

F. No. 2-5/2006-PE (Vol.II)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
Project Elephant Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003
Phone No. 24695292/84 (F)

Dated 29th September, 2017

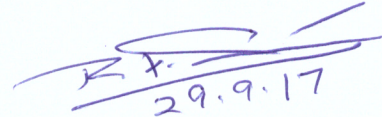
To,

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) of all States and UTs.
2. Chief Wildlife Warden of all States and UTs.
3. All Members of the Steering Committee (Non-official)
4. Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority.

Sub: Standards/Norms for Recognition of Elephant Rehabilitation/Rescue Centers under Section 42 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Sir,

The Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment Forests, & Climate Change has constituted an Expert Group on 30th April, 2015 chaired by the Inspector General of Forests (Project Elephant) to "Develop Standards/Norms for Recognition of Elephant Rehabilitation/Rescue Centers". The recommended Standards/norms by the Expert Group for recognition of Elephant Rehabilitation and Rescue Centres, including all captive elephant housing facilities, except Zoos are enclosed.


29.9.17

(R.K. Srivastava)

Inspector General of Forests
(Project Elephant)

Email: igpe-mef@nic.in

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. PS to Hon'ble MOS (I/C), EF&CC
2. PPS to Secretary, Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change.
3. PPS to DGF&SS, Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change.
4. PPS to Addl. DGF (WL)/PPS to IGF (WL)/ PA to JD (WL/PE), EF&CC
5. The Chief Secretaries and Forest Secretaries of all the State Governments/UTs.

Standards / Norms for Recognition of Elephant Rehabilitation/Rescue Centres under Section 42 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

An Expert Group, chaired by Inspector General of Forests (Project Elephant) was constituted on 30th April, 2015 by the Central Zoo Authority to "Develop Standards / Norms for Recognition of Elephant Rehabilitation/Rescue Centres (ERCs)" (copy enclosed). This decision was necessitated in view of large numbers of complaints regarding abuse of captive elephants from elephant lovers/animal right activists, both within and outside the country. The Expert Group met three times on 17th July, 2015; 9th September, 2015 and 20th January, 2016 and a draft report, developed in its last meeting, was circulated to all members vide email dated 4.2.2016 and the report was modified in view of comments received from various quarters.

Captive Elephant Welfare Committee (District Level), duly notified by the State Governments will be authorized to periodically inspect all ERCs and complaints relating to captive elephants and submit their report to the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State/UTs concerned for certification of norms by concerned ERCs.

These norms are over and above the "Guidelines for Care and Management of Captive Elephants" issued by the Ministry on 8.1.2008. After detailed deliberations and discussions, the Expert Group has recommended following norms for recognition of Elephant Rehabilitation and Rescue Centres, including all captive elephant housing facilities, except Zoos:

1. ERCs should be located, preferably near the forest areas with access to water body/streams.
2. ERCs should be designed for a minimum of 5 elephants and maximum of 50 elephants.
3. As a thumb rule, the minimum area for ERCs should be 0.2 hectares/elephant.
4. Perimeter of ERCs should be fenced with an elephant proof barrier. Eg. Solar power fence, elephant proof trenches and/or walls
5. Every ERC should have
 - (i) Holding area with shed
 - (ii) Raised feeding platform
 - (iii) Water trough/pool

- (iv) Walking or foraging area
 - (v) Night shelter
6. Every ERC should also have amenities such as staff quarters, kitchen area, storage area, restraining equipment and tools like rope, chain, hooks etc. of appropriate specifications, medicines and medical supplies and immobilisation drugs and equipment. The land required for this should be in addition to the minimum area requirement for ERC.
 7. ERCs should have a provision for musth management area with access to water and provision for spraying of water. Musth management area should be away from the holding area of the ERC.
 8. Each holding area of the ERC should house 2-10 elephants.
 9. All elephants should be handled in a humane and compassionate manner.
 10. Each elephant in the ERC should be micro-chipped and the records on change of ownership should be maintained properly.
 11. Every ERC should have the following registers:
 - (i) Vaccination register
 - (ii) Disease and treatment register
 - (iii) Movement register
 - (iv) Feeding register
 - (v) Elephant data book of each elephant
 - (vi) Work register
 - (vii) Record of ivory register
 12. Each ERC should have services of
 - (i) Manager/Officer in charge
 - (ii) At least one full time veterinarian
 - (iii) One mahout/assistant mahout for each elephant
 - (iv) One helper/elephant
 - (v) Other support staff
 13. All mahouts/ assistant mahout and support staff should be suitably trained in use of proper use of commands and methods of elephant care and management. All the vets and veterinary staff should be suitably trained to handle elephant ailment and hygiene issues.

14. Feeding of elephant concentrate should be done in presence of a responsible officer.
15. Elephant should be taken out for walking/browsing in nearby forests or browsing areas regularly.
16. Use of ankush, hobbles and other painful restraint devices should be strongly discouraged.
17. Pucca cemented flooring and clean area should be provided for regular foot care of the elephants.
18. Cleanliness and proper hygiene should be maintained in the ERCs.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Central Zoo Authority

F.No.7-4/2015-CZA(AK)/7087

DATE:30.04.2015

OFFICE ORDER

Subject:- Constitution of Expert Group to develop standards/norms for evaluation of proposals regarding establishment of Elephant Rehabilitation/Rescue Centers – Regarding.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India is in need to develop standards/norms for evaluation of proposals for establishment of Elephant rehabilitation/rescue centres in country. This will include details on area requirement, design of facility, animal care requirement which will include feed and veterinary care. For zoological parks, the Central Zoo Authority has already developed a 'Designing of Enclosures for Indian Zoos – 2014' (copy annexed) which include brief details on designs for elephants.

As decided in the 73rd Meeting on the Technical Committee of the Central Zoo Authority held on 10.03.2015, an expert group to develop standards/norms for evaluation of proposals regarding establishment of elephant rehabilitation/rescue Centers, is constituted with following composition and Terms of References (ToR):-

1. The Inspector General of Forests (Project Elephant), MoEF & CC, Chairman
2. Shri S.C. Sharma, Addl. DGF(WL)(Retd.), Member, Expert Group on Zoo Designing of Central Zoo Authority
3. The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun or his representative
4. The Director, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh or his representative
5. Shri Vivek Menon, Wildlife Trust of India, Noida, and
6. Shri Kartick Satyanarayan, Wildlife SOS, New Delhi

Terms of Reference (TOR):

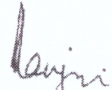
1. Above cited expert group will develop standards/norms for evaluation of proposals regarding establishment of Elephant Rehabilitation/Rescue Centers.
2. The expert group shall submit their report to Central Zoo Authority within **30 days** from the date of issue of this order.

Contd...

The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun is requested to suggest what changes should be made to these guidelines with regard to rescue/rehabilitation centres. Therefore a meeting is scheduled to be convened on 21.05.2015 to draft a concept paper. The same will be shared and discussed by above Expert Group.

The tenure of the Expert Group to develop standards/norms for evaluation of proposals regarding establishment of Elephant Rehabilitation/Rescue Centers shall be three months from the date of issue of this order.

Yours faithfully,



(Vinod Ranjan)
Member Secretary

Distribution for information and necessary action:-

1. All the members as mentioned above.
2. DIG(HQ), CZA
3. Finance Officer, CZA
4. Evaluation and Monitoring Officer, CZA
5. Scientific Officer, CZA
6. P. S. to M. S., CZA