



PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL

NEWS LETTER

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2013

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From the Director's Desk....

This quarter as usual includes birth of animals, transfer and acquisition of animals from different zoos. Due to political disturbances for almost two months visits of schools, trainees, including visitors remain badly affected. The Park for the first time recorded a total of about 800 visitors during the month of August due to this. Enclosure maintenance, new constructions remained undone. I hope in the next quarter we will be able to come up with more events and share with you.

The next issue will be uploaded in the Park's Website

A. K. Jha IFS
Director

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological



NEW BORN AT THE PARK

A male faun of Goral (*Nemorhaedus goral*) was born to female Simba and male Beeru on 15.07.2013. A faun is healthy and often seen playing in the enclosure.



TRANSFER OF ANIMALS

1:1 Kaleej Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelanos*) and 1:1 Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus gallus*) was transferred to Alipore Zoo, Kolkata on 04.07.2013.

ACQUISITION OF ANIMALS

On 10.07.2013, 1:1 Grey Peacock Pheasant (*Polyphectrum bicalcaratum*) and 1:1 Golden Pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*) arrived at the park from Alipore Zoo, Kolkata. The pheasants were quarantined for a period of one month and finally kept for display.

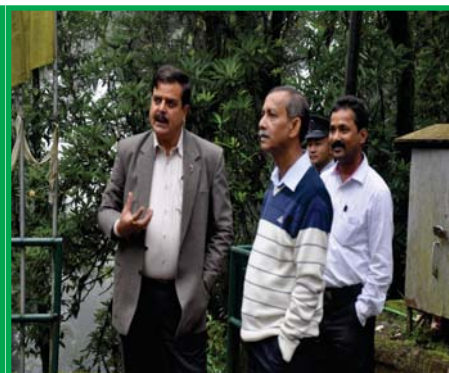
VISITS OF DIGNITARIES TO DARJEELING ZOO AND THEIR COMMENTS

Dr. John Corder, Vice President of World Pheasant Association (WPA) visited the Park on 25th -26th July 2013. Dr. Corder in his days visit provided hands on training on capturing pheasants and examining their health status in the field. He also delivered a lecture through power point presentation to the field staffs on the behaviour, feeding, enclosure enrichment and breeding requirements of the pheasants.

Sl. No.	Date	Name	Designation/Place	Comments
1.	10.07.2013	Shri Gautam Deb	Hon'ble M.I.C. North Bengal Development	The Zoo and guest house is well maintained. The hospitality of the people is excellent.
2.	13.07.2013	Mr. S. Elangovane IFS	DFO (T) West Gyalshing	I visited the zoo with my family which is maintained very scientifically & efficiently by the Director (Zoo) with his dedicated field staff. Learned many things from my visit. Thanks to the Director of this zoo and the staff members for this opportunity and hospitality.
3.	27.07.2013	Mr. Ashwini Gulaati IFS	PCCF (Wild Life), CWLW, Shimla Himachal Pradesh.	Downhill pheasantry was a delight. The Zoo is one of the best I have seen. Well maintained. The hospitality extended during our stay was excellent. Shall remember our stay for a long time and cherish the memories carrying back. Had very fruitful discussions with the Director on the exchange programme with H.P. The Director is dynamic and his team dedicated and has passion for WL. Best of luck to all of them in their endeavours.
4.	15.08.2013	Mr. Biplab Roy	Chief Judicial Magistrate, Darjeeling.	It's a natural Zoological Park which is maintained naturally. It is clean and having greenery surrounding the park. In other words, it is well maintained. Staffs are very good and co-operative.



Visit of Dr. J. Corder & Dr. Gulaati at CBC

Visit of Shri Gautam Deb
Hon'ble M.I.C. North Bengal Development

Hands on training by Dr. John Corder

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES ATTENDED BY ZOO OFFICIALS AND STAFFS

Name of the Training	Name of the Person	Place	Presented	Period
Workshop on Molecular Phylogeny	Mr. Bhupen Roka Research Scholar	Bangalore	----	1 st -5 th August
Improved Animal Health and their Upkeep	Mr. Ruden Lepcha Zoo Keeper Mr. Pranay Thapa Zoo Keeper	Assam Zoo, Guwahati	----	26 th - 8 th September
Conservation Breeding of Endangered species in Zoological Parks	Mr. A.K. Jha (IFS) Director Miss Upashna Rai, Research Scholar Miss Shradhanjali Rai, Research Scholar	Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Development of Species Recovery and Conservation Breeding Plans of Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>), Snow Leopard (<i>Uncia uncia</i>), Himalayan Wolf (<i>Canis lupus himalayensis</i>), Satyr Tragopan (<i>Tragopan satyra</i>) and Himalayan newt (<i>Tylototriton verrucosus</i>)	16 th -19 th September 2013



Workshop on "Conservation Breeding of Endangered Species in Zoological Parks"



Training on Improved Animal Health and their Upkeep



VISITS OF TRAINEES

Sl No.	Date	Name of Institute	No. of Trainees	No. of Faculty	Educational incentives
1	15.09.2013	State Forest Service Trainee of FRI, Raipur	40	1	Visit to Zoo, interaction
2	23.09.2013	State Forest Service Trainee of FRI, Dehradun	42	1	Visit to Zoo, interaction.



SFS TRAINEE OF FRI Dehradun



ADOPTION OF ANIMALS

During this quarter various birds and pheasants of the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has been adopted by different institute and persons. Boards have been put up in the enclosures mentioning the adopters, place and duration for adoption.

Sl No.	Name of the birds/pheasants	Adopted by	Total	Duration for adoption
1.	Rose ringed Parakeet	Mr. Subhasis Sen Gupta, Sirikhola, Darjeeling	1	Since 2010
2.	Rose ringed Parakeet	Mr. Chandranath Das, HMI, Darjeeling	1	2012-2013
3.	Himalayan Monal	Ms. Gitanjali Biswas, Kolkata	1	2013-2014
4.	African Grey Parrot	Ms. Gandhali Karnik, Mumbai	1	2013-2014
5.	Temminck's Tragopan	Mr. Sandip Sinha Roy, Data Search(P)Ltd. Kolkata	1	2013-2014

Adoption Boards in the enclosures



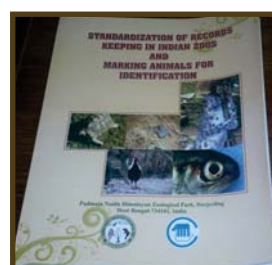
SHORT TERM RESEARCH GRANTS

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has been conducting short term research projects on various conservation breeding species aiming towards better scientific management. The park has already completed such research projects on ***“Behavioural study of Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*)”***, ***“Standardization of Record keeping in Indian Zoos”***. Recently one more project on ***“Study of Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*)”*** has been completed by Miss Shradhanjali Rai and has submitted her final draft report to Central Zoo Authority. Such research works have contributed towards knowing the species better in captivity and helping towards their scientific well being. The park is currently undergoing research work on ***“Study of Red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) with correlation to insitu study for Conservation Breeding”*** aiming towards correlating the two findings and implementing it towards management of species in captivity and its reintroduction. This work shall be completed on March 2014.

Two more short term research grants have been approved by the Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment and Forest viz: ***“Red Panda Nutrition: Towards an Integrated Approach”*** and ***“Studies on biology, breeding behaviour and aviary practices for performance of captive Himalayan Pheasant”***.



Published books of completed Research Project



SEVEN UNITS COMPOSITE PHEASANTRY AT SATELLITE FACILITY, DOWHILL, KURSEONG

Shri S.S. Bist, IFS, ex-PCCF, HoFF, West Bengal visited the Seven units composite phesantry at Dowhill, Kurseong on 06.03.2013.

Dr. Brij Raj Sharma CCF, WLCN, West Bengal also visited the Satellite Facility, Dowhill, Kurseong on 13.03.2013.

Dr. John Corder, Vice President of World Pheasant Association (WPA) and Mr. Ashwini Gulaati IFS, PCCF (Wild Life), CWLW, Shimla Himachal Pradesh praised the designing of Seven units composite phesantry at Dowhill during their visits on 24.07.2013.

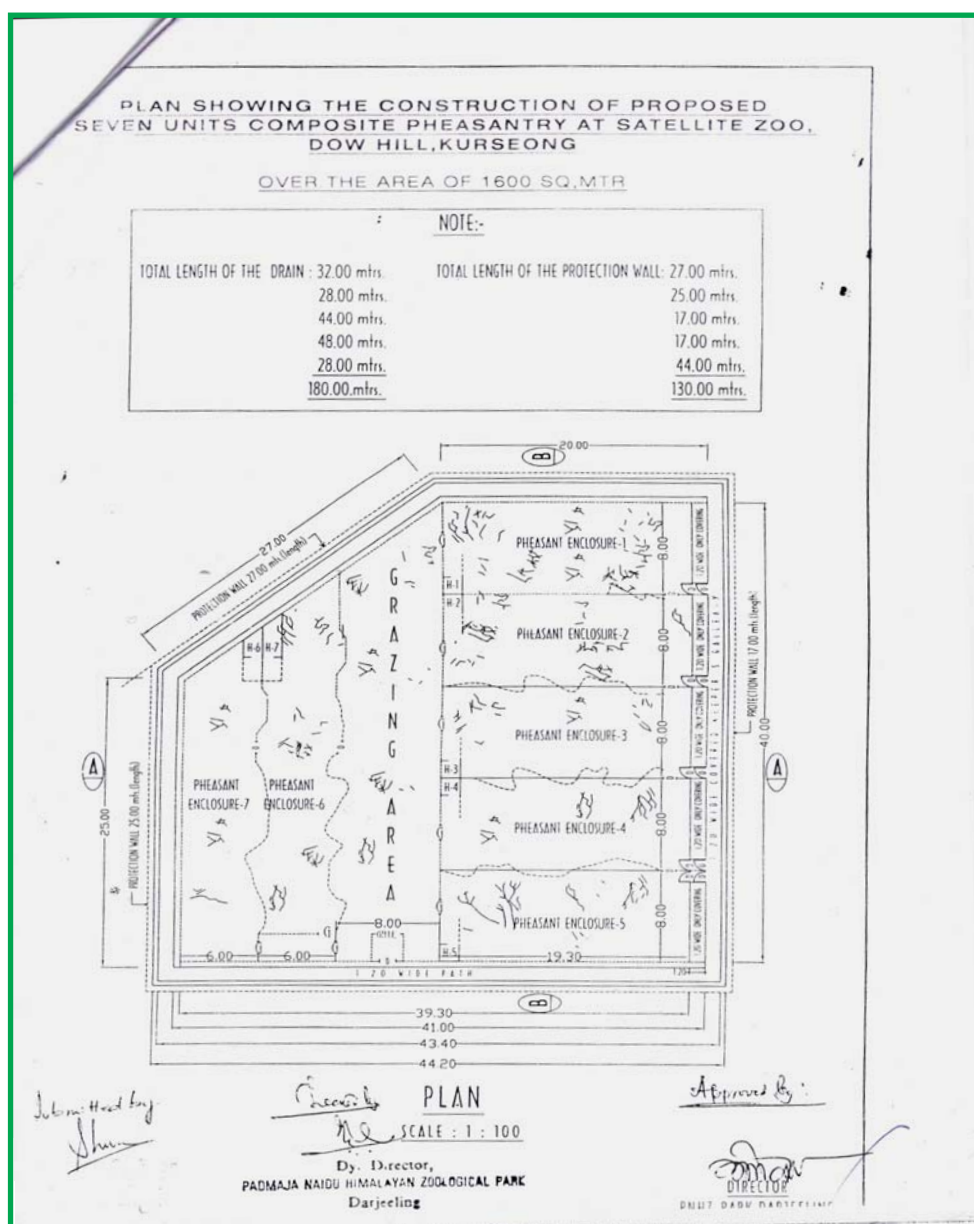
Date	Name of the Person	Designation	Comments
06.03.2013	Shri S.S. Bist , IFS	IFS, ex-PCCF, HoFF, West Bengal	The whole Satellite Zoo, particularly, the Pheasant Conservation Breeding Centre, has come up very nicely. It will be a good idea to identify and prepare the potential rehabilitation sites for pheasants in North Bengal in advance to take full advantage of the Pheasant Breeding programme. I record my appreciation for the hard work put in by the Director, Dy. Director and all other officials of the PNHZ Park, Darjeeling.



Date	Name of the Person	Designation	Comments
13.03.2013	Dr. Brij Raj Sharma, IFS	CCF, WLCN, West Bengal	Nice work done. Adding some display enclosures (pheasants and herbivores) of animal species taken up for Conservation Breeding in the Centre near dome shaped pheasantry shall not be a bad idea. The visitors can be explained the Wildlife Conservation works being taken up in off display areas of the Centre. Best Wishes.
23.06.2013	Mrs. Susie Walker Munro	Ne/ Howman, UK	Such a pleasure to see such happy birds in 5 star accommodation! Thank you for letting me take so many photos as there are a lot of WPA members looking forward to hearing an update on such excellent progress. This is a breeding programme that is an example to be rolled out internationally.
24.07.2013	Mr. Ashwini Gulaati IFS	PCCF (Wild Life), CWLW, Shimla Himachal Pradesh	At last I got a chance to see the excellent Conservation Breeding facilities so much talked about. Congratulation to the Director and his team for being so passionate and persistent with their mission. The facilities are excellent being improved further. I am pleased to see the passion in the staff to learn and implement. In coming year the facilities here are going to be useful for other Zoos and Breeding Centers to evaluate. Keep it up. I look forward to regular interaction and exchange programme with the Center and Darjeeling Zoo. I would like to see the field staff and keepers to come to Himachal Pradesh and would certainly like to send my zoo and pheasantry staff to learn, interact and exchange. Congratulations once again for such excellent facilities.
24.07.2013	Dr. John Corder	Vice President WPA	It gives me immense pleasure to see how the pheasant places have developed from concept to reality. This is the equal of the very best pheasantries in the world and all those involved in construction, planning and keeping are to be praised. Having had a small input into the conceptual development and later having organized a large group of Tragopans to come here from Europe, I am delighted to see what you have achieved I have no doubt that India's Conservation Breeding Programmes for Satyr and Temminck's tragopans are in very good hands here.



Visits of Shri S.S. Bist, IFS, ex-PCCF, HoFF, West Bengal



Layout map of Seven units composite pheantry at Dowhill, Kurseong