
CENTRAL ZOO AUTHORITY

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CZA is a statutory autonomous body under the administrative control of the MOEFCC, Govt. of India.

It was established in 1992 with the objectives of enforcing minimum standards and norms for upkeep and health care of animals in Indian Zoos.

COMPOSITION- 1 CHAIRMAN, 10 MEMBERS AND 1 MEMBER SECRETARY

ZOO NEED TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION FROM CZA TO FUNCTION

Why CZA?

Need:

The authority was set up to tackle many problems like the rampant degradation of zoo's without adequate plan or principle, or even financial backing.

India needed an organisation with an exclusive mandate to look after all the Zoos of the country.

Consequently, CZA was formed which helped in establishing many Zoos of international standards.

FUNCTIONS

CZA oversees the zoos of the country.

Recognise or derecognises zoo's.

Evaluate and assess the functions of Zoos, wrt prescribed standards and norms.

Specify minimum standard for housing, upkeep and veterinary care of animals kept in Zoo's.

Identify endangered species of wild animals for the the purpose captive breeding and assigning responsibility in this regard to specific zoo's..

provides technical and financial support in times of need for their proper management and development on scientific lines.

FUNCTIONS

Conduct Ex-situ research including biotechnical intervention for conservation of species for complementing in-situ conservation efforts in the country.

Ensure maintenance of books of endangered species of wild animals breed in captivity.

Coordinate and implement training of zoo personnel inside and outside India.

Regulate R&D and educational programmes within the zoo's.

Regulate and co-ordinate the acquisition, exchange and loaning of animals among the zoo's, endangered species and Scheduled animals.

Regulate exchange of animals between India and foreign Zoo's.-keeping in mind Ex Im policy and CITES.

Note- Protected Areas-NTCA

FUNCTIONS

Zoo Design: is also part of the mandate of CZA, which has the power to accept or reject any design which does not fit the objectives of CZA for Zoos.

Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act with regard to zoos.

ISSUES

Very few Zoos have established Zoo Cell.

CZA limited funding and hence education to personnellles is compromised.

Lacks proper trained forest personnels.

Zoo record keeping is not centralized.

Lacks capacity building.

POSITIVES

CZA has undertaken a meticulous task of improving quality of zoos.-167 recognised zoos.

Closed many shabby zoos.

Specify minimum standards for all aspects, such as, animal management, housing, husbandry, health care, evaluates zoo periodically on the basis of set standards.

Autonomous body hence more effective.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The main objective of the zoos shall be to complement and strengthen the national efforts in conservation of the rich bio-diversity of the country, particularly the wild fauna. This objective can be achieved through the following protocol:

2.1.1 Supporting the conservation of endangered species by giving species, which have no chance of survival in wild, a last chance of survival through coordinated breeding under *ex-situ* conditions and raise stocks for rehabilitating them in wild as and when it is appropriate and desirable.

2.1.2 To inspire amongst zoo visitors empathy for wild animals, an understanding and awareness about the need for conservation of natural resources and for maintaining the ecological balance.

2.1.3 Providing opportunities for scientific studies useful for conservation in general and creation of data base for sharing between the agencies involved in *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation.

2.1.4 Besides the aforesaid objectives, the zoos shall continue to function as rescue centres for orphaned wild animals, subject to the availability of appropriate housing and upkeep infrastructure. Where appropriate housing and upkeep is not available, State Governments and the Central Government would ascertain setting up rescue facilities in off - the - display areas of the zoo, subject to the availability of land.

3. STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES

3.1 GENERAL POLICY ABOUT ZOOS

3.1.1 Since zoos require a significant amount of resources in the form of land, water, energy and money, no new zoo shall be set up unless a sustained supply of resources including finance and technical support are guaranteed.

3.1.2 Zoos shall prepare a long-term masterplan for development to ensure optimum utilisation of the land, water, energy and finance.

3.1.3 Every Zoo shall maintain a healthy, hygienic and natural environment in the zoo, so that the visitors get an adequate opportunity to experience a natural environment.

3.1.4 Zoos shall give priority to endangered species in their collection and breeding plans. The order of preference for selection of species shall be (in descending order) locality, region, country and other areas.

3.1.5 Zoos shall regulate the number of animals of various species in their collection in such a way that each animal serves the objectives of the zoo. For achieving this objective, a detailed management plan of every species in the zoo shall be prepared.

3.1.6 Every zoo shall endeavour to avoid keeping single animals of non-viable sex ratios of any species. They shall cooperate in pooling such animals into genetically, demographically and socially viable groups at zoos identified for the purpose.

3.1.7 Zoos shall avoid keeping surplus animals of prolifically breeding species and if required, appropriate population control measures shall be adopted.

ACQUISITION OF ANIMALS- approved breeding prog., infusion of new blood into inbred groups, etc

ANIMAL HOUSING- to ensure quality of life, adequate size enclosures- free movement, exercise and no animal is unduly dominated or harassed. Have proper, shelters, perches, pools, drinking water points, etc.

UPKEEP OF ANIMAL COLLECTION- diet, water, physical handling of animals to be avoided

HEALTH CARE- vet care, quarantine rules, vaccination prog, timely isolation.

R&D- transfer of etc skills,.

BREEDING PROG- clearly defining objectives of breeding

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

AMENITIES TO VISITORS

