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San Antonio Zoo to break ground on second phase of multimillion-dollar exhibit

San Antonio Business Journal - by [Tricia Lynn Silva](#)

The San Antonio Zoo is set to begin construction on Phase II of its Africa Live! exhibit, which will feature new plant and animal life indigenous to Africa.



The San Antonio Zoo is expanding its Africa Live! exhibit. [View Larger](#)

Once construction begins, zoo officials estimate it will take 16

months to complete Phase II, which is slated to open to the public in late 2009. The zoo will introduce a wide variety of new flora and fauna, including Colobus monkeys, an Okapi or forest giraffe, Pygmy falcons and even termite mounds. Visitors will also be able to get a first-hand look at an African “kraal” — a livestock enclosure made from intertwined branches.

The goal of Africa Live! is to introduce to zoo visitors the world of the African continent — from its plants, to its animals, to its people.

Phase I of the exhibit opened earlier this year. The focus of this first phase is exhibits that teach visitors about the value of water and the intricacy of the way water, man, wildlife and food production interrelate. Phase I of Africa Live!, for example, includes

an underwater exhibit of hippos and crocodiles. The next phase introduces guests to different aspects of life on the African plain.

The San Antonio office of general contracting firm **CF Jordan LP** is responsible for bringing the Africa Live! concept alive at the zoo. It is a job that CF Jordan Executive Vice President David Baer calls a mix of artwork and construction work — as the firm had to take into account not only the viewing public but the animals that call the zoo home as well.

“This has been a unique project — much more complex than people would ever imagine,” Baer told the Business Journal this past January. “You don’t just put the halter on the hippo and walk him down the path.”

For more info on the San Antonio Zoo — and to keep up to date on the progress of Africa Live! — log on at www.sazoo-aq.org.

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