**Conservation at Drusillas Park (KS2)**

**What is conservation?**

Conservation is the protection of habitats and all the animals and plants that live there.

**Why are animals endangered?**

Endangered animals are ones that are most at risk of becoming extinct (all dying out). Animals can be endangered due to:

* Habitat destruction
* Hunting and poaching
* Illegal pet trade
* Over harvesting (such as catching too fish many to eat)
* Introduction of animals (for example some birds on islands can’t fly and are easily caught)
* Pollution
* Climate change

**How does Drusillas help?**

* Captive breeding programmes
* Fundraising to help wild animals
* Helping visitors to learn about animals and conservation
* Helping local wildlife

**Which animals are endangered at Drusillas?**

* Sulawesi-crested macaque
* Cotton-topped tamarin
* Rodrigues fruit bat
* Lar gibbon
* Ring-tailed lemur
* Red panda
* Golden lion tamarin
* Bactrian camel (critically endangered in the wild)

The following animals are classed as vulnerable (could become endangered)

* Humboldt penguin
* Giant anteater
* Black lemur
* Binturong
* Snowy owl
* Burmese python
* Goeldi’s monkey
* Asian short-clawed otter
* Black-cheeked lovebird

**Captive breeding programmes**

* Zoos around the world work together to help maintain healthy populations of animals
* Animals are moved from zoo to zoo so the best animals can be matched together to breed
* Animals are given to other zoos (not sold for money)
* One person is in charge of each species (studbook coordinator)
* Today, almost all zoo animals have been born in zoos.
* Zoo born animals are sometimes released into the wild.

**Breeding programmes at Drusillas**

* Drusillas works alongside other zoos as part of breeding programmes
* Drusillas has had recent breeding success with
* Sulawesi crested macaques
* Cotton-topped tamarins
* Lar gibbons
* Red panda
* Black lemur
* Asian short-clawed otter
* Black-cheeked lovebirds
* Goeldi’s monkey
* Snowy owl

**Fundraising to help wild animals.**

Drusillas raises money to support the following projects:

* Drusillas in Africa – for over 20 years funds have been raised to support community education projects and student fieldwork in Kenya
* Lion Tamarins of Brazil Fund – helping to protect wild populations of lion tamarins.
* Falklands Conservation – protecting the wildlife of the Falkland Islands, including five penguin species
* SloCo – Drusillas new conservation charity of year, supports sloth conservation in the wild

See <https://www.drusillas.co.uk/zoo/conservation-1> for further details

**British wildlife**

Drusillas also helps local wildlife, monitoring local bat and butterfly populations. Within its grounds there are areas set aside for wildflowers and insects, as well as numerous bird boxes. We are also involved in a local dormouse project.

**Learning about animals**

Drusillas is an excellent place to learn about animals, with many interactives and signs to learn about animals. Displays of HM Customs seized animal artefacts (e.g. turtle shells and elephant tusks) are shown to visitors, to help them learn about the illegal wildlife trade. Drusillas keeper talks and school education sessions are also great for learning about animals.