



Government of West Bengal  
Directorate of Forests,  
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, W.B.  
Aranya Bhawan, Block: LA-10A, Sector – III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata: 700 106  
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Visit us at : www.westbengalforest.gov.in



No. : 4684/CS/2M-855/2019,

Dated: 16/08/2022.


- To :
1. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, FCA, West Bengal.
  2. The Conservator of Forests & Director, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling.
  3. The Director, North Bengal Wild Animal Park, Bengal Safari, Siliguri.
  4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Jhargram Division/ 24 Parganas (South) Division/ Burdwan Division/ Cooch Behar Division/ Purulia Division/ Howrah Division/ Malda Division/ Jaldapara Wildlife Division, West Bengal.
  5. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Urban & Recreation Forestry Division, West Bengal.
  6. All Chief Conservators of Forests, West Bengal.
  7. All Conservators of Forests, West Bengal.
  8. All other Divisional Forest Officers/ Deputy Conservators of Forests/ Deputy Field Directors/ Directors, West Bengal.

Sub : Zoo to be considered as a forestry activity.

Sub : Memo number I/201785/2022 dated 21-06-2022 of the Deputy Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Department of Forests.

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the above quoted memo along with a copy F. No. 27-7/2020-CZA dated 08-06-2022 with enclosures thereof as provided by the Forest Conservation Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India for your kind information.

Enclosure: As above.

  
(S Sengupta, IFS)  
Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Headquarters, West Bengal.

*He*  
16.08.2022

File No.FOR-23011/4/2022-SECTION(FOR)-Dept. of Forest

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS  
ARANYA BHAWAN, BLOCK-LA-10A, SECTOR-III,  
SALT LAKE, KOLKATA-700 106.

No. I/201785/2022

Dated, the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, 2022

From: Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of WB.

To: ✓ 1. The Principal Conservator of Forests & HoFF, WB.  
2. The Member Secretary, WB Zoo Authority.

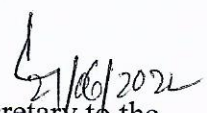
Sub: Zoo to be considered as a forestry activity -- regarding.

Sir,

With reference to the subject mentioned above, I am directed to send herewith a copy of F. No. 27-7/2020-CZA dated 08.06.2022 with enclosures thereof as received from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt.of India, for your kind information and necessary circulation of the same to all concerned.

Enclo : As stated.

Yours faithfully,

  
Deputy Secretary to the  
Govt. of WB.

73101  
File NO. 27-112020-CZA  
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Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi-110003  
**Dated: 8th June, 2022**

To  
The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
All State/UT Governments

**Sub: Zoo to be considered as a forestry activity – reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's Guidelines No. 11-66/2004-FC dated 13.11.2007 and provisions contained in para 12.6 and para 12.7 of the handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, on the above subject clarifying that activities related to development of zoos undertaken as per the Master Plan approved by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) were to be considered as forestry activities and applicability of the provisions of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for the establishment of Zoos in forest areas. During subsequent developments in the matter, it was deliberated that construction of Zoo over forest land having diversified components including few public utility facilities should be treated as non-forestry activity.

Recently, Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has represented that as no zoo is planned, approved or constructed without prior approval of CZA under strict adherence to its guidelines for Establishment and Scientific Management of Zoos, 2009, considering zoo as a non-forestry activity has added multiple / overlapping layers of permissions to be procured under different agencies. Further, consideration of zoo as a non-forestry activity has led to severe hardships for zoos to submit funding proposals under State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) to the State Government Authorities.

The matter was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 17.02.2019. The FAC concurred the facts highlighted by CZA and observed that such multiple regulations hampers the spirit of conservation enshrined in FCA 1980 which permits work relating or ancillary to conservation, development and management of forests and wildlife.

Based on the recommendation of the FAC and in supper session to guidelines dated 13.11.2007 and provisions of para 12.6 and 12.7 of the Handbook of FC Act, 1980, I am directed to convey that establishment of Zoo over forest area by the Forest Department/State Zoo Authority and its management by the Forest Department/State Zoo Authority after it is duly approved by CZA, a central regulatory authority under the Ministry, should not be considered as a non-forestry activity for the purpose of implementation of provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Detailed guidelines (**list of Do's and Don'ts attached**), for establishment of Zoo in forest land by the Forest Department/ State Zoo Authority in so far as the application of FC Act is concerned, has been formulated by the Ministry. CZA shall ensure that these guidelines are adhered to both while according approval for such zoos over forest land and during the operations phase of such zoos. Moreover, the construction of



zoos in Protected Area areas will be avoided and only in exceptional cases, the fringes of the buffer zone of the PA may be considered for the construction of a zoo on forest land, subject to condition that no hindrance in the movement of the wild animals of the area is caused and eco-friendly materials and designs are used in construction.

This issued with the approval of the competent authority of the Ministry.

Signed by Charan Jeet  
Singh

Yours faithfully,

Date: 08-06-2022 14:56:52 (Charan Jeet Singh)  
Reason: Approved  
Scientist D

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All State/UT Governments
2. The Regional Officer, All Integrated Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF, All State/UIT Governments
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi
5. Guard File

**Subject: GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE MANAGEMENT OF ZOOS ON FOREST LAND**

Whereas, the Forest Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India vide its meeting dated 17.02.2021 has recommended that establishment of Zoo on forest land by the State Forest Department/State Zoo Authority and its management by the State Forest Departments/State Zoo Authorities after it is duly approved by the CZA, a statutory regulatory Authority under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, should not be considered as a non-forestry activity for the purpose of implementation of provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and guidelines be issued in this regard.

Now, in compliance thereof, the following guidelines are being issued for the Establishment and Management of Zoos on Forest Land:-

**DESIRABLES (DO'S)**

1. Zoos that intend to support in-situ conservation by the means of conservation outreach, conservation breeding of endangered species and providing rescue and veterinary health facilities to wild animals in accordance with the objectives of sub-section 4 of section 38H of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 shall be encouraged.
2. An application for obtaining prior approval of the Central Zoo Authority under sub-section (1A) of Section 38H of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for the establishment of a new zoo over forest land should be made to the Central Zoo Authority in Form- I of the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009 along with a Detailed Project Report in terms of Rule 3(2) of the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009 and fees as applicable.
3. State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 may be used to establish and operate a zoo on forest land by the State Government in accordance to the Rules & guidelines issued by

theNationalAuthority, CAMPA.

4. Guidelines for Establishment & Scientific Management of Zoos in India (2008) and Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009 and the various Guidelines/Advisories issued by the Central Zoo Authority shall be followed in its letter and spirit.
5. A minimum of 70% of the total area of a zoo established on forest land shall be under native/ natural forest/green cover. Enumeration of trees and vegetation mapping done by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer/Authority may be included in the Detailed Project Report for the establishment of zoo on forestland.
6. Zoo operating on forest land shall carry out its operation in a manner that causes minimum stress on natural resources by exploring eco-friendly construction methods.
7. Only degraded forestland, i.e., with a crown density below 40 percent, may be used for the establishment of Zoo.
8. Zoo established over forestland shall endeavor to achieve carbon neutrality by reducing energy consumption and emissions-producing activities and also exploring renewable/alternate/green sources of energy.
9. Landscaping and aesthetical expansion etc. of a Zoo established over forestland should be done with an emerging concept keeping an eco-sensitive approach.
10. Forest fire/Disaster prevention and Control measures, as applicable, may be strictly followed. Efforts for Disaster preparedness/Forestalling may be taken to avert forest fire and disaster.
11. Existing zoos that are operating on forest land may also comply with these Guidelines in a reasonable time.
12. Only rescue centers, conservation breeding centers and zoos with established links to an in-situ Government conservation program should be considered as forestry activities for the purpose of exemption under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980;

13. Only zoos operated by State Forest Departments or State Zoo Authorities should be allowed to be established in forest areas under these guidelines. No private partnership or PPP model will be allowed.
14. It is better to allow zoo in the natural environment.
15. Endemic and local fauna in captivity, avoiding exotic flora, should be maintained in the Zoos built on forest lands. For planting and development of landscape use of native species should be promoted.
16. The site selected for the zoos in the forest should not hinder the movements of megafaunal species particularly elephants. Such zoos must cater to the need of housing rescued animals of the area.
17. The concept of carrying capacity of the visitors should also be taken care of to keep the zoo free from excessive human foot fall. Further, there should not be any deviation of master plan and master layout plan unless the same is duly approved from CZA.
18. Not more than 5% of the forest land shall be used for construction of office, parking and other amenities under any circumstances.



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**NON-  
DESIRABLE(DON'TS)**

1. There shall be no deviation from the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009 and Guidelines/Advisories issued by the Central Zoo Authority from time to time.
2. Forest areas that are identified as wildlife corridors shall be avoided for establishment of zoos.
3. As far as possible, trees already existing in the forest land over which a zoo is sought to be established may not be felled and exotic or non-native flora species may not be planted.
4. Natural drainage patterns and existing water harvesting structures shall not be disturbed in the establishment/operation of a zoo on forest land.
5. Given that a zoo on forest land is already in a naturalistic environment as is the general requirement under the Schedule of the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009, artificial naturalization may be avoided.
6. There is an only risk for making zoos in the forest land is of spread of zoonotic diseases, for which all possible mitigation measures must be taken and guidelines be strictly adhered to.
7. No exotic species of wild animals should be allowed to be kept in a zoo established in a forest area;
8. Area requirement for various component of zoos such as parking, recreation, water bodies, roads, rest rooms, boating, restaurants, power supply, research center, staff rooms, etc should not be exaggerated and authority concerned may ensure legitimate forest area requirement for such components.
9. No authority, other than Forest Department/Zoo Authorities should be permitted to use forest land for establishing zoos in forest area.