

BRISTOL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SAVING WILDLIFE TOGETHER

IMPACT REPORT 2025

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Photo credits: **Cover:** Eurasian lynx. **Left:** Monte Alén National Park, Equatorial Guinea by Tim Bray

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF TRUSTEES AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

We are delighted to introduce our Impact Report for 2025.

Reflecting on 2025, we are proud of the progress the Society has made together. Through our conservation, education, research and public engagement work, we continued to increase our positive impact for wildlife and people.

Our mission of Saving Wildlife Together underpins everything we do. During the year, our teams worked with **partners in eight countries** across four continents, delivering field conservation projects that protected threatened species, restored habitats and supported communities to coexist with wildlife. In Madagascar, **7,819 native saplings were planted** to restore threatened forest habitat, while closer to home our white-clawed crayfish programme **released 239 captive-bred crayfish** to strengthen wild populations of Britain's only native freshwater crayfish.

This year also saw the continued transformation of Bristol Zoo Project. The opening of our Tropical House brought new threatened species to Bristol Zoo Project and created opportunities for visitors to learn about their conservation. Work progressed on African Forest, a new immersive habitat at Bristol Zoo Project bringing visitors closer to endangered species, while the **award-winning British Rainforest Garden** found a permanent home in our Sanctuary Garden. Together, these developments are bringing wildlife and conservation to life in new ways for our visitors.

Engaging and inspiring people to care for and protect wildlife is central to our mission. During 2025, more than **357,000 people visited Bristol Zoo Project**, while thousands of schoolchildren, students, volunteers and community members took part in learning, engagement and conservation activities. Through our Access to Nature programme and new initiatives to give more people opportunities to visit, we continued working to reduce barriers to connecting with wildlife.

We work with partners across the UK and around the world to protect wildlife, share knowledge and build the expertise needed for conservation to succeed. Our higher education partnerships supported **418 students across six courses** during the 2024–25 academic year, providing learning opportunities and practical experience for those pursuing careers in conservation, animal care and research. Through our research and field conservation work, we are also helping build the evidence and expertise needed to protect wildlife for the future. Closer to home, our partnerships with local communities and organisations are helping protect native species and restore important habitats.

We are immensely grateful to our dedicated colleagues, volunteers, conservation partners, supporters, members, donors and corporate partners for their commitment and generosity. Together, they make our work possible and help us create positive impact for wildlife.

Thank you for supporting our work and helping us Save Wildlife Together. We look forward to welcoming you to Bristol Zoo Project.

David Esam, Chair of Trustees and Dr Justin Morris, Chief Executive.





WHO WE ARE

Bristol Zoological Society, founded in 1835, is an international conservation and education charity. Through our work around the world and at Bristol Zoo Project, our conservation zoo in South Gloucestershire, we exist to save threatened species from extinction and to educate and inspire the conservationists of tomorrow.

OUR MISSION
Saving Wildlife Together.

OUR VISION
For wildlife to be a part of everyone's lives and for people to want to, and be enabled to, protect wildlife now and for the future.

OUR OBJECTIVES

Saving wildlife: By 2035, we will grow the proportion of species at our zoo with targeted conservation action to more than 90 per cent..

Creating conservationists: By 2035, we will engage and inspire over 90,000 schoolchildren and students per annum – the conservationists of the future.

Engaging our public: By 2035, we will engage and connect with more than 800,000 visitors and members per annum.

Sustaining our environment: By 2035, we will become an operationally carbon neutral organisation.

Sustaining our future: By 2035, we will develop Bristol Zoo Project through a major programme of capital investment.

OUR VALUES

Passionate: We love our zoo and conservation, and care deeply for animals, people and the planet.

Collaborative: We engage our visitors, partners and colleagues, and ask how we can help.

Progressive: We are brave and pioneering, and strive to show what a modern zoological society can be.

BIAZA
BRITISH & IRISH ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

Business West

IUCN

EAZA
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIA

WAZA
World Association of Zoos and Aquariums

The Natural History Consortium

EUROPEAN UNION OF AQUARIUM CURATORS

Visit West

BRISTOL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SAVING WILDLIFE TOGETHER

Memberships: Bristol Zoological Society is a member of: the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA); European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA); World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA); European Union of Aquarium Curators (EUAC); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); The Natural History Consortium, Visit West; and Business West.



SAVING WILDLIFE

At Bristol Zoological Society, everything we do is driven by our mission of Saving Wildlife Together. As a conservation charity, we bring together field conservation, conservation breeding, research, animal welfare and education to tackle the challenges facing wildlife. We believe conservation zoos have an important role to play in protecting threatened species, supporting recovery programmes and giving people the opportunity to understand wildlife and play a role in protecting it.

In 2025, we worked across **eight countries and four continents, delivering 20 field conservation projects with 28 local partner organisations**. Together, these projects supported species protection, habitat conservation, wildlife monitoring, conservation breeding, research and community-led conservation, helping to protect some of the world's most threatened species.

Our conservation work also extends to the species in our care at Bristol Zoo Project. **Seventy-five per cent of the species we care for are both threatened and part of targeted conservation programmes, including 25 Critically Endangered species** such as radiated tortoises, Alaotran gentle lemurs, blue-eyed black lemurs, turquoise dwarf geckos and five species of African cichlids. We also care for the Socorro dove, which is Extinct in the Wild, as part of coordinated conservation breeding efforts to safeguard the species for the future.

Photo credit. Left: Western lowland gorilla by Katie Harrock

WHERE WE WORK



THE UK



MEXICO



EQUATORIAL GUINEA

GREECE



CAMEROON



TANZANIA



PHILIPPINES



MADAGASCAR





GLOBAL FIELD CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Cameroon

In Cameroon, we continued to protect wildlife in Bénoué National Park while strengthening long-term monitoring with local partners. We funded **120 ecoguard patrols throughout the year, helping safeguard wildlife from illegal activity. The first comprehensive camera trap assessment of the park's wildlife was published and shared with local and national stakeholders.** Vital monitoring equipment and a vehicle were donated to local conservation organisation Sekakoh to support wildlife monitoring and community conservation activities. **The project was recognised as runner-up in the BIAZA Field Conservation Awards.**

Equatorial Guinea

Our work in Equatorial Guinea focused on wildlife monitoring and helping people and elephants coexist around Monte Alén National Park. A new study on mandrill distribution and threats was published, while surveys of 143 local people showed more positive attitudes towards elephants than at the start of the project. We carried out **more than 300 visits to monitor crop foraging and over 50 rapid response deployments following elephant incursions**, alongside establishing demonstration farms, rebuilding elephant deterrent fences and **delivering community workshops reaching 215 people**. We also collected 23 farm owner perception surveys and established a new apiary with five active beehives.

Photo credit. Left: Deployment of the camera traps in Bénoué National Park
Right: Basketball in Pawa and Laserna

Philippines

Our work in the Philippines combined community conservation, biodiversity monitoring and conservation breeding to protect some of the country's most threatened endemic species. **Our project investigating illegal hunting through community-led mitigations won the BIAZA Field Conservation Award**, with 98 per cent of participants reporting improved wellbeing due to the training and livelihood support and 86 per cent saying they had gained new knowledge and skills.

We engaged 232 young people through wildlife-themed basketball tournaments and delivered 38 community engagement events from 2024-2025, contributing to a significant increase in awareness and positive perceptions of the Critically Endangered Visayan warty pig. Wildlife monitoring also recorded **five camera trap detections of the Negros bleeding-heart dove**, including what may be the first footage of a pair in the wild, while more than **600 camera trap images and videos of Visayan warty pigs were analysed.** Alongside this, we continued supporting our conservation breeding partners through improved pedigree management, behavioural monitoring and welfare guidance.

Madagascar

In Madagascar, we continued restoring threatened forest habitat while expanding biodiversity research and supporting the new Ankarafa Field Station. During the year, **7,819 native saplings were planted and 288 transects were walked by our biodiversity guides.** We also supported three MSc research projects, shared findings at two international conferences and welcomed a successful field visit, helping build knowledge and capacity for long-term conservation.



GLOBAL FIELD CONSERVATION PROJECTS - CONT.

Tanzania

In Tanzania, we continued supporting the conservation of the Endangered turquoise dwarf gecko in Kimboza Forest alongside efforts to protect the Endangered Sanje mangabey in the Udzungwa Mountains. During the year, our teams walked almost **264km of primate monitoring transects and deployed 45 camera traps** to monitor wildlife activity across the landscape. We also collected 48 soil samples to support habitat research and provided **21 field staff days each month to support sustainable livelihood activities**. Finally, we delivered specialist financial management and organisational training to three field staff, helping strengthen local conservation capacity for the future.

Mexico

Conservation efforts in Mexico focused on biological surveys, population assessments and supporting the reintroduction of Extinct in the Wild species. During the year, a survey was completed in Laguna Chichancanab to assess populations of seven endemic pupfish species. We also supported our partner organisation to develop a **reintroduction blueprint for three Extinct in the Wild pupfish species**, helping lay the foundations for their future return to their natural habitat.

Greece

In Greece, we continued monitoring threatened freshwater fish while advancing biological research and supporting conservation translocations. During the year, **four populations of the Critically Endangered Valencia letourneuxi and Valencia robertae were surveyed and assessed**. In addition, our Greek partner developed a PhD thesis and submitted four accompanying research manuscripts for publication. We also established a new safety net population of Corfu killifish, Valencia letourneuxi in spring refugia, helping safeguard the species for the future.

Photo credit. Right: Greece conservation project



UK FIELD CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Across the UK, our six major conservation projects focused on restoring native species, tackling invasive non-native species and monitoring wildlife.

Our white-clawed crayfish conservation programme continued to strengthen populations of Britain's only native freshwater crayfish through breeding, research and reintroductions. **More than 470 young crayfish were successfully hatched and reared at our hatchery before 239 captive-bred individuals were released** into carefully selected river and ark sites. A further **99 wild crayfish were translocated to strengthen local populations**, while a pioneering cryogenic conservation study began. Outreach activities, including a Bioblitz event and school visits, engaged almost 200 people, helping raise awareness of this threatened native species.

Our work to protect freshwater ecosystems also continued through the AQUA accreditation scheme, with seven sites achieving accreditation during the year and 84 sites now accredited through the scheme. The Avon Invasive Weeds Forum and Even Wilder programme worked to tackle invasive non-native species and restore habitats. During the year, **18 mink traps helped confirm 45km² as mink free, more than 3km of Himalayan balsam was removed, and the first penduline tits were recorded at Aust Nature Reserve.** Regular wildlife monitoring also confirmed breeding kestrels, lapwings and skylarks at the Aust Nature Reserve site.

At Bristol Zoo Project, our native species monitoring recorded another successful year for biodiversity. A record **21 butterfly species were recorded, a 75 per cent increase on 2024**, including two species new to the site. **Fifty-three moth species and 50 bird species were also recorded, including 21 Birds of Conservation Concern, while hobbies were observed at Bristol Zoo Project for the first time.** Our Silky Wave moth project also had its best year on record, with a **peak count of 346 moths across 12 survey sites.** Alongside this monitoring work, **600 native trees were planted in the Bear Wood habitat** with the support of volunteers, students and corporate groups, helping create valuable habitat for native wildlife.



Photo credit. Right: White-clawed crayfish release

ANIMAL WELFARE

We continued embedding high standards of animal welfare across Bristol Zoo Project through comprehensive welfare assessments, behavioural monitoring and evidence-led management. Welfare assessments were completed for all 74 species in our care, while **six species underwent our in-depth, industry-leading Animal Management Reviews.** Our team also carried out **2,326 behavioural monitoring sessions across nine projects** and provided specialist support to seven welfare initiatives. **This work was recognised with runner-up awards in both the BIAZA Behaviour & Welfare and Research categories.**

Bristol Zoo Project is one of the few zoos in the UK with a dedicated in-house animal behaviour and welfare team. Throughout the year, we shared our expertise through animal welfare and ethics training delivered at major national and international conferences, while our internal Keeper Skills Sharing Sessions helped strengthen skills in enrichment, evidence-based decision making and behavioural data collection. **This work was recognised with a runner-up award in the BIAZA Professional Capacity Building category.**

Our research governance programme ensured all research met robust ethical standards, processing **74 research applications during the year through our animal and human ethics review processes.**



Photo credit. Right: Teaching in the giraffe house



> “I’ve become more confident and had more opportunities to go out and participate in community activities.”

> “I was able to attend the training, specifically the one about composting, we were able to apply it to real life and in our farming work.”

Community members, Philippines

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE WILDLIFE

In 2025, we worked alongside **28 partners** across the UK, Europe, Africa and Asia to deliver conservation projects, advance scientific research and strengthen conservation capacity. Together, our partnerships supported wildlife monitoring, habitat restoration, conservation breeding and community-led conservation initiatives, helping to protect some of the world’s most threatened species.

Our conservation work was made possible by a dedicated team of **19 conservation specialists, working alongside 64 colleagues employed through our international field programmes** in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, the Philippines and Tanzania. By investing in local expertise and building long-term partnerships, we are helping create lasting conservation impact where it is needed most.

Our partnerships also support wildlife conservation closer to home. Through the Avon Gorge & Downs Wildlife Project, with funding from the Nisbet Trust, the Pople Trust and the Basil Brown Foundation, we supported research into how human activity affects the ecology of Clifton Down and the wider Avon Gorge. A peer-reviewed Human Impact Assessment found a significant relationship between human activity and pollinator diversity, with potential implications for the rare plant species found in the gorge. The findings are now helping inform decisions about the long-term health of this important landscape.

Sharing knowledge is an essential part of our conservation work. During 2025, Bristol Zoological Society staff presented research at national and international conferences and contributed to **12 peer-reviewed scientific publications,** covering topics including wildlife monitoring, freshwater fish conservation, animal welfare and human-wildlife coexistence.

Photo credit. Left: Philippines conservation project team



CONSERVATION BREEDING

Conservation breeding is a vital part of our mission to save wildlife. By maintaining healthy, genetically diverse populations of threatened species, we help establish vital safety-net populations while supporting scientific research and the long-term recovery of species in the wild.

At the end of 2025, Bristol Zoological Society cared for **54 species participating in 45 EAZA Ex Situ Programmes (EEPs)**[1], helping coordinate conservation breeding across Europe. **Seventy-five per cent of the species at Bristol Zoo Project require targeted conservation action, with 47 species currently listed as threatened with extinction on the IUCN Red List**[2]. This includes **25 Critically Endangered species**, such as radiated tortoises, Bali mynas, Alaotran gentle lemurs and turquoise dwarf geckos, alongside the Socorro dove, a species that is Extinct in the Wild and survives only through coordinated conservation breeding programmes.

The year saw several important breeding successes. At Bristol Zoo Project, we welcomed offspring including **African grey parrots, a Philippine spotted deer and a red panda,** while our specialist breeding facilities **successfully hatched approximately 474 white-clawed crayfish,** supporting recovery programmes for Britain's only native freshwater crayfish. We also bred a number of highly threatened freshwater fish, including Peloponnese killifish (Valencia robertae), Boxer pupfish, Sultan Sazlığı killifish and Mezquital pupfish, alongside Critically Endangered reptiles such as **turquoise dwarf geckos, Henkel's leaf-tailed geckos and blue tree monitors.** All six of the Extinct in the Wild Partula tree snail species in our care continued to breed successfully, while our Critically Endangered Madeiran snails also reproduced during the year.

Conservation breeding is about more than maintaining populations in our care – it also supports species recovery in the wild. In 2025, **we reintroduced 50 Extinct in the Wild Partula navigatoria tree snails** to French Polynesia in partnership with the Zoological Society of London, helping restore a species that had disappeared from its natural habitat. Our white-clawed crayfish breeding programme also enabled the **release of 239 captive-bred crayfish** into carefully selected river and ark sites, strengthening wild populations and supporting the long-term recovery of this threatened native species.

Alongside breeding successes, we welcomed several important new arrivals to Bristol Zoo Project through the EAZA Ex Situ Programme network. These included **Critically Endangered radiated tortoises, turquoise dwarf geckos, Henkel's leaf-tailed geckos, Bali mynas and gentle lemurs,** as well as addax, cheetahs, Grant's zebras, and several threatened bird species. These carefully coordinated transfers help maintain healthy breeding populations across Europe and ensure every individual plays an important role in the long-term conservation of their species.

1 The higher number of species to studbooks is due to some EAZA Ex situ programmes not being managed at species level.
2 Figures exclude the Bristol Zoo Gardens lake fish.

Photo credit: Left: Red panda born at Bristol Zoo Project

CREATING CONSERVATIONISTS

Inspiring the next generation to care for and protect wildlife is fundamental to achieving our mission of Saving Wildlife Together. As one of only a small number of zoos in the UK to provide formal learning opportunities from pre-school through to PhD level, we enable learners to experience wildlife, develop their knowledge and build the practical skills they need to become the conservationists of the future.

During 2025, our **education programme delivered 258 sessions** and welcomed learners from 348 schools, colleges and sixth forms to Bristol Zoo Project. A total of **15,611 school children visited**. Of these, **4,391 took part in curriculum-linked education sessions** delivered by our Public Engagement and Learning team, while 11,220 explored the zoo through our self-led education programme, using specially developed guides and learning resources to deepen their understanding of wildlife and conservation.

Our work also extended beyond Bristol Zoo Project through our partnership with the Avon Gorge & Downs Wildlife Project. Together, we delivered **84 education sessions, engaging 1,829 children and reaching 6,759 people** through schools, community groups and public events. Events and campaigns, including Love Your Living Downs, Festival of Nature and the Treeburt Family Tree Trail, provided opportunities for local communities to connect with nature and learn about the importance of protecting the Avon Gorge and Downs.

We also continued to create opportunities for young people to explore careers in conservation and animal care. In July, 15 Year 10 students completed a week-long work experience placement, gaining hands-on experience across a range of departments and discovering the variety of careers that contribute to wildlife conservation. Working with Bristol Works and local schools, we reserved places for students from Global Majority and underrepresented communities, helping to broaden access to these opportunities.

> "Thank you to the whole team & volunteers. All helpful & friendly."
>
> *Key Stage 2 Teacher, March 2025*

> "Really enjoyed our workshop, presenters Ian and Hadley, were great. Children engaged well and was well linked to their current and previous curriculum. Staff around the Zoo also really engaging and helpful. Sharing useful facts and knowledge with the children."
>
> *KS2 teacher, June 2025*

> "This is the best work experience placement I could have imagined for myself."
>
> *Year 10, Work Experience Student*

The impact of the programme extended beyond the placement itself. Following their experience, 93 per cent of students said they would consider returning to Bristol Zoo Project to volunteer, **while 64 per cent said it had inspired them to consider a career in conservation or the environmental sector.**

BOOK YOUR SCHOOL'S EDUCATION VISIT NOW

> "I had a great time and wished it could have lasted longer. I am forever grateful for this opportunity I was given."
>
> *Year 10, Work Experience Student*



Photo credit: Right: School visit at Bristol Zoo Project

> “I have valued most the enthusiasm that [BZS staff have] for the topic, and the expertise they were able to give us.”
>
> *UWE Student, Captive Wildlife Management, MSc Global Wildlife Health and Conservation*

> “I love the lectures, teaching style, lecture materials, and how passionate [BZS staff are] about the subject.”
>
> *UWE Student, Wildlife and Society, BSc Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science*

DEVELOPING CONSERVATION CAREERS

Building pathways into conservation helps develop the skills and expertise needed to protect wildlife for the future. Through our higher education partnerships, students learn from experienced conservation professionals, gain practical experience and develop the knowledge needed to pursue careers in conservation, animal care and research.

Our courses are delivered by highly experienced conservation experts, many of whom lead national and international conservation projects. By sharing their knowledge and experience, they give students valuable insight into the realities of working in conservation and opportunities to apply their learning in real-world settings.

During the 2024–25 academic year, we supported **418 higher education students across six courses**, working in partnership with the University of Bristol, University of the West of England, University of Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire and Stroud College. These partnerships combine academic learning with practical experience, helping students build the skills and confidence needed for their future careers.

Our long-standing partnership with the University of Bristol also provided practical training for **206 veterinary students** at Bristol Zoo Project, giving them the opportunity to undertake rotations in zoo, wildlife and exotic pet medicine.

Through our higher education partnerships, we are helping equip the next generation of conservationists with the knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to protect wildlife for years to come.

EXPLORE OUR HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Photo credit. Right: Higher education teaching

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES WITH NATURE

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to experience wildlife and benefit from spending time in nature. Through initiatives such as our **Access to Nature programme**, we are working to reduce barriers and create more opportunities for people to connect with wildlife at Bristol Zoo Project.

In 2025, we continued to expand our Access to Nature programme, with new funding secured from the Nisbett Foundation. Through community memberships, funded education visits and community group access, the programme supported **40 community organisations**, including groups working with children, young people and Disabled people who face barriers to accessing nature. Together, these memberships resulted in **5,593 visits** to Bristol Zoo Project.

For the first time, we also launched the **Holiday Access Fund**, providing free visits to Bristol Zoo Project for families accessing government-funded holiday activities and support programmes, creating opportunities to experience wildlife during the school holidays. Through the Access to Nature and Holiday Access Fund schemes, **1,938 children and 642 adults** visited Bristol Zoo Project – reaching **2,580 people** who may otherwise have faced barriers to engaging with wildlife.

We also continued to improve accessibility for visitors. Funding from the Julia Rausing Trust enabled us to purchase three adult mobility scooters from Elite Mobility, who also generously donated two children's scooters. The scooters also received colourful, animal-themed wraps, kindly donated by Shades Wraps.

Our commitment to inclusion extends across our organisation, reflected in our Disability Confident Employer status, support for the Good Employment Charter and membership of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Network. Together, these commitments support our ambition to create an inclusive environment where everyone can feel welcome and enjoy connecting with wildlife.

Photo credit. Right: Mobility scooters from Elite Mobility



ENGAGING OUR PUBLIC

Experiencing wildlife can inspire people to care about its future. By creating opportunities for people to discover wildlife, learn about conservation and enjoy time in nature, we aim to spark curiosity and encourage people to play a role in protecting it.

In 2025, we introduced new initiatives that enabled more people to visit Bristol Zoo Project, experience wildlife and engage with our conservation work.

In March, we trialled a new **Pay What You Can** initiative, offering visitors the opportunity to visit for a voluntary donation. The initiative helped reduce financial barriers to accessing wildlife and encouraged new audiences to visit, with booking data showing an increase in visitors from areas with fewer opportunities, measured using the government's Index of Multiple Deprivation. In total, we welcomed **5,472 visitors** through the scheme.

In September, we introduced a new **half-price admission offer** after 2pm, making visits more accessible while encouraging attendance during quieter periods. The initiative welcomed **3,704 visitors.**

We continued our **Summer Lates programme**, launched in 2024, giving visitors the opportunity to experience Bristol Zoo Project after hours with live entertainment. Across four evenings, more than 1,000 visitors attended our Summer Lates events, helping introduce new audiences to Bristol Zoo Project. Themed evenings included Listen, featuring the zoo's first silent disco and a performance from the Bristol Symphony Orchestra, and Perform, which gave visitors the opportunity to learn Cuban salsa and experience aerial performances from Circomedia students.

We also completed our first full year in the venue hire market, welcoming **52 corporate groups** to Hollywood Mansion House and Bear Wood and generating more than **£18,000** for the Society. Venue hire is helping us build new partnerships, introduce new audiences to Bristol Zoo Project and create an additional income stream to support our conservation mission.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOSTING YOUR EVENT AT BRISTOL ZOO PROJECT

Photo credit. Right: Aerial performance at Summer Lates

VISITING BRISTOL ZOO PROJECT

In 2025, **357,486 people** visited Bristol Zoo Project, helping us connect more people with wildlife and generate vital support for our conservation work.

Throughout the year, visitors enjoyed a programme of talks, events and seasonal activities designed to bring people closer to wildlife and our conservation work. **199,000 visitors** took part in our seasonal programmes, including Zoo Detectives, Spring Fest, Andy's Adventures Explorer Trail, Howloween and Merry & Wild, alongside our growing Summer Lates programme.

Our Public Engagement team delivered **1,039 animal talks, attended by 39,398 visitors, alongside 734 engagement activities.** Through informal engagement, including queue busking, biofact handling and Q&A sessions, the team connected with a further 26,062 visitors. We also delivered **499 animal experiences and seven British Sign Language (BSL) animal talks**, creating more opportunities for visitors to engage with wildlife in meaningful and accessible ways.

Our commitment to delivering a high-quality visitor experience was recognised with the **VisitEngland Quality Assured Visitor Attraction Accolade.**

> "Wonderful experience. Stayed nearly all day. Observing the animals in such a natural environment was magnificent. Staff were very helpful and there were plenty of handy amenities. A day to remember. Will definitely return."
>
> *Debbie, September 2025*

Our membership options give people the chance to visit us year-round with unlimited entry. **19,372 members** supported our conservation work in 2025, alongside a further **592 life members** who have unlimited entry for life.

BECOME A MEMBER TO ENJOY UNLIMITED VISITS AND SUPPORT CONSERVATION

> "What an amazing day! We arrived for our Lemur Experience and had such a great time. Our host Ian was knowledgeable, informative and friendly. We prepared the lemur food and went into the enclosure to meet and feed them. What a fantastic experience! Up close with the lemurs was amazing and the information we learned from Ian was great… Will definitely visit again with the grandchildren as there are plenty of play areas and exciting learning for children."
>
> *Mimi, September 2025*

> "This zoo is brilliant. It doesn't feel like a traditional zoo but you still get the experience of seeing different types of animals. Bear Wood was fantastic. I loved the fact that the animals had large enclosures and it didn't feel like a typical zoo experience. The workers were extremely friendly and knowledgeable which was fantastic to see them really care and enjoy what they do. The zoo is really well thought out for children and families, lots of play parks throughout and places to sit as a family. We have several children with autism so had lots do space to run, play and look at the animals at their own pace."
>
> *Ellie, August 2025*



Photo credit. Right: Animal talk by Barbara Evripidou



CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers play a vital role in connecting people with wildlife and supporting conservation at Bristol Zoo Project and in the wider community. From inspiring visitors and supporting events to contributing to habitat management and wildlife monitoring, their time and expertise make an invaluable contribution to our work.

In 2025, **304 volunteers** supported our work. This included **215 engagement volunteers**, who contributed **24,334 hours** inspiring visitors through talks, activities and conversations, helping people learn more about the animals in our care and the importance of protecting wildlife.

We also welcomed **22 Youth Volunteers**, providing young people with opportunities to develop skills, gain experience and build confidence. Working with Bristol Works, we created opportunities for young people facing barriers to take part in the programme, completing **480 hours of volunteering** over nine weeks. Several previous Youth Volunteers have since returned as Engagement Volunteers, helping create a pathway into further volunteering.

Beyond Bristol Zoo Project, **18 volunteers** supported the Avon Gorge & Downs Wildlife Project, contributing **540 hours** to habitat management, wildlife monitoring and community engagement.

Photo credit. Left: Volunteer at Bristol Zoo Project

"I had an amazing time while volunteering at Bristol Zoo, I will look out for future youth volunteering opportunities and hope to join as an engagement volunteer once I'm 18."

Josh. Youth Volunteer

"Thank you so much! I had a great time volunteering this summer and learnt so much. I would love to return when I'm 18."

Angus, Youth Volunteer

SUSTAINING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Healthy habitats are essential for wildlife to thrive. Alongside delivering conservation projects around the world, we are committed to enhancing biodiversity across Bristol Zoo Project and reducing the environmental impact of our own operations. By restoring habitats, monitoring native species and embedding sustainable practices across our site, we are helping create a healthier environment for wildlife while using resources more responsibly.

During 2025, our teams, volunteers and partners planted hundreds of native trees, monitored biodiversity across our 136-acre site and continued to improve habitat management. We also made progress in reducing waste and measuring our use of natural resources, helping us identify further opportunities to improve the way we operate.

Together, these actions are helping Bristol Zoo Project become a more biodiverse and resilient home for wildlife, while supporting a more sustainable future for our organisation.

Photo credit. Right: Bear Wood at Bristol Zoo Project



PROTECTING NATIVE SPECIES AT BRISTOL ZOO PROJECT

During 2025, our UK Conservation team, horticulture staff, volunteers and students planted **600 native trees** in the Bear Wood habitat, helping to strengthen this ancient woodland for native species. Volunteers and corporate groups also contributed hundreds of hours to habitat restoration through programmes including the Avon Invasive Weeds Forum and AQUA accreditation scheme.

Our ongoing biodiversity monitoring recorded an impressive range of protected and priority species. At least **11 species of bat** were confirmed on site, all protected under European legislation, including **three species listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. We also recorded 50 bird species, including 21 Birds of Conservation Concern, with hobbies observed at Bristol Zoo Project for the first time.** Surveys identified **21 butterfly species – a 75 per cent increase on 2024 – including two species new to the site:** the brown argus and the small heath, which is listed as Vulnerable on the GB Red List. A further **53 moth species** were recorded, including the Near Threatened lattice heath. The site also continued to provide valuable habitat for a range of protected amphibians, reptiles, plants and invertebrates, including **great crested newts, grass snakes, slow worms, the necklace ground beetle and native bluebells**, a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Photo credit. Left: Rough haired lagria beetle

REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Reducing our environmental impact is an essential part of creating a sustainable future for wildlife. Throughout 2025, we continued to build on our sustainability initiatives across Bristol Zoo Project, improving how we measure, manage and reduce our use of resources.

Further investment in water sub-metering has strengthened our understanding of water use across the site, helping identify opportunities to improve efficiency. We continued to focus on waste management, with recycling rates doubling across the organisation as we improved waste separation and identified new opportunities to reduce waste.

Our sustainable browse programme expanded, making greater use of vegetation generated through woodland management at Bristol Zoo Project and through partnerships with local authorities and landowners, including Bristol City Council. By improving harvesting, storage and planning, we have increased the availability of fresh browse throughout the year, supporting high standards of animal welfare while making better use of natural resources that might otherwise go to waste.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Photo credits. Right: Browse collecting at Bristol Zoo Project





SUSTAINING OUR FUTURE

Our supporters make a vital contribution to everything we do. Their generosity helps us to protect threatened species, inspire future conservationists and connect more people with nature, while supporting the long-term future of Bristol Zoological Society.

The generosity of our supporters has been instrumental in bringing our African Forest habitat to life. Our public appeal, launched in February 2025, exceeded its £100,000 target, raising £106,869 by the end of the year. The generosity of everyone who contributed helped make this ambitious new conservation habitat possible, supporting the transformation of Bristol Zoo Project.

During 2025, we continued to strengthen our network of supporters, working alongside 22 corporate members and 11 corporate partners whose support is helping transform Bristol Zoo Project and advance our conservation mission. Corporate volunteering also made a valuable contribution, with 80 volunteers giving 320 hours to habitat restoration projects across the site.

Our founding Patrons contributed £18,000 to our conservation, education and development programmes during the year, helping us advance our mission and invest in our future.

Our supporters came together throughout the year to celebrate our work and invest in its future. In July, we welcomed 90 guests to our newly renovated Sanctuary Garden for our annual Summer Garden Party. The event celebrated the heritage of Bristol Zoo Gardens, including the herbaceous border and swan sculpture that were moved from the former site to Bristol Zoo Project. The event also raised £3,100 in support of our conservation work.

In November, more than 80 supporters, patrons, corporate partners, sponsors, volunteers and staff joined us for our Christmas Gala Dinner at De Vere Tortworth Court. Hosted by Auctioneum, the event raised £14,385 for our conservation, education and development programmes.

Photo credit. Left: Swan sculpture in Sanctury Garden

TRANSFORMING BRISTOL ZOO PROJECT

In 2025, work to transform Bristol Zoo Project continued, with new habitats and visitor experiences bringing our vision for a modern conservation zoo to life.

Our new Tropical House opened to visitors during the year, creating a humid forest habitat for a range of threatened species and bringing **10 new species** to Bristol Zoo Project. These include the Critically Endangered turquoise dwarf gecko, Henkel's leaf-tailed gecko, radiated tortoise and blue spotted tree monitor. The Tropical House also provides a new home for species previously cared for at Bristol Zoo Gardens.

We also welcomed the **award-winning British Rainforest Garden** to Bristol Zoo Project following its appearance at the 2025 RHS Chelsea Flower Show, where it won the RHS People's Choice Award and a Silver Gilt Medal. The garden now has a permanent home in our Sanctuary Garden, where it has been expanded to **seven times its original Chelsea footprint**. Featuring native trees, ferns, mosses and other plants, it celebrates one of the UK's rarest habitats and provides a space for visitors to learn about the importance of restoring temperate rainforests.

Work continued on African Forest, a major new conservation habitat that will form an important part of the transformed Bristol Zoo Project. Designed to evoke the dense forests and landscapes of Equatorial Guinea and provide a naturalistic home for threatened African species. The African Forest will create opportunities for visitors to learn about the conservation work helping to protect them. During 2025, **173 trees were planted** as part of the landscaping, helping to shape the habitat as development progressed.

Photo credit. Right: Tropical House at Bristol Zoo Project



A HUGE THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who kindly donated to Bristol Zoological Society in 2025.

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Julia Rausing Trust
- Biffa Award
- Clore Duffield Foundation
- Fraxinus Charitable Trust
- The Hobson Charity
- William Dean Countryside and Educational Trust
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- Nisbet Trust
- Society of Merchant Venturers
- Darwin Initiative
- Woodspring Trust
- Oriental Bird Club
- Asian Species Action Partnership
- Elephant Crisis Fund, an initiative by Save the Elephants and the Wildlife Conservation Network
- IUCN and GEF
- IUCN Save Our Species, co-funded by the European Union
- IUCN's Save Our Species African Wildlife Initiative, with European Union International Partnerships support
- IUCN's Reverse the Red Initiative
- European Union of Aquarium Curators (EAUC)
- National Geographic
- Wild Animal Initiative
- Bristol Water
- DEFRA
- APHA
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (WECA)
- AEECL
- Commoners of Durdham Down and Durdham Downs Charity
- Triodos Foundation
- Natural England
- Drops in the Ocean initiative

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Photo credit. Right: Ring-tailed lemur

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- Ed Ware
- Shay O'Brien
- Dawn Squires

OUR INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

- Maggie Glastonbury
- Peter Mitchell
- Jane Pyman
- Trevor Pope
- Anthea Stock
- Ann Pearson

And all our wonderful supporters.



BRISTOL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Help protect the wildlife you love. By leaving a gift in your will to Bristol Zoological Society, we can continue to Save Wildlife Together, for decades to come.

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Bristol Zoological Society, Hollywood Mansion House, Blackhorse Hill, Bristol, BS10 7TP Telephone: 0117 428 5300

Photo credit. Right: Eurasian brown bear by Doug Lodge

