



We are World Animal Protection.

We end the needless suffering of animals.

We influence decision makers to put animals on the global agenda.

We help the world see how important animals are to all of us.

We inspire people to change animals' lives for the better.

We move the world to protect animals.

Introduction

The following five principles are the backbone of our policy approach to the use of wild animals in zoos. These help us define the issue, build a clear case for change and ensure that wild animal protection can be effectively and sustainably achieved worldwide.

1. Wild animals belong in the wild

A wild animal's natural habitat is the only place that they can lead full lives free from the suffering inherent with captivity. Captivity limits their behaviour and places both their physiological and psychological wellbeing at risk.

2. Zoos can help protect wild animals

We recognise that zoos have the potential to play a vital role in conservation of threatened wild species (eg via humane research and captive release programmes) if they are managed correctly and according to best practice.

3. Zoos must prioritise wild animals facing extinction

Zoos should focus their efforts on threatened species that are of immediate risk of extinction. Zoos are under obligation to meet the psychological and physiological needs of these wild animals as fully as possible.

4. Zoos do not need captive wild animals to educate people

Zoos have a responsibility to educate people about wild animals and threats to their welfare and survival. Modern technology provides opportunities to achieve these education goals without the need to keep wild animals in captivity.

5. Zoos must avoid unnecessary cruelty

Zoos should not train wild animals to perform, use them as photographic props, or allow them to be ridden or handled by visitors. Zoos should also not engage in the commercial production or sale of wild animals for profit.

Together, we can move the world to protect animals.