



PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL
NEWS LETTER
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From the Director's Desk



In this quarter, the Park remained busy with activities like animal exchange and outreach programmes. The most significant activity that was carried out is the construction of two Snow Leopard and Red Panda enclosures each at the new breeding centre. The new enclosures of the Red Panda are already with a pair each hoping that the enclosure is comfortable for the animals. The park transferred thirteen Barking Deer and one Sambar Deer for the newly built Safari at North Bengal Wildlife Park, Siliguri. The transfer has been helpful towards managing the surplus population of the Barking Deer at the Park. The completion of the two Short Term Research Grant project funded by Central Zoo Authority, MoEF, GOI shall assist the Park in the developing its husbandry practices especially that the Red Panda and Himalayan Pheasants.

As 2015 winds down, all of us at the zoo find ourselves looking forward to 2016 and beyond. In the next year we will truly be defining a new future for Darjeeling Zoo and I wouldn't be more excited to lead us through the process.

Mr. Piar Chand, IFS

Director

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan

Zoological Park, Darjeeling

Acquisition and Transfer of animals

Following are the acquisition and transfer of animals during this quarter

EVENT	DATE	SPECIES	ACQUIRED/TRANSFERED FROM
Acquisition	20th November 2015	Jungle Cat (0:1)	Patna Zoo
Acquisition	20th November 2015	Sand Boa (1:1)	Patna Zoo
Acquisition	23rd November 2015	Red Panda (0:1)	Himalayan Zoological Park, Sikkim
Transfer	7th October 2015	Barking Deer (1:1)	North Bengal Wildlife Park
Transfer	8th October 2015	Barking Deer (5:2)	North Bengal Wildlife Park
Transfer	4th November 2015	Barking Deer (3:1)	North Bengal Wildlife Park
Transfer	22nd November 2015	Himalayan Wolf(0:1)	Himalayan Zoological Park, Sikkim
Transfer	30th December 2015	Sambar Deer (0:1)	North Bengal Wildlife Park

OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The outreach programme of the Park involves students of all levels including trainees. The students are taken for a tour around the park and then interaction sessions are conducted. The session includes discussions on *Role of modern Zoo, Conservation Breeding Programmes, how a zoo functions, what are rare and endangered species, environmental issues, what are the efforts taken up by the Park towards saving these species etc.* The session also includes question and answer round where the queries

of the students are attended to. At the end books related to animals, conservation breeding programmes, biodiversity of the Park and zoo diaries are distributed to the students.

During this quarter the education wing of the Park attended to 696 students, 86 trainees and 116 staffs from different institutes which are as follows:

Date	Name of School/Training Institute/Colleges/Universities	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Educational incentives
09.10.2015	The Assembly of God Church School, Darjeeling	126	06	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
09.10.2015	Crayon's Preparatory School, Darjeeling	60	07	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
14.10.2015	State Forest Service and Senior Range Officer's Course, 2015	35	01	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
16.10.2015	Glendale Academy, T.N. Road, Darjeeling	40	06	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
04.11.2015	R.C. Mission, Maney Bhanjyang, Darjeeling	36	07	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
05.11.2015	State Environment and Forest Training Institute, Nagaland	20	04	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
06.11.2015	Sunshine Academy, Soom 2nd Division, Darjeeling	23	07	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
07.11.2015	Mother's Nursery School, Darjeeling	65	07	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
20.11.2015	Notre Dame School, Kinjalay Bazar	49	5	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction
24.11.2015	Simana for Basic School, Sukia	20	06	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
24.11.2015	Majidhura Primary School, Sukhia, Darjeeling	10	04	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
25.11.2015	E.F.R.C, Kurseong	13	01	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
01.12.2015	Anulia High School	54	14	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
02.12.2015	Sai Krishna Vidhya Academy	70	07	Visit to Zoo, lecture and

				interaction.
05.12.2015	Zion Academy, Sumbuck	40	08	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
07.12.2015	Divya Jyoti Academy, Sonada	30	07	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
09.12.2015	Badamtam Jr. Basic School, Darjeeling	23	07	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
18.12.2015	West Bengal Forest School, Dowhill, Kurseong	18	02	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
29.12.2015	Patikabari High School	50	10	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.



Zion Academy, Sumbuck



Anulia High School



Badamtam Jr. Basic School, Darjeeling



R.C. Mission, Maney Bhanjyang, Darjeeling

VIP Visitor's Remarks

Date of Visit	Name of the Visitors	Designation	Remarks
25.11.2015	Ms. Ashwika Kapur	Wildlife Filmmaker (Green Oscar Winner)	My heartiest congratulations to the Darjeeling Zoo team for their immense dedication towards the upkeep of the breeding projects here. The Darjeeling Zoo's work makes me very proud as a conservationist. Keep up the super work.

Construction of New Enclosure for Red Panda and Snow Leopard

The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZZP) in Darjeeling is dedicated to the conservation of endangered Himalayan Fauna and it is seriously concerned about the possible extinction of Himalayan fauna, in particular of the red panda and snow leopard. The park is involved in the global Conservation Breeding programme of Snow Leopard and Red Panda. The park has earned laurels towards Conservation Breeding of Red Panda by successful reintroduction of four captive born red in the Singalila National Park, Darjeeling. New Conservation Breeding Centre has been established at 3rd Mile, Topkeydara to enhance the breeding programme of the species which was inaugurated on 08.10.2011. Park has taken a step ahead by constructing more enclosures for Red Panda and Snow Leopard. The two new enclosures for red panda is 210 sq meter each and that for snow leopard is 680 sq. m. each. After the completion of the two red panda enclosures appropriate enrichments like aerial walkways, breeding boxes, resting shades were put up in both the enclosures. A pair of red panda has been shifted on 07.12.2015 in both the enclosures and the park is hopeful that the pairs shall be comfortable and breed.



Shifting of Red Panda in New Enclosure



Construction of new enclosure for Snow Leopard

Zoo Evaluation for Recognition by Central Zoo Authority, MoEF & CC GOI

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and its three breeding centres were evaluated by Shri S.K Patnaik, IFS (Retd.) and Dr. M.L. Smith (Retd.) representing Central Zoo Authority for due recognition for a period of five years, since the recognition by CZA to the park expired on 31st July 2015.

The team along with the Director evaluated the Conservation Breeding Centre for Pheasants and Herbivores, Dowhill Kurseong on the 26th of November 2016. On 27.11.2015 the team along with the zoo officials evaluated the Park and Conservation Breeding Centre for Red Panda and Snow Leopard at Topkeydara, 3rd Mile. During the evaluation enclosures, enrichments, veterinary facilities, animal placements were observed and appropriate suggestions were given.

Format for Questionnaire for evaluation of large, medium, small and mini zoo as prescribed by Central Zoo Authority as per the- “Recognition of Zoo Rules 2009” were discussed and accordingly filled up. Compliance as placed by CZA in the earlier evaluation was also briefed as explained. A copy of the evaluation report was sent to CZA and the park awaits its next due recognition by CZA.



Zoo Evaluation Team with PNHZ Park Officials

Short Term Research Grant

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park is conducting short term research projects in various aspects of conservation breeding species in both in-situ and ex situ facilities. Till date park has completed projects on “Behavioural study of Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*)”, “Standardization of record keeping in Indian Zoos”, “Study of Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*) and “Study of Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) in ex situ facility with co-relation to in-situ facility for Conservation Breeding”. Draft report of two research project –“**Studies on biology, breeding behaviour and aviary practices for improved performance of captive Himalayan pheasants**” and “**Red Panda Nutrition- an Approach towards Integration**” have been completed and submitted to Central Zoo Authority, Government of India.

The Project “Red Panda Nutrition- an Approach towards Integration” is a short term research project funded by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA). The duration of the project is 2 years and it started on 1st November 2013. The total fund allotted to the project is Rs 10, 19,000.

This research work is a combination of basic and applied, conducted on both free ranging and captive Red Pandas. The project throws light in the qualitative information on natural feeding habits, in combination with quantitative data on food nutrient composition and utilization that have provided direction for

development of optimal diets for captive animal management. The research work involves the study of feeding behavior of Red pandas in captivity at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZP) and the seasonal food habits of the wild red pandas at Singalila National Park. Dietary and Nutritional analysis of both captive and wild diet done at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Sikkim.

Presently feeding habits and nutritional analysis of feed of three seasons out of four has been conducted. Sample collection and nutritional analysis of the last season will be completed in the following month. The study aims in providing uniform and standardized captive diet which shall be beneficial for Red Pandas in captivity.

The project - “Studies on Biology, Breeding Behaviour and Aviary Practices for Improved Performance of Captive Himalayan Pheasants” ensures a scientific management of the pheasants in captive facilities pertaining specially to Himalayan Pheasants that are in urgent need of conservation. The project particularly focuses on improved husbandry and breeding techniques since pheasants like Satyr Tragopan, Himalayan Monal etc. are difficult to breed in captivity. The project shall come up with species specific husbandry techniques leading towards successful breeding and their conservation.

The Park is presently conducting research on project “Studies on Population and Behavioural Ecology of Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) in Singalila National Park and Neora Valley National Park, West Bengal, India with special reference to Conservation” funded by West Bengal Zoo Authority as a part of the ongoing Red Panda Project of the park.



Field Work at Singalila National Park and its surrounding area