

**MINUTES OF THE 18TH THCHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12TH APRIL
2019 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF WILDLIFE WING, BIKASH BHAWAN,
SALT LAKE, KOLKATA.**

18th Meeting of the Technical Committee of the West Bengal Zoo Authority was held on 12th April 2019 in the Conference Room of Wildlife Wing, Bikash Bhawan, Salt Lake, Kolkata. The Meeting was Chaired by Shri Ravi Kant Sinha, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & CWLW, West Bengal and Chairman, Technical Committee, West Bengal Zoo Authority.

The following Members/Officers attended the Meeting :

1. Shri Ravi Kant Sinha, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & CWLW, West Bengal and Chairman, Technical Committee, West Bengal Zoo Authority
2. Shri Rajendra Jakhar, IFS, Director, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling
3. Shri Asis Samanta, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, West Bengal and Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore
4. Shri V. K. Yadav, IFS, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, West Bengal and Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority
5. Shri Bidyut Baran Roy, Addl. Director, Animal Resources Development Department, West Bengal

Agenda 1 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 17^h Meeting of the Technical Committee of the West Bengal Zoo Authority held on 29th August, 2018.

Minutes of the 17th Meeting of the Technical Committee of the West Bengal Zoo Authority held on 29th August, 2018 were confirmed by the Technical Committee.

Agenda 2 : Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes / decision taken in the 17th Meeting of the Technical Committee

Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority and Convenor of the Technical Committee, West Bengal Zoo Authority presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes/decision taken in the 17th Meeting of the Technical Committee. ATR was noted by the Members present. Following observations were made:

- (i) The Chief Conservation of Forests, Wildlife (North) has been requested to submit the report after inspection of Bengal Safari regarding infrastructure facilities and availability of fodder, water etc. The request for another two elephants for Bengal Safari will be decided on the basis of the report. The Chairman also emphasised on creation of post of Mahut and Grass Cutter to pursue with the State Government.

Agenda 3 : Scientific Research Programme in Zoos

The following Research Proposals were examined and discussed in detail by the Members of the Technical Committee. The Director, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling was of the opinion that many organisations/institutions approach us for different scientific research studies. However they do not submit the interim report or final report to the concerned zoo or to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife office even after some reminders. He requested while granting permission for research project should be ensured to them for presentation, there should be clear cut reference regarding the ownership of data and in case of publication there has to be some co-authorship depending on the involvement and collaboration of Zoo Officials & Research Scholars/Zoo Biologist etc.

(i) It was decided that Director, Zoological Survey of India should be requested to submit detailed project proposal and be specific about the endangered species to be covered for genetic analysis.

(ii) The Red Panda GSMP meeting programme was approved which will be held at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling. The fund requirement for this purpose is to be placed before the Governing Board/Forest Department for necessary approval.

(iii) The research on conservation genetics of Bengal Tiger Zoos in West Bengal was approved and to be implemented by West Bengal Zoo Authority in collaboration with scientific organisation like, Zoological Survey of India.

iv) Preparation of bio-chemical profile of blood of various species in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park - discussed and approved by the Technical Committee.

v) Preparation of data book on Scat Analysis of various animals in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park - discussed and approved by the Technical Committee.

These two research (iv) & (v) are to be linked to the medical information on the platform of GIMS and Animal History Records for updating.

Agenda 4: Project Proposal for Red Panda Augmentation Programme in the State.

The Technical Committee examined the documents prepared by the Core Committee regarding Red Panda Species Recovery Programme for the period of 5 years.

The budget for the ex-situ conservation for the 5 years was approved -

- i) Improvement of the Conservation Breeding Centre at Topkeydara - Rs. 75.0 lakh
- ii) Restocking of Red Panda in Singalila National Park - Rs. 255.0 lakh
- iii) Restocking in Neora Valley National Park - Rs. 345.0 lakh

It was also decided for the timeline for release of 4 Red Pandas in Singalila National Park should be followed and accordingly necessary action should be taken for permission from Central Zoo Authority in this regard. Necessary action is to be initiated for funding of the project under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of MoEF&CC, Gol.

Agenda 5 : Engagement of Consultancy Firm for preparation of Detailed Project Report.

The Technical Committee discussed about the engagement of different Consultancy Firms for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and approved the engagement of following Consultancy Firms.

(i) M/s. R. C. Bysack has been engaged as consultancy firm after E-tendering process for preparation of detailed project report related to Sundarban Wild Animals Park, Jharkhali. The consultancy firm will plan, design and submit drawing and estimates related to construction of different animal's enclosures like Tiger, Fishing Cat, and Salt Water Crocodile, conservation breeding centre of different species. They will also submit details for establishment of Research and Training Centre at Jharkhali. The total contract value is Rs. 19,61,667.00 for one year period.

(ii) Expression of interest has been invited through online process for selection of consultancy firm for preparation of detailed project report related to second phase of North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari) at Siliguri. As per the decision taken in the 17th meeting of the Technical Committee of WBZA for the following works.

- (a) Planning and design for tunnel aquarium including detailed structural drawings and estimates.
- (b) Planning and design of Biodiversity Zone including Butterfly Park, Reptile house, walk in aviary and nature trail etc.

The consultancy firm will be selected after technical presentation and financial bidding.

(iii) DPR for expansion of South Khairbari Mini Zoo and Leopard safari is being done in House. However, assistance of some experts will be required for structural drawings and preparation of estimates which is proposed to be done through outsourcing inviting quotations.

(iv) The DPR of Rasikbeel Mini Zoo at Coochbehar was discussed and the Chairman was of the opinion that it will be further examined by his office and necessary action will be taken accordingly for implementation of the DPR.

It was decided to place the matter in the next Governing Board Meeting.

Agenda 6 : Developmental works in North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari) at Siliguri.

The proposal of developmental works in North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari) during 2019-20 was discussed and the Technical Committee approved the following :

(i) Extension of Tiger enclosure and night shelter for breeding purpose/ around 5 hec. area has been surveyed and earmarked adjacent to the existing Tiger safari for establishment of Tiger enclosure and night shelter for the purpose of breeding Tigers. This area will be off display and visitors will not be allowed in this secluded area. The approximate cost is around 150 lakhs. This fund is available in WBZA as savings from other works.

(ii) Extension of Rhinoceros enclosure within mixed Herbivore safari / it is proposed to expand the enclosure of the Rhinoceros which is very small at present. The proposed area will be now around 2 hec. and the approximate cost will be around Rs. 140 lakhs. This fund will be made available by the WBZA from savings of different works.

(iii) Digital Projection and development of Augmented Reality Show (7D Holographic) in the Nature Interpretation Centre. The approximate cost for this project will be around Rs. 50 lakhs. Sound proofing and Air condition will also be installed in NIC costing around Rs.60.00 lakh.

(iv) Developmental works from the savings of the fund in Phase I. There are savings of funds which was provided by the North Bengal Development Department, Tourism Department and Forest Department. It was proposed to utilise the fund which is lying with WBZA as corpus fund for the works given in the **Annexure**.

(v) Introduction of trackless Toy Train : It was proposed to introduce toy train without rail for visitors inside the Park. The train which consists of one Engine and three bogies having capacity of 30 persons. This toy train will not enter any safari area but will take visitors around the Park to Lesser Cats, Aviary and outer areas. The total cost of one toy train will be around Rs.35 lakh including GST.

The Technical Committee recommended to place the above mentioned works in the next Governing Board Meeting for approval of financial matters.

Agenda 7 : Developmental works in Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata.

The developmental works in Zoological Garden, Alipore proposed during 2019-20 were discussed by the Technical Committee and accorded approval for the following:

(i) Extension of Zebra enclosure : It was proposed to increase the area of the Zebra enclosure as there are more births. The approximate cost is Rs.15.00 lakh.

(ii) Extension of Giraffe enclosure : It was proposed that the present Giraffe enclosure is small taking into consideration the birth of Giraffe every year and so the enclosure area should be increased and night shelter will be added to the area enclosure. The total project cost is Rs.30.00 lakh.

(iii) Upgradation of ticketing system : There are existing 19 turnstiles at the entry gate of the Zoo. At present the tickets are printed at Delhi which is bar-coded and is being done by only one vendor from Delhi who has monopolised business since he was engaged from the beginning at the time of construction of the new entry gate. This system is very expensive and Rs.25–30 lakh is spent for printing of the tickets every year. It was proposed to upgrade the ticketing system and instead of barcode based tickets indigenous technologies for QR code based ticketing system will be introduced and that will be avoid annual expenditure of 25 lakhs for printing of tickets as the cost will be reduced and entry tickets will be printed at the ticket counters involving 1/10th of the present cost. The overall project cost would be Rs.30.00 lakh to change the whole system.

(iv) Digital projection and Development of Augmented Reality Show (7D Holographic) at Nature Information Centre of Zoological Garden, Alipore. The total project cost would be Rs.50 lakh. This will help in raising the awareness among the visitors regarding Wildlife Conservation.

The Technical Committee recommended to place all the above mentioned works in the next Governing Board Meeting.

Agenda 8 : Enclosure designs of important Animals.

The enclosure design at South Khairbari Mini Zoo was put up before the Technical Committee. The Committee examined and approved the design of different enclosures of Tiger, Leopard, Fishing Cat, Jungle Cat, Sloth Bear, Black Bear and Wolf by converting the existing Leopard Rescue Centre. The Committee also approved the design of herbivore enclosure to be constructed in future at the old Leopard Safari area. The Committee mentioned that necessary approval of the Central Zoo Authority should be taken before constructing the new enclosures.

Agenda 9 : Capture of one horned Rhinoceros and Indian Gaur from wild habitat

The Technical Committee discussed the matter regarding capture of 7 nos. one horned Rhinoceros and 7 nos. of Indian Gaur from the wild population and then keeping them at Bengal Safari for display. The Technical Committee was of the view that necessary provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 should be followed and mandatory approval of the competent authority should be taken as capture involved Schedule I Animal. Necessary action should be initiated for approval by the Central Zoo Authority and competent authority of MoEF&CC, GoI.

Agenda 10 : Animal Exchange Programme in Zoos

The Technical Committee approved the proposed Animal Exchange Programme in the Zoo as per enclosed **Annexure**.

Agenda 11 : Training of Zoo Staff

The Technical Committee recommended to organise training of different categories of Zoo Staff for capacity building. It was also decided to send some officers and staff for exposure visit to different Zoo in the country for upgradation of skills.

Agenda 12 : Annual Work Programme of WBZA during 2019-20.

The Annual Work Programme of WBZA was examined and the Technical Committee recommended for different developmental works to be taken in the Zoo with the approval of Governing Board of West Bengal Zoo Authority for the financial matter.

Agenda 13 : Awareness Programme in Zoos

The Technical Committee recommended the proposal to organise the different awareness programmes like Zoo Festival, Teachers' Training Programme and other awareness activities from time to time during 2019-20. The Zoo Keepers Day and Animals Day should also be celebrated.

Agenda 14 : Procurement of Radio Collars for Red Panda

The Technical Committee examined the proposal and discussed at length the option regarding various Radio Collars to be procured for Red Panda during their release programme. The Technical Committee observed that instead of 22 grams GPS PTT it will be better to explore the possibility of procuring 50 grams GPS PTT with VHF Transmitter for monitoring of released Red Panda.

Further, the Committee also recommended that the Telemetry Firms with office in this country should be preferred in order to get the all technical supports and services in this regard.

Agenda 15 : Miscellaneous, if any, with the permission of the Chairman.

The procurement of canine distemper vaccine was discussed by the Technical Committee and the matter was approved for procurement of these vaccines by West Bengal Zoo Authority.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and all the Members.



**Chairman
Technical Committee
West Bengal Zoo Authority**



**Member Secretary
West Bengal Zoo Authority**