



## All Things Wild Conservation Strategy

Our planet is under threat. Climate change, pollution, depletion of natural resources and habitat loss are threatening the natural environment at home and abroad. Many species of plants and animals are under threat of extinction. We are committed to playing an active role in conservation, locally, nationally, and internationally.

### **Sustainable Practices**

Wherever possible we aim to avoid having a negative impact on the planet, through the following actions:

- Reusing water from the roof of jungle mayhem to flush toilets.
- We have solar panels on the roof of Jungle Mayhem to help heat and light our Reptile vivarium's.
- Reducing plastic use in the cafe by selling cans rather than bottles.
- Stocking eco-friendly toys in the shop, made from recycled or recyclable materials.
- We have recycle bins around the park to encourage our visitors to recycle their rubbish.
- Reducing paper consumption by making maps and trails downloadable
- We have conservation based signage and displays throughout the site, to educate our visitors on the problems that our planet faces and how they can help.
- Looking towards replacing park vehicles with electric/hybrid vehicles.
- Replacing some lawnmowers with electric ones.
- Growing more food and browse on site for our animals.
- Planting more trees.

**We pledge to commit with 'Future Net Zero Standard' to identify where we can reduce emissions, set targets for emission reductions, as well as develop and implement a net zero strategy.**

## **Practical help for native wildlife**

- 'Wild Meadow' created onsite with a wide range of flowers and grasses to provide a perfect environment for a range of species.
- We have a number of hedgehogs on site for whom we provide hedgehog boxes for.
- 'Bug hotels' to provide a home for invertebrates.
- Our Dinosaur field incorporates 2 ponds as a home for aquatic wildlife and a wide range of dragonflies, amphibians and birds, such as Kingfishers, have been spotted here.
- We feed our local native birds with a range of bird feeders and bird tables.
- Many areas of the park are allowed to 'go wild' and allow the nettles to grow, as this provides a valuable habitat for a range of invertebrates.
- The work of bees is celebrated across the site, with patches of wildflowers grown wherever we can find a gap.
- We run fun and informative sessions for guests and schools which can include bug hunting, butterfly counting, bird spotting and leaf collecting. We use these sessions to promote what people can do at home in a window box or garden.

## **Active Involvement in In-Situ Conservation**

We have been actively involved in Step into the Wild, a new wildlife project that has taken an area of over 100 acres, in South Wales, and is working with The Wildlife Trust, The Woodland Trust and Natural Resources Wales, in a huge re-wilding project in the hope to return the natural grasslands and woodlands back to their former glories. Trout, Watervole, Kingfishers and Otters were once common visitors to the site, but numbers have steadily declined in the last 25 years.

After just 12 months of this project, we are already seeing the difference! More wildlife have been spotted such as; Green and Spotted Woodpeckers, Tawny and Barn Owls, 9 species of Bat and even more recently, Otters.

Sarah Kessell, of the Welsh Wildlife Trust, has been working with Step Into the Wild on a number of different projects, such as; reinstating the Kenson River, and the re-establishment of saltmarsh meadows (an extremely rare but important UK habitat).

We have also ran a bio-blitz on site there, in conjunction with the Wildlife Trust.

Our marketing team have designed many signs for Fonmon, to educate their visitors about conservation and the value of biodiversity, connect people to nature and encourage sustainable behaviours (outreach programme).

Delena, our Conservation Officer is working with APEM to restore the River Kenson and surrounding marshland, improving the habitats and encouraging biodiversity. We have attended a Conservation grazing training day organised by PONT.

Our Conservation team hosted a training day for the Vale Otter Project, training volunteers to survey otters. We were pleased to find several signs of otters around the river. We introduced Belted Galloway cattle to the valley to encourage biodiversity.

We hosted a visit at Step Into the Wild by Julian Woodman (chief botanist with NRW), who was very pleased with the progress we are making in restoring the grasslands. We are trying to arrange a complete survey of this in 2022.

In conjunction with the Wildlife Trust, I organised a bio-blitz (results attached). In addition to this a working party from our zoo team went to Fonmon to pull up Himalayan Balsam.

We hosted a visit by Daniel Jenkins-Jones of the BTO about the possibility of arranging bird surveys at Fonmon in 2022.

Future planned projects include substantial tree re-planting and the possible re-introduction of native animal species!

### **Fundraising**

We are currently supporting the Macaw Recovery Network and the World Parrot Trust.

In the past 18 months we have collected money for:

- WIRES (Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service), which is Australia's largest wildlife rescue organisation.
- Cool Earth, a non-profit organisation which works alongside rainforest communities to halt deforestation and climate change.
- Wildlife Trust

### **Signage**

Information on our involvement in Conservation projects, as well as projects that we have contributed to financially, is clearly displayed on signage around the site to inform and educate our visitors. We also inform them of different ways they are able to get involved.

### **Visitor Engagement**

We have set up a Conservation Focus Group, consisting of children aged 8+, this group aims to both educate children on the importance of conservation and how they can help, and to help us understand how we can better engage with their demographic when it comes to conservation education.

## **Plans for 2022**

We intend to raise money for beaver reintroduction via the Wildlife Trust, and also for People's Trust for Endangered Species, specifically their projects to help Cotton-topped tamarins in Colombia and Lemurs in Madagascar.

Promotion of public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity is something we will be looking at in 2022.

We also plan to participate in conservation breeding programmes for relevant species in BIAZA members collections.