



PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL

NEWS LETTER

APRIL- JUNE 2013

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Research Scholar

NEWSLETTER ADDRESS

Director:
Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park
Darjeeling -734101
(West Bengal) India
Tel: 91354-2254250 (Ch)
2253709 (Off), 2252522 (Fax)
E-mail: phnzp@yahoo.com
Web: www.pnhzp.gov.in



From the Director's Desk....

Dear Reader,

I am happy to bring yet another quarterly issue of PNHZ Park with issues on High Altitude species. Apologies for slight delay in getting this issue to you all due to unavoidable circumstances.

The past three months has been eventful with births of various species of animals starting from the carnivores, herbivores and pheasants giving a boost especially to the Conservation breeding projects. Ongoing research activities also contributes to the successful breeding and management of the species concerned. The updates in this quarterly shall update you on various events at the park-educational activities celebration of Wildlife week and Environment day, training programmes, managerial interventions etc.

Do keep in writing your suggestions and opinions which shall be valuable to the park and to the conservation breeding programmes that the park has embarked on.

A. K. Jha IFS

Director

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological



New Borns at the Park

During this quarter Park witnessed the birth of following mammals and pheasants.

Date of Birth	Species	Total Number (Cubs/Faun/Chicks)/Sex
Mammals		
03.05.2013	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	1 (M)
04.05.2013	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	1 (M)
10.05.2013	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	2 (M & F)
23.05.2013	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	1 (M)
27.05.2013	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	2 (F)
27.06.2013	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>)	2 (U)
28.06.2013	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>)	1 (U)
Pheasants		
04.04.2013	Kaleej Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	5 (U)
24.04.2013	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	1 (U)
27.04.2013	Grey Peacock Pheasant (<i>Polyplectron biclaccaratum</i>)	2 (U)
29.04.2013	Kaleej Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	5 (U)
29.4.2013	Silver Pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	7 (U)
15.05.2013	Silver Pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	6 (U)
16.05.2013	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	2 (U)
18.05.2013	Golden Pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	8 (U)
22.05.2013	Golden Pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	7 (U)
24.05.2013	Temminck's Tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	1 (U)
26.05.2013	Temminck's Tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	1 (U)
01.06.2013	Himalayan Monal (<i>Lophophorus impejanus</i>)	1 (U)
03.06.2013	Himalayan Monal (<i>Lophophorus impejanus</i>)	1 (U)
19.06.2013	Temminck's Tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	3 (U)



Genetic analysis of captive stock of Red panda (*Aliurus fulgens*) and Snow leopard (*Uncia Uncia*)

The blood samples of seven individuals of Snow Leopard and blood sample of seven individuals and fecal sample of four individuals of Red Panda were sent to LaCONES, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad to access the genetic health of the animals. The report showed that the captive stock of both the species are genetically vibrant and can be used selectively for conservation breeding.

Conservation Breeding Centre for Snow leopard and Red panda at Topkedara

The off display Conservation Breeding Centre for the Snow leopard and Red Panda has been completed in a 5 hector land at Topkedara, under Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary. The animals will be shifted very soon to the new facility.

CCTV in Temminck's Tragopan and Clouded leopard enclosure.

Closed Circuit television was installed in the Temminck's tragopan enclosure to study the pheasant's behaviour in captivity. The recordings have put an insight on the pheasants breeding behaviour like display behaviour by the male, timings and frequency of display including the female's duration, number of eggs and interval of egg laying, incubation period, time of hatching, rearing of the chicks etc.

CCTV installed both in the enclosure and night shelter of the Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) was intended to study the behaviour of t





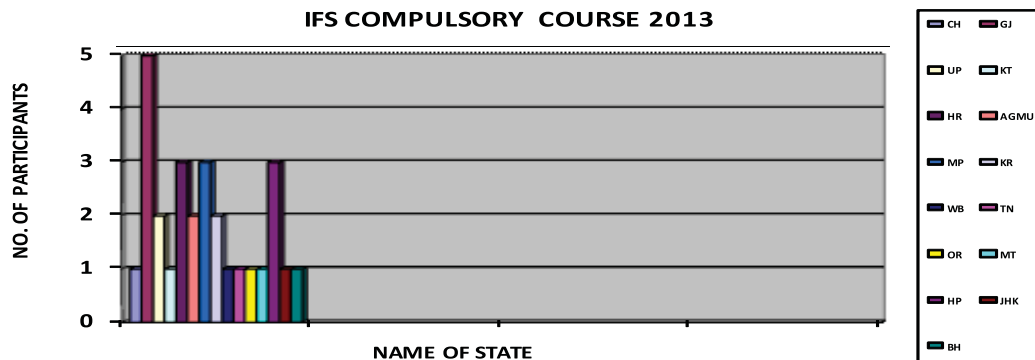
DATE	NAME OF THE SCHOOL	NO. OF STUDENTS	NO. OF TEACHERS	EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVES
05.04.2013	Glendale Academy	13	04	Assisted field tour
17.04.2013	Bright Academy	45	10	Assisted field tour
19.04.2013	Little Flower Nursery School	25	4	Assisted field tour
27.04.2013	Shalom English School	12	7	Assisted field tour
30.04.2013	Nepali High School	100	15	Assisted field tour
07.06.2013	St. Michael's H.S. School	259	5	Assisted field tour
14.06.2013	Swami Vivekananda Primary School	45	5	Assisted field tour
14.06.2013	Soom T.E.Primary School	40	5	Assisted field tour
15.06.2013	Hayden Hall Darjeeling	52	5	Assisted field tour
18.06.2013	Singtam Primary School	37	7	Assisted field tour
19.06.2013	Municipal Boy's Primary School	54	2	Assisted field tour
25.06.2013	Rangers from Forest Training Academy, Uttarkhand	37	2	Assisted field tour and an interaction session

One week Compulsory course for IFS Officers on “Endangered Species Recovery- Linkages of Ex- Situ and In- Situ Efforts”

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling with the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India conducted a five day training programme from 27th May to 31st May 2013 on “Endangered Species Recovery- Linkages of ex-situ and in-situ efforts” for the IFS Officers.

Twenty eight participants from 15 states of India in the programme were senior and middle level officers from diverse educational and work background holding posts of Managing Director, (State Rural Development Corporation Ltd, Women's Finance Corporation Ltd, Fisheries Federation), Director of Handloom and textiles, Regional Passport Officer, posts of Dy. Conservator of Forest, Conservator of Forest, Chief Conservator of Forest, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest.





The programme coordinators were Mr. A.K. Jha IFS Director and Mr. J.B. Chettri WBFS Dy. Director Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park. The sessions were taken over by the coordinator himself Mr. A.K. Jha IFS whose deliberation focused on the Conservation Breeding Programmes of the Red Panda and Snow leopard at PNHZ Park. Forest Officials Mr. N.C. Bahuguna IFS, PCCF, Wildlife & CWLW; Dr. Brij Raj Sharma IFS, CCF, South- West gave an insight on “Conservation Breeding and In-situ and Ex-situ Linkage for wildlife Conservation” The presentation of Mr. S. Sundriyal IFS, CCF, Hill Circle focused on “Linking for wildlife future.... Ex-situ in-situ endeavours”. Ms. Sumita Ghatak IFS, Divisional forest officer, wildlife II, highlighted the flora and faunal diversity of Neora Valley National Park. Dr. Brij Kishore Gupta from the Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment and forest deliberated on the “Acts, Rules, Regulations, Policies, Guidelines of Zoos in India with special reference to in situ and ex-situ Conservation Linkages” and “Principles of animal enrichment: What should all senior managers and directors should know” and Dr. G. Umapaty from LaCONES, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology highlighted the “Wildlife Conservation using biotechnological tools”. Few of the participants too participated in presenting some of their work in their respective fields that included – “Vulture Conservation: Status and Issues” by Mr Jagdish Chander from Harayana, “Tiger Rescue in Padarauna (UP) and Sirisia (Bihar)” by Mr Nand Kishore from Bihar and “An insight of the Conservation Breeding Programme of Sepahijala Zoological Park by Mr. Prasanjit Biswas from Tripura.

The training programme was very much appreciated by the participants and assessed the course to be structured. The participants found the training to be useful in their jobs or shall be useful whenever given an opportunity to work for wildlife or Conservation works. The participants also felt that they had benefited considerably from the interaction that they had with the fellow participants in the course. The participants also found the course material supplied to them relevant and related to the course content. They were also satisfied when it came to the aspect of class room facilities. The participants also rated the resource persons delivering lectures, sessions and demonstrations that ranged from excellent to very good to good to fair. At the end of the session an obligatory panel discussion was also held on “Improvement in working of Forest Department- Need for career development through training and improvement of skills”.

World Environment day Celebration

The Park celebrated World Environment day on 5th June 2013, the theme for this year was “Think.Eat.Save”. Different schools from Darjeeling were invited to participate in the programme to promote awareness on the importance of preserving our biodiversity, the need to identify problems related to the environment and ways to take corrective action by organizing events like “Sit and Draw” for students from grade IV to VII and “essay” competition for students from grade VIII to X. Topic for the sit and draw competition was “Scarcity of water in Darjeeling Town” and that for the essay was “Reduction in food wastage saves the environment”. Twelve schools with a total of twenty six students participated for the Sit and Draw competition and twenty two students from twelve schools participated for the essay competition. The winners were as follows.

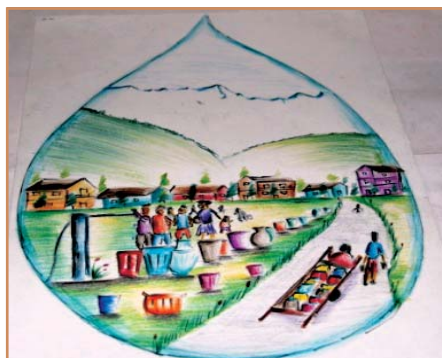
For Sit and Draw competition:

1. Pratiksha Subba, Loreto Convent School.
2. Priyankush Das, St. Joshep's School.
3. Vinayak Moktan, Gyanoday Niketan

For essay competition

1. Mohammad Hasim Abedeen, Gyanoday Niketan
2. Raman Mohora, St. Joseph's School
3. Raksha Rai, St. Teresa's Girls' Higher Secondary School

Pamphlets were distributed to the students including the other participants based on the theme. The prize distribution ceremony was held in the zoo auditorium where the director of the Park interacted with the students on the theme based issues. The students were provided with booklets about the Park and its biodiversity. The day’s programme concluded distributing refreshments to all the participants.



Van Mahotsav Celebration 14th -20th June 2013

The Van Mahotsav celebration began by inviting the students from various primary schools. The young students were guided in the field by the staffs from the Research and education section assisted by a zoo volunteer that included a general tour of the zoo followed by an interaction session where the students were made aware about the harm caused by cutting trees. The schools that participated in the Van Mahotsav celebration are as follows:

On the 20th cleaning the vicinity of the zoo and plantation involving the residents and the staffs of the park was organized. Through such activities the Park aimed to educate the people about the need for planting since it helps conserve soil deterioration and also the best way to prevent global warming and reduce pollution.



Training and Workshop attended

Mr. Sudhir Ghatraj Dy. Ranger/ Forester and Mr. Pradeep Singh Veterinary Compounder visited Pheasant Breeding Centre at Sarahan and Chail, Himachal Pradesh to know about the breeding of pheasants especially Cheer Pheasant and Himalayan Monal. They also visited the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre at Pinjore, Haryana during the month of April 13' for a period of one week.



Miss Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist attended a National Workshop on “Zoos as a tool for scientific management of endangered animals with a special focus on research and publication” organised by Central Zoo Authority and Jaipur Zoo from 25th -28th June 2013 at Jaipur.

Veterinary Issue: Successful Treatment of Common Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

On 28th May 13' a male Common leopard was observed anorexic, dull and with abdominal swelling. Further record revealed that the animal was passing dry stool and had rejected 2.7 kg of its feed from that of the total of 3.5 kg. The animal was treated with Inj. Aciloc and Tab gelosil and was shifted to the hospital for further diagnosis. For a period of one month the animal was treated in the zoo hospital in the in-patient ward by the veterinary team of the Park with antibiotics like Inj Acaziloc, Inj Conciplex and Tab gelosil. . During the course of treatment the animal often neither rejected maximum of its feed, did nor pass stool and the abdominal swelling did not subside. The pathoazlogical test conducted too showed a rise in the total count of W.B.C to 26,650 million/cu.mm followed with temperature fluctuations. Further the animal was treated with liquid sodium phosphate enema after which the animal was able to pass stool. The animal showed no sign of improvement for which further proper examination was again done by tranquilising the animal. An X-ray was conducted that revealed a fracture of left last rib. Senior veterinarians were consulted and brought who further suggested some antibiotics. Further tests showed a rise in W.B.C to 28, 700 million/cu.mm further addition of antibiotics like Inj. Intacef. Inj. Tribivet, Inj Aciloc, Syp Duphalac and Inj Decdan to the already existing treatment including DNS were suggested along with fluid extraction at regular intervals. The animal continued to reject its feed but the treatment continued. Finally from 15th June the animal regularly started accepting its feed. Regular temperature and other parameters monitoring including fluid extraction continued. The animal showed remarkable improvement and on 28th June 13' the animal was shifted back to its enclosure where it has been regularly accepting its feed and behaviourally sounds.

Tentatively it is a case of “septic peritonitis” due to intra- abdominal physical injury by avulsed rib bone. The treatment and behavioural observation of the animal is being continued under the supervision of Dr. Pankaj Kumar, Veterinary Officer of the Park along with his team members.

Visitor's comment

The Trip advisor.com is one of the world's largest travel sites, where people visiting Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling have regularly posted their comments, some of which are given below. The appreciation and the criticism received have helped the Park towards improvement and upliftment making it more visitors friendly.

“Good place for Kids to enjoy”

From the road one has to climb up a steep curve almost like climbing 10-15 floors to reach the zoo. The road within the Zoo also makes you climb up and down a lot. Having said that it is a very nice place for kids to enjoy. They have maintained some really nice animals which abode on hills and kids would enjoy the trip including the Red Panda. (Visited April 2013)

“Small but nice zoo”

The Zoo is small but beautifully planned. You get a good workout walking around the place as you go up and down on either side of the animal enclosures. Don't miss the Snow leopard and the Red panda. Especially don't miss the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute located inside the zoo.

(Visited April 2013)



“Great Display of Himalayan Wildlife”

Though we started early in the morning for sightseeing and entered the zoo at 10:00 a.m. it took us more than 3 hours to go through the whole place. The zoo is well maintained, has good and innovative exhibits (constructed on slopes but still provide comfort and recreation to the animal in it) and has a canteen and souvenir shop as well.

The animal in the zoo range from Himalayan deer, Bharal (blue mountain goat), Snow leopards, a black panther, and black bears. The zoo also has a variety of birds (though most are exotic breeds) monkeys that do all sorts of tricks and many other smaller cats.

Of course, one can also find the cuddly red pandas in the zoo, and there are about 3-4 exhibits showcasing red pandas.

If one wants to photograph such animals, then the zoo is a great place to come to. I took almost 350-370 pictures of all the cats and birds, and unfortunately for me, my cam’s battery ran out by the time I got to the pandas. A good place to visit if you’re on a sightseeing tour in Darjeeling.

(Visited April 2013)

“Much better than expected”

The zoo is set up on the hillside overlooking the town and tea plantations, It’s a very scenic setting. The zoo is well kept and clean. The area is landscaped so that it is a pleasant walk around the zoo. The enclosure isn’t massive but they are a reasonable size, bigger than I was expecting for a little Indian zoo. The details of the animals are interesting, they go into the details and history of the animal, it was the first time that I have seen a zoo mention how long the animals have been around on the planet, which was a nice touch.

(Visited April 2013).

Adoption Scheme

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, invites you to participate and share in this unique opportunity, where you can adopt an animal and play a direct part in the zoo’s work. Your participation would stand as an example and enhance the effort of bringing in awareness to the general public about the plight of our endangered wildlife species.

The annual maintenance cost for various animals (per animal)

SI No.	Name of the Species	Adoption Charge (annually for each individual)
1	Himalayan Thar (<i>Hemitragus jemlahicus</i>)	Rs. 40,000/-
2	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	Rs. 40,000/-
3	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	Rs. 40,000/-
4	Himalayan goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	Rs. 40,000/-
5	Sambar deer (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>)	Rs. 40,000/-
6	Barking deer (<i>Muntiacus muntjac</i>)	Rs. 40,000/-
7	Red panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>)	Rs. 50,000/-
8	Snow leopard (<i>Uncia uncia</i>)	Rs. 95,000/-
9	Royal Bengal Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris</i>)	Rs. 1,20,000/-
10	Clouded leopard (<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>)	Rs. 45,000/-
11	Common leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)	Rs. 45,000/-
12	Tibetan Wolf (<i>Canis lupus himalayensis</i>)	Rs. 35,000/-
13	Asiatic black bear (<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>)	Rs. 85,000/-
14	Leopard cat (<i>Prionailurus behgalensis</i>)	Rs. 20,000/-
15	Pheasants (<i>exotic and indigenous</i>)	Rs. 10,000/-
16	Birds Hill Myna (<i>Gracula religiosa</i>), Rose Ringed parakeet (<i>Psittacula krameri</i>), Alexandrine Parakeet (<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>), Blue and Yellow macaw (<i>Ara ararauna</i>), Red and Blue macaw (<i>Ara chloroptera</i>). Grey turaco (<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>), African grey parrot (<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>), Orange winged amazon (<i>Amazona amazonica</i>)	Rs 5,000/-
17	Star tortoise (<i>Geochelone elegans</i>)	Rs. 6,000/-

Farewell of staff

On 01.06.2013, Mr. Lilbaran Roy gardener of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling retired after serving the Park for a period of thirty three years. He was sincere and hardworking throughout his service period.



Zoo Volunteer Programme

The Zoo volunteer programme is an initiative taken up the Park, the purpose of which is to render services to zoos voluntarily by assisting with their day-to day management. The programme provides the volunteers to work in areas like manning the visitor information desk, Zoo education and awareness, gift shop, zoo maintenance work, special events volunteers, animal feed store and animal health care. The park has been taking volunteers for the said purposes after which a certificate is awarded to them. Any interested person can contact at pnhzp@yahoo.com.

