



JUNE

MONTHLY OVERVIEW REPORT / 2025

COLCHESTER
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Charity no. 1105621



THE ZOO

ANIMAL TRANSFERS

On 4th June, female cherry-crowned mangabey, Suna, transferred to Les Terres de Natae, France and on the 10th June, male white rhino, Tayo, transferred to Safari Madrid, Spain. Both moves were the result of EEP recommendations.

On the 28th June, 49 penguin tetra finished their quarantine and were moved to the tetra tank in Worlds Apart.

On the 29th June, 5 Cameroon sheep ewes arrived. They are currently in quarantine out of public view but will move down to the new additional walkthrough habitat at Colenso Village once finished. The pygmy goat kids are currently beside the Orangutan Forest church.

1 ANIMAL BIRTH

On 13th June, golden lion tamarin, Freia, gave birth to a single offspring. Freia is an experienced mother, having had 5 litters before arriving at Colchester Zoological Society. This infant is the first offspring from our newly formed pair.



THE ZOO

1 TEAM LEADER MEETING

An internal team leader meeting was run by the Lead Keeper of Primate Section focusing on sustainability across animal sections.

1 ROOF REPAIRED

Orangutan Forest has been closed this month whilst the roof has been repaired following wind damage caused in April 2024. The habitat will open again in early July.

1 ANIMAL ESCAPE DRILL

An animal escape drill was carried out with the sun bears 'escaping' from their habitat.

1 BIAZA AGM

The Zoological Director attended the BIAZA AGM at Jimmy's Farm.



MORE ZOO NEWS

The Animal Care Team and Gardeners have carried out a number of habitat adaptations this month, such as a new zipline in the male cheetah habitat for feeding enrichment and new perching in rainbow lorikeets.

Male green iguana, Fernando, sadly passed away on 25th June. Fernando had been receiving care for ongoing arthritis but stopped responding to treatment so the hardest but kindest decision was made to put him to sleep.

EDUCATION



170

SCHOOLS VISITED
COLCHESTER ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY THIS MONTH

BRINGING IN A TOTAL OF

9,497

STUDENTS

165

SCHOOL
SESSIONS RAN
AT THE ZOO



6 OUTREACH
SESSIONS

These outreach sessions were delivered to 230 participants, with a range of community outreach and fairs.

0 HOME EDUCATION
SESSIONS

No home education sessions ran this month as they are only conducted September to May.

One of our busiest Junes ever, with the second highest number of students and third highest number of schools.

VOLUNTEERS

3 VOLUNTEERS
ATTENDED
PER DAY

REACHING UP TO
400
VISITORS IN A DAY

The volunteers used props,
answered questions at habitats
and roved around the zoo.

Topics included apes,
elephants, and big cats.

On the 14th and 15th, the
volunteers assisted with
the Tree Dwellers weekend
event. Activities included
target training, games to
identify monkeys versus
apes, intelligence testing and
education using artefacts such
as full snakeskins and skulls
from tree dwelling reptiles and
skulls, brains and hand designs
from the primates.

The Tree Dwellers weekend
was a success, most visitors
were drawn in by puppets
and in total, 461 individuals
participated on Saturday
and 533 on Sunday.



343

VISITORS ENGAGED WITH
AT THE EXPLORATORIUM

EDUCATED USING

278

BOXES

UMPHAFA NATURE RESERVE



2 MALE CHEETAHS BONDING

Mid-month, the team moved into Phase 2 of the bonding process for the male cheetah. The team disconnected the middle electric strand so the boys could get closer to each other along the middle fence.

Then on the 25th June, the time came for the connecting gates to be opened up. Duma made the first move, sidling up to Tswalu who was sitting down. They then walked the fence line before Tswalu headed back to relax whilst Duma walked around the new boma taking in the new smells before finally relaxing together within a metre of each other.

Initial bonding signs were good, so the team took the decision to feed them later that day – a carcass to share. Tswalu immediately jumped on the carcass and dragged it away from Duma, who after a few minutes sat down next to Tswalu and started feeding. Hopefully they will form a stronger bond over the next few weeks.

MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Building work on a new ranger outpost started after the foundations were laid last month. By the end of the month, the roof was completed with a row of bricks put over to stop strong winds blowing the roof off. By the end of the month, the team had commenced the plumbing and plastering the outside. The Field Rangers are looking forward to getting out of the tent and into a solid building for winter.

As well as building the outpost, the maintenance team have been fixing roads, baling grass for the winter and, towards the end of the month, started with the annual burns; burning the perimeter fire breaks and the neighbouring lady's land. The grass is still too green to burn much more this month though.



1

BUFFALO CALF BORN

A second buffalo calf for 2025 was born this month.

1

GAME CAPTURE

Towards the end of the month, the game capture team arrived and captured 8 kudu bulls and a waterbuck bull.

327

PECAN NUTS HARVESTED

Four ladies from the community came in and harvested 327kgs of pecan nuts, which are a good money earner for the reserve.

14

HECTARES CLEARED

The four ladies from the local community have progressed well with the acacia karoo removal. In just under 3 months, they have cleared 14 hectares. Since clearance, the animals have spent quite a bit of time in the area getting to new grass they haven't got to before.



INTERNS

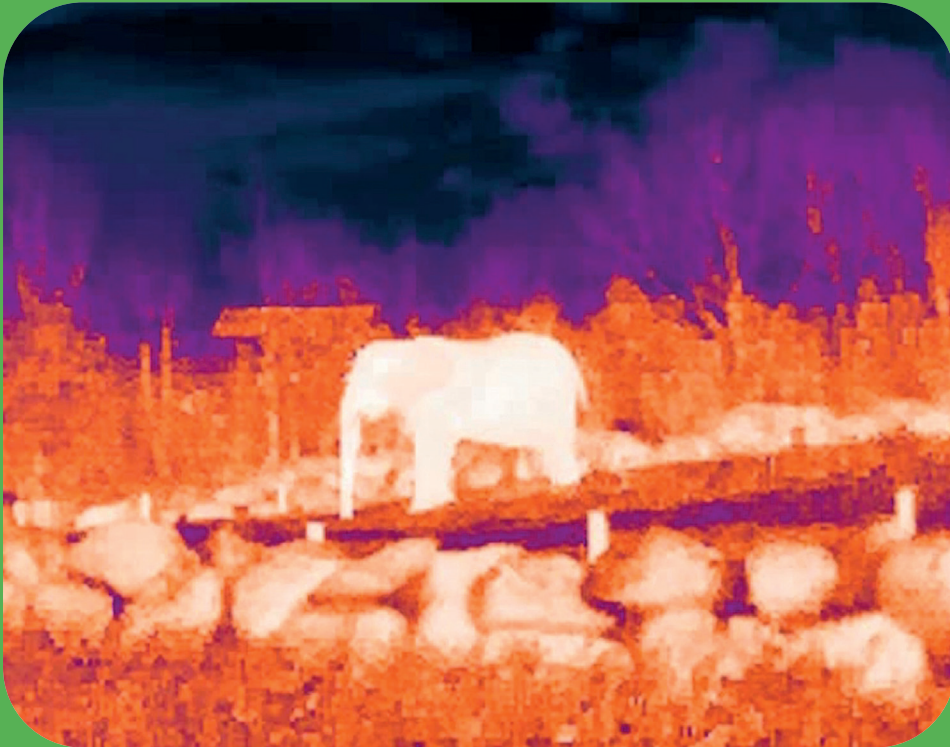
Writtle University College joined the reserve this month. In the first week, after helping out with one of the burns, they conducted a game count, set camera traps, and checked on the cheetah twice a day as well as helped to feed them. In the second week, they helped with cheetah bonding, game capture, poaching patrols and snare sweeps, camera trapping and finishing off with a stay at the bush camp.

MORE

UMPHAFA NEWS

Incursions increased mid-month, but rather than the poachers coming into the reserve, they opened the fence pushing their dogs in in the hope that they will push animals towards the fence for them to kill.

CONSERVATION



A meeting was held with Colchester Skip Hire to discuss waste management and recycling at Colchester Zoological Society.

Andrew Rosindell, MP for Romford, visited to discuss Colchester Zoological Society's role in education, conservation and enhancement of animal welfare.

Cameras were put up at the elephant habitat as part of ongoing work following the Heat Project to test the efficiency of cameras to aid in elephant detection at times of human-wildlife conflict.

RESEARCH



3 NEW STUDIES THIS MONTH

A study on the impact of visitors on the social integration in a newly formed captive chimpanzee group (*Pan troglodytes*).

The intraspecific and interspecific interactions in the mixed species African exhibit.

Evaluating the effects of enclosure space and substrate on giraffe hoof health and behaviour in British Zoos. Evaluation of correlations between diet composition, gut pH, and welfare indicators in captive giraffe population across UK zoos.

