

## THE FOUR PILLARS OF ZOO ZURICH

**Zoo Zurich focuses its activities on four main areas encompassing education, conservation, research and species protection. They form the cornerstones of a modern zoo.**

### EDUCATION

#### **Raising awareness and motivating people.**

The animals and plants at Zoo Zurich are ambassadors for their wild counterparts. They sensitize visitors to the issues of nature and species conservation. Exhibitions, animal presentations, themed tours, courses and various other informational activities teach the guests about the zoo. The goal is for visitors to take action on their own to protect ecosystems and conserve species.

Zoo Zurich puts a special emphasis on offers for schools. School classes of public day schools in the canton of Zurich are allowed to visit the zoo for free. There are guided tours, workshops and project days specially tailored to school groups, as well as the opportunity for students to interview an animal keeper. In addition, there are school resources, such as teaching packages, as well as training and continuing education programs for teachers.

→ [zoo.ch/schule](https://www.zoo.ch/schule)

### CONSERVATION

#### **Protecting and empowering nature.** | [zoo.ch/naturschutz](https://www.zoo.ch/naturschutz)

Zoo Zurich protects habitats – at its proverbial «doorstep» and around the world. Each year, it invests a contribution of over 1.8 million Swiss francs in its various nature conservation projects. Among other things, two percent of the turnover of the zoo restaurants and zoo stores are donated to the nature conservation projects of Zoo Zurich.

Globally, zoos and aquariums collectively invest more than \$350 million per year to conserve threatened ecosystems. The zoo world therefore ranks third on the world's platform for the protection of nature and species.

### **Eight priority projects**

Zoo Zurich is involved in eight long-term conservation priority projects. The zoo adheres to the principles of the conservation strategy of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums WAZA.

- **Masoala**, Madagascar, since 1995 → [zoo.ch/naturschutz-masoala](http://zoo.ch/naturschutz-masoala)  
Rainforest conservation and reforestation, sustainable agriculture, water supply and sanitation, children's schooling.
- **Kaeng Krachan**, Thailand, since 2009 → [zoo.ch/naturschutz-kaengkrachan](http://zoo.ch/naturschutz-kaengkrachan)  
Defusing human-elephant conflict, anti-poaching measures, construction of wildlife corridors.
- **Lewa**, Kenya, since 1998 → [zoo.ch/naturschutz-lewa](http://zoo.ch/naturschutz-lewa)  
Construction of wildlife corridors, anti-poaching measures, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, wildlife translocations, various socio-economic projects.
- **Sumatra**, since 2007 → [zoo.ch/naturschutz-sumatra](http://zoo.ch/naturschutz-sumatra)  
Conservation of the last contiguous swamp rainforests in the north of Sumatra, operation of rescue and release stations for orangutans.
- **Australian Ark**, Australia, since 2017 → [zoo.ch/naturschutz-australianark](http://zoo.ch/naturschutz-australianark)  
Conservation and species protection of Australian marsupials (Aussie Ark).
- **Amphibian Survival**, Columbia, since 2006 → [zoo.ch/naturschutz-amphibien](http://zoo.ch/naturschutz-amphibien)  
Establishment and support of the Cali Zoo Amphibian Breeding Center, research work, information programs, keeping and breeding of endangered frog species at Zoo Zurich.
- **Antarctic Research**, since 2006 → [zoo.ch/naturschutz-art](http://zoo.ch/naturschutz-art)  
Research work, long-term protection of penguins and their habitats in Antarctica and Subantarctica.
- **Bats**, Switzerland, since 1998 → [zoo.ch/naturschutz-fledermaus](http://zoo.ch/naturschutz-fledermaus)  
Supporting the Bat Protection Foundation in its activities in the field of information, education, coordination and operation of bat emergency care station.

Zoo Zurich also grants free hospitality to several nature conservation organizations: Stiftung Fledermausschutz, Verein Freunde Masoalas, Antarctic Research Trust ART and Verein Freunde der Galapagosinseln Schweiz.

### **Sustainability** | [zoo.ch/nachhaltigkeit](http://zoo.ch/nachhaltigkeit)

Zoo Zurich is carbon-neutral. It has signed a voluntary target agreement with the Business Energy Agency and offsets the residual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in certified projects. The zoo uses one hundred percent green electricity and produces a total of around 98 percent of its required heat sustainably. Among other things, the zoo's catering establishments use only meat and fish from Switzerland, and half of the dishes on offer are vegetarian or vegan.

## **RESEARCH**

### **Researching and discovering animals.**

As a scientifically run institution, the zoo is interested in a better understanding of nature and wildlife. The research of endangered species is of particular relevance. Often very little is known about their biology and it is not yet clear which conditions are crucial for their health and continued existence. However, only on the basis of such scientific facts will it be possible to protect habitats and animal species in the long term.

The expansion of research at Zurich Zoo is one of the main goals of the Master Plan 2050. The zoo is currently building and expanding the corresponding structures.

## **SPECIES PROTECTION**

### **Nurturing and promoting biodiversity.**

Species conservation, or more precisely ex-situ conservation, is the driving force when it comes to bringing zoo habitats to life, that is, deciding which species the zoo wants to keep. Animal welfare always comes first: The basic requirement is that the zoo can provide exemplary animal health – mental and physical – for the species kept.

In the future, Zoo Zurich will pay special attention to endangered species in the design of its animal population as part of the Master Plan 2050.

The overarching goal is to prevent the extinction of endangered species. This will only work as part of a global species conservation strategy that includes both zoo animal populations and the last remaining wild populations in protected areas. Here, Zoo Zurich contributes to conservation breeding within the zoo world as part of the ex-situ breeding programs EEP of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria EAZA.

→ [zoo.ch/zuchtprogramme](https://zoo.ch/zuchtprogramme)