

Minutes of the 11th meeting of the Technical Committee of the West Bengal Zoo Authority held on 11th December, 2014 in Members Room West Bengal Zoo Authority, Kolkata.

11th meeting of the Technical Committee of the West Bengal Zoo Authority was held on 11th December 2014 in Members Room, West Bengal Zoo Authority, Kolkata. The meeting was chaired by Shri Ujjwal Kumar Bhattacharya, IFS, PCCF, Wildlife & CWLW, West Bengal and Chairman, Technical Committee, West Bengal Zoo Authority. Following members/officers attended the meeting.

1. Shri Ujjwal Kumar Bhattacharya, IFS, - Chairman
PCCF, Wildlife & CWLW, WB &
Chairman, Technical Committee,
West Bengal Zoo Authority
2. Dr. S.C. Bose, - Member
Director, Animal Husbandry &
Veterinary Services, West Bengal
3. Shri A K Jha, IFS, - Member
Director,
Padmaja Naidu Himalayan
Zoological Park
4. Dr. K L Ghosh, IFS, - Member
Director,
Zoological Garden, Alipore
5. Dr. B R Sharma, IFS - Convenor
Member Secretary,
West Bengal Zoo Authority
6. Dr. J. K. De
Scientific Officer,
West Bengal Zoo Authority
7. Shri U K Bhattacharjee,
Administrative Officer,
West Bengal Zoo Authority
8. Shri Soumendra Nath De
Finance Officer,
West Bengal Zoo Authority

Agenda 1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 10th meeting of the Technical Committee, West Bengal Zoo Authority held on 23rd April, 2014

Minutes of the 10th meeting of the Technical Committee, West Bengal Zoo Authority held on 23rd April, 2014 were confirmed after brief discussion.

Agenda 2. Action Taken Report (ATR) on the minutes / decision taken in the 10th meeting of the Technical Committee, West Bengal Zoo Authority.

Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority and Convener of the meeting presented the Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in 10th meeting of the Technical Committee, West Bengal Zoo Authority. The Member noted the ATR and following decisions were taken :

- a) It was decided to complete the process of preparation of the Master Plans of all the recognised zoos under the control of WBZA with in June, 2015 (Agenda 3a).
- b) Species Recovery and Conservation Breeding Plans for the mentioned Conservation Breeding centres shall be prepared with in December, 2015 (Agenda 4).
- c) Captive Breeding Plans for mentioned Captive Breeding Facilities shall also be prepared with in Dec 2015 only (Agenda 3c).
- d) Feasibility study of the possibility of release of excess spotted deer from different facilities in to Jumboo Dweep in Sundarban need to be carried out before taking final decision in this regard (Agenda 9).
- e) It was decided to go for re-advertisement for the preparation of the panel of clearing and handling agents for transportation of animals between in zoos and from abroad (Agenda 11).
- f) The Technical Committee appreciated the participation of Member Secretary, WBZA; Director, PNHZP and Director, ZGA in the WAZA Conference held at New Delhi. (Supplementary Agenda no.1).
- g) The PCCF, WL & CWLW, WB informed that a request has already been made to the Principal Secretary, Forest Department for taking up the matter with Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Service Department, West Bengal on the same. (Supplementary Agenda no.3).

Agenda 3. Preparation of the Recruitment Rule (R/R) for different approved posts under West Bengal Zoo Authority and the Zoos under its control.

A three member committee chaired by the Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority with Director, Zoological Gardens, Alipore and Director, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling as members was constituted to draft the Recruitment Rules for different posts in WBZA and zoos under its control (as approved in the 9th Governing Body Meeting). The committee shall complete the exercise with Dec. 31, 2014 and submit the report to the Chairman, Technical Committee. The draft shall be placed in the next meeting of the Governing Body, West Bengal Zoo Authority for final approval.

Agenda 4. Status Report on establishment of North Bengal wild Animal Park, Siliguri.

The Technical Committee appreciated and noted the developments.

Agenda 5. Status Report on establishment of Sundarban wild Animal Park, Jharkhali

Members appreciated and noted the status report.

Agenda 6. Up gradation of pathological Laboratory at the Zoological Gardens, Alipore.

The Committee asked the Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority to approach the Central Zoo Authority for financial/technical assistance for development of a Regional Referral Centre for better wild animal health care at Belgachia near Kolkata.

The committee further suggested preparation of DPR for setting up a well equipped pathological-cum-diagnostic laboratory in North Bengal for the zoos and PAs in North Bengal.

Agenda 7. Research Projects:

I. Study on discontinuation of visit of migratory birds in Zoological Garden, Alipore.

The committee agreed to the proposal and asked Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore to come up with details proposal for taking up the study. WBZA shall finance and monitor to study.

II. Analysis of treatment provided & mortality in Zoological Garden, Alipore in the last 10 years.

The committee agreed the proposal with a direction to include all the zoos under the control of WBZA to be covered under the programme. The Technical Committee also approved engagement of one person for one year on contract basis from the existing panel of the veterinarians recently prepared in Zoological Gardens, Alipore for the purpose. Senior Veterinary Officer in Zoological Garden Alipore and Veterinary Officer at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling shall pilot the project with all help from Director, Animal Husbandry And Veterinary service, West Bengal.

III. Study of soil micro-flora and micro-fauna of the enclosures of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, Dowhill and Topkedara.

The committee recommended the proposal. The project shall be handled by the Zoo Biologist in the Zoo with financial assistance from West Bengal Zoo Authority.

IV. Population and Behavioural Ecology of Red Panda, *Ailurus fulgens* in Singhalila National Park and Neora Valley National Park, West Bengal, India with special reference to conservation.

The Technical Committee approved the proposal and requested Director, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park to initiate the work on the same. The proposal shall be submitted to the Department of Science and Technology, GoWB for financial assistance and CWLW, WB for permission to carry out the study.

V. Snow Leopard Conservation Breeding Programme of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling

The committee recommended the proposal for taking up the same with Central Zoo authority for financial assistance.

VI. Rechecking of the genetic analysis of the Captive Stock of Red Panda of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling by Aranyak, Gauhati.

The Committee approved the proposal. It was decided to finance the proposal in WBZA.

Agenda 8. Training for the Zoo staff

The committee approved the proposal and decided to arrange training for the zoo keepers in two phases i. e during February/March, 2015 in Kolkata and during April/May, 2015 in Darjeeling. Central Zoo Authority may also to be contracted arranging reading materials and resource persons.

Agenda 9. Exchange of animals

The members noted the report.

Agenda 10. Approval of Master Plan of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling.

Technical Committee approved the Master Plan of the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling

Agenda 11. Purchase of tranquilising gadgets and drugs, animal identification marking materials viz., rings, ear tags, transponders including the implanter / readers.

The members approved the proposal and suggested to purchase the tranquilising materials and related drugs for Zoos as well as for the different Wildlife Wings of the Forests Directorate, West Bengal with consultation with the CWLW, WB. The Committee also approved the proposal of acquiring animal identification/marketing materials viz., rings, ear tags, transponders including the implanter / readers for zoo animals in the zoos under the control of WBZA.

Agenda 12. Introduction of Adoption of Zoo Animals, Friend of Zoos & Zoo Volunteers Schemes in zoos.

The Technical Committee approved and recommended the draft to put upto the General Body for final approval.

Agenda 13. Approval of logo of WBZA

The Technical Committee recommended the line out logo(water bird in wave depicting lined up map of West Bengal) to GB for final approval.

Agenda 14. Miscellaneous

The Technical Committee agreed to the proposal of initiation of separate ticketing system in Garhchumuk Deer Park. It was felt to start the same from April 1, 2015 on completion of the construction of entry gate and ticket counter and approval of Governing Body in the upcoming meeting.

Supplementary Agenda no 1. Filming Zoo Red Panda by Conservationist and Natural History Filmmaker.

Technical Committee approved the proposal.

Supplementary Agenda no 2. Status of the new Conservation Breeding Centre for Red Panda and Snow Leopard at Topkeydara, Darjeeling.

The Technical Committee agreed to proposal and asked the Member Secretary, WBZA to write to the CWLW to place the same in the next meeting of the State Wildlife Advisory Board.

Supplementary Agenda no. 3. Revival of the Journal of the Bengal Natural History Society

The Technical Committee asked the Director, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan zoological Park to prepare and submit the detailed proposal indicating the financial involvement, manpower requirement and infrastructural needs in the same. A feasibility study of its long term sustainability may also needed for final decision.

Supplementary Agenda no. 4. Release of Red Pandas in Singalila National Park.

The Technical Committee agreed to the proposal. The Director, PNHZP was asked to complete the legal and technical requirements as per Central Zoo Authority's guidelines for the same. The Central Zoo authority may also be approached for the financial and technical assistance for the project.

Supplementary Agenda no. 5. Awarding Increment benefit to the CDLs.

The Technical Committee asked the Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority to analyse the case and take decision accordingly.

Supplementary Agenda no. 6. To fix up the " Height" instead of "Age Bar" for availing exemption of entry fees.

The Technical Committee asked the Member Secretary, west Bengal Zoo Authority to come up with a comprehension proposal for the same including rates for the entry for all the zoos under control of WBZA and place the same in the next Governing Board Meeting for final approval.

Supplementary Agenda no. 7. To fix up the entry time of the Zoological Garden, Alipore.

The Technical Committee recommended the proposal and incorporates the timing of entry/exit in the repeat under Supplementary Agenda no. 7.

Supplementary Agenda no. 8. Taking over of Bengal Natural History Museum by WBZA Society.

The Technical Committee discussed the matter of incorporation of Bengal Natural History Museum in to the West Bengal Zoo Authority Society. The Technical Committee feel that West Bengal Zoo Authority should take over Bengal Natural History Museum for its development and management. Govt. of West Bengal may be approached for the notification and continuous and enhanced financial assistance to the West Bengal Zoo Authority for its maintenance and development.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Sd/-
Dr. B. R. Sharma
Member Secretary,
West Bengal Zoo Authority

Sd/-
PCCF, WL & CWLW, WB
&
Chairman, Technical Committee
West Bengal Zoo Authority