



FEBRUARY
2024

ZOO



Two female white-lipped tamarins arrived from Usti Zoo in the Czech Republic on 23rd February. They are currently off show, but one of the females and a new male will transfer into the pied tamarin habitat in Worlds Apart in due course.



An online meeting was held by the veterinary advisors of the Komodo dragon EEP looking at monitoring the reproductive cycle in female Komodo dragons.

Meetings were held with Sea lion, Primate and Tiger sections to look at their progress on working towards the workload set for them in the section inspections, and to discuss further priorities.

A team leader internal meeting was held which involved a drill exercise across adjacent farmland.

Charlotte, Deputy Team Leader of Elephant Section, attended the Elephant Subgroup Meeting in Chester on 1st/2nd February.



Electricity tenders were accepted for renewing the electric contracts across the entire zoo site.

Energy auditors came in to evaluate our energy usage for Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) assessment.

The Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) was introduced to incentivise large UK based businesses to implement energy saving measures and help reduce the UK's carbon emissions as we work towards becoming net zero by 2050.

RESEARCH

One study commenced this month looking at the effects of visitor presence/absence on zoo animal welfare on a Koi fish exhibit at Colchester Zoo.



Two gelada baboons, Mulu and Theodore, transferred to Port Lympne on 14th February.



Hayley, Senior Keeper of Carnivore Section, attended the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) Binturong Workshop at Dudley Zoo.

Our annual BALAI inspection was conducted by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). We must follow BALAI rules to import animals and germinal products (semen, ova and embryos) to Great Britain.

Directive 92/65 (the 'Balai' Directive) lays down conditions for the import and national movements for various species of animals which are not covered elsewhere by other legislation.



FEBRUARY

EDUCATION



1261 pupils visited from 35 schools in February

Over half term we ran a range of activities such as a trail, The Exploratorium, Keeper on the Couch and enrichment activities. Overall, survey respondents were highly satisfied with the Zooper Hero half term and in total we received 298 trails back (226 physical and 72 online).

So far during the 2023/24 school academic year, we have educated

10,741

participants in formal education sessions.



VOLUNTEERS



25 active animal ambassadors



1,930 ambassador interactions in February
(these are individual interactions and not a total of people)



86 **Prop Parade sessions**
(sharing skins, skulls, etc.)



41 **Enclosure Experts sessions**
(at enclosures talking about the animals and how we care for them)

120 **Activities** (vet checks on plush toys, classification game etc)

We now have at least one volunteer in on every day of the week with recruitment a rolling programme.

Across February, volunteers have given us around

280

hours in time.



FEBRUARY

UMPHAFA



6 buffalo calves have now been born in total, along with multiple nyala and waterbuck.



High levels of rain on the northern side of the reserve caused the accommodation to leak, and erosion under the fences - resulting in major work, including more rock packing on the fence line. The team built a 15-metre gabion along the fence - the gabion is designed to reduce the erosion and slow down the force of the water as it comes off the hills, as well as to stop rocks and trees destroying the fence.



20 metres of fence was stolen this month, as well as a few holes in the fence cut by poachers. We have moved a lot of patrols to the affected areas to deter the poachers.



The 14th February saw the arrival of 2 male wild dogs, (aged between 2-3). They arrived late in the afternoon from Selati in Kruger following a good 8 hours of travelling. Each morning and night for the next few months, the interns will check on the wild dogs preparing ID kits and feeding them.



A female Waller's ladybird spider was recorded this month; classed as least concern, the only female has ever been recorded on the reserve.



Work continued with the tiling of the intern bedrooms at the intern accommodation. Also, work was finished on the fence removal on the piece of land being rented to our neighbour, who has made a start on work on the land to grow his crops.



Interns carried out some frogging this month, getting sightings of 3 different species, as well as spending lots of time spraying the alien plants which seem to have multiplied across the reserve since the rains. They also conducted vegetation surveys, sprayed bug weed around some of the dams, cut overhanging trees from the roads, and put out camera traps.



In early February, four yearling giraffes were captured, two females and two males, and moved off the reserve. As we are carrying over capacity for the species, and with plans to bring new individuals in with different bloodlines, it is prudent to reduce the numbers.



The Field Rangers started testing for their security grading; over a 6-week period they will be going to take their tests each Friday which includes the legality of having a gun licence and what you can and can't do.



Unfortunately, the ostrich chicks are now down to 2 from the original 8 hatched. One is now the size of its mother so not as easy a target for the jackals now.

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