



**NOVEMBER  
2024**





# ZOO



On the 4th November, five of our new male pygmy goats, named Hank, Grayson, Earl, Peter, and Kenny, moved to Colenso Village after completing their 30-day quarantine.

On the 7th November, male Kirk's dik dik, Squash, moved off show from his temporary exhibit at the back of giant anteaters.

Male green anaconda, Nino, arrived from Hertfordshire Zoo on 8th November. He moved on show at the Rivers Edge habitat on the 22nd November joining resident male Houdini.

Goeldis monkey males, Pele and Pascal, moved from their habitat at Worlds Apart to a new indoor habitat as part of the walk through on the 26th November.



One new study commenced this month conducted by a student from the University of Essex using CCTV to conduct a behavioural comparison and habitat use study of Komodo Dragons in relation to visitation rates.

**NOVEMBER**



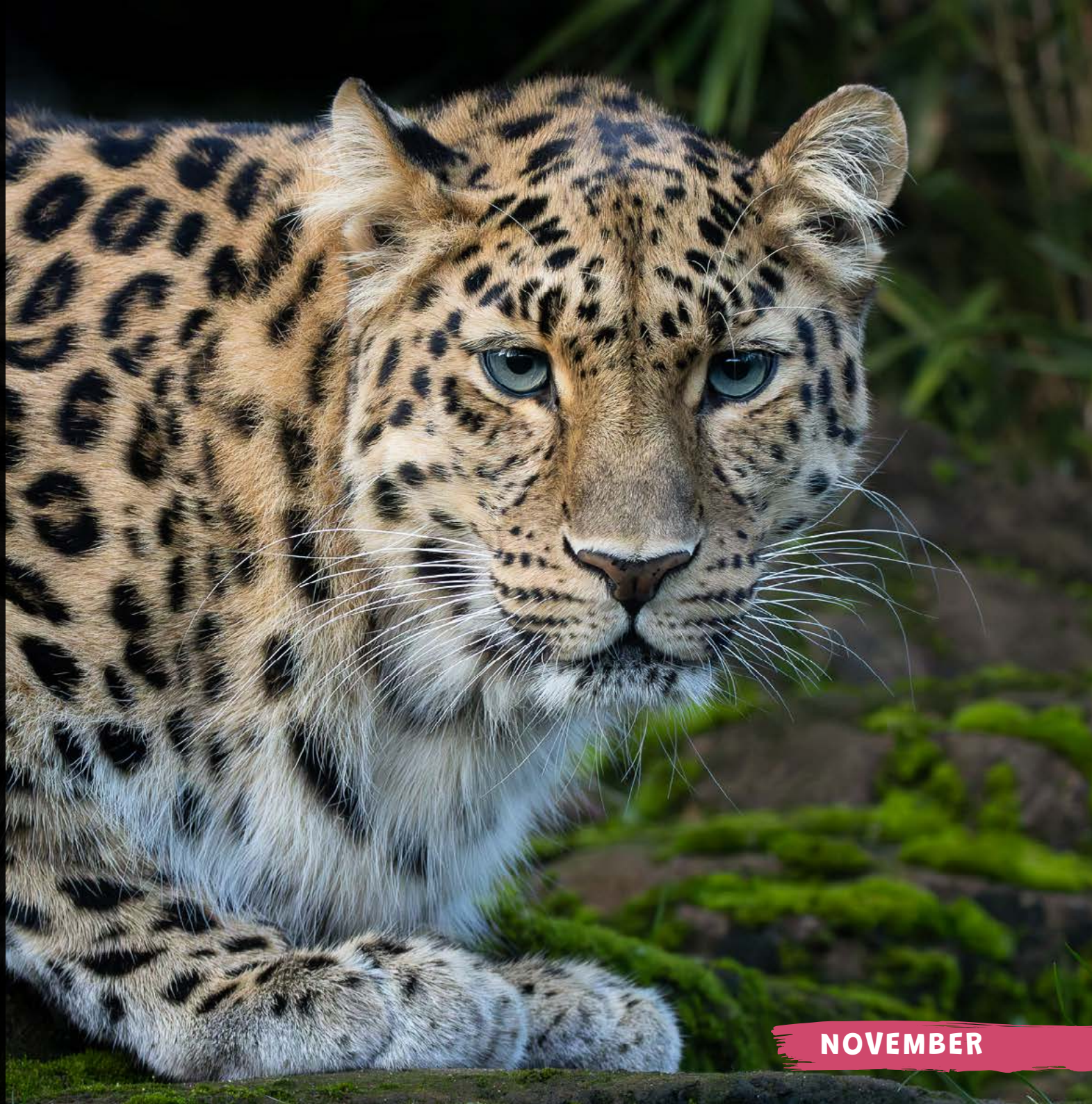
# TWO RARE LEOPARD CUBS BORN



In the early hours of the morning on 24th November 2024, exactly one month before Christmas Eve, female Amur leopard, Esra, gave birth to two healthy cubs.

This birth marks a significant milestone in our ongoing mission to care for wildlife and wild places.

The Animal Care Team have been monitoring the cubs closely but being an experienced mum, Esra has already been very attentive and gentle with both.



**NOVEMBER**



# ZOO

The Senior Education Officer attended the Conservation Education Committee Conference at Flamingo Land.



The Senior Primate Keeper attended the Great Apes Working Group workshop at Wild Planet Paignton.

The Senior Giraffe Keeper attended a conference focusing on 'A Holistic Approach to Giraffe Nutrition' at Chester Zoo.

The Team Leaders of Carnivore and Tiger Sections attended a Wild Meat Hygiene Course to gain a LANTRA qualification.



A team leader internal meeting was delivered by the Health and Safety Administrator focusing on risk assessing.

An internal meeting was held to produce an action plan for the Energy Savings Opportunities Scheme (ESOS) as part of the government requirement following an audit earlier in the year.



Female squirrel monkey, Sophie, was sadly euthanised on 20th November. Sophie was an elderly animal at 25 years old. After veterinary examination, it was found that Sophie had extensive teeth loss, therefore compromising her welfare. The difficult decision was made to put Sophie to sleep.



A mortality review was conducted to discuss mortalities within the collection over the past 6 months and to establish/discuss whether there are trends in deaths.

**NOVEMBER**



# EDUCATION

In total, in November 2024, the team delivered:

**107** formal education sessions with **2,941** participants;

**OUR HIGHEST NUMBER OF EDUCATION  
SESSIONS FOR ANY NOVEMBER.**



The most popular session  
was the **new Christmas  
Reindeer** session

The team delivered  
**15** sessions  
for **459** participants  
(10 regular sessions  
and 5 reindeer ones).

We had **54** schools,  
bringing **2,679** students.

Of those, **42** schools attended  
a total of **88** sessions at the zoo.

The team at the  
Exploratorium engaged

**1203** visitors  
with **965**  
Exploratorium boxes

**This November the Education team ran**

**3**  
formal outreach  
sessions  
(90 participants)

**1**  
community outreach  
(70 participants)

**2**  
career fairs  
(90 participants)

**2**  
virtual outreach  
(200 participants)

**NOVEMBER**



# UMPHAFA



Early in the month, three male eland joined the Reserve to add to the gene pool of the herd. Usually, the game capture season is finished, but with outstanding permits and the right weather, the team were able to get animals before the end of the year.



The maintenance team continued with their work installing the new jojo tanks as part of the Reserve's water storage plan. The team have also been building more gabions to reduce the erosion from the rainfall, carried out road repair, sprayed the fence line to remove weeds that would affect the electrics and installed new guttering to replace that damaged by a hailstorm. In addition, this month saw the arrival of several new diesel generators.



With the full solar system now in place on the Reserve, a backup is needed in case of no sun or consecutive days of cloudy weather. The maintenance team built cement platforms for the generators and a little house to protect them from hail.

The team have now applied to completely disconnect the electric supply and become self-reliant!



This month saw the arrival of the drillers for the new borehole for the intern accommodation. Despite drilling to 138 metres, there was no water so the contractor drilled back at the old site and was successful in finding water for the intern house.



Reserve Manager, Amanda, attended a meeting of the Cheetah Advisory Committee and learnt about a new app that will track all the cheetah in South Africa and monitor distribution patterns and survival. She also attended a second meeting organised by the Department of Forest, Fisheries and Environment to talk about the development of the National Conservation Strategy and Biodiversity Management Plans (BMP) for Leopards, Cheetah, as well as the revision of the African lion BMP.

NOVEMBER



# UMPHAFA

1

Zoological  
Director Visit

Zoological Director, Rebecca, visited during the latter part of the month and took part in numerous activities, including a meeting with a team member from the Natural Resources Section of KZN's Agriculture and Rural Development department who presented the results of a rangeland condition assessment conducted on UmPhafa in the early part of the year, when the team spent seven days doing 22 vegetation sites across the Reserve to see how good or bad the habitat is.

After giving an overview of how the data was collected and reviewed, he presented the results for UmPhafa. With the impact of historical grazing and weather on UmPhafa over the last 100 years, it has detrimentally impacted the condition of the veld and soil. The news was expected and the team now need to continue efforts to improve the Reserve for future generations.



1  
Intern  
Left the  
Reserve

One of the interns left, leaving three remaining for the rest of the year. They continued with maintenance, alien plant clearing, surveys and tried their hand at casting. A lot of fish were lost recently during the cold snap, so the aim is to repopulate those dams that suffered from the bad weather. Throwing a cast, several fish were caught and relocated between dams on the Reserve.

The interns recently built a new pitfall trap and managed to identify two new species for the Reserve this month:

- Boettger's dainty frog or common caco (*Cacosternum boettgeri*).
- Baboon spider – although the team are not sure if it's the common or the southern species and are waiting for confirmation from experts.

3

Poaching  
Incidences

With Christmas on the way, the poachers have picked up their game. With very few incursions over the last few months, three incursions have taken place in the space of a week. Poachers, their dogs, and multiple fence holes have been seen along the Reserve's boundaries. Moving forwards, the team will try to catch the poachers in the act and use of the drone is vital in keeping these poachers at bay. This time of year, the poachers have lists of animals that potential buyers have asked for and they can make big money selling the meat to the local communities.



1  
Completed  
Diploma  
Practical

Tiffany, our South African student intern who joined us in January, completed her diploma practical and left us at the end of the month. She has been a real asset to the programme, and we wish her the best of luck in her future and with any new studies she undertakes.



Baby Boom  
Season

With the onset of the rains, it's baby boom time! The warthog have started to introduce their babies to the world, as have the red hartebeest, blesbok, zebra and kudu! In addition, a few more blue cranes and spoonbills have arrived on the ryefield enjoying the wet conditions.

NOVEMBER