



**Islamic Republic Of Afghanistan
Kabul Municipality**



KABUL ZOO STANDARD POLICY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

H.E Mohammad Younas Nawandish

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Today when wildlife habitats are under severe pressure and a large number of species of wild fauna have become endangered, the Kabul Zoo has to sustain their own population. As Kabul Zoo is visited by a large number of visitors, Kabul Zoo is a potentially a potent tool for educating people about the close linkage between protection of natural areas and maintaining the life supporting processes of nature. Well-planned and appropriately designed Kabul Zoo can sensitize visitors to the dangers of a hostile or indifferent attitude towards nature.

Kabul Zoo has not been able to meet the challenges imposed by the changing scenario and still continue with the legacy of past i.e. displaying animals to the animals nor educative and rewarding to the visitors. Kabul Zoo Standard Policy aims at giving proper direction and thrust to the management of Kabul Zoo's by mustering co-operation and participation of all concerned.

2.0 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

Kabul Zoo's main purposes are to disseminate information, conserve endangered species and to conduct research, as well as to offer visitors a stimulating recreational environment. The following are the objectives of the Kabul Zoo:

2.1 Supporting the conservation of endangered species by giving species, which have no chance of survival in wild, a last chance of survival through coordinated breeding under ex-situ condition and raise stocks for rehabilitating them in wild as and when it is appropriate and desirable.

2.2 To inspire amongst Kabul Zoo visitors empathy for wild animals, an understanding and awareness about the need for conservation of natural resources and for maintaining the ecological balance.

2.3 Providing opportunities for scientific studies useful for conservation in general and creation of database for sharing between the agencies involved in in-situ and ex-situ conservation.

2.4 Continue to function as rescue centers for orphaned wild animals, subject to the availability of appropriate housing and upkeep infrastructure. Where appropriate housing and upkeep is not available, Kabul Municipality and the Central Government would ascertain setting up rescue facilities in off-the-display areas of the Kabul Zoo, subject to the availability of land.

3.0 DEFINITIONS:

3.1 AN ENDANGERED SPECIES is a population of organisms which is at risk of becoming extinct because it is either few in numbers, or threatened by changing environmental or predation parameters

3.2 BREEDING is the reproduction, which is, producing of offspring, usually animals



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3.3 EX-SITU CONSERVATION means literally, "off-site conservation". It is the process of protecting an endangered species of plant or animal outside of its natural habitat

3.4 IN-SITU CONSERVATION is on-site conservation or the conservation of genetic resources in natural populations of animal species,

4.0 SCOPE

5.0 RESPONSIBILITIES:

5.1 GENERAL GUIDANCE

5.1.1 Since Kabul Zoo requires a significant amount of resources in the form of land, water, energy and money, no new Zoos shall be set up unless a sustained supply of resources including finance and technical support are guaranteed.

5.1.2 Kabul Zoos shall prepare a long-term master plan for development to ensure optimum utilization of the land, water, energy and finance.

5.1.3 Kabul Zoo shall maintain a healthy, hygienic and natural environment in the Kabul Zoo, so that the visitors get an adequate opportunity to experience a natural environment.

5.1.4 Kabul Zoos shall give priority to endangered species in their collection and breeding plans. The order of preference for selection of species shall be (in descending order) locality, country and other areas.

5.1.5 Kabul Zoos shall regulate the number of animals of various species in their collection in such a way that each animal serves the objectives of the Kabul Zoo. For achieving this objective, a detailed management plan of every species in the Kabul Zoo shall be prepared.

5.1.6 Kabul Zoo shall endeavor to avoid keeping single animals of non-viable sex ratios of any species. They shall cooperate in pooling such animals into genetically, demographically and socially viable groups at Kabul Zoos identified for the purpose.

5.1.7 Kabul Zoos shall avoid keeping surplus animals of prolifically breeding species and if required, appropriate population control measures shall be adopted.

5.2 ACQUISITIONS OF ANIMALS

5.2.1 Except for obtaining founder animals for approved breeding program and infusion of new blood inbred groups, no Kabul Zoo shall collect animals from the wild.

5.2.2 Kabul Zoo shall not enter into any transaction involving violation of the law and provisions of international conventions on wildlife conservation.

5.2.3 Kabul Zoo shall not enter into any transaction in respect of their surplus animals with any commercial establishment. Even the animal products should not be utilized for



commercial purposes. The trophies of the animals could, however, be used for educational or scientific purposes.

5.3 ANIMAL HOUSING

5.3.1 Every animal in the Kabul Zoo shall be provided housing, upkeep and health care that can ensure a quality of life and longevity to enable the Kabul Zoo population sustain itself through procreation.

5.3.2 The enclosure for all the species displayed or kept in a Kabul Zoo shall be of such size that all animals get adequate space for free movement and exercise and no animal is unduly dominated or harassed by any other animal.

5.3.3 Each animal enclosure in the Kabul Zoo shall have appropriate shelters, perches, withdrawal areas, wallow, pools drinking water points and such other facilities which can provide the animals a chance to display the wide range of their natural behavior as well as protect them from extremes of climate.

5.4 UPKEEP OF ANIMAL COLLECTIONS

5.4.1 Kabul Zoos shall provide diet to each species, which is similar to its feed in nature. Where for unavoidable reasons any ingredients have to be substituted, due care will be taken to ensure that the substitute fulfills the nutritional requirement of the species.

5.4.2 For the well-being of the animals, round the clock supply of portable drinking water shall be made available to all animals kept in the Kabul Zoo.

5.4.3 With the objectives of avoiding human imprinting and domestication of animals. Kabul Zoos shall prevent physical handling of animals by the staff to the extent possible.

5.4.4 Kabul Zoos shall not allow any animal to be provoked for tortured for the purpose of extracting any performance or tricks for the benefit of the visitors or for any other reason.

5.5 HEALTH CARE AND VETERINARY SERVICES

5.5.1 Kabul Zoo shall ensure availability of the highest standards of veterinary care to all the animals in their collection.

5.5.2 Adequate measures shall be taken by Kabul Zoo for implementing wildlife health and quarantine rules and regulations. Appropriate vaccination programs shall also be taken up for safeguarding against infectious diseases. Timely action to isolate infected animals from the Kabul Zoo population shall be taken to avoid further spread of disease.

5.5.3 The animals are handled only by the staff having experience and training in handling the individual animals. Every care shall be taken to avoid discomfort, behavioral stress or physical harm to any animals.



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5.5.4 The condition and health of all animals in Kabul zoo shall be checked every day by the person in-charge of their care. If any animal is found sick, or unduly stressed the matter shall be reported to the veterinary officer for providing treatment expeditiously.

5.5.5 Routine examination including parasite checks shall be carried out regularly and preventive medicines including vaccination is administered at such intervals as may be decided by the authorized veterinary officers.

5.5.6 Kabul zoo operators shall arrange for medical check-ups of the staff responsible for upkeep of animals at least once in every six months to ensure that they do not have infections of such diseases that can infect the zoo animals.

5.5.7 Kabul zoo shall maintain animal history sheets and treatment card in respect of each animal of endangered species.

5.5.8 Kabul zoo shall have full-fledged veterinary facilities including a properly equipped veterinary hospital, basic diagnostic facilities and comprehensive range of drugs. Each veterinary hospital shall have isolation and quarantine wards for newly arriving animals and sick animals. These wards should be so located as to minimize the chances of infection spreading to other animals of the zoo.

5.5.9 The Veterinary Hospital in Kabul Zoo shall have facilities for restraining and handling sick animals including tranquilizing equipment and syringe projector. The hospital shall also have a reference library on animal health care and upkeep.

5.6 RESEARCH AND TRAINING

5.6.1 Kabul Zoo shall encourage research on the biology, behavior, nutrition and veterinary aspects of animals in their collection. They shall also endeavor for creation of expertise on Kabul Zoo architecture and landscape designing, cooperation of recognized institutions already working in relevant fields in this regard shall be taken.

5.6.2 Kabul Zoo shall endeavor for transfer of technical skills available in the field for Kabul Zoo personnel. Kabul Municipality and Kabul Zoo Administration shall provide due support to Kabul Zoo in these efforts. Kabul Zoo, Veterinary Faculty of Kabul University and other institutions within Afghanistan and abroad, having appropriate expertise shall be taken in this regard.

5.6.3 Kabul Zoo shall also endeavor for dissemination of information on scientific aspects of management through publication of periodicals, journals, newsletters and special bulletins. Help of non-governmental organization (NGOs) and government institutions shall also be availed in such efforts.

5.7 BREEDING PROGRAM FOR SPECIES

5.7.1 Before taking up breeding programs of any species, Kabul Zoo shall clearly identify the objectives for which the breeding program is being taken up. The targeted numbers for the program would be decided keeping in view the identified objectives.



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5.7.2 Kabul Zoo shall cooperate in successful implementation of identified breeding programs by way of loaning, pooling or exchanging animals for the programs and help creation of socially, genetically and demographically viable groups even at the cost of reducing the number of animals or number of species displayed in the Kabul Zoo.

5.7.3 Breeding program shall be taken up by Kabul Zoo after collection of adequate data like biology, behavior and other demo-graphic factors affecting the program. Including the minimum number of founder animals and the quantum of housing facilities available

5.7.4 Programs for breeding of Kabul Zoo animals for re-introduction in the wild shall be taken up after getting approval of Kabul Municipality and Kabul Zoo Administration as the case may be.

5.7.5 Kabul Zoos shall give priority in their breeding programs to endangered species representing the Kabul Zoo-geographic zone in which it is located.

5.7.6 For carrying out breeding programs in a scientific and planned manner the Kabul Zoo shall mark every individual animals involved in the programs in an appropriate manner and maintain appropriate records.

5.7.7 Kabul Zoo shall take utmost precaution to prevent inbreeding. They shall avoid artificial selection of traits and make no explicit or implicit attempts to interbreed various genera, species and sub-species.

5.7.8 Special efforts shall be made to avoid human imprinting of the stocks raised for reintroduction purposes by providing off exhibit breeding facilities.

5.8 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITY

5.8.1 Kabul Zoo should have a well-drawn-up plan for education the visitors as well as other in the community. Kabul Zoos shall keep a close liaison with other ex-situ facilities in this regard.

5.8.2 The central theme of the Kabul Zoo education program being the linkage between the survival of various species and protection of their natural habitat, enclosures which allow the animals to display natural behavior are crucial to Kabul Zoo education. Kabul Zoo shall, therefore, display animals in such enclosures only where the animals do not suffer physiological and psychological restraint.

5.8.3 Attractive and effective signage methods and interactive displays to explain activities of various species to visitors, published education material and audio-visual devices are proven methods for driving home the conservation's message. A formal education program should also be persuaded for strengthening the education message.

5.8.4 Beside signage, the Kabul Zoo shall also use guided tours, talks by knowledgeable persons and audio-visual shows for effectively communicating the message for conservation to the visitors.



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5.8.5 The help of universities, colleges and non-governmental organization shall be taken to educate the students about the benefits of supporting nature conservation programs.

5.9 AMENITIES TO VISITORS

5.9.1 Kabul Zoo shall provide basic civic amenities to the visitors like toilets, drinking water points, shelters and first-aid facilities. Ramps shall also be provided for the benefit of visitors in wheel chairs for approach to animal enclosure and other civic amenities.

5.9.2 Kabul Zoos shall not provide any infrastructure for recreation/entertainment of visitors that is inconsistent with the stated objective of Kabul Zoo.

6.0 POLICY EVALUATION

This policy should be regularly evaluated to ensure it is enabling and effectively moving Kabul Municipality towards its sustainability goal.

7.0 CONSEQUENCE OF VIOLATION

Willful or blatant violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action.

Refer to Disciplinary policy of Kabul Municipality

8.0 POLICY ENFORCEMENT

The contents of this policy are enforceable after His Excellency the Mayor's approval.