

Lahore Zoo Quarterly News Letter

News Letter



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THRIVING FOR THE EXCELLENCE FOR EX-SITU CONSERVATION WITH SUSTAINABILITY PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

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Zoo Education and Awareness Program

LAHORE ZOO HISTORY

Established in 1872, the Lahore Zoo is one of the oldest zoos in the world. It started as a small aviary that was donated by Lala Mela Ram. Gradually it developed and its animal collection increased. Presently, Lahore Zoo houses about 1308 animals of 428 species including 982 birds, 42 reptiles and 316 mammals. It remained under the management of Lahore Municipal Corporation from 1872 to 1923. Thereafter, its control was given to Deputy Commissioner, Lahore until 1962. Then its management was placed under the Livestock and Dairy Development Department. Finally the management of Lahore Zoo was entrusted to the Wildlife & Parks Department in 1982. It is a self-reliant and semi autonomous body. It is located in the heart of the city and is easily accessible to the people belonging to all walks of life.

Lahore Zoo can boast of a collage of old and young trees; 4500 trees of 100 species make the environment worth living and visiting; a complete ecosystem including 60 wild birds and 70 species of small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and the invertebrates; unique in Lahore.

Annually 3 million visitors including students of schools, colleges and universities visit this recreational and educational place, which is matchless with any other park and zoos in Pakistan. There is one day record of 73100 visitors on 14th August, 2001. Zoo provides research facilities to college/universities students in Pakistan and Foreign Organizations.

Lahore Zoo focuses on conservation of endangered species through its captive breeding programmes and public education. Zoo has been very successful in achieving both of these Targets; along with the breeding of many endangered exotic animals. The Zoo has bred rare and endangered local species like Chinkara (Axis axis), Punjab Urail (Ovisvaginepunjabiensis), Hog deer (Axis

porcinus), Nilgai (Boselaphustragocamelus) and Asiatic wolf (Canis lupus), transferred many animals/birds to other Zoos/ Wildlife facilities throughout the Pakistan.

A project Master Plan for Development & Improvement of Lahore Zoo of cost Rs. 202.828 was started in 2005-2006. This project includes re-modeling of existing facilities and construction of new facilities for adding values to zoo visit.



LAHORE ZOO SAFARI EXTENSION OF LAHORE ZOO

Lahore Zoological Gardens since its existence is conserving wildlife and educating the masses with the passage of time its animal collection goes on increasing and visitor statistics as well. Being located in the heart of city of Lahore, Lahore Zoo management is trying to bring the zoo at par with international zoos community. For this purpose it is very necessary to extend its boundaries, animal collection, conservation strategies, and its education awareness programs.

In the light of above considerations, on 21st, January, 2009 Lahore Wildlife Park was re-

designated as Lahore Zoo Safari and its management was given under the control of Zoo Maintenance Committee (Z.M.C) headed by the Chairman/Director General, wildlife & Parks, Punjab.

INAUGURATION OF LAHORE ZOO SNAKE HOUSE



The snake house of Lahore Zoo was inaugurated by the special students from Government Special Education Centre and Government Slow Learner School, Ravi Road along with Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana Secretary, Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries and Dr. Zafar Nasrullah Director General, Wildlife and Parks Punjab. The Special students felt very happy and enjoyed the event. Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana Secretary, Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries distributed zoo educational material among the students as token of love. This occasion left everlasting memories on the mind of students. The new snake house consists of nine displaying cages in which poisonous and non-poisonous snakes including Saw Scaled Viper, Russell's viper, Brown Cobra, Spectacled Cobra, Krait, Sand Boa, Rat Snake, water snake and Sand Boa. The Zoo Habitat Development Team tried their level best to provide the snakes a habitat close to their natural environment conditions. This snake house is not only source of recreation but also provides ample opportunities for research and education as well. People from all walks of life visit zoo to see this snake house.

CELEBRATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED) 5TH JUNE, 2010 AT LAHORE ZOO



Conservation education is the process of influencing people's attitudes, emotions, knowledge, and behaviors about wildlife. The conservation Education is the vision of Lahore Zoo. Lahore Zoo Celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June, 2010. The theme for the World Environment Day (WED) 2010 was "Many Species, One Planet, One Future". Lahore Zoo Management has planned to plant 3000 trees within the premises of Lahore Zoo out of which 1000 have already been planted till date. Similarly, a lecture was also arranged on this occasion on "conservation of Bats" by Professor Muhammad Mahmood-ul-Hasan, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore. Mr. Syed Shahid Ali, CEO Treat Industries was the Chief Guest of this event, Mr. Rizwan Mahboob, Additional Secretary Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Mr. Abudl Qadeer Mehal, Director Wildlife and Parks were the distinguished guests of this event.

School students from Children library Complex, students of Environmental Sciences from Kinnaird College and student of Wildlife and Ecology, University of Animal & Veterinary Sciences, Lahore participated in this event. Educational material i.e. small information books on Bats of South East Asia in Urdu and Kids animal coloring book also were also distributed amongst the students.

The aim of these celebrations was to create awareness and love for wildlife among masses and kids as future conservationists. Print and Electronic media gave live coverage to this event.

ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES IN ZOO EXHIBITS AND REPTILE SEXING



Lahore Zoo Management has always emphasized on the capacity building of zoo officers and officials. Lahore Zoo arranged a “One Day Workshop on Diagnostic Techniques in Zoo Exhibits and Reptile Sexing” on Sunday 1st August, 2010. Dr. I. H. Kathio from Pittston Animal Hospital, Pennsylvania, USA delivered a very informative lecture on diagnostic techniques used in disease detection and surgical cases in zoo exhibits. It was one of the best workshops ever organized in Pakistan with practical demonstration. Veterinarians and Zoologists from different zoos and wildlife parks of Punjab participated in this workshop and learned different techniques with latest instrument.

Practical sessions were also held on sampling and sexing in reptiles. In the concluding session, Director General Wildlife and Parks Punjab/ Chairman Z.M.C appreciated the efforts made by Zoo management in capacity building. Similarly, special thanks were also given to Dr. I.H.Kathio on delivering such an informative lecture and hands on training to the participant and advice regarding

implementation of latest diagnostic techniques and sexing in reptiles. Director General Wildlife and Parks Punjab/ Chairman Z.M.C also expressed gratitude to Dr. I.H.Kathio for providing special formula milk for white tiger cub on one telephone call by Zoo management.

In the end of workshop certificates were distributed among the participants by Chairman Z.M.C. Dr. I. H. Kathio greatly admired Lahore Zoo management, and appreciated the health conditions of animals.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN “SAY NO TO PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS AT LAHORE ZOO”



Lahore Zoo is one of the oldest zoos of Asia and first zoo of Pakistan, working for animal welfare and public awareness since its inception. Zoo Management always arranges different animal based activities through its

Zoo Education & Awareness Programme to develop a close link among the visitors and zoo exhibits. The Zoo Management recently arranged an event to raise awareness in masses by a campaign "SAY NO TO PLASTIC BAGS" on world animal day for providing better living environment to zoo inhabitants. Plastic Shopping bag is an environmental plaque with an average use for 5 minutes but 1000 years for recycling.

The World Animal Day is celebrated all over the world for animal love and welfare. During this year, Lahore Zoo Management decided to use the occasion to make Lahore zoo plastic shopping bags free and environment friendly zoo. Zoo management took many steps for its practical implementation including exchange of visitors' plastic bag with paper bag and arrangement of daily student talks regarding the lethal effect of its use by Zoo Education Officers.

The Chief Guest of the event was Dr. Muhammad Afzal Ch. Former Chief Conservator Forest, Senior member Z.M.C. Principals, teachers and 500 students from different school also participated in the event. The students from Governor House School staged a skit on "say no to plastic bags". The Students of Government Girls High School, Governor House played ceremonial guard of honour for SUZI, the elephant.



The use of plastic bags in Lahore zoo has since been completely banned. Similarly, use

of plastic bags has also been prohibited in the Jungle café of Lahore zoo. The students enjoyed the event by taking the message to keep their surroundings neat and clean. Spreading this message can help eradicate one of the most lethal pollutants and danger to animal as well as human life and health.

FRIENDS OF ZOO



Hashir Hisham
Adopted Chinkara Fawn



Ameera
Adopted Ring Necked Parakeet



Master Danielle Titus Bhatti
Adopted Spotted Deer Fawn



Master Elisha Titus Bhatti
Adopted Urial Fawn

INBREEDING CHALLENGES IN BIG CATS AT LAHORE ZOO

Rozi the Bengal tigress gave birth to four brown cubs in April 2009 at Lahore Zoo Safari. The father of these cubs was brown Bengal tiger shifted from Bahawalpur Zoo which was also of same blood line of the tigress. These cubs were born normal and healthy. The cubs survived until one cub had paraplegia of hind quarters at the age of 3.5 months. The other cubs had developed deformity in fore limbs. All the four cubs died one after the other. In the year 2008 this same tigress crossed again with another brown tiger male of same blood line and gave birth to five deformed cubs. Two cubs were born alive and three were born deformed without skull bones. The live cubs died on the same day after few hours. The same Bengal tigress, suffering from inbreeding disaster, again delivered premature cubs on 29.10.10. Her latest pregnancy was under critical observation but unfortunately she delivered premature cubs (One dead and two alive) despite all management efforts. The live cubs were unable to start suckling as their mouth muscles were not fully developed. The live cubs expired on 30th October, 2010. The tigress is now being kept separate until the arrival of new male of different blood line.

The brief history of blood line of tigers at Lahore Zoo is that three tigers were imported in year 1971 and 1975 which died. Only one female (Mary) survived for around fourteen years of age. In 1982 another pair of tigers was imported. In year 1984 another pair was imported. These tigers bred but very few cubs survived. In year 1992 white Bengal tigress (Bush) was brought from Karachi. These tigers bred and their offspring were shifted to other parks and zoos. In year 1997 there was outbreak of trypanosomiasis disease resulting in severe damage to tiger population in Lahore Zoo.



At Present Lahore Zoo is having one white male tiger (Sam) and one Brown tigress (Rozi). Two white tigresses (Jati & Mohni) were imported to solve the inbreeding issue. But genetics of these animals is still unknown. All tigers at zoos and parks of Punjab need to be checked for strong genetic traits so that a healthy population could be ensured.



COLLECTION OF THE CHIEF MINISTER, PUNJAB FLOOD RELIEF / REHABILITATION FUND



Lahore Zoo Management arranged a campaign for collection of Chief Minister, Punjab Flood Relief / Rehabilitation Fund. The Elephant Suzi is the Flagship animal of the Lahore Zoo since its arrival in 1988 at the age of 5 years. She spent 28 years of her life by making the visit of visitors memorable from all over the Pakistan. Elephant (SUZI) also participated in this campaign to generate funds for the effected Wildlife of the region. Her efforts for generation of Funds can never be ignored in history. The total fund generated through this campaign is Rs. 5, 01,827/-.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ZOO KEEPERS

In this era of modernization of Zoos the keepers are the key players in animal management. Gone are the days when all needed to be a keeper was a love for animals, a shovel and a strong back. Now keepers are expected to know animal husbandry, nutrition, operant conditioning, enrichment and conservation. To bring Lahore Zoo at par with International Community a Training module was designed for the capacity building of Zoo keepers at local level. This module includes Daily Data collection, Animal Enrichments, Animal

Husbandry, Feeding Plan, Animal Handling & Transportation, up keeping of Hygienic condition at Zoo, Solid Waste Management and Public Awareness. The locally available experts were invited including Mr. Abdul Qadeer Mehal, Director Wildlife & Parks Punjab, Dr. Riffat Salman , an eminent wildlife veterinarian, Ms. Uzma Khan, Director Conservation WWF-Pakistan and Zoo Staff including, Director, Deputy Director, Education Officer and Veterinary Officers. Many training lectures in this regards have been conducted. The keepers will also be given the completion certificates at the end of training. This will help the zoo management to better look after the endangered animal under their care.



ACHIEVEMENTS

At the eve of 2010 Eid-ul-Fitter Lahore Zoo has generated the record income of Rs.2076670/- with the difference of Rs. 240100/- as compare to last year. The total visitors who had visited the zoo are 169426 with the difference of 18804. This is a record in the history of Lahore Zoo as per previous history. It is the result of hard working of zoo management.



The civilizations have come and gone but this more than four centuries old Banyan tree (*Ficus bangalensis*) had stood test of times at Lahore Zoo. It had not only been providing shade for human beings but has been a continuous source of shelter to different birds' species for hundreds of years.



LAHORE ZOO EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Wildlife Education is Our Tool for Conservation

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