जहाँ है हरियाली।
वहाँ है खुशहाली।।

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
Central Zoo Authority

F. No. 7-16/2009-CZA(M) DATE: 05.07.2010

To

1. The Director/Curator/ In-charge
   of all large, medium, small, mini zoo
   & Rescue Centre of all States/ UTs
2. Municipal Commissioners of Ahmedabad, Jamnagar, Surat, Rajkot, Vadodara, Gwalior, Indore, Mumbai, Aurangabad, Solapur, Pune and Coimbatore.
3. Managing Directors of Bhilai Steel Plan, Bhilai, Tata Steel & Iron Company, Jamshedpur and Bokaro Steel Plan, Bokaro.

CIRCULAR

Sub:- Guidelines for the preparation of Master Plan for the zoos.

Ref:- (i) This office letter No. 27-1/2005-CZA(N) dated 23.11.2007.
(ii) This office letter No. 27-1/2005-CZA(N) dated 10.03.2008.

Sir/ Madam

The Central Zoo Authority in its meeting held on 10th June, 2010 had approved additional guidelines for preparation of Master Plan for zoos, prescribing various permissible/ prohibitory activities.

You are requested to comply with the said guidelines strictly while submitting Master Plan for the long-term development of the zoos.

Yours faithfully,

(B. S. Bonal)
Member Secretary

Encl: as above

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Central Zoo Authority
(Ministry of Environment & Forests)

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES INCORPORATING PROHIBITORY PROVISIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF MASTER PLAN FOR THE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OF THE ZOOS

1. Facilities related to the zoo and its staff within the zoo campus

1 a. Creation of staff quarters within the zoo campus

As mandatory under Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009, Rule 10, Schedule 1 (6) that no residential colonies for shall be constructed within the zoo premises following category of staff should be separated by a boundary wall from the animal exhibit areas:-

(i) Director/ Officer– in – charge of the zoo
(ii) Officials and staff under Animal Section
(iii) Officials and staff under Veterinary Section
(iv) Security personnel's (if possible)

Where such colonies already exist, the same shall be separated from the zoo premises by a boundary wall with a minimum height of 2 meters from the ground level. The entry to the residential colony shall not be through the zoo premises.

1 b. Arrangement to provide lighting within the animal enclosures and other areas

The zoo should have a provision for emergency lighting inside the animal enclosures. The lighting in other areas may be provided, if required, at a lesser intensity to avoid disturbance to animals on account of glare. The alternate lighting like solar lights may be given preference.

1 c. Creation of Night Safari/ Safari

The Central Zoo Authority will not accord approval for creation of night safaris and safaris diverting the forest land. The existing zoos may establish night safaris/ safaris without causing any adverse impact on the animal facilities in the zoo. The Central Zoo Authority should not provide any financial assistance for establishing of night safaris/ safari in any zoo.

1 d. Heritage structures within the zoo premises

The heritage structures in and around enclosures should be preserved. However, zoo animals should not be housed therein, unless such enclosures fulfill the biological and behavioral needs of such animals.

1 e. Vermicompost

The organic matter segregated from the garbage generated in the zoo should be used for vermiculture, if the zoo has adequate land and financial resources for the purpose. The zoo should construct vermiculture pits either outside the zoo premises or in a secluded area far away from the main zoo.

Every zoo shall carry out its operations in a manner that causes minimum stress on natural resources and produces the minimum of solid wastes and effluents. The zoo shall also endeavour to put in place the practices of effective waste management through reducing, reusing and recycling and disposing the effluents and solid wastes in a manner that causes least adverse environmental impact, as mandatory under Rule 10, Schedule 1(7) of the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009.

2. Facilities for visitors within the zoo campus

2 a. Children Park

The zoos may have a separate area earmarked as Children Park with focus on wildlife conservation. Appropriate interpretative facilities/ activities for children may be created in the Children Park area to promote wildlife conservation.

2 b. Boating

No zoo should allow boating activities inside the water bodies used as wintering ground by migratory birds. The existing boating facilities could however be continued in a very regulated manner, ensuring that it does not disturb the zoo animals in the nearby enclosures.

No new water body should be created in any zoo for creating boating facilities.

2 C. Train/ tram/ toy train/ battery operated vehicle

Zoos larger than 50 hectares may have train/ trolley facilities if such facilities enable visitors to get a better view of the animals housed in various enclosures, without causing the disturbance and pollution. No Train/ trolley facilities should be permitted for recreation.

2 d. Entry of private vehicle

Zoo should not all entry of private vehicles, if public facilities like battery operated trolley/ golf carts/ train exist there. If the area of the zoo is more that 75 hectares and facilities as mentioned above are not available, private vehicles may be permitted on specified routes on payment of such fees, and subject to such regulations as deemed appropriate by the management of the zoo.

2 e. Interpretation centre/ orientation centre

Zoos should be encouraged to create or establish interpretation centres preferably adjacent to the entrance, as such facilities are useful in conveying the conservation message to visitors. The Central Zoo Authority may provide financial assistance for creation of the interpretation centre within the zoos on case to case basis.

2 f. Food courts/ kiosk/ restaurant

The food courts/ kiosk/ restaurant should be restricted at the entrance of the zoo. However, the some kiosks (1-3 numbers) may be located suitably inside the zoo. It was also pointed out that such food courts/ kiosk/ restaurant should not cater/ sell any take away food, package or disposable water bottles. Sale of alcoholic beverage should be banned.

2 g. Parties/ functions/ marriages/ melas

The zoos should not allow their premises for holding party/ function/ marriage/ mela. However, the zoo premises may be used for holding meetings/ conferences/ workshops related to the wildlife conservation. The zoos must ensure that such activities are carried out keeping in view of the welfare of the animals.

2 h. Rest houses/ hotels

The creation of rest houses/ hotels within the zoo premises should not be permitted.

2i. Limiting the numbers of the visitors at any point of time in the zoos

The zoo should make an effort to control the number of visitors at any point in time, if they are beyond the carrying capacity of the zoo (calculated adopting an appropriate method). The following methods were suggested to control the number of visitors:-

(i) By increasing the entrance fee for the visitors on particular days.
(ii) Increasing the working hours of the zoo.

It is also recommended that the zoo should assess its carrying capacity and try to limit the number of visitors accordingly.

2 j. Morning/ evening walking, cycling

The zoo should not be allowed to be used for morning/ evening walking and cycling by public.

2 k. Weekly closures

It is recommended that for better management, all the recognized zoos should be closed for a day in a week.

2 l. Opening and closing time of the zoo/ shifts

The zoos should be kept open to visitors for a period as decided by in management of the zoo between the sun rise and sun set. No visitor should be allowed in the zoo after sun set except in the night safaris. No same animal should be displayed for day viewing and in night safari.

2 m. Animal ride

No animal, forming part of the display, should be used for animal ride. Elephants and Yaks could be used for joy rides as per Zoo Recognition Rules but the same would be operated and housed outside the zoo display area.

2 n. Rain shelters, foot paths, lawns and gardens

The zoos may create rain shelters, foot paths, lawns and gardens subject to the condition that they are laid in accordance with the guidelines of the Central Zoo Authority. However, in the zoo gardens should be restricted to such areas and maintained at the highest standards. The experts also suggested that foot paths should be made as natural as possible.

2 o. Animal demonstration/ handling of animals/ VIP's handling the animals

The National Zoo Policy does not encourage animal handling and demonstration by the zoos, the same should not be allowed by the zoos.

2 p. Souvenir shops

The zoos may provide souvenir shops at an appropriate place within the zoo or at the entrance.

2 q. Animal feeding by the visitors

Animal feeding by the visitors in a zoo is not permitted.

2 r. Film shooting

The film shooting within the zoo campus may be allowed, without causing any disturbance to the animals and the welfare of the animals.

2 s. Animal adoption

The "animal adoption" to raise funds in Zoos for its scientific management. However, signages provided by the funding agencies at the animal enclosure should merge with the natural environment of the zoo. It was also suggested that feeding, veterinary care, animal management of the animals should be done as per the rules.

2 t. Telephone booths

The telephones are considered as an essential service today, the same should be allowed at appropriate places.

2 u. Museum

The creation of new museum in the zoo should be discouraged and the existing zoos having museums should be asked to separate these from the animal exhibit area.

2 v. Botanical gardens

The Botanical gardens in zoos should be encouraged which may also include butterfly park, arboretum, green houses, nurseries, orchidarium and green shops.

2w. Cloak room

All large zoos should have a facility of cloak room near the entrance of the zoo for the use of visitors.

2 x. Use of generators

The zoos which are located in remote areas and do not receive adequate amount of power supply, may use generators which are noiseless and pollution free.

2 y. Veterinary hospital

As mandatory under the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992 for the large, medium and small zoos to have a full fledged veterinary hospital and a small treatment facility in mini zoos & rescue centres. The zoos may also have laboratory and research facility attached to the veterinary hospital, if required.

2 z. Live feed to the animals

The animals earmarked for re-introduction in the wild should be kept in off-display soft release facilities to enable them to develop their natural instinct. All such animals should be treated at par with wild animals and should be provided feed accordingly.

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