



# Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens **NEWSLETTER**

June - 2023

VOL 22 [ISSUE -2]



[www.mysuruzoo.info](http://www.mysuruzoo.info)



## In this Issue

1. From the Desk
2. Summer Camp 2023
3. World Environment Day
4. World Giraffe Day
5. Recent Developmental Works
6. News in Brief
  - i. Workshop on Man Animal Conflict
  - ii. Herpetology Workshop
  - iii. Translocation of Sambar Deer for Population Restoration to Pansoli Forest Range Dandeli
  - iv. Inauguration of Ring-Tailed Lemur enclosure
  - v. Inauguration of New Child Care Unit
7. Transfers/Retirement
8. Delegates visited during this quarter
9. Major Animal Adoptions

## From the Desk . . .



Dear Readers,  
Greetings!

This quarter marks the beginning of yet another fabulous financial year for Mysuru zoo. Firstly, I would like to thank our patrons for their valuable support to the zoo animals through the adoption.

In the first quarter of 2022-23 we recorded about 8.82 lakh visitors and this quarter there has been a significant jump in visitation recording 11.86 lakh visitors, increase in 3.04 lakh visitors compared to last year.

We are continuing our efforts to organize in reach and outreach programs in order to spread the message of conservation to young minds who are the future citizens of the country. Mysuru Zoo in collaboration with Karnataka Forest department and zoo authority of Karnataka have stepped up the capacity building programs for officers and staff which will serve as a bridge between ex-situ and in-situ conservation.

Reinforcement of sambar deer in Kali tiger reserve is a notable achievement under the banner of conservation.

The inauguration of a ring-tailed lemur enclosure funded by Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Paper Mill (BRBNMPL) has been a major attraction for visitors.

Also, inauguration of new childcare unit has immensely benefited the mother with infants visiting the zoo.

There is a significant progress in all other developmental works which will benefit the visitors in the coming days

Finally, I express my sincere gratitude to all my team members who have put a commendable effort in the daily functioning of our zoo!

**Executive Director**  
Sri Chamarajendra Zoological  
Gardens, Mysuru





## 2. SUMMER camp 2023



Mysuru Zoo organized Summer Camp for students of age between 12-18 years. First batch started from 17<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 and second batch from May 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 for a period of 10 days. In this program students got exposure to basics of captive wild animal's management and wildlife conservation. Students learnt about management of animals at zoo, animal behaviour, conservation of wild animals. There were classes on subjects covering various aspects of these issues like talk on Spiders, Ants, Snakes, Birds, conservation of Urban Lakes. Zoo Veterinary Officers and other subject matter Specialists interacted with the participants. Students were taken to Karanji Lake Nature Park, Regional Museum of Natural History and Ranganthittu Bird Sanctuary during the camp.







### 3. World Environment Day 5<sup>th</sup> June

On the occasion of 50<sup>th</sup> World Environment Day, Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens joined the global movement to celebrate World Environment Day. Theme for the current year's World Environment Day is **"Solutions for Plastic Pollution"** under the banner **#BeatPlasticPollution**.

In this connection the following educational programs were organized to create awareness among zoo visitors, general public, involving student and zoo volunteers.

1. **Cleaning Drive at Karanji Lake by zoo staff:** On 5<sup>th</sup> June morning Mysuru Zoo staff cleaned the Karanji Lake Premises and the staff were briefed regarding menace created due to plastic and their role in controlling the menace.





- 2. Signature campaign on the theme “Solutions for Plastic Pollution” & Taking pledge of Mission LiFE:** At zoo premises signature campaign programme and taking pledge of Mission LiFE-style was organized. Around 200 to 250 visitors and students joined hands in taking pledge and supported the campaign by signing and expressing their commitment.



- 3. Planting saplings in the by zoo visitors:** Inside zoo gardens native saplings were planted by zoo visitors and they were briefed about the event.



- 4. Display of Fact Sheets related to Environment Day:** Fact sheets related to Environment Day were displayed and visitors were engaged and briefed on how to adopt healthy life style and how one can reduce plastic pollution.





5. **On the spot quiz competition:** In Quiz competition, visitors were asked questions regarding Environment Day, Plastic Pollution and impact of plastic pollution on wildlife. Study material on birds of Karnataka and common snakes of Karnataka were given as Prize to the winners of the competition.



6. **Paper bag distribution to visitors (First come First serve basis):** Bags made of used newspaper were distributed to visitors in order to promote awareness on usage of paper bags instead of plastic carry bags.



## 4. World Giraffe Day – 21<sup>st</sup> June

World Giraffe Day is an exciting annual event initiated by Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) to celebrate the tallest animal on the longest day the year i.e., 21<sup>st</sup> June. Not only it is a worldwide celebration of these amazing and much-loved animals, but an annual event to raise support, create awareness and shed light on the challenges giraffe face in the wild.







And it's high time now that we raise our voice for Giraffes as we have approximately 117,000 giraffes remaining in the wild.

Mysuru Zoo joined the worldwide celebrations in organizing outreach program at Srikantha Balika Proudha Shala. Around 160 Students participated and were taught about Giraffe's behavior & ecology, threats to the species and about Giraffes of Mysuru Zoo.

Also, in reach program was conducted by displaying informative fact sheets and relevant posters in front of the Giraffe enclosure.





## 5. Recent Developmental Works

### 1. Enrichment for Ring Tailed Lemur Enclosure



## 6. News in Brief

### I Workshop on Man Animal Conflict - 25/5/2023

Karnataka Forest Department in association with Zoo Authority of Karnataka conducted Man-Animal Conflict Workshop at Chamundi Wildlife Conservation, Rescue and Rehabilitation Center Kurghalli, Mysuru on 25/5/2023 to improve the knowledge and skills of department officials & Staff.







## ii. Herpetology Workshop

Herpetology Workshop was conducted on 29/5/2023 & 30/5/2023 for zoo staff working under ZAK. This workshop was steered by Shri.B P Ravi APCCF & Member Secretary Zoo Authority of Karnataka in the presence of Shri. Ajit Kulkarni, IFS Executive Director Mysuru Zoo. Shri. Gerard Martin, Herpetologist handled the sessions. The aim of the workshop was to provide hands-on training on standard practices in herpetology and to educate regarding the latest techniques and modernization which in result will encourage conservation of herpetofauna.



## iii. Exposure Visit to Zoos by Mysuru Zoo Staff

From June 21<sup>st</sup> to June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, a three-day exposure visit was planned with the intention of improving the Mysuru Zoo's reptile facilities. Smt. Roshini A. J., Deputy Director, Manjunath P.O., Range Forest Officer, Dr. Adarsh, Veterinary Officer, Brahmarambika M. K., Biologist, and Pratap, Animal Keeper, were all present during the visit. The objective was to acquire information and knowledge for bettering Mysuru Zoo's reptile management and husbandry procedures. The team visited Arignar Anna Zoological Park, the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Centre for Herpetology, and the Chennai Snake Park Trust. Also, Mysuru Zoo is participating zoo for conservation breeding of critically endangered- Lion Tailed Macaque (LTM) along with the Arignar Anna Zoological Park which is a co-ordinating Zoo. Information regarding the LTM husbandry practices followed in Arignar Anna Zoological Park was also gathered. These visits have provided valuable exposure and has allowed the team to observe and learn from their facilities. The insights gained from the exposure visit will be instrumental in upgrading Mysuru Zoo's reptile management practices and LTM husbandry practices, ensuring the best possible care and welfare for the reptiles housed here.







### iii. Translocation of Sambar Deer for Population Restoration

Conservation Translocation of Sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*) is the intentional movement and release of these animals where the primary objective is reinforcement of species locally and restoring natural ecosystem functions. The status of Sambar has been assessed as '**Vulnerable**' by the **IUCN Red List** of Threatened Species (2014) with the decreasing trend and it is protected by the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as Schedule I animals.

The goal of this program was translocation of surplus Sambar deers of Mysuru Zoo in the areas where there is decline of these species and improves their status.

23 sambar deer was translocated from Sri Chamaraajendra Zoological Gardens to Panasoli Forest Range in November 2022 to January 2023 in 4 batches with 0% mortality rate. The following mentioned Soft-release protocol was followed for this project.

#### **Action Plan for translocation of Sambar Deer**

The specific short-term objectives of the program under this phase included:

- Identification of suitable habitats for reinforcement.
- Establishment of soft-release facilities.
- Acclimatization of individuals for release.
- Monitoring animals in the release facility.
- Post-release monitoring of reinforced population

#### **Habitat Identification**

For this translocation program, Panasoli Forest Range at Kali Tiger Reserve, Dandeli, Uttara Kannada District had been selected. This area meet, two main requirements-

- Presence of a large and continuous forested area that fulfills the biotic and abiotic needs of the animal
- Minimum threats in the form of hunting and habitat degradation for the establishment of the translocated animals.

#### **Establishment of soft-release facilities**

Soft-release facility was established at the identified release sites of Panasoli Forest Range. It consisted of area containing native vegetation; necessary steps had been taken in designing the enclosures and the exit door for preventing the entry of predators into the enclosure. A 8-foot tall chain linked mesh fencing for 2 acres area was provided as the primary barrier for quarantine and to prevent the entry of predators.

#### **Acclimatization of the Deer**

The first stage of the soft-release is the "stabilization stage" which introduces the animal into the site selected. In this stage animals are quarantined for a period of 30 days and are supplemented with the zoo diet.

The second stage is the 'acclimatization stage'. The proportion of ready food will be reduced gradually through the duration of the stage, ending with no ready food being provided, i.e., 100% on the initial days, followed by 75%, 50%, and 25% subsequently. No ready food will be provided on the last three to four days of letting the animals into the wild habitat. This conditioning incrementally facilitates the transition of the animals from the zoo conditions to the wild. This acclimatization is of paramount importance for the survival of released individuals.



### Monitoring animals in the release facility

- The physical fitness and behavior of the individuals will be assessed by assigning body condition scores based on visual estimates.
- Physiological indicators such as stress, food rejection and disease will also be monitored continuously.

### Release facility

After acclimatization of the individuals and activity monitoring, opening of the gates of enclosure to the wild habitat is done. In this stage, the Sambar deer will not receive any food supplements and the entire diet consists of only natural forage. The forest habitat has a hostile environment with optimal availability of food and water that is expected to encourage the Sambar deer to voluntarily leave the release facility in search of better living conditions in the forest.

### Capture and Transportation method

The release of 23 sambar deer was done from November 2022 to January 2023 in 4 batches. The animals were habituated to the crates well in advance by placing the crates inside the animal enclosure and providing regular feed inside it. This conditioning reduces the transportation stress in the animals because of their familiarity to the crates. The crate was designed to hold 5 adult animals and only adults and sub adults were selected for translocation purposes. Pregnant, lactating or weak animals were left behind. It was carried out during the cool hours of late evening using luring method.

Animals being lured inside the transportation crates Transportation crates kept in enclosure for Crate training Water and feed provision was made to the animal inside the crates and transported by road with zero mortality rates. The newly dispersed animals reduce the inbreeding depression of the native sambar deer's and contribute to the genetic diversity as well as contribute to the population stability.



*Transportation crates kept in enclosure for Crate training*



*Animals being lured inside the transportation crates*



*Inside the transportation crate*



*Crate being loaded to the vehicle*





*Sambar Deer's released at the soft release facility*



*Predator proofing and fencing at the soft release facility*

## v. Inauguration of Ring Tailed Lemur Enclosure

New enclosure constructed under CSR Fund by the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) was inaugurated on 30/5/2023 by Senior GM of BRBNMPL Harshakumar Manral in the presence of Shri. B.P. Ravi, IFS APCCF & Member Secretary of Zoo Authority of Karnataka, Shri. Ajit Kulkarni, IFS DCF & Executive Director Mysuru Zoo, Smt. Roshni A J Deputy Director Mysuru Zoo and other officials of Zoo and BRBNMPL.



## vi. Inauguration of New Child Care Unit

On June 14, 2023 Newly constructed Child Care Unit was inaugurated by Shri. Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, Trishikha Kumari Devi Wadiyar in the presence of Shri. D. Mahesh Kumar IFS Executive Director Sri Chamaraajendra Zoological Gardens and Aparna Ranga, Chairperson, MALC 108.

Mysore Amity Ladies Circle 108 has taken up an initiative to extend their support to nursing mothers in caring for their infants. The primary goal of this endeavour is to create a tranquil and nurturing space where new mothers can comfortably breastfeed and care for their babies without any interruptions.





## 7. Transfer / Retirement

**Shri. Ajit Kulkarni, IFS** – Deputy Conservator of Forests and Executive Director Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysuru who was on inter-cadre deputation to the state of Karnataka was repatriated to his parent cadre, Punjab on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 after serving for a period of 5 years. Staff Members of Mysuru Zoo and ZAK bid a farewell in appreciation of his service rendered to the zoo. Mysuru Zoo is thankful and gratefully acknowledges his contribution towards the prosperity of the zoo.



**1. Shri. H.L. Nagendrappa** -- Executive Engineer, Zoo Authority of Karnataka was retired on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 after serving a period of 9 years under ZAK. Zoo Authority of Karnataka and Mysuru Zoo expresses sincere gratitude for his contribution for the welfare of Zoos under ZAK.



**2. Shri C.S. Annegowda**, Junior Assistant retired on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023. Served for a period of 38 years. Mysuru Zoo staff in appreciation of his service rendered to the zoo bid him farewell as a token of gratitude.

**3. Smt. Nagamma** – retired on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 after serving for a period of 23 years. Mysuru Zoo is appreciates her commitment and values her contribution to the zoo.







**4. Shri .P. C. Bhaskara** – working as Animal Keeper from 1/5/2003 retired on 30/6/2023 after serving for a period of 20 years. Mysuru Zoo staff in appreciation of his service rendered to the zoo bid him farewell.

### 5. Felicitation to Animal Keeper Somashekhar

Sri Somashekhar, has been serving as Animal Keeper at Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysuru, he worked as animal keeper in Birds section, Mega Herbivores section (Gaur, Giraffe and Elephants), lesser carnivores, large carnivores and primate section. Over years owing to his commitment to work and compassion for animals he refined the skill in care of young ones (neonatal, paediatric) especially orphaned and abandoned animals. Till date he has taken care of young ones of Hyena, Dhole, Indian Grey Wolf, Meerkats, Jungle Cats, Leopard, Gaur, Wallabies, Sloth bear, Macaws, Slender Loris, Malabar Giant squirrels, Lion Tailed Macaques, Baboons, Antelopes and Deer and Elephant.

Caring of young ones is very demanding job. It requires lot of hard work, commitment and compassion. Like human infants, animal young ones also need to be fed once every two hours and they do throw lot many tantrums! Somashekhar attends all animals as if his own kids with lot of compassion. Recognising his contribution and dedication for neonatal, he was felicitated on 25/5/2023.



### 8. Delegates/ Dignitaries visited during this Quarter



Dignitaries visited on 9/4/2023

**i) Maina Kigaga, Minister from Kenya**

**Comments:** Impressed by warm welcome and the fact that you are almost self-sufficient. Keep up the work for posterity.



**ii) Subodh Uniyal, Forest Minister, Govt of Uttarakhand**

**Comments:** Very impressed with the clean and well-maintained enclosures. Good work, keep it up. Thanks for the hospitality.



**iii) Sri Mama Natung, H'ble Minister Youth Affairs & Sports, Environment & Forest, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh.**

**iv) On 10/4/2023 Forest Minister from Madhya Pradesh and Shri. Sanjay Kumar Shukla, Member Secretary CZA visited Zoo**



**v) On 11/4/2023 – Nguyen Thanh Dam, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Development, Vietnam and Laos visited Mysuru Zoo**

**Comments:** Very informative and interesting visit.

Very impressed with the management firm and sustainable and cooperative with informative zoo.



Delegates from Vietnam and Laos interacting with ZAK chairman **Shri. M Shivakumar** and Deputy Director Mysuru Zoo **Smt. Roshni A.J**



## 9. Major Adoption from April - June 2023

Sl. No.	Name	Name of the Bird/ Animal	Term	Period of Adoption	Amount
1.	Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar (Nagendra)	Black Panther	1 Year	26/4/2023 to 25/4/2024	Rs.50,000
2.	M/s Kanti Sweets Private Limited	Indian Leopard	1 Year	1/6/2023 to 31/5/2024	Rs.50,000
3.	Ritesh Gala	Spotted Deer-2	1 Year	6/4/2023 to 5/4/2024	Rs. 30,000
4.	Maheshwari Natrajan	Great White Pelican	1 Year	3/4/2023 to 2/4/2024	Rs. 25,000
5.	Tumkur Precision Pressing Works, Tumkur	Common Ostrich	1 Year	6/4/2023 to 5/4/2024	Rs. 20,000
6.	Sudha Seturam Onkar	Leopard Cat	1 Year	8/4/2023 to 7/4/2024	Rs.10,000
7.	BM Vishwanath	Rhesus Macaque	1 Year	13/4/2023 to 12/4/2024	Rs.10,000
8.	Chaitra Shinde	Smooth Coated Otter	1 Year	21/4/2023 to 20/4/2024	Rs.10,000
9.	Riddhi S.S	Great Indian Hornbill	1 Year	1/5/2023 to 30/4/2024	Rs.10,000
10.	Naveen Kumar B N	Indian Muntjac	1 Year	5/5/2023 to 4/5/2024	Rs.10,000
11.	Swathi Sridhar	Smooth Coated Otter	1 Year	10/5/2023 to 9/5/2024	Rs.10,000
12.	Divya Shree V	Four-Horned Antelope	1 Year	19/5/2023 to 18/5/2024	Rs.10,000

**\*\* (Major Adopters name > Rs.10,000/-)**



 [@Mysore\\_Zoo](https://twitter.com/Mysore_Zoo)



 [mysuru\\_zoo](https://www.instagram.com/mysuru_zoo)

**Published by:**

Sri Chamrajendra Zoological Gardens, Indira Nagar, Mysuru-570 010, Karnataka 0821-2440752/2520302

Website: [www.mysuruzoo.info](http://www.mysuruzoo.info), Email: [zoomysore@gmail.com](mailto:zoomysore@gmail.com)