



# Manor Wildlife Park Conservation Strategy

## Summary

Zoos and wildlife parks attract millions of visitors every year. They play an important role in raising public interest in threatened species, as they provide opportunities for people to directly encounter different animal species. Manor Wildlife Park is home to 28 different species, 14 of which are categorised as threatened on the IUCN Red list. This makes it extremely important for the park to inform visitors about these species and how they can help conserve them. Visitors can engage with and support conservation programs by donating to programs related to animals at zoos. WAZA defines conservation as:

‘Securing populations of species in natural habitats for the long term’

At Manor Wildlife Park, the main focus is on reducing the rate of global biodiversity loss, with this in mind all species on display have a conservation role (outlined in full in the parks’ collection plan policy).

## Vision Statement

A sustainable planet where the diversity of life on earth is cherished, respected and secured.

## Mission Statement

To protect and secure endangered species ecosystems.

## Objectives

We aim to achieve our mission statement in three key ways:

1. Contributing to international captive breeding programmes by housing endangered species such as Sumatran tiger and Siamang gibbon.
2. Taking action in the wild by working closely with local charities to promote conservation locally.
3. Inspiring action. Visitor experiences are crucial to our mission, by allowing visitors to share large natural habitats with endangered animals living ‘wild-lives’ here at the park.

## Methods of Completing Objectives

### 1. The Animal Collection

All species on display have a conservation role. These roles are outlined in full in our Collection Plan Policy and include but are not limited to the following: habitat management role, conservation assistant role and conservation insurance.

- The park will increase the captive populations of endangered EEP and ESB species, through successful breeding programmes and by working with BIAZA and EAZA.

- We create and maintain the correct conditions and habitat for the park's endangered species (as specified by husbandry manuals).
- We regularly monitor young so they are given every chance of making it through to adulthood.
- We maintain the genetic diversity of populations to avoid inbreeding; the use of contraception when necessary and work on studbook recommendations.
- We make the public aware of breeding successes through daily talks, newsletters and website/social media updates.

## **2. Use of Signs**

One of the most important tools the park uses is signage around the park on exhibits. These display, as a minimum: species name (common and scientific), natural habitat, biological characteristics and conservation status. In addition, information may include: diet, reproduction, life expectancy, conservation aspects.

## **3. Native Wildlife Research**

Manor Wildlife Park signed up to the BIAZA event "Spotted-on-site" in 2022. With the help of staff, volunteers and visitors the park had over 212 observations and around 140 species spotted on the site. This data is useful to researchers and conservationists for understanding where endangered and other species are in the United Kingdom.

## **4. EAZA Biobank**

Manor Wildlife Park holds a small collection of varied exotic species many which are of conservation importance. Manor Wildlife Park is working closely with the EAZA Biobank to aid in conservation research. The zoo periodically sends samples and full carcasses of exotic species to the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland in Edinburgh with the aim of supporting population management and conservation research.

## **5. Working with charities**

- Pembrokeshire Wildlife Trust

Manor Wildlife Park is in talks with the Pembrokeshire Wildlife Trust to reestablish a partnership and identify key areas whereby Manor Wildlife Park can contribute to local native wildlife conservation.

- The park supports the charity the Red Panda network by raising £5 from every panda adoption sold and yearly fundraising on Red Panda Day
- The park supports the charity Wildcat Conservation Alliance by raising £5 from every tiger adoption sold and yearly fundraising on International Tiger Day
- The park supports the Save the Rhino charity through yearly fundraising on International Rhino Day
- The park also supports the charity Lemur Love, a charity that aims to prevent lemur extinction through their programmes with wild lemurs. The park sells lemur adoption packs with £5 of every sale going directly towards Lemur Love, along with money from fundraising events throughout the year.

## **6. Education programme**

Schools are encouraged to visit the zoo and are offered discounted rates for group visits. Schools can plan their own visits using the educational signage around the zoo, or opt for a guided tour. They can also choose to have informal educational sessions in the form of

tailored talks which are linked with the National Curriculum and teachers can request certain topics or animals to link with what they are learning at school.

- EYFS – we provide education packs online which link to the national curriculum and animals we have here at the park. We also provide educational talks when they visit the park, which are relevant to their teaching and key subjects in their maths and literacy curriculum.
- KS1 – we provide both education sessions and worksheets which are relevant to their teaching and key subjects in their science curriculum.
- KS2 - we provide both education sessions and worksheets which are relevant to their teaching and key subjects in their science curriculum.
- KS3 and 4 – sessions will provide a conservation message and be relevant to the science curriculum, in addition a careers information will be provided detailing the job roles in the animal care/conservation industry.
- Special Needs and Disabled – No separate arrangements have been made. The whole educational program is fully inclusive and each session will be adjusted according to need.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic over the past years, whilst the zoo was closed to visitors, schools and groups had the opportunity to take part in free virtual talks. The groups had a choice of species to focus on as well as a key stage to aim the talk at. Virtual talks have been extended to those schools who wish to participate in educational talks but are not in the area. These can be booked by request through e-mail.

#### **7. Keeper knowledge and daily talks and feeds**

Public talks at enclosures promote additional information and understanding of particular species. It is an opportunity for visitors to engage with our work and can promote a greater understanding of the efforts the park is making to conserve that species along with other institutions. The park hosts hourly talks and feeds for many of its animals. The talks cover a wide variety of topics including husbandry, conservation and diet as well as further information on the individuals kept within the collection.

#### **8. Habitat Maintenance**

- In 2022 Manor Wildlife Park planted over 40 trees around the park to replace veteran trees removed during urgent and necessary tree work which took place in the winter of 2021/22. This planting will go towards restoring habitat across the park and also decrease our carbon footprint. Manor Wildlife Park is dedicated to protecting and enhancing its own wild space which provides for the many varieties of native species and to the visitors that frequent the wildlife park.
- In 2023 Manor Wildlife Park embarked on a project with the aim of providing more spaces for the small creatures that inhabit the park. We have provided multiple areas around the park that are wild and unkempt to encourage more invertebrates. This in turn will encourage other species to inhabit and utilise the areas for food and resources. Manor Wildlife Park has also created a number of insect hotels with accompanying signage to educate our visitors on the importance of invertebrates and encourage our visitors to create wild spaces in their own back gardens.

- Manor Wildlife Park is dedicated to the native species that visit the park each year. To understand better what species are in and around the park we have undertaken numerous wildlife surveys.

## **9. Sustainability**

The park is on its way to moving towards a more sustainable business model. Some examples of changes made are:

- The removal of all unsustainable palm oil products from the supply chain.
- Providing a discount to customers who bring their own hot drink containers.
- Providing compostable hot drinks cups, plates, napkins and straws.
- Buying locally wherever possible and fair-trade coffee.
- There are numerous recycling bins across the park and the park is almost zero waste to landfill.

We make our customers aware of how small changes they can make themselves at home, can have a massive impact on the future of our planet; we do this through signage and as part of our daily talks.

## **Evaluation of Conservation Strategy and Conclusion**

Continuous evaluation of the conservation strategy is vital to ensure our goal is reached. Therefore, all methods within the conservation strategy are analysed in different ways. For example, teachers are given feedback forms to complete after their visits and responses from this are analysed and an annual report is created to ensure information is relevant and being received correctly.

The park had great success with many of its endangered species breeding programmes recently. In particular, we are pleased with the number of penguin chicks born, as the colony is still in its infancy. We are also pleased with the success of the new Red-squirrel walk-through enclosure, it has given us a greater capacity to house breeding males and engage the public with the species more as they can get closer and learn about conservation and breeding programmes through our daily talks and feeds in the walk-through enclosure.

This conservation strategy is designed to ensure every visitor to the park leaves with a greater understanding of the conservation roles the park has and what they as an individual can do to help as well. Continuous surveying of the parks' ponds and wetland areas is necessary in order to assess the success of the renovation and planting of new trees and as the park's collection plan changes over time, this conservation strategy will also alter in line with the change in animal species. Continual evaluation of all aspects of the strategy will allow the parks goal to be reached.