



Dartmoor Zoological Society

CONSERVATION POLICY

Version 3

Reviewed July 2023

This policy will be reviewed annually by: July 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
2. Sustainability	5
3. Online Resources	5
4. Campaigns and Projects we Support	5

CONSERVATION POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Dartmoor Zoological Society (DZS) recognises that there is a need for conserving the natural world and all the biodiversity within it. Alongside a strong education and experience plan we seek to show people how to live harmoniously with the wildlife that we share our planet with.
- 1.2. Our Vision is:

To protect threatened species and enable people to help wildlife thrive.
- 1.3. Our Mission is:

To conserve wildlife, promote wellbeing and educate future generations by inspiring people to be more engaged with nature.
- 1.4. DZS strives to be a hub for conservation in our area and a place where animals represent their species as ambassadors. It is a place where people of all ages can visit and experience, in real life, the wonders of the natural world.
- 1.5. We aim to shine a light on the issues species are facing and be a place where people can learn and be inspired to make changes for a positive impact on biodiversity and conservation.
- 1.6. DZS Conservation Mission is to Help Threatened Wildlife Survive and Thrive. We will do this by:
 - 1.6.1. Prioritising species survival by developing a collection plan with a targeted conservation action of 70% threatened species.
 - 1.6.2. Improve infrastructure to allow for collection change and growth through conservation breeding of threatened species.

2. Conservation Education

- 2.1. For DZS, conservation education is one of the most important strategies we can implement as we aim to be a hub for conservation in our part of the country. With 1000's of people visiting our collection and potentially millions via social media and outreach, we can spread the messages of biodiversity loss and human impact. At Dartmoor Zoo, we are promoting conservation education through signage and interpretation located around our zoo as well as delivering engaging and informative talks.
- 2.2. We present an opportunity for further engagement by having several walkthrough enclosures and animal encounters that allow visitors to have unforgettable experiences with animals.
- 2.3. Studies have shown that these types of experiences encourage people to care more about the natural world and make changes. In addition to this, more formal educational visits, outreach, artefacts and collaboration with local colleges and the universities provide both theoretical and practical learning strategies. The future of the world's species is in the hands of our young people and it is important that they understand the interdependence of human beings, the animal world and the natural environment.

- 2.4. Developing an education programme for all ages of visitors visiting our collection is a necessity to ensure that people learn about wildlife from a young age. This may lead to a developing lifestyle which will be more positive and empathise with the environment and its inhabitants as they grow older.
- 2.5. This policy sits alongside our Education Policy.

3. Conservation Breeding Programmes

- 3.1. For some species, a vital part of ensuring their survival is building up a sustainable insurance population through breeding programmes. We currently hold species from 18 EEP's & 7 ESB's.
- Amur Tiger
 - Palawan Binterong
 - African Lion
 - Jaguar
 - Lowland tapir
 - Iberian Wolf
 - Meerkat
 - Northern Cheetah
 - Parma Walaby
 - Saki Monkey
 - Amur Leopard
 - Kirks Dikdik
 - Sitatunga
 - Asian short clawed otter
 - European wildcat
 - Long-nose potoroo
 - African Great Crowned Crane
 - Gelada
 - Carpathian Lynx
- 3.2. In addition to the above we have the 'Prickly Hedge Lodge' on site which is a small hedgehog hospital designed specifically to rehabilitate up to 10 hedgehogs at a time back into the wild. This has been open since 2021.

4. Native Species

- 4.1. Native species is a very important focus for us as there is an exciting array of species just on our doorstep that local people can appreciate. As an organically gardened site the biodiversity is huge on site.
- 4.2. With our research department and the local university, we carry out our own biodiversity studies onsite.
- 4.3. We collaborate with other hedgehog hospitals in the area with the aim to promote our native hedgehogs and their survival.

- 4.4. Dartmoor Zoo is situated amongst moorland, woodland, natural springs and wetlands. Within this environment we are playing our part to upkeep the natural environments for native species to utilise. This has included, in the development plan for the zoo, leaving protected spaces for plants to grow wild.
- 4.5. We take part in national programmes, such as “BIAZA spotted on site”, which allows our staff and visitors the opportunity to report a wildlife encounters they come across. This helps contribute data to the national biodiversity network, helping to build a bigger picture of the health of our ecosystems.

5. Sustainability

- 5.1. Being sustainable is key to help stop or even reverse some of the human impacts which are affecting the natural world. We have thought out every process at the Zoo to ensure that it is as sustainable as possible. All our electricity is sourced from green energy, we use no gas on site and our water is fed through bore holes.
- 5.2. We aim to eliminate single use plastic as much as possible and this is something that is evident in our restaurant and gift shop. Sourcing merchandise made from recycled materials and items that promote conservation and biodiversity is a priority.
- 5.3. We have a recycling scheme within the zoo to ensure we are zero to landfill. Even our benches are made from recycled plastic sweet tubs from Christmas time.
- 5.4. All our food waste is used to power a biomass boiler at Langage Farm, which then supplies us with ice cream to sell in the restaurant and kiosk.
- 5.5. This policy sits alongside our Conservation Policy.

6. Online Resources

- 6.1. At Dartmoor Zoo we understand that a vast audience can be reached via online resources and that we should use this platform to push our mission efforts to a global audience.
- 6.2. We have active social media channels, as well as a website dedicated to sharing messages and efforts made by the zoo.

7. Campaigns and Projects we Support

- 7.1. Being part of the British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquaria, BIAZA, we have recently taken part in some of their campaigns such as ‘love your zoo’ week and ‘spotted on site’ in association with iNaturalist.
- 7.2. The in-situ conservation projects we support are: The Cheetah Conservation Fund, working specifically with their livestock guardian dogs and farmers to reduce the number of Cheetah and livestock conflicts which are leading to the Cheetah being shot. Dartmoor Zoo has been supporting the Cheetah Conservation Fund since January 2023.
- 7.3. We are also members of WAZA, the Worldwide Association of Zoos and Aquariums.