



PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL

NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 2012 - DECEMBER 2012

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From the Director's Desk...

This is the final issue of Newsletter of PNHZ Park for the year 2012. During the past four months the Zoo have organized an educational programme and successful training programmes which includes school visits, wildlife week celebration and training programme on "Endangered Species Recovery". The training programme was organized by Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi and Durrell Conservation Academy, Jersey, United Kingdom in collaboration with Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling. The training programme was very fruitful and proved to be significant for the participants. The participants were from different states of India and six from SAARC countries (Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan) in total of 63 participants.

The zoo always gives priority for new acquisitions. The new acquisition of animal includes a female Snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) from Nurnberg Zoo Germany. The addition not only helps to increase the number of animals but it also helps to add new blood line which prevents inbreeding and thus helps in Conservation Breeding Programme of endangered species in true sense.

The Zoo staffs have also attended various training and workshops organized by Central Zoo Authority and different institutes at different states in India.

Tagging of all the herbivores present at the Park has been done successfully.

As usual visits by dignitaries, Schools, Colleges, and Institutes were regular.



A. K. Jha IFS

Director

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.



BIRTH OF ANIMAL



On 22.11.2012 a male Goral (*Naemorhedus goral*) was born to a female (Shimba) and male (Veeru). The cub is fine and healthy and often found playing in the enclosure.



TRANSFER OF ANIMAL

1:1 Silver Pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera*) and 2:2 Kalij Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelanos*) was transferred to Alipore Zoo Kolkota on 21.11.2012.



ACQUISITION OF ANIMALS

On 11.10.2012 one female Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*) of age 2 years 6 months approx. arrived at the Park from Nurnberg Zoo Germany. The animal was kept for the quarantine in the Zoo Hospital for about a month. After which the animal was kept for display.



Visits of Dignitaries to Darjeeling Zoo and their Comments

Sl No.	Date	Name	Designation / Place	Comments
1.	04.10.2012	Dr. J.A.Phadke	117, Hindu Colony, Dadar Bombay	Delighted to see such rare species like Snow Leopard, Red Panda, and Bengal Tiger. Kept in excellent Zoo conditions.
2.	24.10.2012	Mr. R.M.N.Sahay IFS	Director General Environmental Management & Policy Research Institute Bangalore	A rewarding experience.



Zoo Inreach Programme Following table gives the details of the Zoo Inreach programme

Sl No.	DATE	NAME OF THE SCHOOL/COLLEGES	NO.OF STUDENTS/ TRANNIES	NO.OF TEACHERS	EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVES IMPARTED
1.	22.09.2012	Trainees of 102 nd Batch DR/Fr. Training course	40	2	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
2.	25.09.2012	General Refreshers' Course Participants from different parts of India from EFRC, Kurseong.	28	1	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
3.	28.09.2012	Municipal Boys' Primary School Darjeeling	70	2	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
4.	3.10.2012	SFS Trainees of 2011-2013 batch	41	1	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
5.	4.10.2012	SFS Trainees, Coimbatore	40	2	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
6.	8.10.2012	West Point School	45	2	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
7.	9.10.2012	West Point School	50	3	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
8.	10.10.2012	West Point School	42	2	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
9.	12.10.2012	West Point School	47	2	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
10	13.10.2012	Divya Jyoti school	45	13	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
11	16.10.2012	Kumudini Homes Higher Secondary School	50	2	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
12.	17.10.2012	Refreshers Course for in-service Range Forest Officers at Eastern Forest Rangers' College, Kurseong	16	1	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
13.	20.10.2012	Hill Social Welfare Society Kalimpong	70	5	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
14	09.11.2012	Birch Hill Academy	30	2	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
15	14.11.2012	Clifton Hall School Ghoom	80	6	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
16	02.12.2012	SSK Gairigoan	28	10	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
17	02.12.2012	SSK Pumong Tea Garden	28	6	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
18	04.12.2012	Barnesberg High School	22	2	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
19	10.12.2012	St. Mary's Primary School Kaijalia	54	8	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
20	14.12.2012	SSK. Ghantidara Nimong Kalimpong	34	6	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
21	14.12.2012	Rungbee Jnanpith H.S. Mungpoo	75	6	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
22	15.12.2012	Rungbee Jnanpith H.S. Mungpoo	52	5	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
23	15.12.2012	Chegra Primary School	25	3	Visit to Zoo and Interaction
24	16.12.2012	Ranger's College, Kurseong	14	2	Visit to Zoo and Interaction





Zoo Inreach programme



Wildlife Week Celebration

Wildlife week 2012 was celebrated at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling. The focus of this year's programme was on changing attitudes of children towards wildlife, specifically weaning them away from:

- Using catapults and wanton killing of birds.
- Disturbing nests and removing eggs and fledglings from nests.
- Killing of reptiles particularly snakes.
- Keeping wild birds and animals as pet.

The Zoo Officials made elaborate arrangements for the success of the programme. The enthusiastic participation of children, almost every day during the week long celebrations encouraged the organizers here. The students were taken around the zoo to see the animals ranging from herbivores, carnivores including lesser carnivores, birds and the pheasants. The students were also explained about the floral diversity of the Park. After Zoo round the students were taken to the hall for the interaction along with the Director and other Zoo Officials of the Park. The students actively participated during the interaction session concerning about “Conservation of endangered species”, “Role of Zoos towards Conservation of endangered species”, “Role of Mankind in Nature” and “Future of Tigers in India”.

Educational materials received from Zoo Outreach Organization includes “Pollinator! Not just Bees”, “End of the year of the Bat Threats remain”, “Daily Life Wildlife”, posters, postcards, and different masks of animals. Different schools were invited and explained about the educational kits and the aim of the programme. Interclass quiz was organized for the students of class VIII on the topic “Wildlife”.

A documentary film on PNHZ Park titled “Mission Survival” was shown to the students of class XI. After the film they were explained about the Pollination- Definition, its importance, types of pollination & pollinators, role of pollinators and finally our role to keep their environment clean and healthy by using the kits. They were explained about the Bats- types of bat, their role in the ecosystem and their conservation values. The students were asked to tie rakhi as a symbol of their commitment to conservation. Posters were given to the teachers and asked them to hang on their school notice board.

The animal masks were distributed to the primary level students. Educational materials including Zoos publication were distributed to the students and teachers including refreshments.





Wildlife Week Celebration



Workshop and Training attended by Zoo Officials and staffs

Name of the Training	Name of the Person	Place	Presented	Period
Functional Restructuring of the State Forest Department in view of the present & future challenges of the sector.	Mr. A.K.Jha (IFS) Director PNHZP	IGNFA Dehradun	-	27 th – 28 th September
XXVI Annual Research Seminar (ARS) of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun	Miss Upashna Rai Research Scholar Miss Shradhanjali Rai Research Scholar	Wild Life Institute of India (WII) Dehradun	“Breeding Behaviour of Snow Leopard (<i>Uncia uncia</i>) at PNHZ Park”	17 th – 18 th September
21 st International Conference on Bear Research and Management	Mr. A. K.Jha IFS Director PNHZP Miss Upashna Rai Research Scholar	New Delhi	Poster Presentation on “Behavioural study of Asiatic Black Bear (<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>) at PNHZ Park for Conservation Breeding”	26 th – 30 th November
Specialized theme based Training Programme for Zoo Keepers on regional basis “Management of wild animals in captivity with special reference to enrichment of animal enclosure ”	Mr. Purna Ghising Animal Supervisor Mr. Pradip Kumar Singh Veterinary Compounder Mr. Siddharth Chettri Zoo Keeper	Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant High Altitude Zoo, Nainital	Presentation on “Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park”, Darjeeling & Information on ZIMS	5 th – 19 th December





Tagging of Herbivores

Sl No.	Date	Name of animals	No. of animals	Sex
1	01.09.2012	Himalayan Goral	1	M
2.	02.09.2012	Himalayan Goral	2	M
			1	F
3.	04.09.2012	Blue Sheep	4	M
			2	F
4.	04.09.2012	Himalayan Tahr	2	M
			1	F
5.	05.09.2012	Blue Sheep	1	M
			1	F
6.	05.09.2012	Himalayan Tahr	1	F
7.	06.09.2012	Himalayan Tahr	1	M
8.	27.09.2012	Barking Deer	1	M
9.			2	F
10.	28.09.2012	Barking Deer	1	M
			1	F
11.	30.09.2012	Barking Deer	3	M
12.	02.10.2012	Himalayan Tahr	1	M
			1	F
13.	04.10.2012	Barking Deer	2	M
			2	F
		Himalayan Goral	1	M
			1	F
		Blue Sheep	2	M
			1	F
14.	22.11.2012	Himalayan Tahr	1	F



Training Programme on “Endangered Species Recovery”

A course on “*Endangered Species Recovery*” was organized by Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi and Durrell Conservation Academy, Jersey, United Kingdom in collaboration with Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling from 17th – 21st November 2012 at Darjeeling. The participants were from Indian states and six from SAARC countries (Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka) in total of 63 participants.

The programme started with the inaugural function on 17th of November in which Dr. Subesh Kumar Das, IAS Additional Chief Secretary (Forest) Govt. of West Bengal, Shri B.S. Bonal IFS, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, Dr. Saumitra Mohan IAS District Magistrate, Darjeeling, Mr Mark Brayshaw, Head of the Wildlife Park, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and Mr. A.K.Jha IFS Director, PNHZ Park on the dias. Other distinguished guests were also present in the inaugural function. Welcome address was given by Mr. A.K.Jha, IFS. Dr. Subesh Kumar Das, IAS and Dr. Saumitra Mohan IAS during their address to the gathering expressed their appreciation on the initiative taken by the Park towards conservation of wildlife. Mr B.S.Bonal IFS, during his address highlighted the importance and the need of such a training programme. Mr.Mark Brayshaw in his speech said that he was honoured to be here and



Training Programme on “Endangered Species Recovery”

thanked the organizers for the programme. A vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. Brij Kishore Gupta, Evaluating and Monitoring Officer, Central Zoo Authority.

The inaugural function was followed by a Technical Session where programme was as follows :-

Day 1

First day presentation were “*The evolution of Durrell*” by Mr. Mark Brayshaw, “*Zoo Strategy in India – Past, Present and Future*” by Mr. B.S. Bonal , “*Endangered Species Recovery- Excellence within a modern Zoo*” by Dr. Tim Wright, “*Managing Mammalian Carnivores in Captivity-Lesson learnt*” by Dr. Andrew Routh , “*From Kanchendzonga- land of Red Panda*” by Mr A.K. Jha., “*Animal Collection Planning- Durrell as an example*” by Tim Wright, “*Enclosure design- Modern Trends and Lessons Learned*” by Tim Wright, and “*Zoos and Zoos Associations- Cooperating for Conservation*” by Mark Brayshaw.

The day ended with the participants visiting the Snow leopard Conservation Breeding centre – an off display area at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and a photo session.

Day 2

SWOT analysis of the Captive facilities followed by the presentations “*Norms for establishing Conservation Breeding Programme of Central Zoo Authority Funding Thereof*” by Mr. Brij Kishore Gupta. , “*Conservation breeding Programme in ASZBG, One Horned Rhinoceros and Golden Langur*” by Mr Utpal Bohra, “*Conservation Breeding Programme for Western Tragopan*” by Mr. Satish Negi, “*Activities on Conservation Breeding at Sepahijala Zoological Park (Clouded leopard)*” by Mr. A.K. Bhowmik, “*Hope for Hangul*” by Mr. Intesar Sohail, “*Conservation Breeding of Hoolok Gibbon*” by Mr. Joram Dupam , “*Conservation Breeding Programmes at Arignar Anna Zoological Park Chennai (Lion Tailed Macaque)*” by Dr. R. Thirumurugan, “*Conservation Breeding Programme Mouse Deer*” by Dr. Srinivas, “*Conservation Breeding Programmes of Indian Pangolin*” by Dr. S. Panda.

Lecture by Mr. Jamieson Copey on “Leadership and Management”.

Day 3

Presentation by Mr. Brij Kishore Gupta on “*Central Zoo Authority's Guidelines, Rules and Strategies for Animal Management and Enclosure Design*” and another presentation by Mr. Tim Wright on “*Fundamentals of Captive Animal Population Management*”.

Field visit to the Park for Critiquing Enclosure Design.

Day 4

The fourth day started with Feedback on Enclosure Design on the previous day observation of the chosen enclosures. Dr. Tim Wright discussed on managing animal health and food preparation/presentation followed by a presentation on “Animal Record Keeping”. Species talk given on “Conservation Breeding of King Cobra Pilikula Biological Park, Mangalore by Mr. Jerald Vikram Lobo and “Vulture Conservation Breeding Programme, BNHS” by Mr. Rohan N. Shringarpure.

Presentation on enrichment were “*Enrichment Activities in Arignar Anna Zoological Park Vandalur, Chennai*” by Dr. R. Thirumurugan, “*Enrichment in Animal Enclosure, Shri Chamarajendra Zoological Park, Mysore*” by Dr. C. Suresh Kumar, “*Importance of Enrichment in Breeding of Pygmy Hog*” by Dr. Parag J. Deka.



Training Programme on “Endangered Species Recovery”

Day 5

A lecture on the review of zoos globally and their contribution to species recovery efforts with a focus on reintroduction with a case study on Red Panda and Pygmy Hog, followed by another lecture on Conservation education.

Species talk on “*Captive breeding programme of Dhole (Indian Wild Dog), Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam*” by Mr. G.Ramalingam, “*Disease outbreak in Western Tragopan*” by Mr. Satish Negi.

Feed back: A feed back form was distributed to the participants for their opinion. The participants were of the opinion that the course was very informative, *Interactive, Lots of hands on information given, sharing of experiences between participants, more field visits and that they would want the programme again to take place.*

The day ended with the valedictory function where certificates, souvenirs and T- shirts were distributed. A total of 63 participants both from India and SAARC countries (Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan) found the course to be very enriching.

The Training Programme was followed by Zoo Director's Meet on 22nd November 2012. At a meeting, among many things discussed were the need to upgrade zoos and compulsory training of Zoo keepers and up gradation of record keeping of animals in Zoos across the country.





Training Programme on "Endangered Species Recovery"

