

West Bengal Zoo Authority
Office of Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata-700027

The 3rd Technical Committee meeting of the WBZA was held on 17th August, 2012 and the following members attended :

Sri S. B. Mondal, I.F.S., PCCF (WL) & CWLW, West Bengal & Chairman,

Sri B. R. Sharma, I.F.S. CCF (WL-N),

Sri Alankar Jha, I.F.S, Director, Darjeeling Zoo

Sri Niraj Sinhal, I.F.S., Director, Alipore Zoo

Sri Haque, Chief Engineer, WBZA

Sri T.V.N. Rao, I.F.S., Member Secretary, WBZA

Sri Kamalakanta Saha, Director, Animal Health & Veterinary Services, West Bengal

Following are the deliberations and decisions taken :

1. Detailed discussion of deaths of Red Kangaroos at Alipore Zoo was held. It was decided that from now onwards, detailed planning was to be done before the import of any animal from abroad.
2. **Plan for handling of the lone Kangaroo at Alipore Zoo :** the present Kangaroo at Alipore Zoo is aged around 10 to 12 months old and should be managed very carefully. As it is a lone animal and very young, to reduce stress, it should be off display from public. A visual barricade should be erected in the front till it is fully acclimatized and old enough for public display. In the mean-time, Director, Alipore Zoo should explore the possibilities of its rehabilitation and pairing, including exchange of the animal with Indian or foreign zoos.
3. **Animal Exchange programs for Alipore Zoo to fill up vacant enclosures :** as per the report of Director, Alipore Zoo, 16 cages of birds are lying vacant at Alipore Zoo. He proposes to procure through legal sources - silver pheasant, kalij pheasant, Lady Amherst pheasant, Reeve's pheasant, chimpanzee, brow antlered deer (2 females for breeding), rhino (female for pairing), leopard cat (new), stump tailed monkey (new), jaguar (existing aged).

As the list of empty enclosures & excess animals available submitted is not exhaustive, Member Secretary is authorized to finalize this list.

Director Alipore Zoo is directed initiate a dialogue with other zoos and Secretary, WBZA to closely monitor the issue.

4. **Completion of food court at Alipore** : The committee is appraised that the location of the food court was approved by CZA in the master layout plan in 2009 and accordingly, the work was started. Subsequently, work was stopped as CZA has asked for the same. Director, Alipore has written a detailed letter to CZA explaining the situation. No reply is received from CZA till now.

As substantial fund was already been spent on the work, it was decided to go ahead with the work for early completion. Member Secretary will inform the same to CZA and take necessary steps to re-start the work and for early completion.

5. **Developmental of North Bengal Wild Animal Park near Siliguri** : The issue was deliberated. The idea was appreciated as it will reduce pressure of tourism on N.Ps and sanctuaries and it was decided to go ahead with national tender for master plan preparation and take the issue to the G.B for further decision.
6. **Filling up of posts of zoo keepers in Alipore & Darjeeling Zoos** : the committee has been appraised that Darjeeling zoo has 8 vacancies against 14 sanctioned posts and Alipore Zoo has 19 vacancies against 66 posts of Zoo keepers. Enough the existing staff, through experienced, are quite aged and it is required to infuse young people.

It has been felt that zoo keeper post is a very important professional post requiring lot of technical expertise and it is advisable to have permanent staff holding the post. At present, several of these posts are being manned from out-sourcing agencies and training of casual and temporary persons is not feasible. So, the technical committee has recommended that these vacant posts of zoo keepers should be filled up as per the latest guide-lines of qualification of CZA and the G.B to deliberate in this regard.

7. **Status & strategy for preparation of Master Layout and Master Plans for different zoos** : Member Secretary appraised the present position, where-in, no zoo in West Bengal has approved Master Plan an except for Alipore and Darjeeling Zoos.

To expedite, 'Total Station Survey' of all mini zoos has started and expected to be completed by Oct.,12. Simultaneously, tender was called from existing panel of Architects for Master Layout Plan preparation and the work will be taken up after necessary technical input to these architects. The Technical Committee has approved the same and suggested for early completion of the Master Plans.

8. **Loaning for a Snow Leopard from H.P for breeding at Darjeeling Zoo:** The proposal of Darjeeling Zoo was approved subjected to all necessary approvals from competent authorities.
9. **Release of Red Panda in Singhalila N.P :** The proposal of Darjeeling Zoo was approved subjected to all necessary approvals from competent authorities.
10. **Collaborative breeding program between Darjeeling and Gangtok Zoos for Red Panda & Snow Leopard :** The proposal of Darjeeling Zoo was approved subjected to all necessary approvals from competent authorities.

The minutes may kindly be approved.

Sd/-

Member Secretary, WB Zoo Authority

Sd/-

Chairman, Technical Committee, WBZA &
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wild Life, W.B