



Wild Animals in Yerevan Zoo

On October 27th one of the most colourful events of SunChild 4th International Environmental Festival took place – the Animal Carnival Parade. The streets of Yerevan were for the fourth time conquered by wildlife: Bears, fishes, snakes, bugs, leopards and hedgehogs were roaming freely from Matenataran down to Northern Avenue. The huge Animal Carnival Parade was headed by six impressive lions – the Samba band Confusao from Bremen in Germany. During the colourful march Confusao's Samba rhythms mixed with traditional Armenian drums and the songs of marching brass bands. The fanciful animal costumes worn by the 500 children and youth participating in the parade are hand-made from waste materials demonstrating that most of the products people throw away can be recycled and have a second life. The best costume groups as well as the best music bands will be honoured with awards in December.

The Animal Carnival Parade which is organized annually by the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) in cooperation with VivaCell-MTS has a very serious background: In Armenia many rare animal species are endangered or even nearly extinct. Among these animals are Bezoar Goats, Armenian Mufflons, Armenian Tortoises, Caucasian leopard and many more. All these species – some are endemic to Armenia – are suffering from the destruction of their habitat, poaching and other destructive human impacts. The Animal Carnival is a creative approach to raise public awareness for the serious problem of biodiversity loss in Armenia.



The young participants of the Animal Carnival Parade come each year from all regions of Armenia – this year all in all 500 children and youths from Urtsadzor, Alaverdi, Garni, Akhtala, Yerevan, Noratus, Vedi, Berdavan and Dilijan joined the parade. Together they raised a loud voice for animal rights and animal protection – a voice which should be heard by those who are in charge to improve the conditions for wildlife protection!

As in previous years this year as well Yerevan Zoo had its unique part in the whole event. The members of the leading group of the Animal Carnival Parade, "Confusao" Samba band continued the carnival concert with a nice concert at Yerevan Zoo. Dressed up with colorful lion costumes the band lit up Zoo's Sunday visitors with samba music, and especially for the kids they created unforgettable memories of music and colors.

The Pumpkin Day in Yerevan Zoo



On November 16th Yerevan Zoo was full of kids who came to participate in the Pumpkin Day Contest.

Over 15 groups of children from different schools took part in the contest. Yerevan Zoo provided pumpkins for each group and they were supposed to decorate them with fruits and vegetables. As a final result each group created a special dish for their favorite animal. Arthur Sarukhanyan from Aghasi Khanjyan School No 53 said: "Me and my sister made a rabbit for the zebra, because we adore zebras."

The deputy director of School No 75 Marieta Mkhitarian joined the contest with a group of pupils: "When we got the invitation we were very happy, as our children have a great chance to get acquainted to animals. We are making a very delicious and beautiful dish for llama and we've brought vegetables for our favorite animal llama."



The jury members were the director of QSI Intonation school Carol Hoffman, Nune Sarukhanyan, Head of Green Lane NGO and Jenny Spencer, who is a reptile-specialist at Artis Royal Zoo.

All jury members agreed, that it was very challenging for them to chose the best group. The children were competing in 3 different categories:

- Best Innovative Solution
- Best Idea
- Animal's Favorite Dish

Jury members agreed to place the group of Siamonato School No 162 1st as a winner. The group was award with a bicycle. The second place was taken by Grimyan Hayrik School No 10 and the 3rd place was given to Hovhannes Hovhannisyan School No 52.

Besides the mentioned prizes, all participants received the Zoo kid's magazines and a Certificate of Participation for the Pumpkin Contest.

November has been a very active month for Yerevan Zoo



During past month Yerevan Zoo has been honored to host two professionals. First, Lukasz Sulowski, the director of Zamosz Zoo, and later Jenny Spencer from Artis Royal Zoo of Netherlands had a visit to the Zoo. As many guests before both of them very much admired the scenic beauty of Yerevan Zoo.

In his opinion there are many opportunities to broaden and develop Yerevan Zoo. Lukasz also was impressed when he saw the current hyena enclosure and the animal's small cage where it had to live in the past: "Now when you compare the new naturally designed hyena enclosure with the 5 square meter cage of the past, you can see an enormous progress."

The guest from Poland marveled in particular at the Mouflon enclosure. In his opinion their living conditions match the standards of Europe's best zoos. Of course Lukasz also was very aware of the shortcomings in Yerevan Zoo. Regarding this he underlined that for example the living conditions for the lions at Yerevan Zoo aren't corresponding to European standards and need urgently to be improved.

According to Lukasz a new lion enclosure should have two parts so that the animals can live in separate groups which will be more in line with their natural behavioral habits. In the wild bigger lion prides split up into smaller family units.

Lukasz emphasized that for sure there will be future collaboration between Yerevan Zoo and Zamosz Zoo. He already discussed a bunch of joint projects with Yerevan Zoo Director Ruben Khachatryan.

In contrary to Lukasz Sulowski, during her stay at Yerevan Zoo, Jenny Spencer had another mission. Jenny was here to research the problems of the Zoo, as well as to assist the zoo staff and give professional consultancy. For 10 years, Jenny worked in Bristol Zoo, where she got specialized in reptiles. Nowadays, she lives in Netherlands and corporates with Artis Royal Zoo, which mentors Yerevan Zoo in the process of becoming an EAZA member.

During her stay the reptile specialist has researched the behavior and diet of animals. Her vision for Yerevan Zoo is to have a modern subtropical reptile house with an artificial waterfall and enclosures designed like natural habitats. Jenny also was impressed by the Bearded vultures and sees a big potential to breed this rare species in Yerevan Zoo. Additionally, she thinks that the Animal Adoption program is a great initiative as by adopting an animal, people develop a feeling of ownership and responsibility towards the zoo.



Yerevan Zoo is open for visitors during winter time



From December 1st Yerevan Zoo will shift to winter working hours. As in previous years, this year as well Yerevan Zoo will be opened for visitors, but will slightly change the working hours during the winter time.

From December 1st Yerevan Zoo will work from 10:00 am to 18:00 pm. (the ticket box is open from 10:00 am. to 17:30 pm.) On festive days and on weekends from 10 am. to 18:30 pm. (the ticket box is open from 10:00 am. to 18:00pm.)

It should be noted that Yerevan Zoo started to get prepared for winter from August. During the preparatory process for winter the important issues and problems of Zoo departments were examined, accordingly the gas system for heating has been broaden.

The heating system for the Zoo has been implemented since 2011 with the support and investments of Yerevan Municipality and FPWC (Foundation for the Preservation of wildlife and Cultural Assets).

