

## Kabul Zoo Activities Report and Opening Ceremony of ECO Project

### Aziz Gul Saqib, Director, Kabul Zoo

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) funded 1.3 million USD in 2007 for reconstruction of important parts of Kabul zoo as listed below. Now, 80% of works that were in agreement have been completed and another twenty percent are in progress.

1. Main building including administrative offices, conference room, education center and restaurant,
2. Clinic building,
3. Stone wall along the river with security walls,
4. Some pathways,
5. Lighting system,
6. Water system,
7. Expansion of zoo to Artel Bridge & coffee shop with two canteens.

A gala opening ceremony was conducted on 15 September from 9:00 to 12:00am in the Conference Room of Kabul Zoo. The writer, Director, Kabul Zoo, welcomed guests and delivered a brief speech about important and new improvements of Kabul zoo. He also thanked ECO and other international friends for supporting Kabul Zoo.

The Kabul Mayor, Mr. Nawandish delivered a presentation on the next master plan of Kabul Zoo and thanked ECO for their donation and help they have given the zoo.

The Deputy Director of ECO, Mr. Abolghasem Tahmasebi spoke about the important of donation as well. Prince Mustafa Zahir, General Director of the National Environmental Protection Agency, NEPA and Mr. Shahidy, Deputy Minister of Commerce related the new improvements of Kabul zoo with congratulations and praise for the Kabul Zoo staff for their struggles. The Deputy Director of ECO presented a Certificate of Appreciation letter to Mr. Aziz and his loyal staff for their implementation of the ECO projects.

After speeches, the ribbon of flowers was cut by all high-ranking officials followed by a tour of the zoo's new enclosures made by the Municipality of Kabul. Finally, Kabul Mayor and Zoo Director held a brief press conference with media friends.



**Kabul Mayor, Mr. Nawandish thanking ECO for the donation and help they have given the zoo. (Photo by Kabul Zoo)**



**Deputy Director of ECO presented a Certificate of Appreciation letter to Director, Kabul Zoo and his loyal staff for their implementation of the ECO projects.**



**Above: Cutting the ribbon in presence of all high-ranking officials and visitors.**



**Right: Cutting the cake celebrating the event.**



Now our administration offices are in the new building with a good conference room and education center. The visitors seem very happy about the new pathways, new buildings, green parks, flowers and benches in the park. Now we are working hard to achieve expansion of the zoo according to the master plan of Kabul city.

This year Kabul zoo has acquired some famous animals of Afghanistan like two hump camels and yaks. In the first six months of the year 337,631 visited the zoo.



After formalities officials were led on a tour of the zoo's new enclosures made by the Municipality of Kabul. (Photo Kabul Zoo)

## Thanks to AArk (Amphibian Ark) CBSG and WAZA for ZOO's amphibian conservation education materials for Wildlife Week

Zoo Outreach Organisation revised and updated its amphibian packets in striking colour with the title "Frogs are part of Biodiversity-Frogs need Forests". Three thousand educational packets and posters were printed with support from Amphibian Ark and its host, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, CBSG.

The packets contain a booklet, mask placard, sticker, rakhi and poster promoting Amphibian Ark. The poster includes an amphibian family found in South Asia. These materials were supplied during India's wildlife week celebration which has been celebrated for the past 56 years from 1-7 October. This year we highlighted many conservation campaigns current around the world, e.g., . There are three major campaigns, International Year of Forests (2011), Year of the Bat (2011-2012), and the UN Decade on Biodiversity (2011-2020).

ZOO received 71 requests for the amphibian education materials from all over India from 30 foresters, 13 NGO's, 11 zoos, 11 schools and 1 museum. All conducted programmes at a variety of venues and age groups of visitors or students, and many sent reports. Not only kids but also college aged students and adults also showed much interest.

