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Consultation stakeholders	Policy lead at Chester Zoo Sustainable Advisory Group Executive Board Retail Manager Catering partner (Fosters) Head of Field Conservation and Higher Education
Author	Sustainability Officer
Owner (if different from above)	Kelly Evans

Context and purpose

Bristol Zoological Society (BZS) is committed to ensuring that our mission, values, and strategic objectives are reflected in our sourcing and procurement activities.

BZS works in the context of an ecological and climate crisis. Conservation zoos play a central role in preventing the extinction of threatened species and addressing the challenges of climate change and habitat loss. Our focus is to lead by example, across our UK and international activities, demonstrating what a progressive, sustainable conservation and education zoological charity can be.

One of our key responsibilities is to ensure that our activities do not contribute to the destruction of forests. Forests, which cover nearly a third of the Earth's land area, are diverse and complex ecosystems that provide habitats for circa 60,000 tree species, 80% of amphibian species, 75% of bird species, and 68% of mammal species. Forests provide homes and resources for local communities, including livelihoods, shelter, fuel, food, and medicine. Crucially, forests also contain significant amounts of the planet's freshwater resources and absorb and lock away carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

However, since 1990, circa 450 million hectares of forest have been lost through conversion to other land uses, with approximately 10 million hectares still being lost each year; further fragmenting habitats and increasing the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Of the animal species listed in the BZS Species Plan (2024-29), 84% are threatened by changes in the use of their natural habitat and/or habitat fragmentation and loss. Understandably, we are committed to sourcing goods, materials, products, services, and/or works that do not contribute to deforestation, or habitat fragmentation or loss.

Deforestation-free commodities - Any raw materials or primary agricultural product being bought or sold comes from natural forest/land that has not been deforested or converted to agriculture or other land uses after 31 December 2020. The key commodities requiring consideration within UK supply chains, as they are most responsible for tropical deforestation, are cattle (beef and leather), cocoa, coffee, palm oil, pulp and paper, soy, and timber.

This position statement outlines our commitment to sourcing/procuring deforestation-free goods, materials, products, services, and works.

Scope

This position statement applies to all Society employees and volunteers who source/procure goods, materials, products, services, and/or works. All those involved in sourcing/procurement decisions should understand and apply this document's ethos and follow the associated sourcing and procurement procedures.

It is anticipated that any third-party organisations contracted to work with or on behalf of BZS will be provided with this position statement and asked to ensure their own sourcing/procurement decisions also understand and apply this document's ethos.

Our commitment

We are committed to avoiding goods, materials, products, services, and/or works that contribute to deforestation or detrimental land use changes. We apply a commodity-specific approach for high-priority groups - including identifying relevant products, accepted deforestation-free standards, and deforestation-free origins:

Cattle (beef) - There isn't a third-party verified certification scheme for deforestation-free beef. However, we commit to eliminating beef products from visitor-facing activities (i.e. in our menus and shops). If required for our animals, we will only purchase beef bred and reared in the UK. We will continue to source beef as locally as possible (i.e. within 30km of Bristol Zoo Project), from reputable and long-established farms. In line with animal welfare standards, our preference will always be beef from [Pasture for Life certified](#) or [Soil Association certified pasture-bred and fed organic](#) livestock. Animals raised on grass and pasture are not fed grain or manufactured feed, and pasture-focussed farmers are encouraged to improve biodiversity through effective grazing management.

Cattle (leather) - There isn't a third-party verified certification scheme for deforestation-free leather. However, we commit to minimising our procurement of leather to essential items only, and ensuring what we do purchase aligns with the [Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather](#), co-led by Textile Exchange, the Leather Working Group (LWG) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). This call to action sets meaningful expectations for brands and develops tools and guidance to support them on this journey.

Cocoa - There isn't a third-party verified certification scheme for deforestation-free cocoa. However, we will aim to identify cocoa from segregated supply chains and always purchase cocoa-containing products that meet trusted sustainability standards such as [Rainforest](#)

[Alliance](#) or [Fairtrade](#), and organic certification (when combined with one of the previously highlighted standards).

Coffee - There isn't a third-party verified certification scheme for deforestation-free coffee. However, we will aim to identify coffee from segregated supply chains and will always purchase coffee-containing products that meet trusted sustainability standards such as [Rainforest Alliance](#) or [Fairtrade](#), and organic certification (when combined with one of the previously highlighted standards).

Palm oil - We are committed to shifting the demand from non-sustainable to sustainable palm oil. We support the production and consumption of [Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil](#) (RSPO) that has been certified as '[Segregated](#)', i.e. sustainable palm oil that has been kept separate from ordinary palm oil throughout the supply chain.

Sustainable palm oil is produced in a way that minimises environmental impact, safeguards biodiversity, and benefits people. The most widely acknowledged and credible certification scheme is the RSPO. The RSPO has established a set of environmental and social standards that companies must comply with, ensuring the production of sustainable palm oil. Standards include not clearing primary forest or areas high in carbon identified by the High Carbon Stock Approach, not growing on peatlands, and protecting areas rich in biodiversity and/or cultural significance (known as High Conservation Value areas). Currently, only 19% of all palm oil produced is certified as sustainable by the RSPO.

Soy - We aim to purchase soy-containing products with origins in regions outside of South America, e.g. Europe or the US, or with certifications from accredited standards, including [Round Table on Responsible Soy](#) (RTRS) or [ProTerra](#).

Wood and paper - We will always purchase wood and/or paper products that meet the trusted sustainability standard, the [Forest Stewardship Council](#) (FSC), or are made from recycled materials (>70% recycled content).

To ensure the above is achieved, we are also committed to the following:

- Sharing the ethos of this position statement in requests for quotes and invitations to tender. All suppliers will be given a copy of our Deforestation-free Commodities position statement and our sustainable sourcing policy (and provided updates as new versions are published).
- Educating and working with current suppliers and contractors to help them identify suitable alternatives to current goods, materials, and/or products that contribute to deforestation.
- Changing suppliers or contractors if our current suppliers and contractors refuse or fail to source or make commitments to ensure the products and services they provide to us are deforestation-free.
- Educating/supporting BZS colleagues to source/procure deforestation-free commodities.
- Championing those colleagues, contractors, and suppliers that are committed to deforestation-free commodities.

Retention and storage

This position statement should be stored on the HR system.

This position statement should be made available to existing and potential suppliers

Position statement to be retained for three years after it is superseded.

Review process

This position statement should be reviewed every three years.

A review should also happen because of changes to or the launch of new, relevant certification and accreditation schemes.

A review is also required in the event of any change in legislation or charity commission guidance.

A review is required in the event of a significant personnel change – Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Director of Estates (responsible for sustainability), Head of Finance.

Approval

This policy shall be approved every three years by the Executive Board.

Approved by the Executive Board: December 2025

Next review date: November 2028