake Venom.	With immediate effect
Non-Statutory Recommendations			
1		The water tank near the parking area and night shelter buildings attached to safari enclosures should be painted in olive green or camouflaged with surrounding area.	3 months
2		Labours living in the safari area should be shifted before the safari is made functional.	With immediate effect
3		Substrates in kraal should have soft soil.	With immediate effect

The recognition of the Gorewada International Zoo, Gorewada, Nagpur, Maharashtra for period beyond 28.08.2022 would be considered on the basis of compliance of the conditions stated above and general performance of the Zoo.

The recognition to the Gorewada International Zoo, Gorewada, Nagpur, Maharashtra may be revoked by the Central Zoo Authority, at any point of time, if the Zoo Operator is found not complying with the stipulated conditions.

Yours sincerely

Encl. As above


(Dr. S. P. Yadav)
6/9/19
Member Secretary

Copy to:-

1. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Maharashtra, Van Bhawan, Ramgir Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001 (Maharashtra), E-mail: pccfwlngp@mahaforest.gov.in
2. The Member Secretary, Maharashtra State Zoo Authority, B-Wing, 3rd Floor, New Administrative Building No. 2, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440 001 (Maharashtra), E-mail: mszooauthority@gmail.com
3. The Director, FDCM Essel World Gorewada Zoo Private Limited, 5th Floor, FDCM Bhawan, 359/B Hingna Road, Ambazari, Nagpur - 440 036 (Maharashtra), E-mail: fegz@ew.esselgroup.com
4. The DPA, CZA - to update database.