



BANOBANDHU

BENGAL SAFARI ZOO NEWS

VOLUMN:9 ISSUE:1

APRIL-JUNE 2024

QUARTERLY ZOO NEWSLETTER

NORTH BENGAL WILD ANIMALS PARK

From the Director's desk

We are delighted to present the April-June 2024 edition of "BANOBANDHU," the Bengal Safari Quarterly Zoo newsletter. In this quarter, we organized summer enrichments for our resident animals. Our facility welcomed 84,158 satisfied visitors. To increase visitor interaction, we introduced new attractions like the constrictor house, porcupine enclosure, and a water bird aviary. Additionally, we witnessed the birth of Bengal Tiger (Leucistic) cubs. In this quarter, we also celebrated all the important days related to the environment and animals with school students, NGOs, visitors, etc.

E. Vijayakumar, IFS

Director, North Bengal Wild Animals Park

History of Bengal Safari

The North Bengal Wild Animals Park, also known as Bengal Safari, was previously a part of the Baikunthapur Forest Division, situated within the Adabari Beat. It existed as Shorea Nature Park, adjacent to the Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary. Subsequently, an area of 299.459 hectares was identified, including the pre-existing park, for the establishment of the North Bengal Wild Animals Park in Siliguri. Due to Siliguri's unique geographic location, with Nepal to the west, Bhutan to the northeast, and China and Bangladesh to the south, as well as its status as a major commercial tourism hub and transit point for air, road, and rail traffic to neighboring countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh, tourists and residents from other regions of the country develop an interest in observing the wild animals and birds of North Bengal to foster a closer connection with nature. Consequently, the North Bengal Wild Animals Park was designed with consideration for the growth, goals, and maintenance

standards set by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA). On July 17, 2014, the foundation stone of the North Bengal Wild Animals Park was laid by the honorable Chief Minister of West Bengal, Smt. Mamata Banerjee also inaugurated the park's first phase (a mixed herbivore safari) in January 21, 2016.

About Us

The North Bengal Wild Animals Park in Siliguri primarily functions as a safari park, aiming to exhibit various animals in their natural habitats using safari vehicles. It offers a picturesque view of the Himalayan range, adding to its captivating allure. Bengal Safari is situated 8 kilometres away from Siliguri and currently features attractions such as Tiger Safari, Mixed Herbivore Safari, Asiatic Black Bear Safari, Leopard Safari, zoo enclosures housing pl

pheasants, water birds, scavengers, primates, smaller cats, constrictor house, porcupine and reptiles, a Nature Interpretation Centre, a Zoo Souvenir Shop among others.

Vision

The goal is to foster a positive connection between animals and humans, promote conservation, and breed endangered species for display, exchange, and rehabilitation in the wild.

Mission

This Wild Animals Park intends to complement the national efforts in conservation of wildlife through breeding of endangered species of the region and to develop empathy among visitors for wild animals.

Objectives

- Conservation of North Bengal's biodiversity
- Decrease tourist pressure on National Parks
- Foster empathy towards wild animals
- Gather scientific data on animal biology for park management
- Provide recreational and educational activities in a natural setting

GLIMPSE OF IMPORTANT HAPPENING

EARTH DAY 2024

Every year on 22nd April, the world observes Earth Day to raise awareness about the devastating impact of plastic pollution on the environment and the urgent need for collective action to protect our planet.

North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari), Siliguri celebrated the day with the theme - "Planet vs Plastic". The Smile Group Welfare Association, Bagdogra, an NGO, took part as volunteers. An art competition with two categories, class I-IV and class V-VIII, was organized at the Nature Interpretation Centre (NIC) of NBWAP. The topics for the art competition were "Planet Protectors: Say No to Plastic" and "Plastic Planet: Consequences and Solutions". Participation included over 100 students of grades I-VIII from Chittaranjan High School, Lime Light High School, Good Shepherd School, Air Force School, Hebron English School, Vidyasagar High School, Shri Narasingha Vidyapith, Alphonsa School, KV AFS Bagdogra, Bagdogra Balika Vidyalaya, Army Public School, Delhi Public School, Don Bosco School Siliguri, Choupukuria Primary School, and Gyanjyoti Academy. All the students were felicitated with certificates and medals. They were also taken on an aviary tour, and refreshments were served to all.



WORLD VETERINARY DAY 2024

On 27th April 2024, to celebrate World Veterinary Day, North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari) held a special event to honour our dedicated veterinarians, who are instrumental in keeping our animals healthy and thriving. Our Director and Assistant Director personally felicitated our team of veterinarians, Dr. Nick Doley, Veterinary Officer, and Mr. Biswajeet Sarkar, Veterinary Assistant of NBWAP, recognizing their tireless efforts and profound commitment to animal welfare.

A training workshop was also organized by Research & Education section, focused on understanding the behaviour of captive tigers in zoo and safari settings. All the animal attendants and zoo staff were participated.



TRAINING PROGRAM OF WBZA

Training program of skill development for zoo personnel was organized by West Bengal Zoo Authority, Kolkata from 28.09.2024 to 01.05.2024. The North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari), Siliguri and Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling were the host zoos for the training program.

Participation included Veterinary Assistants, Zoo keepers, and Animal attendants from various zoos of the state, i.e. Harinalaya Mini Zoo, Kolkata; Alipore Zoological Park, Kolkata; Garchumuk Zoological Park, Srirampur; Suruliya Mini Zoo, Purulia; Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling; and North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari), Siliguri.

On 28th & 29th April 2024, various training programmes i.e. "Management of Big Cats and Asiatic Black Bear of Bengal Safari", "Tranquilization tools for wildlife & veterinary management at Bengal Safari", and "Hand rearing of animals at Bengal Safari" were

organised by Dr Nick Doley, Veterinary Officer and Mr. Biswajeet Sarkar, Veterinary Assistant of the veterinary section, NBWAP. A guided tour of the safari park was also arranged for all trainees. To evaluate the outcome of the training program, an evaluation test was taken, in which Mr. Soumen Mandal, Veterinary Assistant of Surulia Zoo, stood as the best scorer. He was felicitated by Shri Ashish Kumar Samanta, (Retd. IFS), Technical Consultant of WBZA, Shri E. Vijayakumar, IFS, Director of NBWAP and Shri Abhishek Chowdhury, WBFS, Assistant Director OF nbwap. An interaction session by the team of WBZA was conducted for the trainees. All the trainees were felicitated with gift hampers by Shri Dwaipayan Rano, Range Officer of NBWAP.



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, 2024

In alignment with the day's theme, "Be Part of The Plan," the North Bengal Wild Animals Park celebrated 'International Day for Biological Diversity' on May 22, 2024. Students of various ages from the nearby villages of Toribari, Betgara, Singhijhora, and Salugara took part in an educational session organized by the education and research section of NBWAP.



During the event, students expressed their thoughts on the importance of protecting Earth's biodiversity. Outstanding participants were awarded medals and gift hampers by the park's Director and Range Officer. Additionally, a safari tour was arranged for the students.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, 2024

In celebration of World Environment Day on June 5, 2024, North Bengal Wild Animals Park hosted a variety of activities, including a plantation ceremony, poster making, storytelling, and poetry recitation. The ceremony featured distinguished guests such as Shri Bhaskar J.V. IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests Wildlife North; Smt Uma Rani N, IFS, DFO, Monitoring North Division; Shri E. Vijayakumar, IFS, Director of NBWAP; Shri Raja M, IFS, DFO of Baikunthapur Forest Division; STC BSF Baikunthapur, along with other esteemed forest officials. School students from Kendriya Vidyalaya Sevok Road, Krishmaya High School, Indramaya Primary School, Salugara High School, and zoo staff participated in the event. All participants received gift hampers, and refreshments were provided for everyone in attendance.



SUMMER Comforts *for Animals*

During the summer season, a series of comprehensive precautionary measures were undertaken in the animal enclosures and night shelters to ensure the health and well-being of the animals. These measures were essential to prevent heat stress, maintain hygiene, and to ensure adequate hydration. The following steps were diligently followed:

- 1. Provision of Shade:** Additional shade structures were installed in the enclosures to provide ample protection from the intense summer heat.
- 2. Cooling Systems:** Sprinkler systems in every enclosure, kraal and cooler systems in every shelter were utilised to keep the animals cool and comfortable during the hottest parts of the day.
- 3. Increased Water Supply:** Regular monitoring and refilling of water vessels and ponds were ensured to provide a continuous supply of fresh and clean water for drinking and bathing.
- 4. Electrolyte Solutions:** Oral rehydration and electrolyte solutions were made available to animals to prevent dehydration and maintain their electrolyte balance.
- 5. Dietary Adjustments:** The animals' diets included fresh fruits and vegetables with high water content to help keep them hydrated.
- 6. Enclosure Maintenance:** Regular cleaning and maintenance of enclosures and night shelters were conducted to ensure a hygienic environment and prevent the build-up of waste and debris.
- 7. Health Monitoring:** Increased frequency of health checks and monitoring of animals for signs of heat stress or dehydration were done to address any issues promptly.
- 8. Fans and Ventilation:** Portable fans and improved ventilation systems were used in night shelters to enhance airflow and reduce temperatures.
- 9. Shallow Water Pools:** Shallow water pools were maintained in the enclosures to allow animals to cool off and regulate their body temperature.



10. Soil Moisture: Regular watering of the ground in enclosures was done to keep the soil moist and reduce dust, which could cause respiratory issues.

11. Enclosure Enrichment: Enrichment activities, such as ice blocks and frozen fruits with treats and toys, were provided to keep animals engaged and help them cope with the heat.

12. Water Quality Maintenance: Ensuring the quality of water in ponds and pools by regular cleaning and filtration to prevent the growth of harmful bacteria and algae.



Fig-1: Cooler systems in every shelter were utilised to keep the animals cool and comfortable during the hottest parts of the day.

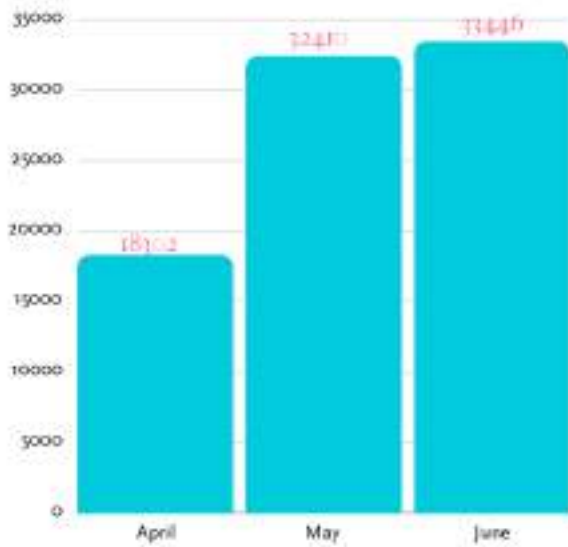
Fig-2: Shallow water pools were maintained in the enclosures to allow animals to cool off and regulate their body temperature.

Fig-3: Ice blocks were provided to keep animals engaged and help them cope with the heat.

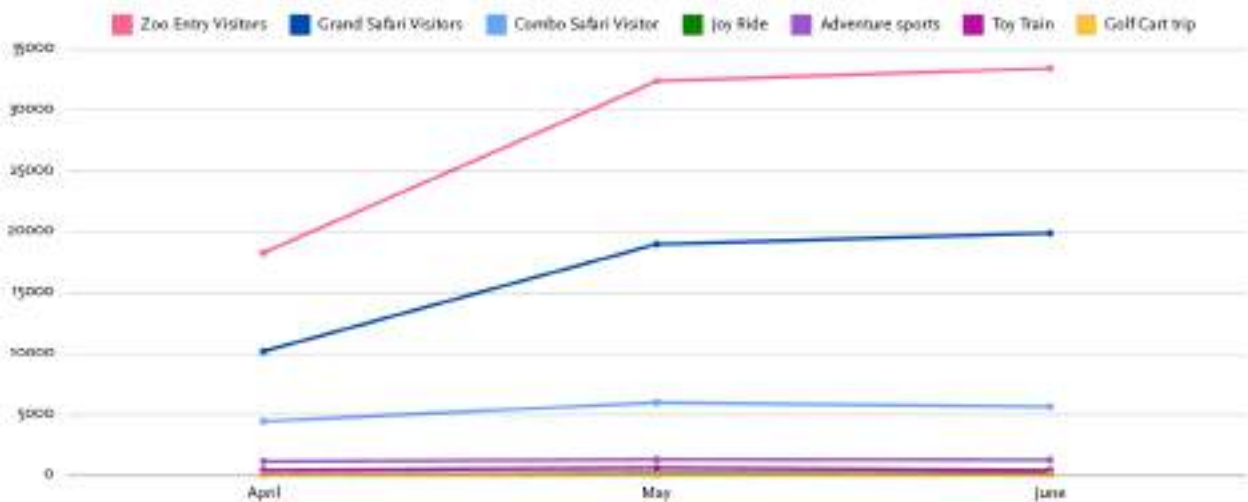
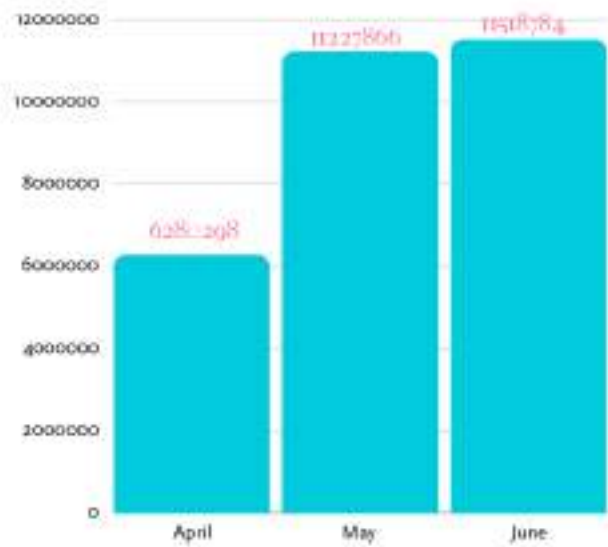
Fig-4: Regular monitoring and continuous supply of fresh and clean water for drinking and bathing.

Fig-5: Oral rehydration and electrolyte solutions were provided to animals to prevent dehydration and maintain their electrolyte balance.

Visitors' during the quarter
(April 2024 - June 2024)
(Unaudited figure)



Ticketing revenue generated during
(April 2024 - June 2024)
(Unaudited figure)



Line graph depicting visitor numbers at various zoo attractions from April to June 2024.

Date	Institution/Organization	Visitors/Participants
02.04.2024	Young Indians, Siliguri	25
07.04.2024	North Bengal Institute of Hearing Handicapped, Siliguri	27
12.04.2024	Marigold English School, Kalimpong	92
22.04.2024	Earth Day Celebration at NIC, Bengal Safari	250
24.04.2024	P.D. Women's College, Jalpaiguri	15
08.05.2024	Spring Daily Academy, Paren, Bindu, Kalimpong	33
04.05.2024	Pokhriabong Higher Secondary School, Manyzing, Gorubathan	25
22.05.2024	International Biodiversity Day Celebration	30
05.06.2024	World Environment Day Celebration	>150



On World Autism Day, Young Indians of Siliguri visited Bengal Safari with 25 autistic children.



North Bengal Institute of Hearing Handicapped, Siliguri, visited Bengal Safari with 27 specially-abled children.

ANIMAL ADOPTION AT BENGAL SAFARI



On April 6, 2024, the State Bank of India (SBI) at Samriddhi Bhawan, Kolkata, adopted an Asiatic Lion (male) named Suraj, who resides at Bengal Safari. This adoption will last for one year, from April 6, 2024, to April 5, 2025.

DIGNITARY VISITS

Insights of our esteemed guests

“Shri Sudhir Kumar

IG, SSB, Siliguri
21.04.2024

I visited Bengal Safari along with my wife and daughter. Sri E. Vijayakumar, Director, Bengal Safari, with his team, is doing excellent work, maintaining the precious animals. All the best. May the flora and fauna grow more intensely. ”

“Ms Dhaarna Yadav

SP State Crime Branch,
Haryana
21.04.2024

Bengal Safari is very well maintained. Visited the place with kids and family. Staff is well trained and cordial. Bengal Tiger and 3 cubs bathing in water body and walking openly was a sight to watch. The concept of open zoo and safari is very nice. ”

“Ms Yesoda Bai, R. IFS

Conservator of Forests,
R&D Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh
30.04.2024

Today I visited Bengal Safari along with fellow IFS officers who participated in the compulsory training conducted by IIFM, Kurseong. The Safari is well made and managed. Appreciate the management. We enjoyed the visit to the facility and hospitality. ”

“Justice Anindita Roy Saraswati

06.05.2024

Today I enjoyed the Safari at Bengal Safari along with my family and staff. The range officer accompanied us and also show us almost all the wild animals. I enjoyed it very well. Thanks to all to co-ordinate with us. ”

“Justice Pradheep Singh Yerur

Judge High Court of Karnataka
Bengaluru
22.05.2024

It was a great experience in the safari, we were able to sight Tiger, Leopard & other animals. The Range Forest Office was very polite and courteous so also the staff at the Bengal Safari. It is very well maintained. I wish all the best to the entire team. Jai Hind! ”

“Shri Manoj Kumar Yadav

IG (OPS), Western Command HQ,
BSF, Chandigarh
25.05.2024

It was a great opportunity to visit Bengal Safari. We could sight tiger, leopard and other animals. Bengal Safari is well maintained and staff is very well trained and professional. Sri Abhishek Chowdhury, Assistant Director conducted my visit and he was very courteous. It was a really exciting day. Wish Bengal Safari all the best- special thanks for Director. ”

“Shri Firhad Hakim

Minister In Charge (UD & MA)
Govt. of West Bengal
Mayor of Kolkata
11.06.2024

This is my second visit to Bengal Safari. We need more animals. I was with my wife and she had a great experience. Please keep it up. ”



“Dr. Preeti Goyal, IAS

District Magistrate
Darjeeling
16.06.2024

Wonderful experiences. Healthy animals. Enjoyed a lot. Thanks. ”



“Shri Niraj Singhal, IFS

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Head of Forest Force
18.06.2024

Bengal Safari is one of the success stories of Forest Department in recent times. The way it has come up & made a reputation of itself within a decades of its existence, it speaks highly of the forest officials, zoo keepers, veterinary doctors and other staff who have worked very hard with a lot of dedication.

Very well done, indeed!! Keep it up!!! ”

Glimpses of our animals

