**Conservation at Drusillas Park (KS3)**

**What is conservation?**

Conservation is the protection of ecosystems and all the organisms that live there.

**Why are animals endangered?**

Animals can be endangered (at risk of becoming extinct) due to:

* Habitat destruction
* Hunting and poaching
* Illegal pet trade
* Over harvesting (such as catching too fish many to eat)
* Introduction of animals (e.g. rats, cats, dogs and pigs threatening native flightless bird populations on islands)
* Pollution
* Climate change

**How does Drusillas help?**

* Captive breeding programmes
* Fundraising to help wild animals
* Helping visitors to learn about animals and conservation
* Native species work

**Which animals are endangered at Drusillas?**

* Sulawesi-crested macaque *(due to habitat destruction and being eaten as bushmeat)*
* Cotton-topped tamarin *(only found in a small area of Colombia, and are threatened by deforestation)*
* Rodrigues fruit bat *(only found on one island, mush of their habitat was destroyed by a cyclone)*
* Lar gibbon *(habitat destruction, including for palm oil)*
* Ring-tailed lemur *(only found in Madagascar, threatened by habitat destruction, bushmeat and pet trades)*
* Red panda *(habitat destruction for farming, mining and human development)*
* Golden lion tamarin *(numbers fell to approx. 100 wild individuals due to habitat destruction and capture)*
* Bactrian camel *(critically endangered in the wild due to habitat destruction and hunting)*

In addition, 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 but needs cooperation from governments and local people.
* Captive bred animals may be over-familiar with humans and have problems finding food and avoiding predators.

**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

**Why is Drusillas not breeding all of its endangered animals?**

* Drusillas works alongside other zoos and is part of larger breeding programmes. It may be that we have been asked not to breed them as they are closely related to many other zoo animals.
* We have bachelor (all male) groups of fruit bats and ring-tailed lemurs – so they can’t breed.
* Some animals live in groups of one male to several females, and so there are ‘spare’ male babies. Males kept in bachelor groups can be used for breeding at a later date (Drusillas used to have a bachelor group of Sulawesi crested macaques that moved to another zoo to breed).

**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 king, rockhopper, macaroni and gentoo penguins.
* 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

**Native species**

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 prides itself as 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 prevent the illegal wildlife trade. Our keeper talks are educational, informative and always popular. Many schools visit and have education sessions.