



Northumberland College Zoo Conservation Policy

Northumberland College Zoo and BIAZA members are committed to conserving the natural world and to educating and inspiring their visitors to do the same.

The BIAZA Field Conservation Committee (FCC) supports the following conservation definition:

Conservation is an action leading to healthy and resilient wildlife populations and natural ecosystems. These outcomes underpin the sustainability of the global environment and human societies and are achieved through direct interventions to manage populations, habitats and landscapes; promoting behaviour change at all levels of society through engagement and advocacy; and research and knowledge sharing to build conservation capacity

The policy has been written in conjunction with the BIAZA aims for zoos in conjunction with BIAZA guidelines and policies.

Background information to the Conservation Policy

The secretary of states standards of modern Zoo Practice states the following:

Conservation measures within and beyond the zoo

7.2 The Directive requires that zoos undertake conservation measures and gives a number of options for doing so.

The options given are:

- I. participating in research from which conservation benefits accrue to the species, and/or;
- II. training in relevant conservation skills, and/or;
- III. the exchange of information relating to species conservation and/or;
- IV. where appropriate, captive breeding, and/or
- V. where appropriate, repopulation or reintroduction of species into the wild.

7.3 Zoos must therefore undertake, as a minimum, at least one of these options. The measures required should be proportionate to the size and type of zoo.

7.4 Where the relevant species are held, a zoo must be an active participant in recognised species management programmes.

7.5 Zoos must be able to demonstrate their conservation measures, including research if undertaken. Areas to be considered should include overall conservation policy, and how this relates to the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy, and type and level of input into international conservation programmes.

7.6 Zoos should generally be able to demonstrate that they encourage research. Research can be developed through forging links with Higher Education Institutions.

7.7 In any research carried out, care must be taken to comply with all relevant legislation and be subject to ethical review.

Members of BIAZA are required to abide by all existing BIAZA policies and, in meeting their commitment to conservation,

BIAZA members MUST:

1. Have a written conservation policy or strategy which is visible/available to the public;
2. Record and evaluate all conservation activities and how they contribute to the member's conservation policy or strategy (see BIAZA Field Conservation Guidelines for guidance); October 2021
3. Be actively involved in the management and/or protection of wild animals in their natural habitat and/or habitats (this can be on site at the zoo);
4. Contribute part of the zoo's staff time and/or financial resources to support conservation projects situated off the grounds of the zoo;
5. Participate in conservation breeding programmes for relevant species held in the BIAZA member's collection, including initiatives not coordinated by regional zoo associations, but which are approved by the relevant conservation authorities;
6. Participate in activities coordinated by relevant BIAZA Working Groups or Taxon Working Groups;
7. Make information and interpretation about conservation projects with which the zoo is involved available to zoo visitors, this can include projects that are given only financial support;
8. Display educational material visible to all visitors which conveys the zoo's conservation outlook or mission in line with other BIAZA policies or guidelines;
9. Promote public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity; 10. Encourage environmentally responsible behaviour by visitors (see BIAZA Sustainability Policy).

Northumberland College Zoo Conservation aims are to:

Carry out Natural Habitat protection or management

- On site we work with the estates teams and the farm to contribute to the management to the land and woodlands

Finance resources or staff time on project contribution

- Staff are given time to contribute to the surveying of red and grey squirrels in Northumberland as part of the RSNE project each year.
- Staff are allocated time to contribute to nature engagement at the 6 local schools in Ponteland.

Join and be part of Conservation Breeding programmes.

- EEPs that the zoo is part of include Bush dogs, Red crowned Cranes, Emperor tamarins, Crowned Lemurs, Black and White Ruffed lemurs, Fiji Iguana, Uta Iguana, Goeldi's monkeys, Squirrel monkeys, radiated tortoises.

Join and work along BIAZA and Taxon Working Groups

- The keeper team actively attend BIAZA conferences and meetings when available to do so.
- Run local education meetings for BIAZA

Carry out and have Conservation Interpretation

- Signage
- Online resources
- YouTube videos

Produce and deliver Conservation education.

- Zoo Ed Programmes
- Schools visits
- Social Media
- Themed Activities in and around the zoo
- Outreach
- Schools programme

Sustainability

- College sustainability guidelines
- Member of the college eco group
- Recycled items for sale in the gift shop

Other

- Nature Safe member - zoo biobank

For full list of conservation efforts please see the excel spread sheet that is updated annually with all the work we have done

Further Reading/References

Zoo Licensing Act (1981): <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/37>

- Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice (Defra, 2012):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/secretary-of-state-s-standards-of-modern-zoopractice> - BIAZA Policy Documents, all available here: <https://biaza.org.uk/policies-guidelines>

- BIAZA Animal Transfer Policy
- BIAZA Ethical Acquisitions Policy
- BIAZA Sustainability Policy
- BIAZA Conservation Translocations Policy

BIAZA Guidance Documents (available on the BIAZA Members' area of the website, requires login):

- BIAZA Field Conservation Guidelines: <https://biaza.org.uk/resources/conservation-resources>
- BIAZA Conservation Education Guidelines: <https://biaza.org.uk/resources/education-resources>
- BIAZA Sustainability Guidelines: <https://biaza.org.uk/resources/sustainability>
- BIAZA Research Handbook: <https://biaza.org.uk/resources/research-resources>
- BIAZA Guidance on Institutional Collection planning: <https://biaza.org.uk/resources/animal-husbandry>

WAZA Conservation Strategy and Aquarium Conservation Strategies: <https://www.waza.org/priorities/conservation/conservation-strategies/>