MY ESC'S PERSONAL PROJECT

To Drasiagriazoi, a rehabilitation center of wild animals

To Sindos (Thesssaloniki, GREECE)

2023-2024

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SUMMARY

In the video, there is my presentation and the short animated movie

Introduction

The topic

I- Earth with all its riches

II- The differences between Humans and Animals **(Interview)**

III- Thinking about being a savior: the thought of Human

IV- Human behaviors: facing their culpability **(Interview)**

V – The best ways to respect and take care of wildlife **(Interview)**

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INTRODUCTION

I hope you enjoy this short, animated movie. I do not have a budget to do this, so I hope you understand the story that I would like to share.
Ask yourself, have you already lived in this situation? When you were a child perhaps? Me, I have already experienced it when I was a child. I lived in the countryside in my parents' house, we saw a bird on the floor in very bad shape, and we tried to give it some water. We put it in a shoebox with a towel, but it was not a success because it, unfortunately, died a few hours later.
So, with this short, animated movie, I would like to show you that humans now have some methods to « SAVE » the wildlife, the environment, the fauna and the flora of our EARTH. But, can we adapt? We can see that people often take initiative to take some action for wild animals, for plants, for trees, for the conservation of nature. They do this without the goal of searching for good behaviors, without being a specialist, but just with instinct and some pieces of knowledge that we can find on the Internet. It is the new behavior of people with the chance to have this opportunity. To have a fast answer with the help of the internet, but, on the other hand, this can be also dangerous…

Next, I would like this video to show you the diversity in our planet to display the differences between each living being compared to humans. After, I would like to explain to you the apparition of this human syndrome which would like to save the environment and the wildlife fauna and flora. Also, I would like to show the consequences, positives and negatives, of all the human behaviors face to his culpability and to finish with the best ways to take care of wildlife in general. More precisely, I want to discuss wildlife animals because, as I explained, you are the beginning. I am volunteering at a rehabilitation center for wildlife animals. I would like this video to shine a light on all the rehabilitation centers of wildlife animals that I know in each country. There are many but often we don't know of their existence. I also want this podcast/video to create awareness by giving information and prevention on this topic…

MY TOPIC

is

To create awareness of the fact that we are not saviors alone on this planet but saviors together, where we know and work in a team. The best way is to know when we are vulnerable to an action and when to delegate these actions to a qualified organization.

I- Earth with all its riches

I want to begin at the start. With the world's immense geographical spaces, the diversity of its environments, its climates, its mining and energy resources, its millions of animal and plant species, its populations with different lifestyles. The Earth presents through its diversity a prodigious mineral heritage, energetic, biological, and cultural aspects that man has learned to exploit. The rapid development of technologies has increased tenfold, and the means implemented for this exploitation.

Do you know what biodiversity means?
The word biodiversity is formed from the prefix "bio" which means "life" in Greek, and the term "diversity" which signifies variety.

Biodiversity refers to the living fabric of our planet. This notion covers the different forms of living species which populate the earth (animal species, plants, bacteria, micro-organisms, etc.) and the natural environments (forests, oceans, lakes, mountains, etc.) which constitute it, but it isn't limited to these. Biodiversity also refers to all the interactions existing between these organisms, and those between these organisms and their environment.

It was the American scientist and biologist, Edward Osborne Wilson who first established the use of this word in 1984. However, it was during the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 that the term "biodiversity" was truly popularized.

So, the Earth has a biodiversity that we manage to take care of, to respect even if there is consistent exploitation of these riches by humans. In each part of the earth, there are differences in the plants, animals, minerals, micro-organisms, and the environment in human cultures. So overall, this planet is composed of significant differences.

II- The differences between Human and Animal

Humans
Humans (Homo sapiens) are the most numerous and widely distributed primate species. They are distinguished by their bipedalism and large, complex brains. This has resulted in the

advancement of technology, culture, and language. Humans are highly social creatures who often live in complicated social systems made up of several cooperating and competing groups, ranging from families and kinship networks to political states. Human interactions have resulted in the development of a diversified collection of values, social conventions, and rituals that underpin human society. Curiosity and the human drive to comprehend and control the environment, as well as to explain and manage occurrences, have fueled the development of science, philosophy, mythology, religion, and many other fields of study.

Animals

Animals are eukaryotic multicellular creatures that belong to the kingdom Animalia. With rare exceptions, animals ingest organic matter, breathe oxygen, are capable of movement, can reproduce sexually, and undergo an ontogenetic stage during embryonic development during which their body is composed of a hollow sphere of cells called the blastula. Over 1.5 million extant animal species have been discovered and described — approximately 1 million of which are insects — however, it is estimated that there are over 7 million total animal species. Animals measure between 8.5 micrometers and 33.6 meters in length. They form huge food webs due to their intricate interactions with one another and with their surroundings. Zoology is the study of animals from a scientific perspective.

So you can see the differences in the table below and also can listen to the description of these differences that Sophia, the veterinarian at "Drasi" that we work with every day during our volunteering, is answering on this podcast:

TABLE + Interview

In conclusion for the table, you can see that humans all have the same physical composition in terms of the skeleton, muscles, tissues, organs, lymphatic and venous system, metabolism, and catabolism. A doctor can take care of all people, the only thing that will differentiate the medical care is the illness. If a person has a lung disease, they will go see a pulmonologist but any human suffering from a lung problem can be treated by a pulmonologist. Do you see what I mean... For animals this is not the case, all species are different, their composition and functioning are not the same. Each animal needs a different veterinarian specializing in their species. Can you see the complexity of taking care of animals? Even with this complexity, we want to save the WORLD, the environment, the wildlife animals without all of this knowledge…

HUMAN	ANIMAL
Humans are frequently referred to as 'Homo Sapiens.' This is the genus to which we belong.	On the other hand, animals are classified according to their species.
Human beings are omnivorous, which means that they can consume both vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals.	Carnivorous, herbivorous, or omnivorous animals exist. Carnivorous animals include lions and tigers. Herbivorous animals such as cows and lambs exist to survive on grass, but omnivorous species such as bears and cockroaches exist (survival on both vegetarian and non-vegetarian foods).
A human brain weighs 1.2 kg.	The size of the brain varies according to the animal's size. For example, a blue whale's brain weighs 6.90 kilograms, whereas an earthworm's brain measures 170-180 micrometers in diameter.
Humans can think about certain things and are motivated by their instincts, intellect, and logic.	Animals are incapable of reasoning and are simply motivated by their instincts.
Human beings are bipedal, which means that they walk on two legs.	Animals are quadrupedal, or four-legged. Except for aquatic creatures, birds and snakes, all animals walk on four legs.
Humans can communicate with one another because they have a special language to use. They have feelings and emotions. They have a short and long memory. They feel pain.	On the other hand, animals communicate with one another, but they do not have a common language. They are deficient in the expressive power of human language. They can have feelings like scared, sadness and excitation, empathy. There is some research which show this. Some animals have memory, a long one and a short one also, there are others who hadn't it. The animals feel pain also.
Humans have the ability to shape any environment to their liking.	Animals are powerless to alter their environment. As a result, they must adapt to their surroundings or perish.
Humans have a variety of techniques of surviving and subsisting.	Animals are entirely reliant on nature. As a result, they lack any alternative means of survival.

III- Thinking of being a savior, the thought of Human

During our century, we see that our mindset and our thinking are more on the path of wanting to improve our planet. We have become conscious of the worst actions that humans did in the past and continue to do. We note that even if the questions linked to the financial, economic, and social crisis that we are going through are preponderant, ecological questions, sustainable development and more particularly that of climate change remain issues. Major societal concerns. The fight against climate change constitutes one of the political priorities, in the French context as well as at the international level, despite the recurring difficulties encountered during international negotiations. The fight against the greenhouse effect is gradually taking hold in our daily lives, relayed by the media, awareness campaigns, and fueled by the occurrence in recent years, particularly in France, of meteorological events often attributed to climate change. The unexpected success of environmentalist political parties in Europe, notably that of Europe Écologie in France in the European elections of June 2009 and its good scores in the French regional elections of 2010, also shows the increase in citizens' environmental concerns. Unfortunately, not all countries are like this of course, some still aim to increase the economy which does little to develop health, society and all the questions about the environment. Nowadays, it is almost impossible to escape the fiction, the various mainstream television shows, and the various types of media coverage to which climate change gives rise. Their analysis is even more interesting, as they are part of the long history of socio-discursive imaginations around issues linked to climate and, more generally, environmental risks.

So, I would like to show you all the bad actions of humans in the past and why humans now feel guilty and want to be proactive to help the natural environments around us:
- The fashion effect: For example, someone is going to adopt an Australian Shepherd because it is the most popular dog this year but they do not know how to take care of it nor know how it functions. That is a large reason why there are a lot of abandoned, or stray, dogs, cats and other domestic animals… The COVID pandemic amplified this because a lot of people adopted domestic animals to not « be alone » during the quarantine, however, they abandoned them after the social restrictions were disbanded.
- The mindset that considers that the animal will meet one of our needs. Thinking this way results in an object relationship with the animal. It is important to understand that we adopt an animal because we want to and because we are interested in learning to live with and love that animal. There are a lot of psychological disorders due to the guilt of wanting to save animals

but also the fact of considering the animal as something that fulfills our needs. You will be able to see Animal Hoarding in more detail.
Animal Hoarding is a term which refers to the act of accumulating several animals in one's home when one cannot house, feed, and care for them properly. This behavior can be considered a form of mistreatment even if collectors perceive themselves as benefactors. These people are often attached to their animals and do not plan to part with them. So, with these behaviors and this syndrome, there are a lot of consequences for the animals…
-The practice of betting games with animals: dog fighting, cock fighting, greyhound racing, and horse racing for example. But also, hunting, fishing, and animal-related competitions.
-Fashion and the luxury industry use animal parts, like ivory for jewelry and decoration, wild animal fur for clothing, and much more...
-Tourism with aquariums not suitable for marine species, the sale of goldfish in plastic bags at fairs/festivals, circuses with their mistreatment of animals…
-Laboratory tests carried out on numerous monkeys, rabbits, and mice for cosmetic products
-The consumer society is devastating, with intensive breeding where respect and kindness for animals do not exist, tests on animals to create more products, devastating the environment of animals to have oil palm, killing certain animals like whales to obtain lipsticks and other cosmetics...

We are the destroyers, but we want to be the saviors. For what? Because we are finally realizing, finally becoming aware of the consequences of our consumer society. We are becoming aware of what we do every day. All its consequences are finally publicized, disclosed, and laid out on the table. Today there are many activists, and demonstrations to raise awareness, to warn and inform the population about what we put our nature through every day. Activists are fighting against the big fossil fuel industries, against policies that only benefit the economy. Numerous studies have also supported the termination of animal abuse with the fact that animals feel stress, pain, and empathy, just like humans. We are not above them; we must see life as a space of harmony and not domination of others. Today, we know that we are guilty, helpless, and frustrated. We want to find this harmony, that is why the new generations are putting actions in place for the environment and that is why humans try to help nature even without knowing how to do it correctly.

IV- Human behaviors face to his culpability.

Humans want to feel less powerless in the face of environmental issues and when the opportunity presents itself when they can be useful, feel less guilty when they can be a good Samaritan, they jump at the chance. However, being a good Samaritan can be defined as doing a good deed with charity, being kind to others, helpful. However, it is not described as "doing a good deed with knowledge". Altruism is a good quality but can have its consequences, we will see following this interview with Sophia Prousali, the veterinarian of the wildlife rehabilitation center with whom we work every day during our volunteering. I speak all about the care for wildlife animals and not about the plants, trees, and other environmental topics because I am volunteering in a rehabilitation center, but all of this video could also apply to these latter topics. So, enjoy and listen carefully.

V – The best actions to respect and take care about the wildlife

So, we will listen to the advice from Sophia but before this, I would like already to give you some tips on how to take care of the wildlife in general. Sophia will speak more about the wildlife animals that are hurt or sick.

1- The first step would be to become aware of our daily actions and the consequences that they can have on the world, nature, and the environment. It is important to be open-minded and to analyze your daily actions. Population increase poses a threat to wildlife as previous resources diminish. Whether it is for science, food or greed, humans endanger animals, sometimes without considering the positive impact wildlife can have on the posterity of our planet. What can you do? Stay informed on the issues, know your impact in the ecosystem and take your part in protecting wildlife. Earth and its present and future inhabitants will be grateful. Also, you can. Prevention, information, and awareness are important to enable understanding of our human impacts on our Earth. Become a citizen scientist, researchers who need help gathering wildlife and insect counts may turn to the public for help. This provides interesting and fun opportunities for you to easily lend a hand from home. Learn about endangered species.

2- Plant native species: Creating planet- and wildlife-friendly environments can start right in your own backyard and in your community. Plant native species of trees, bushes, and plants, especially those that flower and provide food sources for wild animals. Trees recycle oxygen, returning it to the atmosphere for us to breathe and absorbing potentially harmful gases along the way.

3- Help the zoos, aquariums, and the rehabilitation centers of wildlife animals in your community.

Zoos and aquariums often have wildlife conservation efforts. There are also a lot of rehabilitation centers in each country and maybe in each area of one country. Find out how you can volunteer to help spread the word about or work to support wild animals. Be curious and take some time in your daily routine to give your support. You can also give your support in doing donations. These structures need to improve their places and their materials to give better care to the rehabilitating animals.

4- Make your yard a wildlife haven.

In addition to planting native food sources for wildlife in your area, you can also help them by creating habitats like installing bird feeders, baths, and houses. In addition to giving birds necessary shelter and sustenance, watching the birds that visit can be very entertaining. The National Wildlife Federation has other suggestions to make your yard wildlife-friendly.

5- Avoid harmful chemicals.

In our efforts to spur lawn growth and control pests, we may turn to chemical solutions, which can be very harmful to wildlife, like bees and butterflies, that are helpful to the environment. Fertilizers usually find their way into water sources, polluting rivers, and streams, causing harmful algae blooms, and poisoning aquatic life. Instead, opt for natural pest control to discourage critters in your garden and organic fertilizers like animal manure or compost.

6- Pick up trash.

Picking up trash not only protects the environment and keeps our surroundings beautiful, but it can also save wildlife. Plastic bags and twine can easily trap birds and other smaller animals, hurting or killing them, and making them easy prey. So put on your gloves, grab some trash bags, and pick up litter to protect wildlife—and keep your neighborhood looking good.

7- Adopt an animal: Protect the animal of your choice—one either threatened by endangerment in a far-off land or by abandonment nearby. Defenders of Wildlife lets you symbolically adopt a wild animal of your choosing. Your donation goes to improving habitats, research, monitoring, and ultimately saving the species from endangerment. Make it a birthday gift for your animal-fanatic friend!

8- Being an activist against animal abuse, for better conditions of the animal species, for goodwill between man and animal, for respecting the environment, to put in place new measures to be able to conserve living species. You may be interested in planned demonstrations, activist organizations, and activism in general.

Conclusion

To conclude, I would like to show you in this video that it is important to become conscious of our actions, even if we do them with good intentions. For the environment, we must learn good behaviors. In French primary schools, pupils now have environmental lessons. It is a good step forward! As adults, we have no such thing, so we have to learn with specialists, we have to question our routine actions and implement small actions every day to create a better world.

So, as I explained to you, I am volunteering at a rehabilitation center for wildlife, and I would like to say: you cannot save animals without knowledge or advice from specialists. You can save these animals by bringing them to a center specified for wildlife. I would like to sensibilize you on this topic and above all to find some next to where you live, where can you find a center like this? You will see there are a lot, but many do not know of their existence.

Thanks and Subscription requests

I would like to thank you so much for listening to me during this video. It was my ESC project, but above all, a project that strikes my heart even before I arrived in Greece, to Drasiagriazoi.

Thanks to my boyfriend who supports me every day and above all for this project,

Thanks to the other volunteers: Lorie, Garance, Florian, and above all Ella (who edited my writing) for giving me their advice and their opinions,

Thanks to the beautiful veterinarian, Sophia, who accepted to do these interviews with me and to publish it on this video, and taught me a lot of knowledge about the Rehabilitation Center of wildlife. Thanks to Froso, who taught me a lot too.

Thanks to Giorgos, my ESC project coordinator, to follow my adventures and my project.

Thanks to Sofia, my ESC mentor for helping me when I need help with English

Thanks to Drasiagriazoi and all the activists in this organization, Thanks for accepting me for this ESC adventure, and just thanks for being who you are, full of love for what you do every day. I put in the description the link to Drasiagriazoi's social media (Facebook, Instagram, and the website), do not hesitate to follow this organization, it asks for donations for many different projects to improve the center and the care of the rehabilitating animals. Good action can come through there, by following their accounts and giving them strength. Do not hesitate to follow the social networks of the rehabilitation centers near you too.

Thanks to me, for doing this challenge and to have confidence in my project, and to let my creativity do something which is important to me. If you want to follow our adventure in volunteering, you can follow: momoduslife on Instagram, I put the link in the description too. For each day of our volunteering, I will do one post.

See you for the next adventure, Bye bye!

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