

Good practices in Hungary

40/2020

Title: Sustainable Zoo

Owner: Budapest Zoo

Contact: <http://tudatosvasarlo.hu/cikk/szamuztek-pet-palackokat-budapesti-allatkert-bufeibol>,
<https://zoobudapest.com/segits-segitunk/termeszetvedelmi-projektek>

Good practice for: Recycling campaign, reduce waste, awareness raising, dissemination, sustainability, educational

Description: In the days of climate change, pollution and many more concerning factors are threatening animal and plant species all around the World. In this situation, zoos and aquariums are playing an important role in protecting nature. Zoos was created for more than just entertainment purposes. They have a great deal of knowledge and, thanks to their global network, play a major role in promoting cooperation in nature conservation.

Budapest Zoo, is beautiful spot located in the heart of Budapest, surrounded by a park. It uses natural thermal water for heating of its facilities for a long while and in 2018 they banned single-use plastic bottles in the area of the zoo. Budapest Zoo involved in many international projects for many years, they implemented several Life + projects in previous years. The management of the Budapest Zoo also made a very positive step towards a greener Zoo. Recognizing the environmental impact of single use plastic, Budapest Zoo decided to ban the usage of disposable bottles in the Zoo, in the August of 2018. They ban the sale of PET bottled drinks in buffets and restaurants of the Zoo. Thirsty visitors are encouraged to use their own water bottles, that they can fill up from taps placed around the area of the Zoo.

To enforce this decision the management ensured that contracts with restaurants, buffets located in the rather large field of Zoo, prohibit the sale of any disposable bottle. The aim of this decision is clearly to reduce the amount of plastic waste. Although the primary goal is to reduce the amount of waste created in the Zoo, a change of attitude is also important, so they take measures to display several informative materials, educational descriptions now can be found on the topic of plastic pollution and waste management all around the Zoo. The Zoo is visited by thousands of families every year, from all part of Hungary. Citizens with different backgrounds and from all age groups are encouraged to reduce the usage of single use plastic items, as well as being informed on the dangerous effect of plastic pollution. Raising awareness while being connected to the nature is a great opportunity to achieve an environmental conscious behaviour amongst citizens.