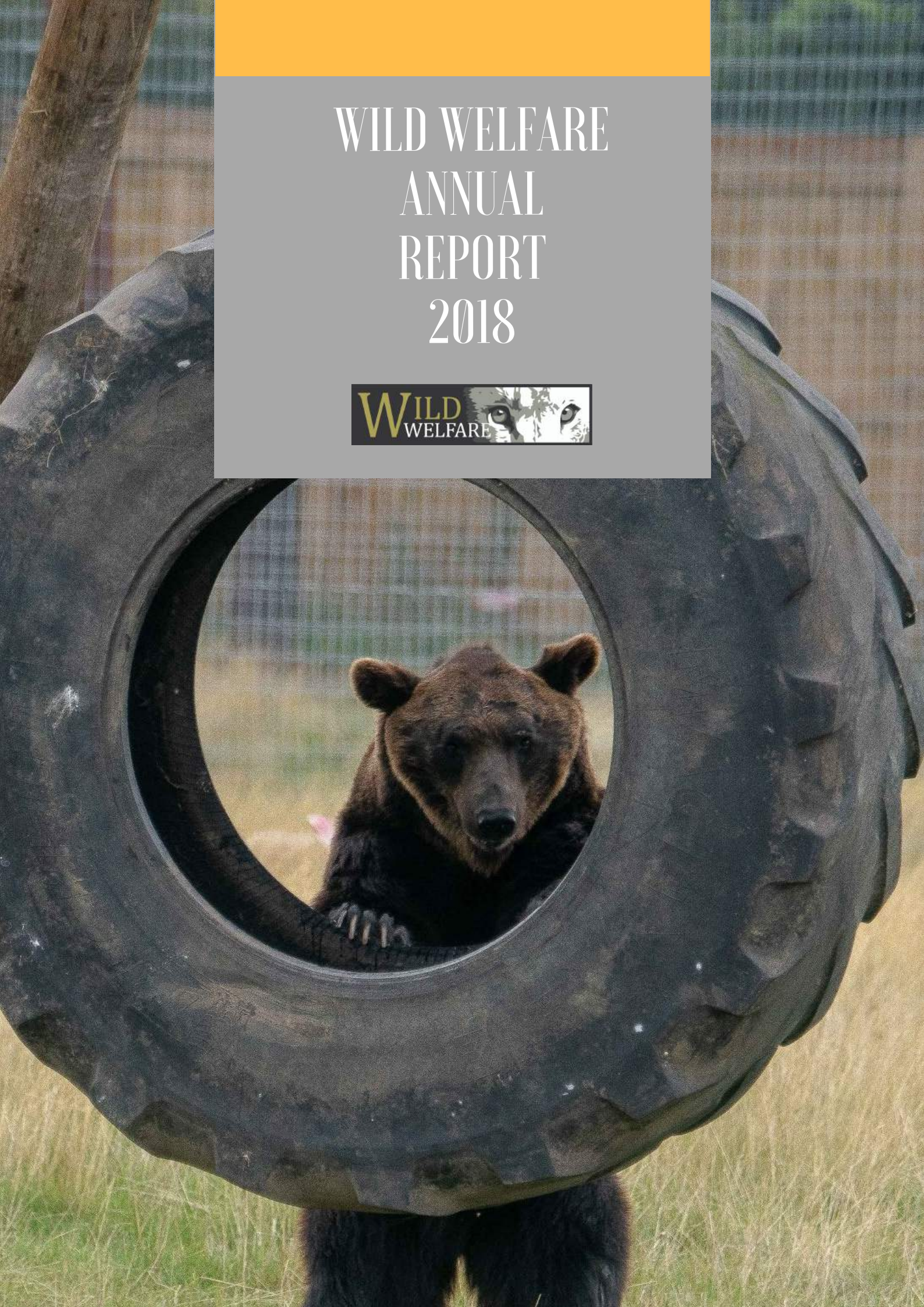


# WILD WELFARE ANNUAL REPORT 2018





# THANK YOU FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A significant number of captive wild animal facilities continue to remain outside the ethical oversight of a zoo association, neither are they influenced by national or international legislation. While animal welfare research and application develops within the leading zoos and aquariums, we are continuing to see a persistent gap in animal welfare standards globally. Wild Welfare believes a simple approach that encourages engagement, knowledge and confidence in welfare is important, and can help bridge this gap through a supportive approach.

As always, this has been a busy year for the Wild Welfare team. In the field we have been helping develop best practice standards within a wide range of countries, supporting regional and national communities develop capacity and confidence to tackle animal welfare issues. We have worked directly or indirectly with more than 350 zoos and aquariums and trained more than 750 people around the world.

We have successfully helped implement the first ever Southeast Asian welfare certification programme in conjunction with the South East Asian Zoos and Aquariums Association (SEAZA), and will be supporting its roll-out in 2019 and onwards. We also collaborated with more than ten international organisations to successfully re-home four brown bears from a facility in Hokkaido in Japan, to Yorkshire Wildlife Park in the UK.

This year we have also been developing our digital signature, an incredibly important tool in the 21st century to reach, educate and empower all global participants involved or interested in zoos and aquariums. Our focus has been on developing this signature, brand awareness, media relationships and public awareness, so we can influence and educate key stakeholders, allowing us to expand into more countries, develop more resources and help more animals in need of our support.

As always we remain incredibly grateful to our supporters and thank you for your continued support throughout 2018



**Dr David Jones**  
**Chairman & Founder**



# HOW WE IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE

Zoos and aquariums play an integral role in all our lives with the power to potentially shape the way we feel and care for animals, while influencing changes in attitudes and action towards the protection of our global fauna and flora. Wild Welfare recognises their importance and through our innovative work we bring the welfare of captive wild animals to the forefront of public and policy agendas. By reaching facilities others haven't been able to, we build critical relationships and provide veterinary care and ongoing welfare guidance through a highly structured strategy and process.

Our 'One Community' approach galvanises a collaborative and compassionate approach from leading zoos, aquariums and animal welfare NGOs, to take innovative action towards bettering animal welfare policies and practices.

**Our aim is to create a united body of experts and resources who are willing to tackle the significant issues facing captive wild animals around the world.**

We strongly believe that long-term solutions are best sought through positive dialogue and action and it requires the combined effort of both the accredited zoo and global animal welfare communities to provide an effective, urgent and experienced response that offers practical and enduring solutions.

Wild Welfare brings together a team with experience-based expertise in assessing and improving wild animal welfare and husbandry issues in the developing world. Previous and current examples include offering support in the development of welfare accreditation, national legislative standards, practical hands-on care, providing resources, volunteer placements, twinning of zoos and international training workshops.

# TESTIMONIALS

## FROM AROUND THE WORLD

*"Wild Welfare continually excel in their provision of expertise to improve the welfare of captive wild animals, developing improvements which have a positive impact on all animals within facilities they work with, and in the development of positive working relationships with government officials and regional zoo associations."*

**Dave Neale, (Animals Asia Foundation, Animal Welfare Director)**

*"Wild Welfare is vital to ensuring that the global zoo and aquarium community focusses on positive animal welfare in all circumstances, in all countries."*

**Karen Fifield, (Wellington Zoo, CEO)**

*"Wild Welfare are tackling these issues in a professional and strategic manner, getting to the heart of the problem to ensure a happy, long-term future for all captive wild animals."*

**Cheryl Williams, (Yorkshire Wildlife Park Foundation, CEO)**

*"Wild Welfare has been working with the Southeast Asian Zoos and Aquariums Association for several years. Wild Welfare carries out assessments with the respective zoo's life sciences team in a transparent and organised manner. Training and capacity building of zoo staff is another main focus of Wild Welfare's mission and these courses, aimed at increasing the understanding and competence of zoo staff, have been well received. SEAZA's positive partnership with Wild Welfare continues to develop from strength to strength and with the implementation of SEAZA's animal welfare certification programme."*

**Willem Manansang, (SEAZA Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee Chair)**





# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

AROUND THE WORLD

## 350+

Zoos supported directly  
or indirectly



## 750+

People trained in animal  
welfare concepts &  
practices



## 5

Representation and  
presentations at international  
conferences



## 15+

Welfare collection  
assessments carried out in  
zoos as part of our ongoing  
welfare programmes



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

## AROUND THE WORLD

### BRAZIL WELFARE CERTIFICATION

We audited 10 facilities and trained more auditors as part of the Brazilian Association of Zoos and Aquarium (AZAB)'s welfare certification programme, putting the project right on target for achieving the assessment of 50 AZAB facilities by 2020.

### SEAZA WELFARE CERTIFICATION

We supported the South East Asian Zoos and Aquariums Association (SEAZA), to finalise their welfare certification programme and saw it gain SEAZA board approval. We carried out the first auditor training to SEAZA members from across the region and are on track to begin further auditor training to facilitate the assessment of zoos and aquariums as part of the programme from early 2019.

### JAPANESE BEAR REHOMING PROJECT

August saw the culmination of a nearly two-year-long project in Japan, when four bears that were living in very poor conditions were moved more than 5,000 miles to a new UK home at Yorkshire Wildlife Park. The project has cemented our relationships with key experts and authorities in Japan, enabling us to continue our work pushing for much higher animal welfare standards across the country.

### MEMBERSHIP TRAINING IN JAPAN

We have continued our project supporting the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA), holding an animal welfare workshop, supported by The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and attended by more than 40 JAZA participants.

### ZOO IMPROVEMENTS IN THAILAND

Working with the Zoological Park Organization Thailand (ZPO), this year we were able to secure improvements in animal enclosures, enrichments and care and welfare practices for a range of Chiang Mai Zoo's animals. We supported the development of an internal ZPO assessment programme and are developing a 'sister zoo' project to support further changes from 2019.

### SUPPORTING HIGHER WELFARE IN VIETNAM

This year we moved forward discussions with the Vietnamese Zoo Association (VZA) and Ministry of Agriculture, on establishing a set of national zoo standards for Vietnam. We continued supporting the VZA with animal welfare training and moved closer to the adoption of a welfare assessment programme for VZA zoos.

# *CULTURAL DIVERSITY – WORKING FOR ANIMAL WELFARE*

While perceptions of animal welfare are culturally sensitive, vary around the globe and are subject to change, an animal's own perspective of its welfare remains the same. An animal's welfare is independent of geography, time zone, language and historical practices, so in providing for an animal's needs we need zoos and aquariums around the world to reflect consistency in their care and welfare standards, irrespective of cultural diversity.

There is a significant and growing interest in animal's and their welfare. From the growth in veganism and vegetarianism worldwide, to the public concern for the welfare of captive wild animals appearing to rise exponentially around the globe, even in countries where giving consideration to animal welfare is a relatively new concept. Our understanding of what constitutes good animal welfare and animals as sentient beings has also developed vastly in recent years, and within the accredited zoo community specifically, caring for wild animals in a way that best provides for their natural and highly motivated behaviours has become the widespread approach.

We were delighted therefore, upon returning to the SEAZA annual conference this year held in Chiang Mai in Thailand, to hear that the talk was of animal welfare as a priority. More than 300 zoo personnel from across the Southeast Asian region attend this conference, representing a rich cultural diversity reflected within their 20 plus countries. Where welfare was rarely mentioned as a priority five or so years ago within the community, now, how to improve animal welfare is very much part of the ongoing conversation and welfare champions are emerging from the community, helping instil further and future change. Wild Welfare is proud to be part of one of the significant welfare changes within the SEAZA, with the introduction of their welfare-based certification programme, which once rolled out will help improve care and welfare standards across more than 100 zoos and aquariums.

Animal welfare concerns in zoos are still very prevalent around the world, but we are witnessing a growing welfare change across all cultural boundaries and we're continuing to support individuals, institutions and communities who are positive about making change a reality. By putting culture aside when it comes to animal welfare, we can work for welfare, not against it, ensuring harmful, outdated practices become a thing of the past, and the developments in animal care and welfare understanding become a new cultural legacy.



*While cultural diversity is something to be embraced, in terms of animal welfare, cultural practices should never be an excuse for poor conditions or animal suffering.*

*Generating a welfare narrative from within such a rich cultural community can support welfare change not hinder it. It can help reflect on why the many different approaches to welfare management do or don't work and support multiple solutions that can work both for the animal's and the cultural or geographical differences.*



# 2018 DIRECT SUPPORT

THAILAND

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JAPAN

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VIETNAM

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INDONESIA



## *Thailand*

Following a visit in 2017, we returned to Thailand this year, working again with the country's zoo association, the Zoological Park Organization Thailand (ZPO). In February we carried out full collection assessments at three different facilities for the ZPO and were fortunate to visit another two zoos. Throughout the week we provided animal welfare-themed lectures to more than 50 members of staff and practical sessions on identifying environmental, nutritional, behavioural and health indicators that impact animal welfare. We were also joined by a number of zoo keeping and curatorial staff during our assessments around the zoos, where we were able to provide direct advice and recommendations to a number of enclosure designs and management practices.

The enthusiasm to improve animal welfare within the zoos we visited is phenomenal, and we were really pleased to see some improvements on a return visit later in the year in **Chiang Mai Zoo**. The zoo has a small team dedicated to providing enrichment and they are encouraging the keeping staff to apply everyday enriching opportunities for the animals in their care. We were particularly impressed with the case study reports on enrichment use and enrichment calendars recording when and why they are doing enrichment and the behaviour changes they are monitoring to determine how successful it is or not.







ABOVE: The off-exhibit areas housing parrots at Chaing Mai Zoo were very small and there was no space for the birds to carry out natural movement and behaviours. These cages are now empty, and the parrots are in a bigger aviary together, where they have the opportunity to fly.  
BELOW: Working with enthusiastic staff from ZPO zoos.







公益社団法人 日本動物福祉協会  
Japan Animal Welfare Society



日本動物園水族館協会  
JAPANESE ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS

*It took a huge team of people and organisations to rehome the bears from Japan to the UK.*

*We are sincerely grateful to everyone who gave up their time, expertise and resources to make it happen.*



## *Ainu Museum, Japan*

In August, we returned to Japan to rehome four brown bears from the Ainu Museum in Hokkaido, northern Japan, to the UK. Rehoming bears from Japan to a rehabilitation facility in the UK had never been done before, and in total, it took more than ten organisations to make this project possible. This included a brown bear expert from Japan's Hokkaido University, a veterinarian from a neighbouring captive bear facility who supported our UK vet, the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA) (notably Mr. Okada san and Mr Etsuo Narushima san) who provided essential advice, and importantly, Japanese animal welfare NGO experts who provided vital in-country management of the project. Everyone involved has become a trusted colleague over the past few years that we've been working in Japan and what's built up has been a dedicated community of people. During the nearly two-year project, we met regularly with all key people, discussing options for the bears and talking about why improving their welfare was so necessary. Importantly, all staff at the Ainu Museum were included in discussions, as they too were keen to give the bears a better life.

Throughout this project we have forged long-term partnerships and friendships that can help further animal welfare improvements in Japan. Rehoming these bears has cemented our relationships with key experts and authorities, and through mutual trust and respect, we are identifying the best short and long-term solutions to some of the key animal welfare issues facing the country. There are potentially hundreds of other captive bears living in bear parks in Japan, and through this rehoming project, we have continued to press for discussion and action around their welfare, simultaneously gaining a better understanding of Japanese culture and the different way things are done across the country, so we can collectively improve conditions for these other bears. We believe our approach of uniting key organisations and communities who can make a real difference to animals' lives in Japan, can secure better welfare standards for all Japan's captive wild animals.



## The Journey

This August (during a heat wave in Japan!), Yorkshire Wildlife Park and Wild Welfare sent out teams to bring the bears back to their new home. We spent a week at the facility working with the Ainu Museum, the Japan Animal Welfare Society, Hokkaido University staff, Noboribetsu bear park staff and the international couriers, ensuring we developed the best solution for getting the bears safely home. All four bears were observationally assessed - there were strong concerns for one bear named Amu, the oldest of all the bears, as he had difficulty standing and moving. After much discussion, it was agreed to bring him back to the UK and provide him with as much medical care as possible to see if this would improve his condition.

The bears could not be removed by any conventional route from their enclosures as they had grown too big to fit through the original doors. Instead, an empty cage was cut into, and the transport crates were placed safely at the end. On the day of the move, the bears were enticed one by one into the empty cage and moved into the crates. They started their more than 5,000 mile journey, firstly stopping at New Chitose airport, then on to Toyko and finally landing at London's Heathrow airport, where they were immediately transported to the Yorkshire park. Both Wild Welfare and the Yorkshire teams were with the bears along the whole journey.





## The Bears' New Home

The bears settled into their new home in Yorkshire, where they are currently exploring a newly-built rehabilitation facility that is two-and-a-half acres. The award-winning Yorkshire Wildlife Park cares for more than 400 animals and has a global reputation for the conservation and welfare of endangered wildlife, both in its natural habitat and captivity.

Sadly, 27-year-old bear Amu, after exhaustive care and examination, had to be euthanased. A full veterinary examination revealed the severe degree to which a number of chronic degenerative diseases, including arthritis and heart disease, were affecting his health. Veterinary experts and the staff at Yorkshire Wildlife Park had implemented a variety of appropriate treatments, but despite their significant efforts over several weeks, Amu's health did not improve and the difficult decision was made on welfare grounds to end his suffering. The three other bears, Kai, Riku and Hanako, are all thriving.

Finding homes for these bears was a huge undertaking and our focus as a charity is not centred on rescuing or rehoming animals. So why did we undertake such a mission? Read more on why [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).





## *Supporting other Facilities in Japan*

Last year, with support from Yorkshire Wildlife Park, we partnered with Noboribetsu bear park in Hokkaido, where we discussed enrichment opportunities and worked with their enthusiastic bear park team, carrying out enrichment activities in the indoor area of the bears' holdings. We have kept in contact with the bear park providing ongoing advice and in the summer of 2018, we were sent photos by their veterinary director, of food and play enrichment they had been building for the bears and an enrichment day held for the visiting public, so they could learn about animal welfare. It was fantastic to see varied enrichment now being enjoyed by the bears in the outside area of their enclosures and the public getting involved by making enrichment toys with the keepers during the special event. The Park has also now made a dedicated page on its website to the enrichment they are providing for their bears.

We have also been working with a facility in Japan that holds a solitary elephant. Following the **Japanese Elephant Report** carried out last year by Dr Keith Lindsey, where it was identified that there are a number of solitary elephants being held in captivity in Japan, we were approached to provide support to an institution. We have provided simple introductory advice on how to manage the space and provide the elephant with a more stimulating environment, and will continue to work with this facility and JAZA to address the solitary elephant management concern across Japan.





# Captive Welfare in Vietnam

*Captive wild animal facilities in Vietnam, such as wildlife rescue centres and zoos, are playing an increasingly important role in the conservation of endangered species, by enabling the effective confiscation and accommodation of animals caught up in the illegal wildlife trade and through educating the Vietnamese public on the importance of conservation.*

*The number of captive facilities is on the increase as Vietnam develops more safari-like parks, increases its wildlife rescue centres in response to increased wildlife trade and is developing more dolphinariums and entertainment facilities.*

## Vietnam

In April we returned to Vietnam to continue our collaboration with the Vietnamese Zoo Association (VZA), and individual member facilities. During this visit we met with Mr Tung (VZA Vice Chairman), to carry out two collection welfare assessments at the VZA's request, at two of their member facilities Hanoi Zoo and Bao Son Zoo. Hanoi Zoo is government-owned, while Bao Son is privately-owned. As part of the collection welfare assessment, we met with the zoo directorial staff as well as key curators and keepers.



## Indonesia

In 2018 we were invited to conduct welfare assessments of the three public facilities operated by Taman Safari Indonesia, in Bogor, Prigen and Bali. These were not full welfare audits and performed purely for in-house management recommendations. They were conducted by Wild Welfare and Dr Julia Maltzan of the Academy for Zoo and Wildlife Protection, Munich, Germany.

Presentations were made to the entire staff bodies of all three facilities – totalling nearly 600 people – starting with a guide to the Five Domains of Animal Welfare Compromise by Mr. Willem Manansang, chairman of the welfare and ethics committee of the Southeast Asian Zoos and Aquariums Association (SEAZA), followed by an introduction to the principles of the welfare of wild animals in zoos by Wild Welfare's field director, Dave Morgan. Dr Julia Maltzan from the Akademie gave advanced blowpipe training for anesthesia and drug administration to the facilities' veterinary teams, and used the opportunity to discuss specific cases with the vets and offered advice and guidance.



# REGIONAL ZOO ASSOCIATION SUPPORT

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SOUTH EAST ASIAN  
ZOOS & AQUARIUMS  
ASSOCIATION

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JAPANESE  
ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS  
AND AQUARIUMS

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BRAZILIAN ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

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VIETNAM ZOO  
ASSOCIATION

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## *SOUTH EAST ASIAN ZOOS & AQUARIUMS ASSOCIATION (SEAZA)*

Zoo standards in Southeast Asia differ. With a range of accredited members held against national legislation, to privately-owned, government and community-owned facilities with no existing legislation or policy, welfare standards vary immensely. While SEAZA members strive hard to improve the standards of care, the immense differences in ownership and expertise makes monitoring and improvements hard to maintain.

The SEAZA membership encompasses a diverse group of zoos and aquariums and to address the variation in welfare standards across their more than 50 members and bring about improvements, with our support over the last two years, they have created their first welfare certification programme. This programme will develop and build capacity in animal welfare practice and management throughout Southeast Asia, helping safeguard human, animal, and environmental health and welfare. It will also support the requirement by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, that all of its members must be accredited by their regional (or other) zoo association by 2023.



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# *THE SEAZA WELFARE CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME*

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## **Project Background:**

In April 2017, Wild Welfare provided welfare assessment standard training and certification framework development in Vietnam to SEAZA, with the intent of developing an obligatory association standard for zoo animal welfare, and a certification process that would provide an infrastructure for auditing SEAZA members against that standard.

In November 2017, Wild Welfare and SEAZA formally signed an MoU at the SEAZA annual conference in Manila in the Philippines. The MoU constituted a mutual support pledge towards the development of a welfare standard as per objective one of this project.

## *Why Is Certification & Accreditation Important?*

### **THE PROGRAMME**

SEAZA represents a wide range of zoos and aquariums. Institutional members come from ASEAN countries as well as from neighbouring nations, including Taiwan and Hong Kong. Associate and affiliate institutions come from different parts of the world including other parts of Asia, the Middle East, Australia, Europe, and North America.

Many regional zoo associations already have some form of accreditation programme to support and ensure best practice occurs within its membership, including animal welfare. The process usually requires a set of pre-determined standards to be regularly reviewed, evaluated and for members to be held accountable against them.

### **THE BENEFITS**

The benefits of accreditation for any industry, whether that is zoos or another global or national body, are both internal and external. They act as guidance to their members wanting to achieve a given set of standards. Externally they represent quality, demonstrate accountability, promote validity and provide assurance above and beyond non-accredited members, consequently elevating them within a global community.

For the global zoo community, a good accreditation process can determine who is meeting a high standard within the community and who is not, and can clearly differentiate members and associated members from non-members.

### **SEAZA**

SEAZA recognises the need to establish and implement a animal welfare certification programme, to help regulate and improve the professional ethos under which their members operate. Starting soon, SEAZA will implement this certification programme for all current and potential SEAZA members.

Through this programme, SEAZA members will need to be compliant with an Animal Welfare Certification Standard developed by themselves. This standard delegates authority to SEAZA to define specific standards of captive animal care and welfare, and identify gaps and opportunities to improve conditions for captive wild animals.



In 2018, Wild Welfare partnered with SEAZA to hold a certification workshop in Vietnam. Meeting with SEAZA zoo staff, our team carried out a two-day animal welfare assessment workshop. The workshop saw attendees from the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Singapore, come together to learn about what the welfare certification process looks like, and how it can be rolled out to SEAZA members and non-members in order to achieve more positive animal welfare in zoos and aquariums across the region.



The meeting was a great opportunity to put animal welfare top of the agenda in SEAZA facilities and the training was focussed around SEAZA's own welfare standard which Wild Welfare was significantly involved in helping develop. During this meeting, the SEAZA Welfare standard was reviewed and added to and an audit checklist developed from the standard for presentation to the SEAZA Board.

During the SEAZA Annual meeting in Chiang Mai in Thailand in November, the final certification documentation and proposed roll-out was presented to and approved by the SEAZA Board, the development of which had been supported by the Wild Welfare team leading up to the conference. The approved Welfare Standard and Certification process was then presented to the membership of SEAZA where it also gained full approval.

The implementation of the certification programme will start early in 2019, with Wild Welfare providing ongoing training and support in three different countries. Our commitment is that, by 2020, 20 SEAZA facilities in seven countries will have undergone a welfare audit with our support. We are incredibly grateful to Wildlife Reserves Singapore, whose financial support is funding Wild Welfare's involvement in this programme.

**Wildlife  
Reserves**  
S I N G A P O R E



# Uniting with JAZA to condemn the Taiji dolphin drive

Japan continues to face ongoing international disapproval for the annual Taiji dolphin drive, which takes a variety of dolphin species from the wild for meat or to be sold to captive entertainment facilities.

Wild Welfare welcomed the decision made by the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA) in 2015, when it prohibited its member aquariums from taking dolphins captured from Taiji. Upon discussion with JAZA this year, we were pleased JAZA representatives committed to saying:

*"The 10th International Aquarium congress was held in Fukushima last week, and we are committed to appropriate conservation and care within our aquarium community. We stand by our decision to not allow members to accept dolphins caught from the wild by drive fishing, as we believe it is unnecessary and an unacceptable form of acquisition of animals for our aquariums. JAZA is working hard to raise standards of welfare within its membership, recognising that good welfare underpins conservation and educational programmes."*

Wild Welfare will continue to liaise with its zoo and animal welfare colleagues in Japan, supporting any call to bring an end to the Taiji dolphin drive.



## *Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA)*

In July we again partnered with the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA), to deliver a two-day animal welfare training workshop in Fukuoka. More than 40 JAZA participants attended and the Wild Welfare team was joined by Sally Binding, The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)'s animal welfare coordinator, who also delivered training across the two days.

Day one focussed on enclosure set-up and enrichment for zoo animals, with attendees developing enrichment calendars and carrying out problem-based scenarios, including one where they had to identify enclosure and enrichment opportunities for polar bears. Day two saw attendees move outside into the zoo, where Fukuoka Zoo staff had kindly allowed the workshop to assess the welfare of some of the resident animals. Workshop participants split into two groups and considered the environmental and behavioural opportunities available to the animal they were assessing and if they were suitable for that species. The groups also considered the feeding and health management for the animal and met with the keepers to find out what their level of knowledge for that species was.

Back in the classroom the group shared their assessment observations and then problem-solved long and short-term solutions for the animals based on assessment findings, the zoo's resources and any limitations. The final part of the event involved attendees considering the importance of welfare committees and governance in zoos and the participants split into their own 'welfare committee' groups and solved common ethical and welfare decisions in zoos. Wild Welfare have been asked to deliver the training to JAZA participants again in 2019.



## *Brazilian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZAB)*

Brazil has 123 zoological institutions: 110 zoos and 13 aquariums, which together hold approximately 50,000 animals. The Brazilian Conservation authorities IBAMA and ICMBiol are looking to structure a 'One Plan' approach for a number of endangered endemic animal species and this approach will involve ex-situ options possibly using Brazilian zoos. Both authorities approached the Brazilian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZAB) in 2014, with the intent of developing some methodology for zoos to be assessed in terms of their suitability for ex-situ holding of endemics. AZAB has a membership of approximately 50 facilities within Brazil and has committed to developing a welfare certification system for its members to assist IBAMA and ICMBiol. Wild Welfare is in turn, assisting AZAB with this membership certification process.

Although biologically diverse, unfortunately, many Brazilian zoos are of very poor quality, with outdated physical structures, bad management and no record keeping. Currently there are few capacity building opportunities to train the staff and improve their performance. Many animals in Brazilian collections come from confiscations from illegal trafficking, and the number of animals apprehended certainly represents only a small portion of the actual number of animals illegally captured in the wild. A consequence is that many Brazilian zoos are overburdened with confiscated animals that are usually maintained off-exhibit and resultantly, under poor standards of care and poor animal welfare.

This April, Wild Welfare attended AZAB's annual conference, which was hosted by Zoo Brasilia. We held an auditor training workshop and an additional six more auditors – two of whom are aquarists – were introduced to the joint Wild Welfare/AZAB audit methodology. The conference also saw the roll-out of AZAB's final welfare standard and certification document.

In the session immediately after this presentation, Wild Welfare/AZAB auditor certificates were handed out to the new auditors, and following that, the first AZAB certificates of welfare compliance were awarded to Ubatuba Aquarium and AquaRio. After the conference, we returned to Sao Paulo with a four-man audit team (including an aquarist), and over the next few days audited a further six more facilities: Santos Aquarium, Guaruja Aquarium, Zoo Sorocaba, Sao Paulo Aquarium, Santa Andre Aquarium and Zoo Brasilia.

We returned to Brazil in August where three AZAB auditors joined us and together we assessed Dante Allighieri, a small zoo adjoined to a school, Orquidário de Santos Zoo and gardens, Mogi Mirim Zoo, and Sao Paulo's Zooparque Itatiba. Itatiba Zoo was something of a milestone, being the 21st Brazilian zoo we have audited to date, keeping us squarely on track for a projected 50 zoos audited by 2021.





## *Vietnamese Zoo Association (VZA)*

In August, Wild Welfare returned to Vietnam, presenting at a welfare seminar with the Vietnamese Zoo Association (VZA), and partners Animals Asia. The two-day event was focussed on developing high standards of animal care and management in VZA member zoos. Held at Đại Nam Zoo, in the south of the country near Ho Chi Minh city, around 30 participants representing 12 zoos attended what was also the VZA's mid-year meeting. Our field director, Dave Morgan, gave an introduction to animal welfare assessments – what they are, why they are so important, and how to carry them out, which included participants carrying out assessments for real throughout the zoo.

Animals Asia's animal welfare officer Nguyen Tam Thanh, gave a presentation on the basic principles of animal welfare and their behaviour specialist Heidi Quine, covered zoo animal health and behaviour. Hanoi Zoo, where Wild Welfare and Animals Asia have been working with zoo staff for several years to help make animal care and welfare improvements, also gave a presentation, delivered by the zoo's Mr Cuong, on animal enrichment and the progress the zoo has been making for its animals.



The seminar also provided an opportunity for participants to consider a list of prohibited practices and non-negotiables for VZA member zoos to adhere to. Wild Welfare considers some management practices completely unacceptable and when carrying out welfare assessments regards these non-negotiable practices as ones that must stop in order for animal welfare to improve.

They include practices such as the feeding of live vertebrate prey to other animals, animal mutilation that injures, disfigures, or physically changes an animal permanently, and animal training that involves physical punishment. One of the overarching aims of this seminar was to move towards the VZA adopting a welfare assessment programme for its members.

We have since met with Dr Lam who is keen for Wild Welfare to return in 2019 and help set up a membership programme that utilises new SEAZA welfare standards and develops assessment protocols specifically for zoos in Vietnam.

# 2018 PARTNERSHIPS

JAPAN ANIMAL  
WELFARE SOCIETY

ANIMAL LITERACY  
INSTITUTE, JAPAN

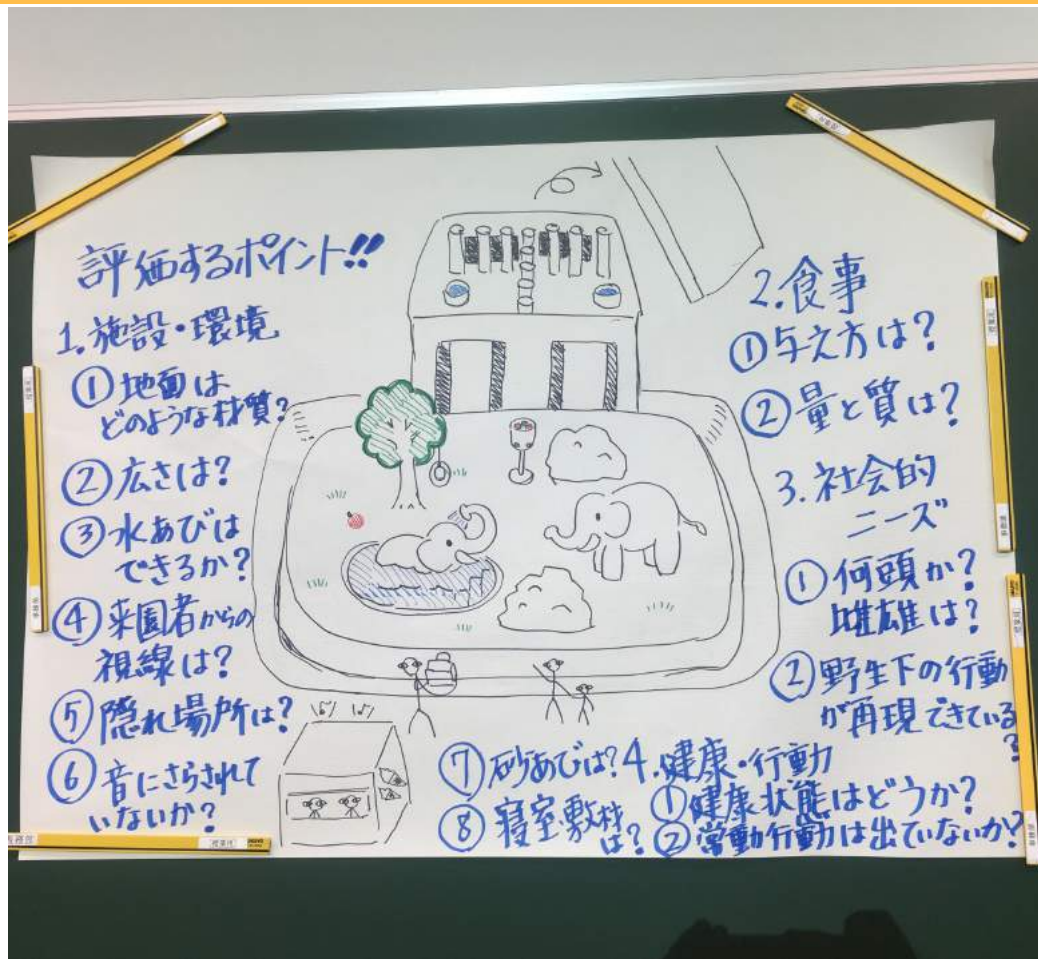
UNIVERSITY OF  
EDINBURGH

UK COALITION FOR  
BREXIT

THE WINTON  
FOUNDATION FOR THE  
WELFARE OF BEARS

YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE  
PARK

ANIMALS ASIA  
FOUNDATION



## *Japan Animal Welfare Society, Japan*

This year, Wild Welfare provided a captive wild animal welfare seminar in Tokyo, with partners The Japan Animal Welfare Society (JAWS). Partnering for the third consecutive year, Wild Welfare and JAWS, held a day's seminar in Shibuya, which was kindly organised by JAWS HQ's director, Dr Nai Machiya-san. The seminar attracted a diverse group of more than 30 attendees from within and around Tokyo, that included prefectural vets, zoo vets, animal science students, zoo staff and members of the public.

We presented on the physiological and psychological needs of wild animals in captivity and how to assess an animal's welfare, with particular focus on the needs of chimpanzees and elephants. We considered the importance of species-suitable enclosures and meeting their physiological and psychological needs at all times, and consequently, what to look for when carrying out an assessment of the animal's welfare. Taking what they had learnt, attendees then worked in groups to come up with suitable animal welfare assessment questions they would ask, to determine the welfare status of each animal. This is a particularly important element for vets who work for local authorities and prefectures in Japan, as they often visit and assess captive facilities if there is a welfare concern and need to know how to ask the right questions as part of that process.





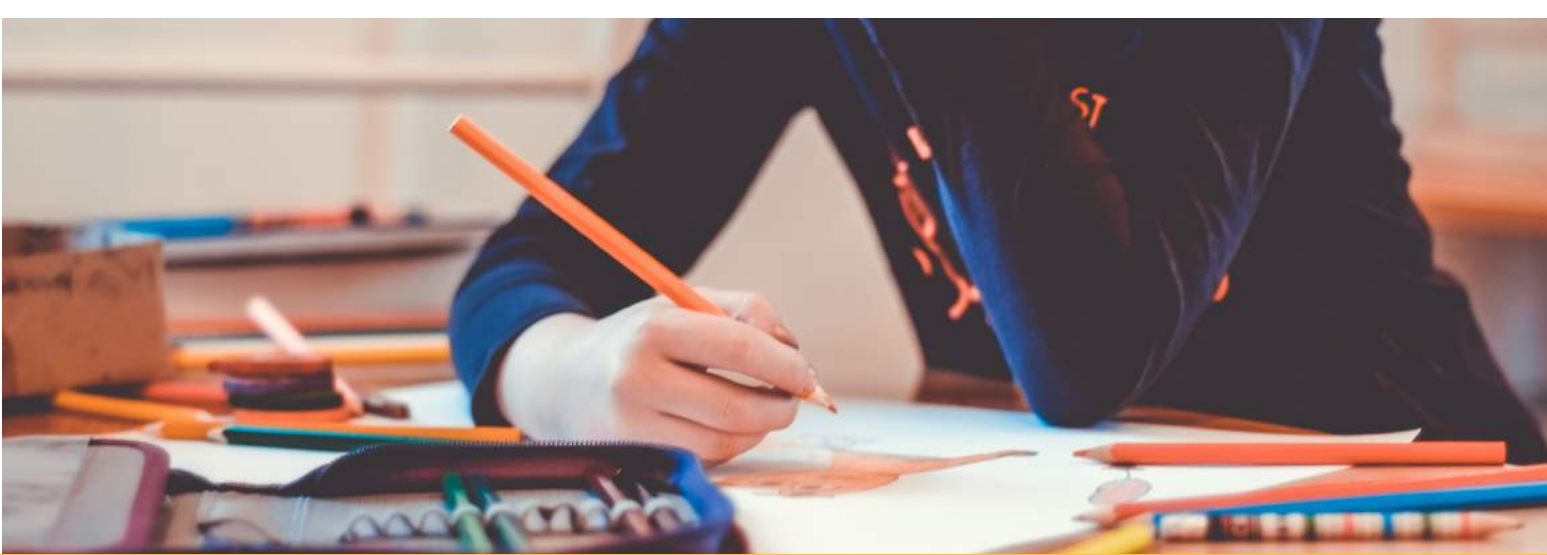
## *Animal Literacy Institute (ALI), Japan*

Most modern zoos and aquaria have a broader remit comprised of five primary, interconnected goals: (1) conservation; (2) education; (3) research; (4) animal welfare; and (5) entertainment. While zoos and aquariums arguably place a major emphasis on the first four goals, a substantial number of visitors come, at least in part, for entertainment. Entertainment usually involves an interaction with the animal and can take many forms, for example shows, performances, direct or indirect interaction with a wild animal and educational outreach events, are all forms of animal visitor interactions.

The possibility of having direct physical contact with a wild animal can increase the appeal of a zoo or aquarium for many visitors, yet, recent advances in knowledge about animal welfare science has raised concerns about the negative impact that such activities can have on both the psychological and physiological well-being of the wild animals involved. Circus-like shows are still common place in some zoos and aquariums, from dolphin performances to elephant riding. From an education and conservation perspective, these activities are dubious, while there are potentially serious welfare implications as well.

In collaboration with the ALI, we have undertaken the first ever review of current animal visitor interactions. This report (which will be ready in January 2019), will form part of our evidence-based materials to present to key policy makers within Japan who can influence legislative and facility changes, that can stop negative animal visitor interactions taking place in Japan in the future.

Also in collaboration with the ALI, we have undertaken an analysis of Japanese zoos and aquariums to gather useful data on the number of zoos and aquariums across the country and the species they hold. This, combined with the knowledge we have on prefectural and central policy guidance on captive wildlife care, can help inform us on the scope of the animal welfare problem in Japan. We will use this data to consolidate a report early in 2019, to present to key stakeholders and policy makers in Japan, as well as help us understand the extent of, and the acuteness of certain welfare issues. With this we can target our support to those facilities that need it most, while engaging with Japanese authorities who can make future decisions about animal welfare issues in captivity.



## *Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education (JMICAWE), University of Edinburgh*

Alongside the JMICAWE, we are developing an animal welfare and husbandry e-learning programme, specifically designed as an introductory programme to support keeping staff in zoos and aquariums who look after captive wild animals. The programme provides simple and easy to use module learning, with interactive questions and activity sheets and will be aligned to known best practice operational standards that help deliver high standards of animal welfare.

We have been in regular communication with the university-based e-learning specialist providing them with the content for this programme and they are doing the expert work in terms of putting it into its e-format. Starting with animal behaviour and enrichment, this initial module is getting close to demo stage, whereby we can then decide upon how the programme will be hosted (from our website, a microsite or similar) and in time, how we might track the number of people taking part. We are reminded on almost every field trip, of the necessity of this programme and the educational support it will offer the zoo staff we're working with, so we are very keen to ensure it is of a suitable style and accessibility to fulfil its brief.

## *Brexit Animal Welfare Manifesto collaboration*

As a UK-registered charity, earlier this year we signed up to the UK Centre for Animal Law (A-Law) and Wildlife and Countryside Link Brexit Manifesto for Animals, which includes recommendations for captive wild zoo animal welfare after Brexit. Working with more than 40 other charities, this coalition of charities continues to discuss recommendations and actions required to ensure animal welfare is made a priority by the UK government post-Brexit.







## *The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears*

The Winton Bear Foundation for the Welfare of Bears, funds and raises awareness to assist projects around the world helping bears. The Foundation works in partnership with other organisations globally, supporting and furthering improvements in bear welfare and care. Kuma Kuma Bear Park is in the Akita Prefecture of Japan, it holds approximately 70 black and brown bears and is open to the public.

Earlier this year we worked with the Foundation and facilitated a grant from them to support Kuma Kuma bear park. The park agreed to use the grant to provide environmental, behavioural and feed-related enrichment to their brown bear Hanako and other bears wherever possible, and that enrichment will be provided for the sole purpose of improving animal welfare. Through some of our Japanese partners we have been able to see enrichment tools being applied at the park and have had question and answer sessions with keepers at the facility, to help support the use of enrichment materials.

## *Animals Asia Foundation & Yorkshire Wildlife Park*

We continue to work on a number of projects with Animals Asia Foundation (AAF) within Vietnam. AAF are well established in Vietnam, with a strong in-country office. It is through their support that we have been able to develop a relationship with relevant policy stakeholders in Vietnam as well as work with specific zoos in the country. Of relevance is the ongoing partnership between Yorkshire Wildlife Park (YWP), AAF and Hanoi Zoo, which we help support.

Through this partnership there have been improvements at the zoo, including macaque population management, furnishing and enrichment provisions for the macaque enclosures, the development of an improved elephant enclosure, animal recall training and a number of species-specific environmental management improvements. AAF has volunteer staff at the zoo and YWP have a dedicated staff member to oversee the ongoing partnership. Establishing long-term changes is never easy, particularly in government-run facilities that lack resources and expertise, but the changes being made with this project are critical to support the lasting attitude and behaviour changes required, and we will continue supporting AAF and YWP's unwavering efforts wherever relevant.

# 2018 RESOURCES

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PUBLIC AWARENESS  
VIDEO

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ANIMAL CARE AND  
WELFARE E-LEARNING  
PROGRAMME

---

MOBILE APP

---

CARE FOR US  
BOOKLETS

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Wild Welfare is currently developing three brand new and exciting animal welfare resources, as well as continuing to add to and develop its existing resources that help in the support of many of our ongoing projects.

With all three of our new resources we are being innovative and current and creating tools that will help us further our project work and deepen people's knowledge and understanding of the importance of good welfare for wild animals living in captivity.

## *Public Awareness Video on Animal Welfare*

Video is exploding on social media and is seen as one of the best ways to communicate with your audience, so creating a highly engaging – with the potential to go viral – public education video on animal welfare is something we are very excited to have started developing this year.

We have finalised a script and secured an experienced team of video animators to begin developing this for us in the coming weeks and will be launching the final product via an extensive online and media campaign early in 2019.



# *E-Learning Programme on Animal Care and Welfare*



We are working with an e-learning specialist from the Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education Centre (JMICAWECE) at the UK's University of Edinburgh on the creation and delivery of an e-learning module-based programme. In many of the zoos in which we work we are faced with passionate staff who want to help their animals live happy lives, but who have little knowledge and expertise in wild animal care and welfare.

We can only do so much when we visit for training workshops, learning is an ever-evolving process and knowledge is something to be built over time. With the e-learning programme we are going to be able to offer a hugely valuable resource to zoo staff in countries like Vietnam, Indonesia and Japan and help ensure those caring for animals in captivity can understand what their animals need to live fulfilled lives.

This year we have finalised the content for this resource and are beginning to put an initial module into e-learning format. We plan to launch the programme in 2019 and will initially be using it on the ground with our current projects and animal care teams who we are already working with. Initially the resource will be in English, but we will be looking at translations in the future, so we can make it as accessible as possible for the international teams we support.

## Supporting zoo staff with education and resources

*There is an overwhelming need to provide long-term information, resources and educational support to those caring for wild animals at the zoos and aquariums we support, information that can be accessed and utilised after and in between the training we offer when working in the field with facilities and their staff.*

*The e-learning programme has the potential to offer exactly that, helping the animal care staff we're working with to grow and develop their knowledge and understanding of how to properly provide for their animals and give animal welfare high priority in the day-to-day care they offer.*



# Mobile App



This year we have begun our partnership with a zoo on the development of a Mobile App. Mobile Apps with an educational value are becoming increasingly popular and this App will enable us to harness the age of connectivity and allow the public to become part of the solution to a number of captive animal welfare concerns seen around the world.

The App will be able to collect real-time data and help develop an animal welfare database whose data can be used in a whole variety of ways to improve animal welfare for wild animals in captivity around the globe and to educate the public on animal welfare and compassion for wildlife.

We cannot share too many details on the specifics of the App at the moment, as we are keeping the concept under wraps until development is under way, but what we can tell you is that this resource will see us partnering with a range of zoological, animal welfare and conservation organisations, attracting a wide, global audience and delivering the objective of increased public awareness and learning, as well as supporting our charity's mission.

## *#CareForUs Booklets*



### CARE FOR US – BINTURONG

ANIMAL WELFARE, BINTURONG, CARE FOR US, CONSERVATION

The binturong, also known as bearcat, belongs to the Viverridae family, an ancient group of small- to medium-sized mammals found...



### CARE FOR US – CHIMPANZEES

ANIMAL WELFARE, CARE FOR US, CHIMPANZEE, CONSERVATION

The genus Pan is composed of two species: Pan paniscus (the bonobo) and Pan troglodytes (the common chimpanzee). Chimpanzees were...

We now have 12 #CareForUs resources available to read and download for free on our website.

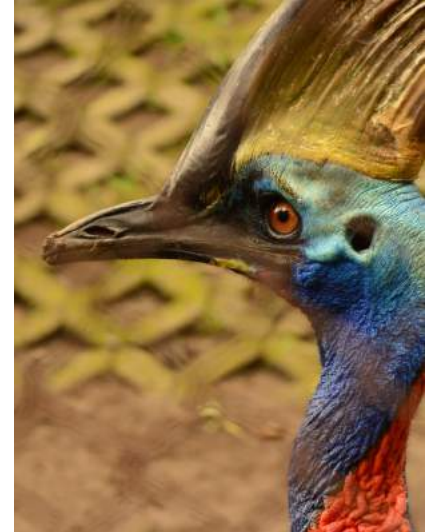
The simple, easy to follow guidelines on animal care and welfare for specific species, address the void of free and straightforward information accessible to keepers in the zoos we work with.

The CareForUs can help them to learn more about individual animal species they are caring for and how to ensure their good care and welfare.

**Take a look at the full range [HERE](#)**



# *Welfare Standards, Welfare Assessments, Accreditation/Certification Processes & Research*



## *Welfare Assessment*

Our Welfare Assessment is what we use to assess zoos and aquariums and provide feedback to facilities on the way in which they can improve the care and welfare they provide their animals. The assessment is derived from our Welfare Standard

The Welfare Assessment checklist encompasses more than 100 questions, split into five sections - which follow the Mellor Five Domain Model of nutrition, environment, health, behaviour and mental state - plus a miscellaneous section.

This year the Assessment has proved invaluable in our work in Brazil, Vietnam and South East Asia, as our ongoing projects in those countries and regions aim to support regional zoo association standards of their own, and improve welfare for wild animals in captivity.

## *Welfare Standards*

Wild Welfare has its own Standard called "Fundamental Welfare Requirements in Animal Care". This document is based on the Mellor Five Domains of Animal Welfare Compromise and is derived from more than 100 published articles, papers and books on zoo animal welfare.

We have been reviewing our standard throughout 2018 and ensuring both it and the welfare assessment process it forms a key part of is up to date, so both can continue to support our existing and upcoming work with regional zoo associations on welfare certification programmes.



## *Welfare Accreditation/Certification*

Alongside our standard and assessment programmes, our accreditation/certification model continues to help identify and support the processes required by a national body such as a regional zoo association, to ensure its members meet an identified best practice standard. The model has been put to good use this year through our work with the South East Asian Zoos and Aquariums Association (SEAZA), and our continued discussions with the Vietnamese Zoo Association - as both regional bodies move closer to the roll out of their own welfare certification programmes.

## *Non-Negotiables in Animal Welfare*

Our position statements on management practices that are unacceptable and cannot be improved, what we call the 'Non-Negotiables in Animal Welfare', continue to be used as part of our training with staff caring for captive wild animals. This year, we have also been able to use the non-negotiables to form part of opening and ongoing discussions with regional zoo associations as part of the development of their own welfare certification programmes.

**Your can see our full list of Non-Negotiables [HERE](#)**



## *Welfare-Based Research*

This year we have continued our research into the impacts of animal-visitor interactions (AVIs) offered by accredited zoos and aquariums and in other types of wildlife tourist attractions and the potential positive, neutral or negative welfare impact they are having on captive wild animals around the world. We will see the results of this study soon and plan to utilise them to ensure the ongoing positive welfare of captive wild animals within AVI situations.




# THE WILD WELFARE BRAND

One of 2018's highlights was the recruitment of a Projects and Development manager, whose main responsibility includes the development of our charity's communications and resources. It is vital for us to have a clearly defined brand, image and messaging across all our communications and the streamlining and developing of our charity's brand is really important for our immediate and continuing growth.


Our communications need to be clear and consistent, we need to communicate with the media, both in the UK and internationally where relevant to our global work and we need to talk to our supporters in a variety of engaging and appealing ways. Since June, the projects and development manager has been carrying out a full review and update of the Wild Welfare website, simplifying our messaging and making our project information clear, engaging and accessible. They have created a style guide to influence all our communication outputs and begun to grow and establish clear, consistent messaging across our full range of social media channels.

They have been continuing to enable us to talk to our supporters with an updated and refreshed monthly e-news and timely updates from our projects, and have initiated new internal communications to keep our trustees and partners fully up to date with our ongoing successes and achievements.

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Last Name

Email address:

SIGN UP

## *Wild Welfare in the Media*

Having a dedicated staff member to liaise with the media and journalists and to pitch in potential stories on our projects and activities has been key to securing a two thousand per cent increase in media coverage for Wild Welfare. This year we have been featured in more than 65 media articles, including online, in print and on broadcast outlets.

A huge media opportunity for us was to talk about the bears rehomed from Japan. We secured press coverage with the UK broadcast breakfast news programme, BBC Breakfast, which has an audience of 1.5 million, and our projects director was filmed at Yorkshire Wildlife Park, talking live to a presenter about the bears multiple times during the broadcast's three-hour show. As a result of our feature on the BBC, we got the opportunity to be interviewed on a week-long Channel 5 programme called Big Week at the Zoo, which launched with viewer numbers exceeding one million. During the launch show we talked about the journey of the bears to the UK and highlighted our work helping to secure better conditions for other captive animals in Japan.

The bears' story went on to feature in more than 30 individual pieces of press coverage across the UK and internationally – we did an interview for a South Korean TV channel and a Japanese newspaper to name just a few. We have been able to use the story of the bears and people's new familiarity with us as a charity as a great lead-in to pitch to journalists, leading to a feature piece in the online wildlife magazine Discover Animals and conversations with a huge range of other media, from magazines to websites, from Sunday newspaper supplements to children's podcasts, all of who could be relevant places to feature Wild Welfare's work.



## *Social Media*

On social media we have been able to grow our following, reach and engagement across all channels – by posting more regularly and at key times when engagement is high and tagging the right people into our posts. By posting relevant, topical messages that are reflective of our charity's aims and objectives we are able to share what Wild Welfare is all about to more and more people.

A growth in new followers and their engagement with us is vital for gaining active supporters who will consider donating to our projects. Our achievements to date include a 12% growth in Facebook following, a 200% growth of Instagram followers and a 33% increase in followers on Twitter - engagement is increased across all three channels.

**If you don't follow us  
already, please do find and  
like us across our channels  
by clicking on the icons  
below.**





# *What's Next in 2019?*

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Next year's focus will remain within our 'One Community' approach, which is separated into five areas – Direct Institutional Support, Community Action, Policy & Resource Development, Partnership Networks and Public Awareness. Below are a few of the objectives we hope to meet in 2019!

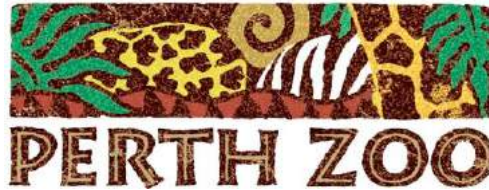
- **Provide direct and expert support to zoos and aquariums that improves their animal welfare programmes.**
- **Provide in-country led training workshops.**
- **Support regional zoo associations to implement welfare-based accreditation programmes.**
- **Support development of a 'Twinning Model' for zoos, that develops institutional and regional capacity.**
- **Develop welfare resources that support evidence led action.**
- **Develop relevant welfare policy & research opportunities with zoo and NGO partners.**
- **Run a public awareness programme to support educational outcomes on animal welfare.**



# THANK YOU

Wild Welfare is incredibly grateful to all its donors.  
Without their support we wouldn't be able to carry out our work.

We are kindly supported by the following organisations:



The Silent Foundation



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