



# **WINGHAM WILDLIFE PARK**

## **CONSERVATION PLAN & IMPACT STATEMENT**

**2021 (V1.2) - Looking back on 2020 and before**



Wingham Wildlife Park  
Conservation Plan & Impact Statement  
2021 - Looking back on 2020 and Before

Originally compiled 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
Version 1.2 updated and completed 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
By Markus Wilder

Due for review and renewal by end of May 2022

Wingham Wildlife Park,  
working in association with  
Wingham Wildlife Park Animal Welfare  
(reg charity number 1162346)  
to bring the highest quality to our conservation work.



# INTRODUCTION

Whilst conservation is one of the aspects of the park which we are required to do under the terms of the zoo license in the UK, it is very much a thing which we as an organisation want to do and strive to weave into our business model to ensure that we are not just an organisation which tells its visitors what they can do to help. We want to make sure that we also walk the walk and practice what we preach.

In the following pages we will do our best to fill you in on our conservation work at present as well as what we have planned for the future to ensure that we remain completely transparent about what we do. We have never tried to hide our conservation work, in fact on the contrary it is often remarked that we don't say enough about the sustainability work which we do in house - and that's quite right too! How can we tell you about how to lead a more sustainable life, if we don't tell you what we are doing. This conservation plan and impact statement look to change all of that and give you a full insight in to our work.

However, this is our first ever document of this kind to be made publicly available so please stick with us in the years to come as we continue to build on this document every single year and try to improve on it every time - not just the content but also the delivery.



# OUR APPROACH TO CONSERVATION



## A COMBINED APPROACH TO ANIMAL CONSERVATION

The only way in which we are going to make a meaningful impact on the natural world, to try and reverse at least some of the damage which has been done to this planet is if we all work together and tackle all of the issues in a combined approach. We have been preaching and working towards this kind of combined approach to conservation since 2016 and will continue to bring those 4 key areas; Habitats, communities, animals and ethics together.

### **HABITATS**

If we want to be able to allow animals to live in the wild and to protect them when they are there - they need safe and flourishing habitats to move in to!

### **COMMUNITIES**

Communities (especially poorer ones) which may have relied on animals as a source of income or for food need alternative choices!

### **ANIMALS**

Through wild protection & captive breeding we will support the species which we care for at our park!

### **ETHICS**

Our ethics should be represented in the business decisions we make!

Our work with this approach started with the Chimpanzee Community Enhancement project in Uganda, around the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest national Park where we worked with the Population Sustainability Network to combine the values of family planning, community engagement, human health and endangered species conservation. This eventually led to the production of the Thriving Together initiative, which is supported by 150 Organisations including BIAZA, Born Free Foundation, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Greenpeace, Jane Goodall Institute, the Zoological Society of London and even led to the creation of a new IUCN resolution about family planning (IUCN, 2020). The Thriving Together Statement can be read on the next page.

Proud members of



**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR NATURE!**

# THRIVING TOGETHER: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FAMILY PLANNING

People and nature are interdependent, and health underpins both. Human communities and ecosystems best support each other when the needs of each are met in tandem.

## WE KNOW THAT:

- Successful biodiversity conservation requires taking into account people, our health, and our interactions with the natural world.
- The United Nations considers it likely that the world population will rise from 7.7 billion today to 9.8 billion by 2050. Most of this growth will be in low and middle income nations.
- Poor rural communities in developing nations face the greatest barriers to use of and access to reproductive health services, including family planning. These barriers prevent women from choosing freely when and whether to have children, threaten family health, create challenges for girls who want to complete their education, and lead to higher levels of fertility and more rapid rates of population growth.
- Poor rural communities often depend most directly on natural resources for their livelihoods, food, water, shelter and cultural practices. When localised, or combined local and global human pressures on ecosystems intensify, both community health and environmental health suffer.
- There is very often an overlap of areas facing the greatest need for improved reproductive health services and for conservation.
- Family planning contributes to women's empowerment, improves family and general health, advances education and life opportunities and, by slowing population growth, eases pressures on wildlife and ecosystems. Sustaining functional, biodiverse environments becomes less plausible in some areas if population growth follows average UN projections.
- As agreed at the 1994 UN International Conference on Population and Development, family planning must be grounded in human rights and reproductive intentions, the fundamental basis for collaborative cross-sector activities.
- Some conservation and reproductive health organisations have joined forces to combine activities. Project data shows this has led to increased family planning use, improved health and gender relations, and increased support for and participation in conservation. These multisector approaches can be more cost-effective, and generate more sustainable results.

## WE BELIEVE THAT:

- Like education and nutrition, family planning is fundamental to human dignity and critical for human health and development.
- Population data are among the relevant evidence when considering health and conservation action.
- Increasing human pressures are among the many challenges facing planetary health. By harming ecosystems we undermine food and water security and human health, and we threaten habitats and species. Ensuring family planning is available to all who seek it is among the positive actions we must take to lessen these pressures.
- Integrating reproductive health improvements with sustainable natural resource management is a valuable development approach.

We acknowledge that the future health of our planet has never been more uncertain, and that the health of people and ecosystems are connected. The Sustainable Development Goals call for integrated solutions. We work in health, conservation and related fields and believe that by sharing information and working together on strategic projects and policies we can help human communities and their ecosystems thrive.

# THE #THRIVINGTOGETHER CAMPAIGN:

## PAVING THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE OF WINGHAM WILDLIFE PARKS CONSERVATION MESSAGE

The chimpanzee enhancement project with the Population Sustainability Network (PSN) and the Yerkes National Primate Research Center at the Emory University was our first major conservation project which was supported by the park over 5 years, donating £15,000 per year over that period and giving support on the creation of education materials.

Over a 5 year period the project helped train 608 Ugandan hospital staff and nursing students on a combination of family planning & risk factors affecting chimpanzees as well as other animals such as gorillas who benefited from the project (including 29 new programme teachers), reached an audience of 147,000 local people through media campaigns & delivered 18,195 face to face hours of community education in the Bwindi hospital to discuss the two issues as well as reaching 15,000 students at local primary schools through training given to 80 teachers from 30 local schools, delivered family planning services to 14,303 people and laid the foundation of the advocacy work done by the project to help secure funding from the UK government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

Sadly however because all of these activities were designed by and rolled out with the help of PSN and a trusted NGO in Uganda to ensure that the programme was culturally relevant and effective rather than being physically delivered by us or people employed by us, as part of zoo licensing it is not seen as us actually doing conservation. Even though this project was started with funding from just us and Emory and was designed to fill a need which we had, we have been forced to re-direct our conservation work in other directions and our support for this project will not be renewed in October 2021.

This kind of conservation work, often referred to as the "One Plan" approach where a number of factors are looked at to combine the human element with the animal and habitat needs is now advocated by WAZA (Byers et al, 2013), EAZA, BIAZA, IUCN, AZA (Byers, 2014), the Conservation Planning Specialist Group and many more. Whilst we are no longer able to support this project which we are incredibly proud of, it will not deter us from integrating all we have learned in these 5 years to ensure that our conservation retains this "One Plan" rhetoric.

Gorilla in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest taken by Population Sustainability Network



Proud members of



**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR NATURE!**

# HABITATS

## WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW AND WHAT IMPACT HAS IT HAD OVER THE PAST YEAR?

Our current work on habitats can be split in to 2 main types of work with both of these involving a very generous helping of environmental education.

The first and most hands-on approach is to physically produce habitats for wildlife right here at our park. This is something which we have been doing for birds right from the start but have invested in heavily over the past year to get even more hands on with for birds, bats and all manner of invertebrates.

This new wave of habitat creation is a part of our new “Bug garden” exhibit which has a sign about every piece of wild habitat which people can easily put into their own gardens, whether it is a bird feeder, nest box, bat box, hedgehog house, butterfly house and more. Even in urban areas we can make novel ecosystems for native species (Tratalos et al, 2007).

Specific habitat considerations which we have put in this year should play a positive role for:

- Ladybird species
- Butterfly species
- Solitary bees
- Hedgehogs
- Bats
- Song birds including house sparrows, robins, pied wag tails, great tits, chaffinches and more
- A wide range of invertebrates such as earwigs, isopods and many more which will be using the bug hotel facilities

At present we do not know the impact which this area will have and can say with certainty that in the past year it has had just a fraction of the impact it eventually will have because of disturbances while we have been building the area. However we do have base levels of bird activity for some parts of the year from 2017 (Dibb, 2017) and birding records from our staff which we can compare to in the future.

## WILD BIRD SPECIES WHICH CALL WINGHAM WILDLIFE PARK HOME FOR VARIOUS TIMES AND PURPOSES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- Barn owl
- Blackbird (including nesting)
- Blue tit
- Buzzards
- Chaffinch
- Chiffchaff
- Collared dove (including nesting)
- Coot
- Crow
- Dunnock
- Goldfinch (including nesting)
- Great tit
- Greenfinches
- Green woodpecker
- Grey wagtail
- Herring gull
- House martin
- House sparrow (including nesting)
- Jackdaw
- Jay
- Kestrel
- Little owl
- Magpie
- Mallard (including nesting)
- Mistle thrush
- Moorhen (including nesting)
- Pied wagtail (including nesting)
- Robin (including nesting)
- Rook
- Song thrush (including nesting)
- Sparrowhawk
- Spotted flycatcher
- Starling (including nesting)
- Swallow (including nesting)
- Swift
- Wood pigeon (including nesting)
- Wren (including nesting)

Pied wagtail chicks in the nest at Wingham Wildlife Park





Vietnamese pheasant chick hatched at Wingham Wildlife Park



Vietnamese pheasant habitat taken by Markus Wilder during a trip to the area

The second approach to habitat conservation is to combine our efforts, along with many other BIAZA zoos, by supporting the work of the World Land Trust through donations to their projects. In particular the project which we support is their work carried out at Khe Nuoc Trong in Vietnam as it is an area which is home to a number of species from the park, including the Asiatic black bear and Vietnamese pheasant.

Sadly, as with our Ugandan chimpanzee project, the UK zoo license does not accept that supporting this work which through the pooling of finances and resources should be classed as making a contribution to conservation. However unlike the Ugandan project which requires a £15,000 a year budget from the park, the work we do with WLT is done by raising funds from the public, specifically for this project and as such

we are able to continue to support this work even without the support for such work from the UK licensing authority for zoos.

In 2020 the funds raised were affected by COVID-19 as we had less people in the



park, however we were still in a position to make a donation of £997.19. This donation supports the work which they are doing on the ground to protect 20,000 hectares of land at Khe Nuoc Trong with their partner organisation Viet Nature.

The reason why this is so important is because this site has been identified as being a potential suitable release site for the Vietnamese pheasant which is now extinct in the wild and we hope to further be involved in this work as you will read about later. No voice of opposition telling us that financially supporting the work to produce and protect habitat which can support an extinct species on its return to the wild can possibly be loud enough to convince us that this is not conservation work which we should be doing.

The impact which this work has had in the last year is one of the most important milestones for a project which has now been running for 10 years, which is that surveying work and the continued protection which we as part of their partnership have been paying towards has ensured that this forest was declared a National Park in 2020.

Proud members of



**WORKING TOGETHER FOR NATURE!**





The newly completed bug garden at Wingham Wildlife Park

### WHAT DO WE HAVE PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE?

Our plans for the future when it comes to habitat conservation start off with very much just continuing with what we are doing, which includes continued financial support for and educational signage about the work done in Vietnam by World Land Trust. We have put a lot of effort in to making these habitat improvements for wildlife here at the park and will continue to maintain these, continue to supply them with nesting material & feed and put in more as we need them. One very important thing which is due to change with these habitat creation areas is that we will be adding a lot more monitoring to see what impact we are having and which species we are helping the most or need to focus on more.

The monitoring will be done by supporting the birding records of the bird team and making it mandatory for the whole team rather than just the head of section doing this. These results will also be made publicly available to visitors on a sign and added to national records vital for bird conservation (Stroud, 2019).

On top of the birding records our education team will start to carry out at least one annual bio blitz in the park for 2021 which may become more regular in following years and may also extend to other locations. This bio blitz will record all species in the park over a set period and we will look to see how we can get schools involved, which of course leads us very nicely on to our community section.



Proud members of



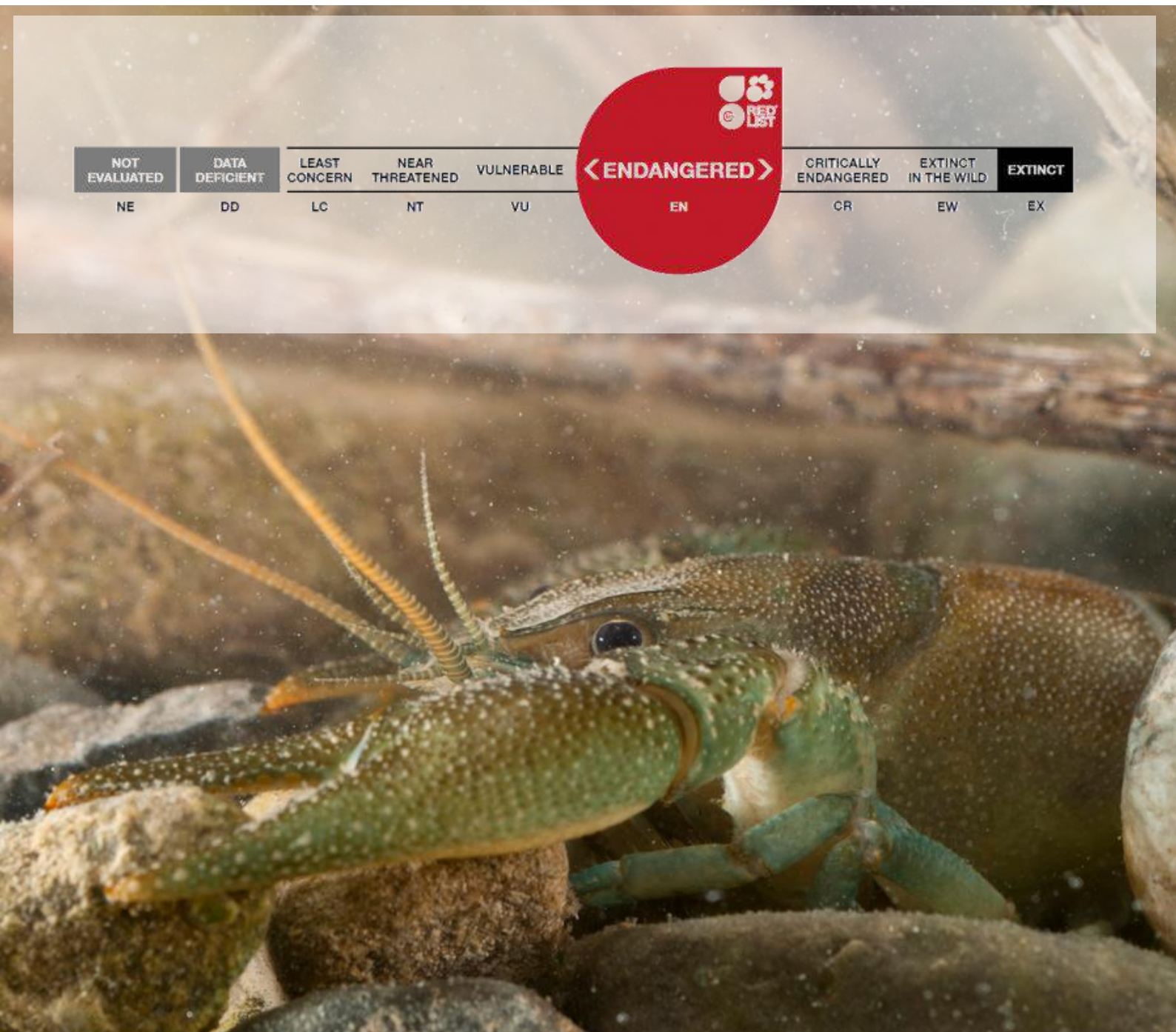
**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR NATURE!**

We do not always work on our own, even when the project in question is right on our doorstep. The best example of this local habitat work is our support as part of the East Kent White Clawed Crayfish Group whom we will be supporting in the coming 2 to 3 years to survey and improve (where necessary) wild crayfish habitats to produce ark sites for us to use by the time we are ready to release our own white clawed crayfish in to the wild, right here in Kent.

We will start to support the surveying work in the second half of 2021 moving forward to return surveys in the following 1 and 2 years, so that we can put together concrete plans for not only where our initial Kentish crayfish stock will come from but by deduction also where they can be released. However, this will be closely guarded information which we will not make public in this document or any of its future issues.

Also represented in the East Kent White Clawed Crayfish Group are the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, Kent County Council, Natural England, Ecology Co-Op, the Environment Agency and the River Stour Internal Drainage Board.

Since the introduction of the Signal crayfish into our Kentish water ways from America, our native crayfish has seen a catastrophic decline due to a disease which signal cray fish brought with them but are immune to. As a result, just a handful of sites remain in Kent where our white clawed crayfish remains. We aim to use the next 3 years to start our work towards safeguarding these pockets, looking into new homes for new groups and eventually bolstering that wild population with animals bred by us, right here in Kent.



At the start of 2021 only 25,051 of the 1,480,241 invertebrates on this planet had been evaluated by the IUCN for their Red List - that's just 2% of the invertebrates. For vertebrates out of the 73,118 described species, 54,807 had been evaluated, making that 75% (100% of bird species have been evaluated).

Out of those vertebrate animals 18% are threatened, but 22% of the invertebrates are threatened - at that trend as many as 325,653 species could be threatened, and some of those might be living in your back garden!

The very first UN AICHI target to be completed by 2020 was that people are aware of the values of biodiversity. Do you know which species live on your doorstep and did you know that many invertebrates are at risk of extinction?

This is the message we are trying to spread with our new bugs exhibit, while showing people how easy it is to create habitats for them, by doing it ourselves.



# COMMUNITY

## WHAT EXACTLY DO WE MEAN WITH COMMUNITY?

When it comes to community there are a few different types of community which we look at when we're talking about conservation, and we try to keep all of these separate from the wider zoo community as those feed in very nicely with the other conservation goals which we have. Instead, we try to focus our community work as follows:

### IN-SITU CONSERVATION COMMUNITIES

Communities of people living around animals and habitats which we're trying to protect or which need our attention.

### OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

The people in our local community whether they be our visitors, school children or other people who would benefit from our work through education, engagement or improving the world around them.

### SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES

The scientific community is one which does great work for conservation and can get our support even from across the globe.

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING THE LAST YEAR & WITH HOW MUCH IMPACT?

The biggest project "in the community" which we have been involved in is sadly one which is no longer going to be continued due to the restrictions which are placed on us as part of the zoo license in regard to how we are able to do conservation in a meaningful way. However this project was the work with the Population Sustainability network and Bwindi Community hospital where nurse training was financed to deliver both actual family planning options as well as family planning education to local women in this rural area. This eventually also extended to media outlets and local schools. Unsustainable human populations are amongst the biggest threats to chimpanzees and this work was very important for giving people options which were not originally available to them.

In numbers this support which was working with local communities right next to one of the most important habitats for the Western chimpanzee achieved the following:

- Supported the delivery of family planning services to just under 2,000 women around the Bwindi National Forest.
- Supported the training of 50 hospital staff in advanced family planning procedures including implants & IUDs.
- Provided a framework example during a motion for the IUCN to acknowledge the "Importance for the conservation of nature of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning," which was passed by IUCN membership.
- Supported media coverage around the Bwindi National Park reaching around 21,000 people about the benefits of family planning and importance of chimpanzees.
- Supported work which has increased the desire for family planning support (which is currently unmet by the government) in rural Uganda from 25% of women to 52%.



Gorilla in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest taken by Population Sustainability Network

Proud members of



**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR NATURE!**

Our Chimpanzee enhancement project in Uganda was able to not only help animals in the wild but also helped thousands of people get the support which they wanted to put their own lives and the welfare of their own families into their own hands.

This is how conservation works at its best, with the support of the people where you are carrying out that work. It has been shown that just replacing an animal based or natural resource-based income (whether legal or illegal) or just giving the community a financial incentive is not enough to promote conservation. People need to be able to see a positive change in their own lives to aid conservation (Emerton, 2002).

Without the chimpanzees in this area, the access to this family planning work would simply not exist and as such it has become a benefit for the local people to consider chimps in their every day lives as it benefits the sexual & reproductive health department at their local community hospital.



## WHAT DO WE HAVE PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE?

# LOCAL COMMUNITY

- During our planned BioBlitz for 2021 and beyond we will be striving to involve the local community if we can, depending on COVID-19 restrictions at that time. The plan will be to try and get one of the local primary schools involved with at least some of their students to help our education team catalogue our wildlife. BioBlitz events are shown to encourage further action for wildlife amongst both adults and children (Postles & Bartlett, 2018).
- Work to produce a poster which highlights our commitment to sustainably produced palm oil and how easy that process of sourcing can be. We will be displaying this poster at our park as well as making it available to local businesses such as pubs, restaurants and shops should they wish to use it for their own policies and to let their customers know what they do, thereby helping to spread our sustainability message on a local level which has been shown to help influence behaviours (Verissimo et al, 2011).

We will continue to raise funds in order to support the work which World Land Trust are doing with Viet Nature Conservation Centre in Khe Nuoc Trong in Vietnam. This is a habitat protection project with a massive community emphasis for people living and working in the area, with the support of these people paramount to conservation success (Roe et al, 2015). The main community aims which our donations help to support are:

- Decreased hunting by locals
- Support natural, non destructive irrigation for local rice paddies and drinking water
- Alternative income initiatives
- Encourage local support for reporting crime
- Employ locals for patrols & snare removal

# THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

We will be contributing a minimum of 2 hours of staff time per week (however in most weeks this will be 3 hours) to citizen science initiatives around the globe with a focus on animal and habitat conservation. Our staff time will be able to help with studies such as transcribing old hand written bird records in areas like London to make them easy to search in a digital database.

# IN-SITU CONSERVATION COMMUNITIES

Proud members of



**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR NATURE!**

# WHY CITIZEN SCIENCE?

## Is it accurate?

Whilst we are confident that our staff take their roles as citizen scientists completely seriously of course we had reservations about whether everyone would do the same therefore whether the data collected would be meaningful.

Research has shown that whilst there are errors these are generally no more significant or regular than those completed by professional or student scientists and that all can be handled through the correct statistical analysis (Kosmala et al, 2016).

It is also often argued that the sheer level of data which can be processed in these projects and the overwhelming cost-effectiveness afforded by them, often negates any potential researcher bias issues (Gardiner et al., 2012). In 388 citizen science projects assessed in 2014 it is thought that the value of the volunteers in regard to usual paid for research hours could have been as high as \$2.5 billion (Theobald et al., 2015).

## How do we vet if these projects are legitimate?

These projects are run by a wide range of professional and well known organisations including NASA, Natural History Museum, EU Horizon, London Natural History Society and the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.

## How is this going to help conservation?

We may not always have the expertise to write scientific papers or know which of our own species to focus conservation research on, however with our help the data has been processed to help researchers explore topics such as:

- Penguin nest densities in the Antarctic
- 20<sup>th</sup> Century bird records & trends in London
- A biodiversity census in a Spanish national park



Green woodpecker, photo taken by John Buckingham and used by our head of birds, Becky during community engagement online through our keeper blogs

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOALS FOR 2021 & BEYOND

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**13** CLIMATE ACTION

**15** LIFE ON LAND

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# ANIMALS

## WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?

Zoos through the nature of what we do and with the support of the zoo community are in a unique position to help a vast array of different species, simply by doing what we do best; caring for the animals at our park. In doing so we are making our own impact by caring for, as ambassadors (McCarthy, 2016) and developing important genetic reservoirs and captive ark populations of all of the species in our park but with a particular focus on participating in a number of managed regional breeding programs:

EEP (EAZA Ex-Situ Programme)		ESB (EAZA Stud Book)	
Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Southern cheetah	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	Linne's two toed sloth
<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>	Red panda	<i>Crocodylus rhombifer</i>	Cuban crocodile
<i>Alouatta caraya</i>	Black howler monkey	<i>Cyclura cornuta</i>	Rhinoceros iguana
<i>Arctictis binturong</i>	Binturong	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>	Blesbok
<i>Callimico goeldii</i>	Goeldi's monkey	<i>Goura cristata</i>	Blue crowned pigeon
<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>	Invasive marmoset	<i>Heosemys spinosa</i>	Spiny hill turtle
<i>Cebuella pygmaea</i>	Pygmy marmoset	<i>Liasis savuensis</i>	Savu Island python
<i>Galago senegalensis</i>	Northern bush baby	<i>Osteolaemus sp.</i>	African dwarf crocodile
<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	Giraffe	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	Pink backed pelican
<i>Heloderma horridum</i>	Beaded lizard	<i>Phloeomys pallidus</i>	North Luzon cloud rat
<i>Heloderma suspectum</i>	Gila monster	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>	Tamandua
<i>Lemur catta</i>	Ring tailed lemur	<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>	Asiatic black bear
<i>Lynx lynx</i>	Eurasian lynx		
<i>Macaca sylvanus</i>	Barbary macaque		
<i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>	Mandrill		
<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>	Clouded leopard		
<i>Nomascus leucogenys</i>	White cheeked gibbon		
<i>Pan troglodytes</i>	Chimpanzee		
<i>Panthera onca</i>	Jaguar		
<i>Poecilotheria metallica</i>	Gooty ornamental spider		
<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>	Bornean orangutan		
<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>	Common squirrel monkey		
<i>Saguinus imperator</i>	Emperor tamarin		
<i>Saguinus midas</i>	Red handed tamarin		
<i>Saguinus oedipus</i>	Cotton top tamarin		
<i>Spheniscus humboldti</i>	Humboldt penguin		
<i>Sus cebifrons</i>	Visayan warty pig		
<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>	Lowland tapir		



Through the keeping and breeding of species in captivity we are directly helping to attain one of the goals of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular goal number 15:

“Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and **halt biodiversity loss.**”

With the Savu Island Python stud book we go one step further with our involvement in halting biodiversity loss by dedicating our time to actually running that studbook.

Proud members of



**WORKING TOGETHER FOR NATURE!**

# LIASIS SAVUENSIS

## THE SAVU ISLAND PYTHON



Savu Island python stock photo from Shutterstock

### WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING THE LAST YEAR & WITH HOW MUCH IMPACT?

Savu Island Python (*Liasis mackloti savuensis*)  
ESB Studbook 2020  
1<sup>st</sup> Edition



Compiled by:

Markus Wilder  
Wingham Wildlife Park, Rusham Road, Wingham, Kent, CT3 1JL, United Kingdom  
[animals@wwp@inghamwildlifepark.co.uk](mailto:animals@wwp@inghamwildlifepark.co.uk)



- As we progress through our EAZA application process we have added all of our animals which have an EEP or ESB on to their respective programmes. **40 species** in total.
- We have produced the first ever **Savu Island python** studbook which is in the process of being reviewed for publication.
- We have updated our **animal collection plan** which has allowed us to focus on changing some of the species we keep to further increase the number of threatened species which we keep whilst ensuring that breeding resources are not squandered on species or individuals which do not require it and are using those resources instead of conservation reliant species.  
It is important to remember that when talking about threatened species, the IUCN Redlist is the most important resource for this when it comes to species and their whole populations. However for some species we must also look at other factors such as comparing their classification with their rate of decline or seeing if species have local protections (such as with some British species).
- We have invested heavily on producing an indoor crayfish hatchery for keeping and breeding a locally important species, the **white clawed crayfish** for eventual release back in to the wild, with founder stock due to arrive at Wingham Wildlife Park during 2021 and all licensing currently being processed.

Proud members of



**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR NATURE!**

## WHAT DO WE HAVE PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE?

We have made changes to our animal collection plan which allows us to work more closely in the future with the regional collection plans of EAZA whilst also concentrating our conservation breeding efforts on the species which most need it. The breeding for conservation purposes will be done for 3 main reasons within our collection:

1. Ark populations - where animals are either locally or globally extinct or on the verge of extinction with captive populations important to ensure the future survival of those specific populations.
2. Insurance populations - where animals are threatened and a larger conservation issue may be imminent in the future where we are using forward planning to ensure that we are ready to help deal with the issue with a population which is as genetically diverse and healthy as possible.
3. Translocation populations - where animals are kept and bred in captivity for the express reason of being released in to the wild at some time in the future.



Part of the filtration system for the white clawed crayfish hatchery at Wingham Wildlife Park

Our most focussed of these collection plan issues for the coming years is in the form of completing the white clawed crayfish project to a point where we are breeding or hatching wild caught eggs of this species from local populations in order to release them in to the wild at designated ark sites here in Kent.

We expect to have our first batch of these in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021 at the latest for release in Bristol (captive bred stock from Bristol) before housing our first Kentish crayfish in 2022, with hopes to start releasing white clawed crayfish in Kentish rivers in 2023 / 2024.

Other plans for the coming years include:

- Continued enquiries with the Vietnamese pheasant EEP co-ordinator to utilise our husbandry and breeding experience with this species to allow us to expand our breeding collection and support the release of captive bred Vietnamese pheasants in the wild.
- Once the newly refurbished reptile house is complete to include a breeding setup for European medicinal leeches

to produce an insurance population for British wild stocks in the future.

- Hopes to join a British bird or mammal species conservation project with enquiries having been made to operation chough which is due to have a release site here in Kent which we would like to dedicate an area of around 60m<sup>2</sup> to breeding enclosures here at our park.

Should we be able to participate in all of the programmes we have planned this would allow us to further fulfil 4 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; Goals 4 (quality education through the use of signage about local wildlife in the crayfish exhibit), 14 (Life below water), 15 (Life on land) and 17 (Partnership for these goals as we are part of the East Kent White Clawed Crayfish Partnership with Kent County Council, Natural England, Environment Agency and the Ecology Co-Op.



Proud members of



**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR NATURE!**

# ETHICS

Stock photo of palm plantation next to rainforest from Shutterstock

## WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?

Our main focus when it comes to ethics is one which we are very passionate about, firstly because it potentially impacts aspects of all of our lives and secondly because it is one of the main causes of decline for so many of our animals, most notably orangutans.

That issue is palm oil - or to be more specific the goal of promoting sustainable palm oil practices over both unsustainable processes and palm oil free practices. We do this through a combination of education, social research and advocacy work.

Other ethical considerations which we make while combining our conservation work with the practices we employ at the park in our business model at this time as well as educating our visitors about include:

- Sustainable forestry products.
- Renewable energy and heating (from a variety of sources depending on the application needs, so may include solar power, ground source heating pumps and biomass boilers).
- Energy efficient building practices.
- Zero to landfill waste management.
- Recycled plastic usage (such as for benches, decking and even teddy bear stuffing in the gift shop).
- Composting.
- Using supermarket produce waste in animal feeds where quality allows.

Stock photo of palm fruits from Shutterstock



Proud members of



**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR NATURE!**

# WHAT HAVE WE DONE, WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE & WHAT DO WE HAVE PLANNED?



Installation and sponsorship of our play area solar power system

## OUR SUSTAINABLE ZOO

- We use only benches made from recycled plastic amounting to a total of approximately 415,500 recycled 2 pint milk bottles (Marmax Recycled Products, 2021).
- Our indoor play area roof is covered with solar panels which produces approximately 32,500 kWh of electricity per year.
- 100% of the timber used in building work is FSC certified.
- On average, per week we use or compost in excess of 800 Kg of fresh produce from local commercial growers or supermarkets.
- 100% of the palm oil used in the products which we sell and use at the park is certified as sustainable by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).
- We recycle approximately 4,500 Litres of cardboard per week.
- Park ticketing including season ticket applications are now 100% paper free with season pass cards being reusable from one year to the next.



Eucalyptus forest in Australia

## OUR SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

- **USE ONLY SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY COMMODITIES IN ALL AREAS OF THE PARK BY 2023**
- **SWITCH ALL OF THE PLUSH TOYS SOLD IN THE GIFT SHOP TO RECYCLED PRODUCTS BY 2025**
- **IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY SIGNAGE AROUND THE PARK TO ALLOW VISITORS TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE SIMPLE SUSTAINABILITY CHANGES IN THEIR OWN LIVES BY 2022**

**BETWEEN WHAT WE DO NOW AND OUR GOALS WE WILL FULFIL 4 UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY 2025.**

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



**13** CLIMATE ACTION



Proud members of



**WORKING TOGETHER FOR NATURE!**

Some of our species which are threatened with extinction in the wild may not always be part of the studbook (like Troy and Blade, the tigers), and if they are they may not be an active participant (like our tapir), but they still all play very important education ambassador roles to help us teach the public about their plight in the wild.



# SUMMARY

## Major Achievements in 2020

- Supported the delivery of family planning services to just under 2,000 women around the Bwindi National Forest.
- Supported the training of 50 hospital staff in advanced family planning procedures including implants & IUDs.
- Provided a framework example during a motion for the IUCN to acknowledge the “Importance for the conservation of nature of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning,” which was passed by IUCN membership.
- Supported media coverage around the Bwindi National Park reaching around 21,000 people about the benefits of family planning and importance of chimpanzees.
- Supported work which has increased the desire for family planning support (which is currently unmet by the government) in rural Uganda from 25% of women to 52%.
- Built a brand new white clawed crayfish hatchery to a very high standard with a completely temperature controlled environment both inside and outside tanks, complete with a rainwater harvesting and treatment system.
- Educated 1,472 online users about the importance of sustainable palm oil and how RSPO certification works, with 100 people using our lobbying form for encouraging RSPO to improve their certification methods and marks (Wilder et al., 2019).



Faye the chimpanzee  
at Wingham Wildlife  
Park



Medicinal leeches  
at Wingham Wildlife  
Park

## Main Plans for 2021 & Beyond

- Improve sustainability education on our site and beyond by 2022.
- Ensure forestry commodities across the business are sustainably sourced by 2023.
- Change plush toy selection to sell only recycled items by 2025.
- Acquire our first white clawed crayfish population with a view of breeding for release by 2025.
- Discuss potentials for joining the European medicinal leech insurance population breeding project through 2021.
- Discuss the potential for joining operation chough through 2021 and put together an alternative British bird species translocation, insurance or ark breeding programme proposal.
- Continue discussions surrounding our Vietnamese pheasant population for future translocation breeding.
- Carry out an on-site bio blitz annually from 2021.
- Dedicate a minimum of 2 hours of staff time per week to global citizen science projects with a conservation benefit.
- Carry out regular species monitoring of the bug garden regarding native invertebrates.
- Produce “wild birds at WWP” signage with daily staff bird survey results.

Proud members of



**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR NATURE!**

## References

- Byers, O., Lees, C., Wilcken, J. & Schwitzer, C. (2013) "The One Plan Approach: The Philosophy and Implementation of CBSG's Approach to Integrated Species Conservation Planning." WAZA Magazine Vol. 14. PP 2 - 5
- Byers, O. (2014) "The One Plan Approach; with Apologies to Shakespeare" CONNECT Magazine. March. PP 18 - 20
- Dibb, A. (2017) "Foraging preferences of 6 habitat generalist bird species" Unpublished MSc dissertation
- Emerton, L. (2002) "The Nature of Benefits and the Benefits of Nature: Why Wildlife Conservation Has Not Economically Benefitted Communities in Africa" Community Conservation Research in Africa: Principles and Comparative Practice: University of Manchester, Manchester.
- Gardiner, M. M., Allee, L. L., Brown, P. M. J., Losey, J. E., Roy, H. E. & Rice Smyth, R. (2012) "Lessons from lady beetles: accuracy of monitoring data from US and UK citizen-science programs" The Ecological Society of America: Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment Vol. 10 (9)
- IUCN (2020) "Importance for the conservation of nature of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning" WCC-2020-Res-072-EN, World Conservation Congress, Marseille
- Kosmala, M., Wiggins, A., Swanson, A & Simmons, B. (2016) "Assessing data quality in citizen science" The Ecological Society of America: Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment Vol. 14 (10). PP 551-560
- Marmax Recycled Products (2021) "Education Brochure" Accessed online 29/04/2021, [https://issuu.com/marmax\\_/docs/pjrc454\\_marmax\\_educationbro\\_2021\\_flip-10](https://issuu.com/marmax_/docs/pjrc454_marmax_educationbro_2021_flip-10)
- McCarthy, T. & Mallon, D. (Ed) (2016) "Chapter 23 - The Role of Zoos in Snow Leopard Conservation: Captive Snow Leopards as Ambassadors of Wild Kin" Snow Leopards. Academic Press. ISBN 9780128022139. PP 311-322.
- Postles, M. & Bartlett, M. (2018) "The rise of BioBlitz: Evaluating a popular event format for public engagement and wildlife recording in the United Kingdom" Applied Environmental Education & Communication Vol 17; 4. PP 365 - 379
- Roe, D., Booker, F., Zhou, W., Allebone-Webb, S., Hill, N. A. O., Kumpel, N., Petrokofsky, G., Redford, K., Russell, D., Shepherd, G., Wright, J. & Sunderlands, T. C. H. (2015) "Are alternative livelihood projects effective at reducing local threats to specified elements of biodiversity and/or improving or maintaining the conservation status of those elements?" Environmental Evidence 4; 22.
- Stroud, D. (2019) "BB eye – The value of monitoring rare breeding birds
- Theobald, E. J., Ettinger, A. K., Burgess, H. K., DeBey, L. B., Schmidt, N. R., Froehlich, H. E., Wagner, C., HilleRisLambers, J., Tewsbury, J., Harsch, M. A. & Parrish, J. K. (2014) "Global change and local solutions: Tapping the unrealized potential of citizen science for biodiversity research" Biological Conservation Vol. 181. PP 236-244
- Tratalos, J., Fuller, R. A., Warren, P. H., Davies, R. G. & Gaston, K. J. (2007) "Urban form, biodiversity potential and ecosystem services." Landscape and Urban Planning Vol 83; 4. PP 308-317
- Verissimo, D., MacMillan, D. C. & Smith R. J. (2011) "Toward a systematic approach for identifying conservation flagships". Conservation Letters 4. PP 1-8
- Wilder, M., Aldred, L. & Rennie, K. (2019) "The Effectiveness of the RoundTable on Sustainable Palm Oil Certification System for Helping Consumers Make Informed Decisions" Accessed online 29/04/2021, <http://winghamwildlifepark.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/The-Effectiveness-of-the-RoundTable-on-Sustainable-Palm-Oil-Certification-System-for-Helping-Consumers-Make-Informed-Decisions.pdf>

Proud members of



**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR NATURE!**





Please make sure you always read our informative exhibit signs as you visit the park - you might be surprised as to which animals are critically endangered and in need of our help!

Visayan warty pig populations in the wild have decreased by a massive 80% in just 21 years! They're not just a pretty face with amazing hair - they're a wild pig species on the brink of extinction.



**[WWW.WINGHAMWILDLIFEPARK.CO.UK](http://WWW.WINGHAMWILDLIFEPARK.CO.UK)**



[www.wwpaw.org](http://www.wwpaw.org)