

# CZA@NEWS

## Central Zoo Authority All-India Zoo Directors' Meeting

A meeting of Zoo Directors was held 19-21 November at the India International Centre and the National Zoological Park. The meeting was organised by the Central Zoo Authority in collaboration with the Indian Zoo Director's Association. The Inauguration was graced by the Addl. I.G., Shri S. C. Dey and the Secretary, Environment and Forests, Shri Nair who addressed the Directors. Shri Nair requested all delegates to speak so that he could understand their difficulties and potential.

Technical sessions on 19th and 20th consisted of People's Perception of Zoos, Master Planning of Zoos, Management of Endangered Species, and Research and Training Priorities

for Zoos. On 21st there were group discussions throughout the day with Recommendations at the Plenary session. The Recommendations are as follows:

### Recommendations of Zoo Directors Meeting -- 1996

#### (I). GENERAL:

1. The last few decades have witnessed a revolution in zoo management. Zoos have become centres of conservation instead of recreation. To cope with these changes, there is a need for greater technical expertise and increased financial inputs in zoo management. The State Governments, Central Government and Central Zoo Authority should

endeavour to increase financial assistance for management of zoos in the country. In view of the limited resources with State Governments, the Central Zoo Authority should provide 100% funding for selected items of works in zoos owned by the government/civic bodies.

2. The Central Government should help in evolving a process in which funds given by Central Zoo Authority are utilized effectively for improvement of zoos. At present, the funds have to be rooted through State exchequer which not only causes delay in execution of works but at times also leads to diversion of funds for non-zoo purposes.

3. There are many Corporate Industries and Business Houses which want to give donations for purpose of improving management of zoos. Central Zoo Authority should facilitate the process of channelising these donations for improvement of zoos, selected by the donors.

#### (II) PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT :

1. While planning for a new zoo, it should be ensured that the selected site has adequate land with suitable topography and vegetative cover. The extent of land should be such that it should also meet the requirements of the future development of the zoo.

2. Since the maintenance of a zoo requires substantial quantities of water and power supply, detailed consultation should be carried out with the LSDG Department and State Board of Electricity before deciding to set up a new zoo on a particular site.

3. The layout plan of zoo should be decided on the basis of the declared objectives of the zoo in consultation with a multi-disciplinary team comprising of zoo experts, veterinary specialist,

### List of Directors present in Zoo Directors' Meeting 19 - 21 Nov. 1996

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Dr. M. G. Maradia,             | Zoo Supdt., Rajkot Zoo                       |
| 2. Shri K. Hoeto Cheema,          | WLPOfficer, Dimapur, Nagaland                |
| 3. Shri. C. Lachungpa,            | DCF, Wildlife, Gangtok                       |
| 4. Shri. K. N. Benarji,           | Curator, Nehru Zool. Park, Hyderabad         |
| 5. Shri. Dinesh Kumar,            | Dir., Bhagwan Birma Biol. Park, Ranchi       |
| 6. Shri. Ritesh Bhattacharya,     | D.F.O., Assam State Zoo, Guwahati            |
| 7. Ms. Mamta Sharma,              | Director, Kanpur Zoological Park             |
| 8. Ms. Namita Priyadarshree,      | Dy. Conservator of Forests, Jodhpur          |
| 9. Shri. K. K. Modgill,           | Director, Chhatbir Zoo, Chandigarh           |
| 10. Shri Amitabh Agnihotri,       | Director, Van Vihar, Bhopal                  |
| 11. Shri. Prakash Chandra Mishra, | Director, Sanjay Gandhi Biol. Park, Patna    |
| 12. Shri. Dev Mangal Singh,       | Director, National Zool. Park, New Delhi     |
| 13. Shri. K. L. Velodi,           | Supdt. of Garden & Zoo, Mumbai               |
| 14. Shri. Vijay Singh Rathore,    | Dy. Chief Wildlife Warden, Jaipur Zoo        |
| 15. Shri. R. Raju,                | Director, Mysore Zoo, Mysore                 |
| 16. Dr. R. K. Sahu,               | Zoo Supdt., Ahmedabad                        |
| 17. Dr. L. N. Acharjyo,           | Veterinarian, Bhubaneshwar                   |
| 18. Shri. M. Jaganadha Rao,       | Dy. Director, Madras Zoo                     |
| 19. Shri. A. K. Chauhan,          | Incharge, Himl. Nature Park, Kufri, Shimla   |
| 20. Shri. M. S. Jain,             | Director, Tata Zoo, Jamshedpur               |
| 21. Shri. J. K. Parwar,           | Director, Geer Foundation, Gandhi Nagar      |
| 22. Shri. A. K. Saranyi,          | Mgr, Indira Gandhi Park Zoo, Rourkela        |
| 23. Shri. A. K. Das,              | Director, Zoological Garden, Calcutta        |
| 24. Shri. K. Mohammed Sali,       | Director, Thiruvananthapuram Zoo, Kerala     |
| 25. Shri. Vijayaraj Jadeja,       | Sayajibaug Zoo, Vadodara                     |
| 26. Shri. Manphool Singh,         | Divisional Wildlife Officer, Rohtak, Haryana |
| 27. Shri. Ramesh D. Katara,       | Zoo Officer, Sakkarbaug Zoo, Junagarh        |
| 28. Shri. B. Anand Mohan,         | Curator, I.G. Zool Park, Vishakhapatnam      |
| 29. Shri. N. C. Bahuguna,         | Director, Himalayan Zool Park, Darjeeling    |

architects, landscape designers and related persons, including animal welfare activists.

4. The choice of species to be kept in a zoo should be (in descending order) local, regional, national and global. The sequence of the display of the species should be decided as per the theme of the zoo.

5. The enclosure designs should be such that the biological, physiological and behavioral requirements of the species are fully met and the animals are not subjected to unnecessary stress.

6. Highest standards of upkeep and health care for animals should be ensured. The Curatorial staff and health care staff should be provided appropriate training on these aspects both in India and abroad.

7. All records regarding animals e.g., animal history cards, studbooks, medical records, natality and mortality should be kept meticulously. The large and medium zoos should be provided computer facilities for this purpose.

8. The Directors should be delegated adequate administrative and financial powers for managing the zoos effectively.

9. In order to keep abreast with the latest concept in the field of zoo management at least one Director should be sponsored by the Central Zoo Authority for participation in the International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens (IUDZG).

### **(III) MANAGEMENT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES.**

1. Zoos should take up captive breeding of such species where there is urgent need of human intervention. Such species should be identified at National level in consultation with the State Governments. The State Governments should remove price tags on animals to be included in such breeding programmes.

2. The breeding stock for such programme should be carefully identified and detailed animal-by-animal management plan for each species should be developed.

3. Only such zoos which have proper infrastructure, technical expertise and good track record should be involved in such breeding programmes.

4. Central Zoo Authority should collect and collate the technical information for carrying out such programmes effectively and transfer it to the zoos involved in the programmes.

5. Species management plans should have well-defined strategy and mechanism for continued supervision and monitoring of programme till the zoo bred populations have been established in the wild.

6. Since no programme of reintroduction can be successful without public support, each programme for reintroduction should have a well-defined public education and extension component.

7. Each reintroduction programme should be preceded by socioeconomic surveys and impact assessment of proposed reintroduction programmes. Strategies to mitigate the difficulties of the local people, if any, should also be evolved.

8. Frequent changes of Zoo Directors, Curators and Veterinary officers during the conduct of species management plans are bound to affect success of the programme. Therefore, the State Governments and Municipal Corporations should allow these officers to continue in the same zoo till the programme reaches its logical end.

9. The Central Zoo Authority has been persuasive regarding movement of single animals. CZA should take a more pro-active stand in this matter.

### **(IV) EDUCATION:**

1. The primary role of zoos in a country like India where 50 million people visit zoo every year is to create an empathy amongst visitors towards all forms of life and to convince them to live in harmony with nature. A systematic zoo education programme in every zoo is a must.

2. To convey the message of conservation amongst the visitors, every zoo should have a library, class room, videofilm, screening facilities and zoo souvenir shops. Those who can afford could have computer facilities and auditorium facilities.

3. Every zoo should attempt to establish a Youth Club involving local students and introduce them to the field of zoo management.

4. Activities such as painting, elocution, essay writing and visit to nature areas should be organised periodically.

5. Zoo staff, particularly executive level and supervisory level, should be trained in communication skills. The skill could be passed by them to keepers level also.

### **(V) IMPROVING PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE ZOOS:**

1. Every zoo should endeavour to bring transparency in the management system and apprise the media and the zoo enthusiasts about their significant achievements and problems.

2. The zoo should develop attractively designed lawns, gardens and civic facilities for the visitors to the zoo.

3. Battery operated cars/trolleys with proper interpretation facilities should be organised by the zoos.

4. Advisory Committee with representation from various walks of public life should be constituted for each zoo.

5. Scheme for adoption of animals and public facilities by Private Sectors should be encouraged.

After finalisation of the recommendations a Validictory Session was held. The meeting was the best attended zoo director's meeting ever held with 29 zoos being represented.