



Subject:	Belfast Zoo – Supported Charities amendment
Date:	8 th February 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Greer
Contact Officer:	Alyn Cairns, Zoo Manager Julie Bryans, Commercial Support Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update and request changes to the approved conservation projects that are supported by Belfast Zoo.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Note that three projects can no longer be supported;- Approve a new project to be supported.
3.0	Main Report:
3.1	Background

A significant proportion of Belfast Zoo's animal collection represents species that are endangered or under threat in the wild, and many are managed as part of international collaborative breeding programmes. Such programmes are managed by the European (EAZA) and World (WAZA) zoo associations, of which Belfast Zoo is a member. One of the roles of these programmes is to create conservation links between captive populations of endangered species being managed *ex situ* (i.e. the process of protecting an endangered species outside of its natural habitat), and wild populations being managed *in situ* (i.e. in the species natural habitat). Such links provide education/awareness, scientific/research opportunities and financial support to those working on these projects.

3.2 Under the terms of the zoo licence issued by NIEA, Belfast Zoo is required to demonstrate that it supports in situ conservation projects.

3.3 Parks and Leisure Committee in January 2015 approved the support of several local, national and international conservation organisations. These projects would be financially supported by Belfast Zoo by distribution of donations received from visitors.

3.4 The zoo receives donations from visitors who can either choose to add a set donation amount to their admission ticket, or provide donations of any amount via website, cheque, over the phone or in-person at the zoo.

3.5 The conservation projects previously approved include:

<i>Project</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Country/region</i>	<i>Associated info</i>
Tenkile Conservation Alliance	Tree kangaroo	Southeast Asia	Via EEP
The Lemur Conservation Association (AEECL)	Lemurs	Madagascar/Africa	AEECL
Wildlife Conservation Society Nigeria	Gorillas	Madagascar/Africa	Cross River Gorilla Project
Bird Watch Ireland barn owl project	Barn owls	Northern Ireland	UWT research and nest box project
Lion tamarins of Brazil Fund	Lion tamarins	South America	Via Bengt Holst, EAZA
Sifaka Conservation Trust	Sifaka	Madagascar/Africa	
Guanxi François langur conservation action plan	Francois langur	Southeast Asia	Via EEP/IUCN project
Asian nature Conservation Foundation	Asian elephant	Southeast Asia	Kaziranga National Park
Visayan warty pig Conservation Programme run by Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation	Visayan warty pig	Southeast Asia	Via EEP, Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP)
The Red Panda Network	Red panda network	China	Via EEP

Moloch gibbon conservation	Moloch gibbon	Southeast Asia	Via EEP / The Aspinall Foundation
White tailed sea eagles	White tailed sea eagle	Northern Ireland	

3.6

These were critically challenged against a set of criteria which included:

IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) status: i.e. vulnerable, rare, endangered etc. Assistance should be driven towards those species most endangered in the wild;

Belfast Zoo species: Fundraising activities would be somewhat easier if the species was part of the zoo's current animal collection;

EAZA or WAZA breeding programme: Species that were managed at European or Global level represented those with the best long-term options for zoo lead *in situ* conservation activities;

Project endorsement: Projects that are endorsed by a recognised conservation body (i.e. UWT, NIEA, BIAZA, EAZA, WAZA, IUCN);

Length of project: Conservation projects that had been established for a significant period are preferred;

Endowment to hold in zoo: some of the rarest species' zoos look after can only be held in the zoo via payment of a one-off or annual management fee to their related conservation programmes;

Clear evidence of where funds would be spent: Reviewed conservation aims, objectives and evidence of how and where money would be spent, which can be used to promote the supported projects to zoo visitors.

Established link: Relationships were already established with some projects and had already considered that the project was strong and worthy of funding support;

Other support: the impact of Belfast Zoo's support would be more considerable for projects with a limited number of supporters.

	<p><u>Regional mix:</u> given the comprehensive animal collection in Belfast Zoo species represented from around the world and all seven continents, it was felt that it would be prudent to select set geographical regions where the zoo would focus efforts of <i>ex situ</i> support activities, and which would further bring clarity for visitors and other donors.</p>
3.7	<p>Future</p>
	<p>Three of the previously selected conservation programmes can no longer be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francois’ langurs – the Fauna & Flora International Species Conservation Programme no longer oversees conservation efforts for Francois’ langurs; • White-tailed sea eagle program was originally a short-term project run by the Golden Eagle project which is no longer in existence; • Asian Elephant - The Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF), a not-for-profit charitable trust, is required by Indian law to obtain prior permission from the Government of India to receive funds from foreign sources on a case-by-case basis or through a prescribed license. They do not have the required license therefore are unable to receive donated funds.
3.8	<p>The zoo has selected an additional charity to support:</p> <p>The zoo is currently in process of building a new lion habitat which is scheduled to open for Easter 2023. To highlight and complement this major new development, the zoo would like to support the Panthera.org conservation programme. It is devoted exclusively to the conservation of the world’s 40 species of wild cats, including lions, and the vast ecosystems they inhabit.</p>
3.9	<p>Supported projects will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain suitable for support and meet the required criteria.</p>
	<p>Current donation status</p>
3.10	<p>The current donation total in the deferred income account is £12.6k (this has been rolled over from previous years). At the end of this financial year, these funds will be distributed to approved projects with the exception of the three projects that can no longer be supported.</p>
3.11	<p>Support for the new project, Panthera.org, will commence in the new financial year i.e. 1 April 2023.</p>

3.12	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Donations will continue to be collected as per normal operational process. Approximately £3-4k donations are expected annually.</p> <p>Donations will be distributed to the selected projects on an annual basis, or rolled over as deferred income in the event that total amount collected is deemed to be too low for international banking transfer fees.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no identified HR implications.</p>
3.14	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>There are no identified implications.</p>
3.15	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no identified implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents attached
	N/A