



National Trust for Nature Conservation

# Newsletter

Central Zoo

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## NEWSLINE



Ostrich enjoying their new home

### Companion for the resident Ostrich

The Zoo resident Ostrich has found a new companion, a pair of Ostrich both aged 4 month was brought to the Zoo from Rupendehi, Nepal on October, 2013. The resident Ostrich has settled with the new pair and is enjoying her new companion.

Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) is flightless birds native to Africa. It is distinctive in its appearance, with a long neck and legs, and can run at up to about 70km/h (43mph), the fastest land speed of any bird and lays the largest eggs of any living bird. The ostrich's diet consists mainly of plant matter, though it also eats invertebrates. It lives in nomadic groups of 5 to 50 birds. When threatened, the ostrich will either hide itself by lying flat against the ground, or run away. If cornered, it can attack with a kick of its powerful legs. Mating patterns differ by geographical region, but territorial males fight for a harem of two to seven females. The ostrich is farmed around the world, particularly for its feathers, which are decorative and are also used as feather dusters.

### Four Horned Antelope

The two male Four horned antelope rescued by the Banke National park was brought to the Zoo in July 2013 . Both of them are tentatively 6 and two month of age and are good in health.

The four-horned antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*), or chousingha, is a smallest antelope standing only 55 to 64cm (22 to 25in) at the shoulder. The most distinctive feature of the animal is the presence of four horns; a feature unique among extant mammals. Only the males grow horns, usually with two between the ears and a second pair further forward on the forehead. The first pair of horns appears at just a few months of age, and the second pair generally grows after 10 to 14 months. The horns are never shed, although they may be damaged during fights. Four-horned antelope are generally solitary animals, although they are occasionally found in groups of up to four individuals.



Four Horned Antelope

"Plastic bag is banned inside the Central Zoo"

## CONSERVATION EDUCATION

### Global Tiger Day

Global tiger Day was celebrated on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2013. Central Zoo conducted various program for FOZ members and visitors by holding the talk program on tiger .Information about tiger, its habitat and conservation efforts was delivered to the participating students. Students expressed their views on Tiger by undergoing the coloring, drawing and preparing tiger masks.



Participants taking the information

### Signature Campaign on International Vulture Awareness Day



Signature Campaign to Save the Vultures

International Vulture Awareness Day was celebrated on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 to create awareness on vanishing vultures. To mark the occasion various programs were organized for the visitors and FOZ members'. More than 150 FOZ members from different schools participated in the program like signature campaign, talk program and coloring activities. FOZ members along with the visitors participated in the signature campaign which was displayed for the few days in front of the vulture enclosure.

### FOZ Club meeting



FOZ member demonstrating the club activities

FOZ club meeting was organized in The Excelsior school on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2013, which has won the best club for the year 2012. The meeting was attended by the 37 representatives of 21 different schools. FOZ club members briefed and shared experiences on the activities done by their FOZ Club in school. Similarly, The Excelsior School performed a demonstration of the work done by their FOZ Eco club in school which reflected that a small effort gave a fruitful result. NTNC-Central Zoo would like to thank the management of the Excelsior School for holding the program in the school. Thanks go to Himalayan International Ideal School for the transportation support.

### Animal Feeding Program



Miss Nepal Earth and FOZ members taking the briefing about animal feed

Animal feeding program has been opened for the FOZ members from July 16, 2013. This is one of the most popular and highly appreciated educational programs of the Zoo. During the program FOZ students themselves prepare food for the captive animals according to the dietary requirement and feed the animal which gave them the first hand experience. A total of 1300 FOZ students of 20 different schools have already participated in the feeding program till date. Ms Rojisa K.C, Miss Nepal Earth -2013 and IUCN representatives along with FOZ members also participated in the program & enhanced her knowledge about feeding behaviour of captive animals foodstuff.

## ANIMAL MANAGEMENT



Denver Zoo Delegates

### Visit of Zoo Keepers of Denver Zoo, Colorado, USA

A team of 16 Zoo Keepers of Denver Zoo, Colorado, USA visited the Central Zoo the team was led by Mr. Dave Johnson. Mr. Johnson is a pachyderm zookeeper in Denver, Colorado, USA. On the occasion Mr. Johnson introduced his book **Narayani the unicorn of Nepal 'A Rhino tale'**. The representatives from the team gave the presentation on various aspects of animal food and structural enrichment. Later they visited the Zoo and gave their inputs on food enrichment for the Central Zoo animals.

### Wildlife Capture and Handling training



Vet technician demonstrating how to handle the animal during treatment

The training was organized for Wildlife technician of Central Zoo and different National parks on September 2013. Altogether 25 participants participated in the training. The topic discussed were wildlife disease, bird flu. The experts shared their opinion on Zoonotic, foot and mouth disease. The practical session on chemical and drugs handling in wildlife capture were delivered to the participants.

### Rescued Animal



Bire in his new home

Rescued Rhinoceros calf name 'Bire' has found its new home at the Central Zoo. Bire was rescued by the Chitwan National park after he was found wounded hit by the wild Tiger. Bire is now enjoying his new resident and has partially recovered from his wound.

### Training for Zoo keepers

The three Zoo keeper namely Mr. Chiri Maharjan, Mr. Dendendra Rajbansi and Ms Asha Khatri working in the different animal section of the Zoo attended the training on Management of wild animals in captivity with special reference to enrichment of animal enclosures" held in Kanpur Zoological Park, Kanpur, U.P, India from September 1- 15, 2013. The training was very fruitful to the staff which gave insight on the animal husbandry and enrichment the keepers enjoyed the training and got chance to learn and explore the new Zoo also.

NTNC-Central Zoo would like to thank the organizers and the Central Zoo Authority, Delhi, India for providing this opportunity to the Nepal Zoo.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Free Eye Clinic and Eye Donation Awareness Program

As many as 90 Central Zoo Staff received free eye check-up service in a camp conducted at NTNC-Central Zoo, Jawalakhel on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2013. Specialist doctors from the Tilganga Eye Hospital had provided free eye check-up services and medicine to the staff.

Brief introduction on the eye donation program was conducted. They also provided eye donation willingness forms to all the staff. According to the specialists from Tilganga Eye hospital, in 2011, 163 corneas were collected for surgery at Tilganga's eye bank, of which 150 were used for transplantation at Tilganga, 6 were donated to Bhutan, and 7 were distributed to other hospitals in Nepal. The eye clinic program was very fruitful for all the staff.



Staff undergoing eye check-up

"Plastic bag is banned inside the Central Zoo"

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## CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

### Kidney Check-up Camp



Participant with the medical staff

National Trust for Nature Conservation-Central Zoo in collaboration with National Kidney Centre organized a kidney check-up camp on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2013. Altogether 119 NTNC and Zoo staff received the free kidney check-up. Dr. Rishi Kumar Kafle gave emphasis on the regular checkup for kidney.

### INFRASTRUCTURE



Langur in their new home



Newly constructed Aviary

### Added attraction - Helicopter



Visitor enjoying the ride

Helicopter ride has been added to the children park, the ride which has sound similar to the Helicopter has become a fun and amusement among the visitors specially children.



Name: Preety Shrestha  
Class: 9  
St. Xavier's School  
Jawalakhel  
FOZ Card no. I 2009

### My Experience As an FOZ member

Four years ago, I was introduced to FOZ (Friends Of Zoo) at my school. The teachers asked if I'd like to be a part of it. My reaction, "Yes, of course!". FOZ is a Conservation education program of the Central Zoo of Nepal, focusing on environment conservation and animal welfare. I being a nature lover myself couldn't hold back the joy in being a part of it.

Being an FOZ member has many advantages. First of all, we learn about various environment and wildlife concerned issues. Second, we get to participate in various events and programs conducted by the Zoo. Third, various competitions help us discover more as well as nurture our talents.

A little fact; *I guess we all have that tree-hugger self in all of us.* Just that we go by other's decision; either to let it out or keep it in ourselves and do what others do. We all know our responsibility towards nature. We have to do what we can. Being an FOZ member has helped me do that. Even though, of course I don't do huge tasks to help raise awareness of the environment, I guess, as the saying goes; "Little things matter in life." I believe that the events conducted by FOZ have helped immensely in the overall development of students from different schools.

It is, certainly a huge opportunity that we get once in a blue moon to actually BE a part of something as efficient as this.

Heartfelt gratitude to the Central Zoo, the FOZ coordinators, and various teachers concerned with FOZ for continuing their effort in keeping up the nature-loving spirit in all of us. Of course, how could I forget the FOZ members of different schools who have stood up to help contribute in the sole objective of the FOZ group. Cheers to all!

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Notice: \*The Zoo opening hours are  
10 A.M. to 5 P.M. (Summer) 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. (Winter)

