

**MINUTES OF THE 17TH THCHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29TH AUGUST
2018 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF WILDLIFE WING, BIKASH BHAWAN,
SALT LAKE, KOLKATA.**

17th Meeting of the Technical Committee of the West Bengal Zoo Authority was held on 29th August 2018 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

Agenda 1 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 16th Meeting of the Technical Committee of the West Bengal Zoo Authority held on 8th March, 2018.

Minutes of the 16th Meeting of the Technical Committee of the West Bengal Zoo Authority held on 8th March 2018 were confirmed by the Technical Committee.

Agenda 2 : Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes / decision taken in the 16th 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 16th Meeting of the Technical Committee. ATR was noted by the Members present. Following observations were made:

- (i) Two Elephants which are presently sent on deputation to Bengal Safari will be permanently handed over to the Director, North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari), Siliguri along with the Service Book of the Elephants and other related documents. The Chairman of the Technical Committee pointed out that separate post of 2 nos. Mahout and 2 nos. Grass Cutter is required to be created under West Bengal Zoo Authority.

(ii) The Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata was requested to finalise the date of transfer of Giraffe from Zoological Garden, Kolkata to Hyderabad Zoo.

(iii) The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Rasikbeel Mini Zoo should be placed in the next Technical Committee Meeting or through circulation to the Members for their clearance.

Agenda 3 : Scientific Research Programme in Zoos

The following Research Proposals were discussed in the Technical Committee Meeting and were principally approved for implementation.

(i)	GIS application in evaluation of Red Panda habitat in Singalila National Park, Darjeeling and Neora Valley National Park, Kalimpong.	It was decided to request Conservator of Forests, Working Plan in GIS to revise the project cost at an early date.
(ii)	Conservation Breeding Programme of River Terrapin (Batagurbaska) in Sundarban Biosphere Reserve.	It was decided that such Breeding Programme is essential and so necessary cost estimate should be submitted by the Director, Sundarban Biosphere Reserve for implementation.
(iii)	Conservation Breeding Programme of Salt Water Crocodile at Bhagabatpur in Sundarban Biosphere Reserve.	The project was principally approved with the cost estimate of Rs.18.0 lakh.
(vi)	Population and species survival assessment of Red Panda in Singalila National Park, West Bengal - potential trajectory following re-stocking of the population under the Captive Breeding Programme. Genetic analysis of captive Red Panda in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling.	The project was discussed thoroughly and it was decided that the genetic analysis of captive Red Panda in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling should also be included under this project, so that further action is initiated for release of Red Panda in wild. The project submitted by IISER, Kolkata through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & CWLW, West Bengal was approved with a total cost of Rs.23,37,000/-. It was decided to organise Annual Research Seminar, so that the ongoing projects and new Research proposals could be discussed along with other conservation issues.
(v)	Organising Red Panda Global Species Management Plan Meeting in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling.	The matter was discussed and it was decided that such meeting with the International and National Experts may be organised in the month of February-March 2019 in consultation with the International Studbook Keeper of Red Panda.

Agenda 4: Transfer and Exchange of Animals in the Zoos.

All the proposals for transfer and exchange of Animals in the Zoos as proposed were approved by the Technical Committee for taking further necessary approval from Central Zoo Authority.

Agenda 5 : Animal Collection Plan of Zoos.

The Animal Collection Plan of the following Zoos was discussed with the Technical Committee and was approved to include into Master Plan after necessary approval from Central Zoo Authority.

- (1) Junglemahal Zoological Park, Jhargram
- (2) Bardhaman Zoological Park, Bardhaman
- (3) Rasikbeel Mini Zoo, Coochbehar
- (4) Surulia Mini Zoo, Purulia
- (5) Garchumuk Deer Park, Howrah

Agenda 6 : Revised Master Layout Plan of South Khairbari Mini Zoo

The revised Master Layout Plan of South Khairbari was placed in the Technical Committee and was approved after discussion. It was also decided to move to the MoEF&CC for necessary clearance under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 regarding additional areas which are included in the Plan.

The matter regarding use of existing areas as Mini Zoo was discussed. It was agreed to convert the existing Leopard Rescue Centre as 7 Enclosures of Carnivores and new Rescue Centre is to be constructed behind the Animal Hospital. Further, the earlier Leopard Safari area (3.74 ha) has to be converted in 6 Enclosures of Herbivores as shown in the drawing. The cost estimate in this regard for modification of Enclosures needs to be done as discussed for early implementation of the works.

Agenda 7 : Master Layout Plan of Harinalaya (Deer Park), New Town, Kolkata

Master Layout Plan of Harinalaya (Deer Park), New Town was placed before the Technical Committee and was approved with minor correction in the nomenclature of the Enclosures for further submission to Central Zoo Authority.

Agenda 8 : Enclosure designs of important Animals.

The Enclosure design of the following Animals was submitted to the Technical Committee and was approved for implementation. However, in the case of Butterfly Park and Tunnel Aquarium in Bengal Safari, it was suggested that Detailed Project Report (DPR) should be prepared for necessary approval of the Technical Committee.

1. Junglemahal Zoological Park, Jhargram and Bardhaman Zoological Park, Bardhaman : Enclosures of -
 - i. Sloth Bear Enclosure at Bardhaman Zoological Park, Bardhaman
 - a) Details of Animal Enclosure
 - b) Details of Night Shelter
 - ii. Pheasantry at Bardhaman Zoological Park, Bardhaman
 - iii. Common Languor Enclosure at Bardhaman Zoological Park, Bardhaman
 - iv. Rhesus Monkey Enclosure at Bardhaman Zoological Park, Bardhaman
 - v. Leopard Enclosure at Bardhaman Zoological Park, Bardhaman
 - a) Site Plan
 - b) Details of Animal Enclosure
 - c) Details of Night Shelter
 - vi. Fishing Cat Enclosure at Junglemahal Zoological Park, Jhargram
 - vii. Reptile House at Junglemahal Zoological Park, Jhargram
2. Extension of Entry Gate at Zoological Garden, Alipore.

Agenda 9 : Status of release of Red Panda in wild

The Technical Committee discussed regarding release of Red Panda in wild habitat of Singalila and Neora Valley National Park in West Bengal.

- a) It was decided that necessary approval from MoEF&CC as well as Central Zoo Authority should be obtained at an early date.
- b) The Minutes of the Core Committee and timeline activities as decided by them should be submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & CWLW, West Bengal for necessary approval and further necessary action in this regard.
- c) The tentative budget of Rs.1.20 crore submitted by the Director, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling was principally agreed upon and it was decided to explore the fund provision from MoEF&CC and Central Zoo Authority. However, immediate requirement of fund for the works to be implemented this year and especially for extension of soft release facility needs to be provided within time frame by West Bengal Zoo Authority.
- d) The genetic analysis of captive Red Panda population in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling is essential and so some sample should also be sent to CCMB, Hyderabad for report before December 2018.

Agenda 10 : Draft MOU for collaboration with Foreign Zoos

The draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaboration with Foreign Zoos was discussed in the Technical Committee Meeting and it was decided to include the point regarding use of equipment and sharing of knowledge by both the parties for better Zoo Management and with mutual agreement. The draft MOU with the Foreign Zoos should be submitted to the State Government for necessary clearance.

Agenda 11 : Security Plan and Surveillance in Bengal Safari

The Members of the Technical Committee discussed the Security Plan and Surveillance in Bengal Safari and it was agreed that it is essential for long term management of this important Safari Park for regular monitoring for protection purpose and better management of Bengal Safari.

The following proposals were approved by the Technical Committee:-

- (i) For this purpose one Watch Tower in the central of the Safari area is proposed along with five Watch Towers in different Zones of the Bengal Safari. The total cost involved around Rs.48 lakh was also approved.
- (ii) CCTV surveillance - it is proposed that the entire areas will be covered through CCTV surveillance covering entire boundary of the Park and all the four Safaris including Lesser Cat Zone and Aviary Section. The total estimate of around Rs.1.0 crore was approved. It was suggested by the Chairman to use Wi-Fi system for CCTV, if possible in the project.

Agenda 12 : Awareness Programme and Zoo Festival

The Technical Committee agreed to the proposals and all the Zoos under West Bengal Zoo Authority should implement Awareness Generation Programme on different occasions to educate the public about Wildlife Conservation. For this purpose, necessary budget provisions should be made by the West Bengal Zoo Authority. It was also decided to organise Zoo Festival atleast for a one week in the following Zoos :

- (i) Zoological Garden, Alipore from 14th November
- (ii) Bengal Safari, January/February
- (iii) Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling in the month of September

Agenda 13 : Training of Staff and Exposure Visit.

The Technical Committee agreed to the proposals to organise the exposure visit to the following Zoos :

- i) Guwahati Zoo
- ii) Patna Zoo
- iii) Visakhapatnam Zoo
- iv) Bannerghatta Zoo, Bengaluru

Further, it was decided to organise the following training programme with the help of Wildlife Wing, West Bengal and other experts :

- i) Capture and translocation of animals
- ii) Tranquilisation of animals
- iii) Captive management of Crocodiles and Gharials
- iv) Snake Handling

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