



Dartmoor Zoological Society

CONSERVATION POLICY

Version 4

Reviewed Dec 2025 by David Gibson

This policy will be reviewed annually by: Dec 2026

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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 are committed 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, experience and be inspired, in real life, by 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 an Institutional Species 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.
- 1.7. This policy will be accessible to the public through the zoo's website.

2. Conservation Education

- 2.1. For DZS, Conservation Education is one of the most important things we can implement as we aim to be a hub for conservation in our part of the country.
- 2.2. We deliver Conservation Education through our social media and website content, on site signage and interpretation within the zoo and thorough delivering engaging, informative talks and workshops both on site and within our outreach activities. We promote public education and awareness on
 - 2.2.1. conservation, BIAZA conservation campaigns and our conservation projects
 - 2.2.2. the importance of biodiversity, and natural habitats
 - 2.2.3. environmental impacts and how visitor behaviour can make a difference.

- 2.3. The DZS Education Programme has been devised to be relevant to all ages of visitors visiting our collection and for our formal education programme all of the content is linked to the National Curriculum.

- 2.4. This policy sits alongside our Education Policy.

3. Conservation Breeding Programmes

- 3.1. Where practicable and financially viable DZS will participate in the Conservation of all species held within its collection.

- 3.2. Activities for each species will be determined by the Institutional Collection Plan, these activities may involve:

- 3.2.1. Conservation Breeding as part of a coordinated Conservation Breeding Programme such as an EEP.

- 3.2.2. In-situ support either financial or through deployment of resources (physical or staff).

- 3.2.3. Working as a partner organisation in the release or translocation of animals as part of a wider conservation programme outside the zoo's grounds. All such projects must be fully compliant with relevant legislation and guidance from our Associations (BIAZA and EAZA).

- 3.2.4. Participate in activities coordinated by relevant BIAZA Working Groups or Taxon Working Groups.

4. Native Species

- 4.1. Dartmoor Zoo has a moral duty to manage its grounds for the benefit of native species and protect the natural habitat of these wild animals. All developments will take potential detrimental impacts on these species into consideration as part of the planning process.

- 4.2. We will also implement measures to control Non-Native Invasive Species on site and to improve our site for the benefit of Biodiversity.

5. Sustainability

- 5.1. All electricity required to run the Zoo 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 the use of single use plastic within our operation.

- 5.3. Where practicable and financially feasible the sourcing of merchandise will consider sustainability.

- 5.4. We are a zero to landfill organisation ensuring that none of our waste goes to landfill.

- 5.5. All our food waste goes to a local an aerobic digestion plant where it is converted into usable energy and fertiliser.

- 5.6. This policy sits alongside our Sustainability Policy.

6. Campaigns and Projects we Support

- 6.1. Where relevant to our organisation we collaborate in both BIAZA and WAZA conservation campaigns to amplify the impact of these.
- 6.2. Each year we disperse funds equivalent to 1% of our admission income to support relevant Conservation projects including in-situ projects being delivered by partner organisations. Signage information and interpretation of these funds is available to zoo visitors.
- 6.3. The projects we support are directly relevant to the species within our collection. This in turn is defined by our Institutional Species Plan which is reviewed on an annual basis. Priority is given to in-situ projects aiming to help conserve the species that we hold that are part of coordinated Conservation Breeding Projects. We aim to support projects that our funds will make a difference too rather than adding additional funds to projects with high central overheads and staff costs.
- 6.4. Some of the Conservation funds may be retained to help deliver on-site conservation work such as biodiversity monitoring and enhancement promoting native species.
- 6.5. Distribution of Conservation Funds are approved by our Trustees Board following a written proposal. Information on these is provided on our website.

7. Evaluation of Impacts

- 7.1. All the in-situ projects we support through donations are required to submit an impact report detailing the benefits gained through our support.
- 7.2. On site work is evaluated through annual surveys of the biodiversity on site.
- 7.3. Both external impact reports and on-site work is reviewed and evaluated by the Trustees Board annually to ensure our work is delivering the required impacts.
- 7.4. All conservation activities impact reports are recorded and archived.