



Press Note



Translocation of Wild herbivores from Gir Protected Area to Barda Wildlife Sanctuary

Wild herbivores, especially large ungulates, play a crucial role in terrestrial ecosystems. They perform essential ecological functions by maintaining ecosystem structure and functionality through nutrient cycling, soil structuring, and ecological succession. Additionally, they serve as a significant prey base for large carnivores, aiding in the density-dependent population control of both prey and predators. A healthy population of large predators depends on a robust population of herbivores within the ecosystem.

The Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, spanning 192.31 sq. km in the Porbandar Forest Division of Gujarat, is a vital habitat for the natural dispersal of Asiatic lions. The climatic conditions and vegetation composition of Barda closely resemble many parts of the Gir forests, making it a potential home for Asiatic lions. Historically, Barda was known for its population of Asiatic lions until 1879. In January 2023, a male Asiatic lion naturally recolonized Barda Wildlife Sanctuary after around 143 years.

From a long-term conservation and management perspective, any area facilitating the natural dispersal of large carnivores must sustain a sufficient prey base population. The Gujarat Forest Department estimated the wild prey base of Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in 2022 and found the presence of wild prey base. However, there is low population of spotted deer and sambar, which are important components of the lions' diet.

Therefore, Gujarat Forest Department has undertaken an initiative to augment the existing wild prey base by translocating spotted deer and sambar from the Gir Protected Area to Barda Wildlife Sanctuary.



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The Gujarat Forest Department is employing the Boma technique to capture wild herbivores. Renowned for being one of the safest methods, the Boma technique significantly reduces anxiety and shock during the capture process. This approach has been successfully used for translocating various wild animals in country.

The captured individuals are transported in specially modified vehicle designed for their comfort and safety. This vehicle is equipped with CCTV cameras to monitor the animals during their journey to Barda Wildlife Sanctuary. Additionally, the transportation vehicle features a fogger system to maintain a temperature inside, ensuring the animals remain calm and comfortable throughout the trip.

So far, 23 spotted deer have been successfully captured and released at Barda Wildlife Sanctuary. This initiative will boost the population of spotted deer in the second home of Asiatic Lions in the Gujarat State which will help in the long-term conservation of Asiatic lions and other large predators in Barda Wildlife Sanctuary.

The entire exercise was carried out under direction and guidance of Shri Nityanand Srivastava, PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Gujarat State, Mrs. Aradhana Sahu, CCF, Wildlife Circle Junagadh and supervision of Dr. Mohan Ram, DCF, Wildlife Division, Sasan-Gir and Mr. Lokesh Bharadwaj, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Porbandar Forest Division, Porbandar. The dedicated teams including Range Forest Officers, Foresters, expert wildlife veterinarians, livestock inspector, scientific assistant, the rescue and rehabilitation team, and other staff, worked tirelessly to establish the Boma, capture, and transport the herbivores. The scientific documentation of this endeavour is being conducted by staff involved in scientific work at the Wildlife Division, Sasan-Gir.

Aradhana Sahu (IFS)

Chief Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife Circle, Junagadh.



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