

A) Online article N1 http://www.zoo.ge/index.php?page_id=27&n=125
FLOODING IN TBILISI – THE SITUATION IN TBILISI ZOO



On June 13, a terrible tragedy took place in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. As a result of heavy rains, the Vere River overflowed and flooded surrounding areas. Without warning, the river gushed into Tbilisi Zoo at 12:30 A.M. local time, entirely inundating many animal enclosures. Zoo employees were present, and then rescue teams and Special Forces arrived to carry out rescue operations the whole night. Some animals drowned and others managed to escape their enclosures. During the night zoo employees tried to tranquilize and move the animals to safe places, however some that reached the highway had to be killed by Special Forces since many people were on the highway, trapped in traffic jams.

Unfortunately the disaster also killed 3 zoo employees: Guliko Chitadze, senior nurse for the zoo's animal babies, her husband Malkhaz Chitadze, keeper and Givi Dvali, also a keeper, who were in a zookeepers' building at the moment of the flood. The water flooded the territory so quickly that they were not able to leave the place. Their bodies were found on June 14.

Search and rescue operations are still underway. The only animals that managed to survive were those whose enclosures were located on elevated parts of the zoo territory, such as elephants, white lions, leopards, rhinoceros, deer, zebras, llamas, tapir, civet, servile, jackals, ring-tailed lemurs, horses, ponies, falabellas, donkeys, dik-dik, eland, mountain & Cameroon goats, yaks and various species of birds. The aquarium & reptile house also survived the flood. Search and rescue operations yielded 3 bears, 2 crocodiles, 2 wolves, 6 penguins, wild boars and several birds. All employees of the zoo are already at work caring for the surviving animals and cleaning the territory. Hundreds of volunteers have offered their help for the zoo and are participating in the work to clean the territory.

ონლაინ მედია: Online article N1 http://www.zoo.ge/index.php?page_id=27&n=125	
კითხვები	
How did media present the flood in Tbilisi? (facts)	
Who created this article?	
What creative techniques are used to attract my attention?	
How might different people interpret this message?	
What values and points of view are depicted?	

Online article N2 <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/06/14/at-least-8-dead-after-animals-escape-georgia-zoo-in-midst-heavy-flooding.html>

Chaos and panic: Deadly floods bring fear over escaped zoo animals



TBILISI, Georgia – Severe flooding in the Georgian capital left at least 12 people dead Sunday and triggered a big-game hunt across the city for lions, tigers, a hippopotamus and other dangerous animals that escaped from Tbilisi's ravaged zoo.

Residents were warned to stay indoors as police conducted the hunt, but fear deepened as night fell on the city of 1.1 million with some of the animals still on the loose.

Heavy rain turned a normally pleasant city stream into a fierce torrent that destroyed or damaged hundreds of homes in the former Soviet republic. Officials said 12 people were known to have died and about two dozen others were missing. There were no immediate reports that any of the dead were killed by the animals, which ran off after the floodwaters destroyed their enclosures. Among the beasts that escaped were bears, wolves and monkeys.

A hippopotamus — an extremely aggressive animal with the ability to run faster than humans in short bursts — was spotted lumbering through a flooded square not far from the zoo and was shot with a tranquilizer dart. Other animals were hunted down and killed.

The carcasses of at least a lion, a boar and a tiger were seen, and zoo authorities said six wolves were also dead.

Authorities said the animals may have fled to just about any corner of Tbilisi, including the forests on the steep hills in the city's heart.

Some officials accused authorities of using unnecessary force against the wild beasts. Zoo director Zurab Gurielidze said one of the park's most beloved attractions, a young white lion named Shumba, had been found shot in the head.

"Our Shumba is no more," he lamented according to the news agency Interfax. "It's simply possible that someone exceeded his authority."

The head of the Georgian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Ilia II, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as telling a Sunday Mass that Georgia's former Communist rulers bear responsibility for the disaster.

"When Communists came to us in this country, they ordered that all crosses and bells of the churches be melted down and the money used to build the zoo," he said.

"The sin will not go without punishment. I am very sorry that Georgians fell so that a zoo was built at the expense of destroyed churches."

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Online media article N3 (with video)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33143645>



Georgia flood: Volunteers search for animals at Tbilisi zoo

15 June 2015 Last updated at 23:17 BST

A flash flood in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi has killed at least 13 people, with up to 20 still missing according to officials.

Heavy rains caused the river Vere to burst its banks and flood the city.

Floodwaters hit the zoo, killing many animals as well as three people who worked there.

Some animals escaped in the aftermath and are still missing.

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