



CATCA EWS E-Newsletter

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CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society was founded one year ago as the new face of *Campaigns Against the Cruelty to Animals*, but more focused in wildlife conservation, protection, international lobbying, education and animal welfare.

WHAT WE DO:

- 1) SAVE YUPI CAMPAIGN (To re-locate a Polar bear suffering in Mexico).
- 2) We do formal investigations of the illegal e-commerce of protected wildlife, to raise awareness about the problem with the governments and classified web sites, to enforce and combat it.
- 3) High level lobbying for wild animals protection and conservation
- 4) We work for the last 27 years to end the ivory trade and poaching of elephants and rhinos.
- 5) We work and create awareness and education and lobby to protect sharks, lions, bears, rays, primates, whales and other endangered animals.

CATCA EWS is currently investigating the e-trade of elephant ivory with the Animal Conservation and Welfare Foundation (our sister NGO in Europe), in Latin American Countries, in a detailed way. The results will be used to continue to lobby with the governments of Latin America and the other continents, to do their own e-commerce investigations, to tackle the problem directly, as well with the classified websites that sell elephant ivory or elephant parts (or/and other illegal trade on protected animal species, to ban it, report it to their local authorities, and when necessary to notify to the Interpol too, for the cases when they find big amounts and unlimited illegal trade specimens).

Regarding Campaigns, the Save Yupi (a Polar bear in Mexico), is finally achieving some positive results, after been with Zoocheck Canada and my colleagues in Mexico, working for almost a decade on this issue. Few days ago, we finally got the letter of approval of the governor of the state of Michoacan, allowing the Polar Bear Team of experts to go to assess the welfare and husbandry of Yupi, and hopefully the main goal will be to get the zoo to allow them to formally assess Yupi medically. With the results we will be able to determine if she is healthy enough to travel to either the Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat in Canada or the YWP (Yorkshire Wildlife Park) in the UK. The YWP tried to negotiate directly with the Morelia Zoo, and as it has happened several times in the past, the Morelia Zoo totally ignored their calls, emails and letters. Until we don't have on our hands Yupi's medical assessment report, we can't move forward.

The zoo director as expected is against this, and since early summer, our colleagues in Michoacan and in Mexico City have been constantly meeting with the local and federal government to get this letter signed. If Yupi is healthy, then we will work to re-locate her. If not, at least to allow our colleagues and the Polar bear experts to improve her areas, and will try to improve the lives of the other animals at that zoo.

CATCA EWS since last year was trying to assist with the efforts to relocate Arturo, the male Polar bear at the Mendoza Zoo in Argentina. I offered to go if I could find some money for the long trip to help coordinate it as a formal campaign. Some Argentinean colleagues were considering to re-locate him to Canada, but due that Arturo never had a formal medical assessment, and that the NGO's and groups involved in Argentina had no experience about the complications of re-locating a Polar bear, things didn't work out as the zoo refused to cooperate with these colleagues.

We have been trying to get volunteers in Chile to get some more information and to monitor Taco the PB in Chile, but besides random reports of few words, we weren't able to create or get a group organized there to start an ongoing formal Save Taco campaign.

This year as CATCA EWS, I participated at the “Practical aspects of monitoring of trade of specimens of CITES species” workshop in Poland. The participation and trip expenses were covered by PTOP Salamandra.

As the World Animal Day Canadian Ambassador, CATCA EWS will be holding several awareness contests that will end in July 2015.

The contests are:

- 1) CATCA EWS pet photo contest with an educational message about pet protection.
- 2) Anti bullfighting drawing and message contest for tourists: “Bulls YES, bullfighters NO”, in support of our colleagues in Mexico same name cartoon contest.
- 3) Grizzly bear photo/drawing/painting with a pro-conservation message contest. The winner will get an almost \$400 CAD Grizzly bear tour from Aboriginal Tours in Campbell River, BC.

The winners of contest #1 and #2 will get their design printed as an educative postcard and will receive some too. They will also receive by mail some UNEP posters, CATCA buttons, CATCA stickers, CATCA educative materials, etc in a package. **Some of the famous judges that we will have will include Brigitte Bardot, Eduardo Rius and Elena Poniatowska!** For more info check here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/295374953981555/>

CATCA EWS ongoing Projects and Campaigns in 2015

Next year we hope to get some help to get reliable fundraisers, as in early 2016 I will need to get funds to participate at the CITES CoP, to deliver the reports of our current e-commerce investigation to help the issues concerning the African elephant protection, and to give to the member countries, to monitor their websites and to protect other endangered protected animals.

Regarding the World Animal Day, depending if we have funds or not, we may organize an event with the media, the winners, etc. If we don't have many funds available by then, it would be a social media event.

Other business

In average, we spend several hours daily just in social media, posting animal news, articles and updating our CATCA EWS website, and also posting in other animal groups (AW/AC).





CATCA

Environmental and Wildlife Society



We may be small and unable to afford big publicity, but we are effective in our animal work!
Support our volunteer work with a donation or get a cool present from our e-store:
www.catcahelpanimals.org/100.html Thank you for your support!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Best wishes,
Ericka Ceballos and the CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society team



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