

**Computer No. 139450**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**Central Zoo Authority**

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**24-07-2024**

To,

The Director,  
Rajgir Zoo Safari,  
Nalanda, Administrative Block,  
Rajgir – 803116, Bihar  
(E-mail: rajgirzoosafari@gmail.com).

**Sub:- Renewal of recognition to the Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda, Bihar for period beyond 06.12.2022 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 22.11.2023.**
2. **Your application letter No. 930 dated 06.12.2022.**
3. **This office letter Computer No. 139450, F. No. 20-4/2015-CZA(Vol. II)(E) dated 18.12.2020.**

Sir/Madam,

With reference to the above cited correspondences, it is to inform that the evaluation of the Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda, Bihar was carried out by Sh. B.S. Bonal, IFS Retd. & Ms. Apurva Bandal, Policy Assistant, CZA on 29-30.12.2023.

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

The Technical Committee after deliberation recommended to the Central Zoo Authority for the renewal of recognition of the Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda, Bihar beyond the period 06.12.2022 under Section 38-H (1, 3 & 4) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for the period of 3 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 110<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee, CZA were approved by the Chairperson, CZA.

The renewal of recognition to the Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda, Bihar as per the provisions of Section 38(H) (1, 3 & 4) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is for a period up to 21.07.2027 subject to the compliance of the following directives under the Recognition of Zoo Rules (RZR), 2009 and mid-term evaluation:

Sl.	Norm No. under RZR,	Particulars of suggestions/recommendation	Time period to comply

2009			
<b>1. General requirements</b>			
1.	10(1.1)	Effort should be made to pair the lone Barking deer. Or exchange with other zoo.	Immediately.
2.	10(1.2)b	The visitors are taken in safari bus, although no disturbance to animals is reported , however the feeding site of herbivore enclosures is to be made away from the visitors route and place the grass/ feed, drinking water facilities at different places in order to provide equal opportunity to weaker individuals, fawns etc.	Immediately.
3.	10(1.3)	During peak season, make at least three windows operational to sell the tickets to have better control over the public, currently offline tickets are issued only by one ticket counter, and long public ques are seen. Make use of currently unused information desk as ticket window.	Immediately.
4.	10.1	In order to facilitate smooth financial management and regular use of revenue earned by zoo safari for its day-to-day maintenance and further development, creation of zoo safari society for the Rajgir Zoo Safari is necessary. Thus, it is strongly recommended for creation of society for Rajgir Zoo safari.	Immediately.
<b>2. Administrative and staffing pattern</b>			
5.	10(2.2)	<p>a. The posts of Biologist and curator has been sanctioned. Efforts should be made to engage either permanent or on contract expeditiously.</p> <p>b. There is no post sanctioned for Education officer, Authority should include in proposed masterplan and get the post sanctioned expeditiously.</p> <p>c. Against the total 94 sanctioned post, 55 posts are vacant particularly- animal keepers which is 100% therefore zoo authority should take up immediate appropriate action to get posting or recruitment for the posts (forester-8, Forest guard-6, head clerk-1, compounder- 4, curator-1, biologist-1, lab assistant- 1, nurse-1 and animal keeper -30)</p> <p>d. Also, Authorities may think on posting of vacant posts of Deputy Director, Foresters and Forest Guards on priority basis with recruitment of 30 vacant animal keepers.</p>	Immediately.
6.	10(2.2)	Presently available total of 22 buses are procured and being operated departmentally engaging 20 outsourced trained bus guides. However, for future the authority should work out to outsource the complete safari buses. Also to work out to increase foot fall of the zoo particularly during the peak period by increasing safari bus and increasing viewing facilities in addition to aviary under construction. For this a management plan for "visitor's travel plan" should be worked out.	Immediately.
7.	10(2.4)	Presently the zoo director's residence is 24 km away from the zoo safari. The Vet Officer too stays away from zoo premises at Rajgir. During the peak period particularly during Malmas mela and tourist season complete traffic congestion is observed leading to affect the zoo management. Therefore, it is essential to establish the	Immediately.

		residence of the director and zoo Vet Officer with in the zoo premises of zoo safari as per the RZR and approved master lay out plan. Since the permission (the area being with in WLS,) has already been granted for establishment of zoo safari by NBWL the same could be implemented as per the approved master lay out plan and master plan as detailed therein.	
<b>3. Development and Planning</b>			
8.	10(3.1)	The zoo have approved master plan for the period of 2015-16 to 2024-25. However new draft master plan is being prepared for next 10 years, as per the layout plan submitted for approval to CZA. The zoo Authority should pursue to get the layout plan approved from CZA and prepare new master plan accordingly.	Immediately.
9.	10 (3.1)	The zoo authority should ensure that the appropriate enrichment inside the arena and the distance from viewing site (the live hedge) for the under construction aviary is provided.	Immediately.
<b>4. Animal housing, display of animals and animal enclosures</b>			
10.	10(4.1)	Some parts in the Bear, leopard, Tiger, lion and herbivore safari needs landscaping to camouflage the tall and visible fencing.	Immediately.
11.	10(4.1)	Reportedly the visitors are rarely able to see the bear during the safari, it is advised to add big boulders at the visible distance along the safari pathway, and apply honey on boulders which will attract bear in the visibility region.	Immediately.
12.	10(4.1)	In order to provide equal and appropriate opportunity to weaker individuals and fawns. in the herbivore safari, the green grasses and fodder should be placed at different places in a secured structure to minimise the waste and away from the visitor's route to minimize disturbance, and same with the water trough and concentrate. For the browsers like sambar etc the green fodder should be hanged on trees.	Immediately.
13.	10(4.1)	Logs should be placed between trees in Leopard safari for perching/ resting within the visibility area, so that chances of leopard sighting increases for visitors.	Immediately.
14.	10(4.1)	Habitat manipulation is being done by cutting the overgrown grass in order to allow to grow new grass for grazing. The zoo authority may consider if it is feasible for controlled burning in the area to promote new shoots.	Immediately.
15.	10(4.6)	Zoo shall make special efforts to enrich the environment of the enclosure, night cell to meet the species-specific behavioural requirements of the animals in accordance with the standards specified by the Central Zoo Authority. Also may use the turmeric as disinfectant on regular basis.	Immediately.
16.	10(4.10)a	Signages has been well implemented, however signages are required in different management units like veterinary unit, administrative office etc, also directional signages should be included.	Immediately.
<b>5. Upkeep and healthcare of animals</b>			
17.	10(5.1)	Efforts should be made to breed the available species of Lion , Tigers and Bear to make the population sustainable by releasing the animals together or at least in pair.	One year.
18.	10(5.2)4	Food storage facilities and working platforms are cleaned and disinfected on regular basis, however more such	Immediately.

		higher or elevated platforms are required for future.	
19.	10(5.2)	Meat is brought into pieces from slaughter house; however, it is advised to procure beef as whole animal instead of pieces.	Immediately.
<b>9. Acquisition and breeding of animals</b>			
20.	10(9.3)	Bear (2 male: 1 female) is not viable combination, The zoo has 7 night cell for animals, therefor effort should be made to procure more bears and consider for breeding.	One year
21.	10(9.4)	Effort should be made to pair existing only male Barking deer.	Immediately.
22.	10(9.6)	It is also advised to initiate breeding program for lions, and tigers to have sustainable population. However, the considered project for satellite facility of conservation breeding program of patna zoo for rhino could be reconsidered with site having basic requirement of water body, grassland etc with away from zoo/ visitor's site.	One year.
<b>10. Research activities</b>			
23.	10(10.1)	Research study on at least grassland management should be taken up for better management in the safari area. While preparing new revised masterplan, the zoo authority should make list of priority subject to be undertaken for research.	Immediately.
<b>11. Education and outreach activities</b>			
24.		Signages should be placed at various blocks, including map indicating visitors location i.e. " You are here", The zoo authority should expedite establishment of souvenir shop, as already approved by NBWL Refer-MoEF&CC vide letter No 6-3/2015-wl dated24/07/2022.	Immediately.
<b>12. Visitors' facilities</b>			
25.		To cater the over flow of visitors more than the estimated number in safari visit the zoo authority should work out to increase the facility particularly during the peak period by increasing safari bus and also increasing viewing facilities in addition to aviary under construction outside safari areas. For this a management plan for "visitors travel plan" should be worked out.	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 Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda, Bihar for period beyond 21.07.2027 would be considered on the basis of compliance of the conditions stated above and general performance of the Zoo.

The recognition to the Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda, Bihar 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 Chief Wildlife Warden, Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Bihar, Aranya Bhawan, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Shaheed Peer Ali Khan Marg, Veterinary College Post, Patna – 800014, Bihar (E-mail: cwlwbihar@rediffmail.com).
2. The DPA, CZA – to update database.

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Government of India  
Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change  
CENTRAL ZOO AUTHORITY

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18/12/2020

**To,**

The Chief Wildlife Warden,  
Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Government of Bihar,  
Aranya Bhawan - 4th Floor, Shaheed Peer Ali Khan Marg,  
Veterinary College Post,  
Patna – 800 014.  
cwlwbihar@rediffmail.com

**Subject: Grant of recognition to Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda District, Bihar under Section 38-H (1), (3) & (4) of Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 – reg.**

**Reference:**

1. Letter No. 1657 dated November 11, 2020 from the Conservator of Forests, Patna Circle, Patna.
2. This office letter bearing Computer No. 139450 dated September 15, 2020.
3. This office letter bearing Computer No. 139450 dated August 8, 2020.
4. Letter no. 726 dated July 07, 2020 from the Director, Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda.
5. Letter No. 20-4/2015-CZA(Vol.1)(AK)/988/2017.

Sir,

With reference to the aforementioned subject, approval in-principle for the establishment of Wildlife Safari (Nalanda Prani Vihar) at Rajgir, Nalanda District, Bihar subject to conditions as per Section 38-H(1A) was accorded as per correspondence listed at (5).

**File No.20-4/2015-CZA(Vol-II)(E)**

The application for recognition and compliance to stipulated conditions was received from the Director, Rajgir Zoo Safari and Conservator of Forests, Patna Circle, Patna vide correspondences listed at (4) & (1). Further, as per the application for recognition, the name of establishment was changed from Wildlife Safari (Nalanda Prani Vihar) at Rajgir to Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda. Accordingly, the zoo was evaluated as per correspondence listed at (2). The application and Evaluation report for granting recognition to the Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda, Bihar was deliberated in the 98<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee of the Central Zoo Authority held on November 19, 2020 and recommended for the approval of the Central Zoo Authority.

The Central Zoo Authority in its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting held on December 07, 2020, granted recognition under Section 38-H(1), (3) & (4) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to the Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda, Bihar, for a period of two years. The recognition of Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda, Bihar is as per provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009 and extant guidelines of the CZA, for the period up to December 06, 2022; and subject to the compliance of the conditions stipulated below and mid-term evaluation:

<b>Sl.</b>	<b>Norm No.</b>	<b>Conditions stipulated</b>	<b>Time Period to Comply</b>
1.	10(1.1)	The zoo should make efforts to maintain the population of physically, genetically and behaviourally healthy animals	Right from the opening/ beginning of zoo.
2.	10(2.2)	The Zoo should appoint a Biologist and Education Officer before the zoo is opened to public.	Once the Zoo is opened.
3.	10(3.1)	The amended master plan of the Zoo should be prepared and submitted to CZA for its approval.	Six months
4.	10(3.5)	The rescued animals to be housed at Rescue Centre should have prior approval from the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state.	With Immediate Effect
5.	10(4.3)	The Zoo should ensure completion of minor construction works such as chain-link fixtures, entry gate, finishing touches in holding rooms, door locking mechanism towards keeper gallery etc. and a report should be submitted to CZA before opening the Zoo.	Before the time of opening of the zoo.
6.	10(4.10)a & 10(11.1)a	The zoo should ensure installation of appropriately located bilingual signages containing the biological & behavioural information of respective animals.	Before the zoo is operationalized.
7.	10(4.10)c & 10(11.1)b	The Zoo should also make effort to complete the work of Interpretation Centre at the earliest.	One year.
8.	10(5.2)3	The Zoo should have appropriate storage facility for meat and feed for the animals, at least for	With Immediate Effect

**File No.20-4/2015-CZA(Vol-II)(E)**

		one week keeping in view the emergency situation like prevailing pandemic (COVID-19).	
9.	10 (5.2)6	The Zoo authorities should take up the random food and water samples being tested periodically for microbiological, toxicological and any other contaminants at recognized laboratory.	Six Months
10.	10 (5.3) 3	At the time of acquisition of animals, all animals arriving should be screened for parasitic loads and prophylactic medicines administered as per clinical requirements and vaccination of animals against infectious diseases are also done, as per the prescribed schedule.	Six Months
11.	10 (5.3) 4	The Zoo should have written schedule of vaccination and de-worming of different species of wild animals proposed to be housed at zoo and the same should also be displayed at the enclosure.	With Immediate Effect
12.	10 (5.3) 5	The Zoo should maintain detailed records of observations of biological and social behaviour and health status of the animals including feed intake, medication and treatment provided in the keeper's diary, daily reports, animal history cards and treatment cards, as per standards specified by the Central Zoo Authority.	With Immediate Effect
13.	10(5.3) )6	All staff of the zoo involved with upkeep and healthcare of zoo animals screened against zoonotic diseases once every year and action appropriate should be ensured.	With Immediate Effect
14.	10 (5.3)8 10 (6.4)	The Zoo should have formal linkages with some Veterinary University/ Institution through a MoU on healthcare, preventive, health management, surgical interventions, clinical tests, disease diagnosis and consultation in treatment and management.	One Year
15.	10 (1.9)	Prior to operationalising the zoo, it shall be ensured that all wild and domestic animals shall be driven out of the zoo campus, before releasing animals in safari.	With immediate effect
16.	10 (6.2) 1	The Zoo should have appropriate animal restraint equipment, accessories and drugs before operationalized.	With Immediate Effect
17.	10 (6.3)	The Zoo/Rescue Centre should appoint support staff (Lab Assistant & Compounder) as specified by the CZA.	As early as possible.
18.	10 (8.1)	The Zoo/Rescue Centre should not euthanize any animal unless doing so is essential for relieving from suffering from incurable disease /condition	With Immediate Effect

**File No.20-4/2015-CZA(Vol-II)(E)**

		as per the norms of CZA.	
19.	10(10.1)	The zoo should have act on implementation of research plan as indicated in the Master Plan and conducted research on need-based solution-oriented research projects.	From the beginning itself.
20.	10(12.1)a&b	Additional number (1 or 2) of drinking water point and urinals can be provided alongside the exit road of the zoo safari	One year
21.	10(12.2)	The zoo should ensure availability of first-aid facilities including snake anti-venom and life saving drugs, readily available in the zoo premises.	With immediate effect.
22.	10(12.3)	The Zoo should ensure, that visitor facilities are "Divyang Jan" friendly and have easy access. Further, wheel chair should also be readily available.	Before opening of the zoo to public.


A half yearly report regarding progress made in the implementation of the aforesaid conditions should be submitted to the Central Zoo Authority.

The recognition of Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda District, Bihar for the period beyond December 06, 2020 would be considered on the basis of compliance of the conditions stated above and general performance of the zoos.

The recognition of Rajgir, Zoo Safari, Nalanda, Bihar 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.

This issues with the approval of competent Authority.

**Yours sincerely,**

  
21/11/2020  
**(Dr. Sonali Ghosh)**  
**DIG(HQ)**

**Copy for information and necessary action to:**

1. The Principal Secretary, Environment and Forest Department, Government of Bihar, Secretariat, Patna-800015. efd-bih@nic.in
2. The Zoo Director, Rajgir Zoo Safari, Nalanda, Bihar. raigirzoosafari@gmail.com