

57
Government of Rajasthan

Forest Department

Captive Animal Sponsorship Scheme (CASS) for Zoos and Biological Parks of Rajasthan

Introduction

Zoos and biological parks are the focal points for creating conservation education and recreation opportunities especially for the local people as well as promoting animal welfare; rescue, rehabilitation and treatment of wild animals; and captive breeding of endangered species for their eventual rewilding to restore ecosystems. Zoos and biological parks in Rajasthan undertake *ex-situ* conservation while also serving as a refuge and sanctuary for rescued, displaced, orphaned, handicapped and problem wild animals. The Wildlife Wing of Rajasthan Forest Department currently manages Biological Parks at Machia (Jodhpur), Sajjangarh (Udaipur), Nahargarh (Jaipur) while three others at Abhera (Kota), Marudhara (Bikaner) and Pushkar (Ajmer) are under development. Besides traditional zoos exist at Jaipur, Kota and Bikaner while an Asiatic Lion Safari is also operated at Nahargarh. All these establishments are managed as per the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 under the supervision of Central Zoo Authority. The zoos, biological parks and safaris of Rajasthan are visited by more than a million visitors annually.

Several rare and endangered species are kept and displayed in these biological parks and zoos. Successful *ex-situ* conservation projects for Indian Wolf, Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican have been undertaken in the state. However, several endangered species are required to be taken up for captive or conservation breeding like pangolins, caracals, vultures, four horned antelopes, etc.

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In view of the limited financial resources available for maintenance of biological parks, zoos and safaris as also for *ex-situ* conservation through captive breeding, Rajasthan Forest Department proposes to initiate a Captive Animal Sponsorship Scheme or CASS. This scheme is proposed to be anchored in the Rajasthan *Ex Situ* Conservation Authority (RESCA) which is proposed to be established on the lines of such Authorities established in West Bengal, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, etc.

This scheme will provide an opportunity for the general public to participate in the conservation and management of the rare and endangered species in the zoos and biological parks in Rajasthan. Under this scheme one can contribute to the conservation of rare and endangered wild animals by providing prescribed amount of money for their feed and improvement of shelter facilities and thus sponsoring their upkeep. This scheme will help in development and better management of the shelter facilities, better care for the animals and help in their long term conservation through captive breeding. This scheme will also create more awareness about the plight and importance of various species and the efforts undertaken by the Forest Department for their conservation.

Objectives

- To develop public participation in wildlife conservation
- To achieve better care of captive animals
- To develop enclosures and facilities in the zoos, biological parks, safaris and conservation breeding facilities (hereinafter called zoos)
- To generate resources for *ex-situ* conservation efforts for endangered species
- To create awareness and empathy towards wild animals housed in zoos, biological parks and safaris in order to create an atmosphere for long term wildlife conservation

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Description of the Scheme

1. **Application:** The person(s) desirous of obtaining membership of the Scheme has to apply for the scheme in the prescribed format (Annexure-I) to the In-charge of zoo, biological park, safari or captive breeding facility who will examine the application and recommend to the Chief Wildlife Warden. The final decision whether to allow membership of the Scheme will lie with the Chief Wildlife Warden or his authorized representative. The approved members of the Scheme will be called Sponsors.
2. **Types of sponsorship:** The membership of scheme is open to general public as individuals or group of individuals, corporates, institutions, animal lovers and celebrities. The general public can sponsor animals in the zoos in the following ways:
 - a. **S1:** By paying the prescribed cost for upkeep of a particular wild animal for a fixed duration of 1 month / 3 months / 6 months / 1 year / Multiple of 1 year.
 - b. **S2:** By paying the prescribed cost for upkeep of a particular enclosure (all animals in one enclosure) for a fixed duration of 1 month / 3 months / 6 months / 1 year / Multiple of 1 year.
 - c. **S3:** By paying the full cost for the construction of an enclosure and its maintenance for 10 years as well as cost of procurement of display animals.
 - d. **S4:** By paying the full cost of expert animal keepers and scientists for captive breeding of an endangered species for a period of 5 years.
 - e. **S5:** By paying the full cost of expert veterinary support for a zoo, biological park or safari including cost of medication, tests and other health related costs for 1 year / Multiple of 1 year.
3. **Charges:** Charges for various types of sponsorship indicated in point 2 above will be decided as under:

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- a. The term upkeep includes animal feed, cleaning, regular health checkup and other maintenance charges. The rates for upkeep will be decided by the Chief Wildlife Warden based on the recommendations of a committee constituted for this purpose. The committee will include the following members:
- i. Chief Conservator of Forests / Conservator of Forests of various zoos, biological parks, safaris and captive breeding facilities
 - ii. Representative of the Animal Husbandry Department
 - iii. Representative of Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Bikaner
 - iv. Representative of Indian Veterinary Research Institute Bareilly
- b. The rates for construction of enclosure will be decided by the Chief Wildlife Warden based on engineering design as approved by Central Zoo Authority.
- c. The full cost of expert animal keepers and scientists for captive breeding of an endangered species for a period of 5 years will be based on the project approved for this purpose in consultation with Central Zoo Authority, Wildlife Division of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Wildlife Institute of India, Implementing Institution, etc.
- d. The full annual cost of expert veterinary support for a zoo, biological park or safari including cost of medication, tests and other health related costs will also be arrived at as per point 3(a) above.
- e. The charges may be revised every 2 years.
4. **Payments:** All payments by the approved members of this scheme will be made into the accounts of proposed RESCA. Efforts will be made that funds paid under this scheme may be exempted from Income tax under 80G of Income Tax Act, 1961.

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5. **Withdrawal of membership:** The sponsor may withdraw his / her sponsorship at any time. However, no refunds will be made in such a case.
6. **Transfer of membership:** Memberships are transferable as a gift to a third person and non-refundable.
7. **Renewal of membership:** Membership to the Scheme can be renewed upon request and payment of dues.
8. **Termination and Suspension of membership:** The membership of the sponsor will be terminated, if any misconduct, misbehavior, misuse of the membership or non-adherence to prescribed rules and regulations is observed. Submission of any false information will also cause termination of membership. Institution of criminal proceedings in any court of law may cause suspension of membership of Scheme. No refunds will be made in such cases.
9. **Regulations applicable to members:** All rules, regulations and guidelines issued by the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi and other authorities from time to time shall be applicable to the sponsor. In particular,
 - a. Sponsors will not be allowed to touch, feed, handle, play with or enter into the animal enclosures.
 - b. No sponsored animal will be allowed to be taken outside the zoo premises.
 - c. The sponsor will not claim ownership rights on the sponsored animal.
 - d. Sponsors will not have any rights to interfere in zoo management and are prohibited from putting any sort of influence or pressure by any means on the zoo administration.

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- e. Sponsors will not be authorized to alter the feed regimen, management protocol or treatment protocol for the sponsored animal.
 - f. Sponsors will refrain from behaving irresponsibly on social media / in front of news media so that the management and upkeep of sponsored animal is not adversely affected.
10. The sponsored animals would continue to be looked after and managed in the zoo itself by the zoo staff. Care of the any sick animals will also be taken in the zoo with the guidance of experts and the sponsor will not have any right to interfere in the treatment of animal.
11. In case of death of sponsored animal during the period of its sponsorship, the zoo reserves the right to transfer the sponsorship to another animal of same species, if available Or refund the balance amount to the sponsor.
12. The information about the expenditure incurred against the funds provided by the sponsor will be provided in the form of Utilization Certificate based on the Audit Report of RESCA. The sponsor can claim this expenditure against CSR initiatives, if permissible in the extant rules and regulations.
- 13. Privileges to Sponsors:**
- a. Sponsors will be provided with a membership card with photo identity proof. In case of Educational Institutions, Companies etc., membership card with photo of authorized person will be provided. In case of loss of card or change in sponsor particulars, new card may be issued on request against payment as specified.

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(Lakhan Singh)
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- b. The sponsors will be allowed complimentary visits to the Zoo / Biological Park / Safari / Display area (if any) of Captive Breeding Facility during visiting hours on any working day (within one year of application) as follows:

Annual amount paid by Sponsor	Complimentary visit in a year
More than Rs 250000	5 persons for 5 times
Rs 150001 to Rs 250000	5 persons for 3 times
Rs 50001 to Rs 150000	5 persons for 3 times
Rs 20001 to Rs 50000	5 persons for 2 times
Rs 10001 to Rs 20000	5 persons for 3 times
Rs 5001 to Rs 10000	5 persons for 2 times
Rs 1000 to Rs 5000	5 persons for 1 time

- The names of all sponsors with details of amount paid, animal sponsored, etc will be displayed on website of Forest Department. During the period of sponsorship, the details will also be displayed alongside the enclosure. Necessary arrangements for display will be made by the Forest Department with co-operation of sponsors. The size and format of display will be standardized by the Forest Department.
- Major activities / events / visits being organized at the Zoo will be informed by email to the sponsors.
- The sponsor will be invited to participate as honored guest in any conference / workshop / Wildlife Week celebration organized by the Zoo authorities.
- Upon successful completion of membership tenure, framed official certificate will be provided to each sponsor during the next Wildlife Week celebrations.
- In case of sponsored construction of enclosure / captive breeding facility, the enclosure will prominently display the details of sponsor for the next ten years.
- The sponsor will be allowed to use photograph of sponsored animal(s) for publicity purposes during the tenure of sponsorship. The photographs and

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displayed message for publicity will however, be approved by In-charge of the Zoo before release.

- g. With special permission of the Chief Wildlife Warden, the sponsors can use these photographs for logos, limited edition merchandise kit, etc with proper acknowledgement to the Forest Department. This privilege will however, be available to long term sponsors (long term implies 5 years or more)
- h. Long Term Sponsors (long term implies 5 years or more) may be nominated on the Governing Body of Rajasthan *Ex-Situ* Conservation Society by the Government of Rajasthan at its discretion

All privileges mentioned in the scheme will be made available to the sponsors depending upon availability. These privileges may be revised at any time.

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58

Annexure-I

.....Biological Park/ Zoo

Captive Animal Sponsorship Scheme Application Form

1. Name and address of individual/ family/ group
of persons/ establishment/ institution or company
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2. Contact No. Residence:
Office:
Mobile:
3. Email ID
4. Type of sponsorship S1 / S2 / S3 / S4 / S5
5. Name of the animal / enclosure / proposed for sponsorship
6. Period of sponsorship
7. Amount for period of sponsorship Rs.....
8. Particulars to be displayed in front of the enclosure.....
9. Entrance pass to be issued in favor of
10. PAN/TAN Number

I / We certify that I / We have read and understood the terms and conditions of the animal sponsorship scheme.
I / We accept all the terms and conditions of sponsorship scheme.

Date:

Place:

Signature

(Payment may be made only after the membership is accepted)

Recommended after checking the antecedents of the applicant.

In Charge of Zoo

Approved

Chief Wildlife Warden

(Signature)
(Lakhan Singh)
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