BIAZA
Conservation Education Conference 2025
Programme

Hertfordshire Zoo

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The Conference Theme

The Power of Questioning

The theme of this year's BIAZA Conservation Education Conference is the power of questioning, inviting us to look inward as well as outward. How do we work as conservation educators? Why do we use the methods we use? What impact are we truly having, and where might we need to change?

By challenging ourselves with these questions, we open the door to innovation, honesty, and growth in our field.

Presentations will be grouped into thematic clusters exploring topics such behaviour change, formal education, and DEAI, each followed by discussion to test ideas and spark debate. Six elective workshop slots across the conference will offer space to dig deeper and refine practice.

Together, we will explore not just the answers, but the questions that drive conservation education forward.

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Hertfordshire ZOO

Monday 10th November

Welcome Drinks

Waterside Inn, Ware, SG12 9DW

Join us for a relaxed pre-conference drink at the Waterside Inn in Ware, the perfect chance to reconnect, meet new faces, and warm up for the big event ahead.

Day 1

Tuesday 11th November

Day 1

9:30am	**Registration**
10:00am	**Official Welcome** Lynn Whitnall, Hertfordshire Zoo
10:10am	**One Zoo Three** The Whitnall Brothers, Hertfordshire Zoo and The Big Cat Sanctuary
10:30am	**Conservation Education at Hertfordshire Zoo** Chris Eley, Hertfordshire Zoo
10:40am	**BIAZA & CEC Update** Cerian Tatchley, BIAZA Beccy Angus, RZSS and Chair of BIAZA CEC
11:10am	**Ice Breaker** Hertfordshire Zoo Entertainment Team
11:30am	**Break**
11:45am	**How do we engage with guests that aren't here for the zoo?** James Coleman, Flamingo Land
11:55am	**How do we embed animal welfare assessments into an education strategy?** Naomi Frost, Twycross Zoo
12:05pm	**What's in the box?** Stella Ramey, Colchester Zoological Society
12:15pm	**Discussion Time**
12:30pm	**How do we work towards sustainable environmental, educational, and development goals across Southeast Madagascar?** SEED Madagascar
12:45pm	**Lunch**

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Day 1

1:45pm	**WORKSHOP 1**
2:55pm	**WORKSHOP 2**
4pm	**Break**
4:15pm	**How can educators embed consideration, creation, comparison and conclusion into conservation conversations?** Jessica Zara, Twycross Zoo
4:25pm	**How do you amplify the voice of the next generation?** Marisa Edwards, Chester Zoo
4:35pm	**How can questioning transform cross-cultural conservation education?** Becky Moore & Adam Welsh, Hertfordshire Zoo & Five Sisters Zoo
4:45pm	**Discussion Time**
5pm	**Close**

Evening Activity

Quiz Night

Saracens Head, Ware, SG12 9BS

Get your thinking caps on for the Conference Quiz Night! Expect brain-teasers, laughter, and maybe a little friendly rivalry as teams battle it out for bragging rights (and prizes!).
It's the perfect recipe for mid-conference fun and networking.

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Day 2

Wednesday 12th November

Day 2

9am	**Welcome/Raffle Launch**
9:05am	**Guide to Questioning** Ross Morrison McGill, Teacher Toolkit Keynote
10:15am	**Can we use citizen science to create an evidence-based approach to public engagement?** Jo Clark, Dartmoor Zoo
10:25am	**What happens when you ask Home Educators what they really need?** Gill Garbo, The Big Cat Sanctuary
10:35am	**Beach school explorations: How do we foster marine awareness and inquiry in early childhood settings?** Noirin Burke, Galway Atlantaquaria
10:45am	**Discussion Time**
11am	**Break**
11:15am	**WORKSHOP 3**
12:25pm	**WORKSHOP 4**
1:30pm	**Lunch**
2:30pm	**How can we get teenagers to explore nature?** Jenny Abery, Hawk Conservancy Trust
2:40pm	**Can we go to the garden?** Jessica Lilley, RZSS Edinburgh Zoo
2:50pm	**The Big Bat Box Build: how can we use evaluation to evidence behaviour change as a result of conservation education initiatives?** Frances Lovell, Dudley Zoo and Castle

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Day 2

3pm	Discussion Time
3:20pm	Group Photo
3:20pm	Poster Session
3:45pm	Free time around the zoo
4:30pm	Close

Evening Activity

Gala Dinner

Hertfordshire Zoo

Join us for a wild night at the Conservation Education Conference Gala Dinner under the stunning marquee at Hertfordshire Zoo! Enjoy a delicious three-course meal, sway to the sounds of live music, and dive into fun games that will keep the energy buzzing.

It's the perfect chance to connect and network with fellow conservation educators, all while celebrating our shared passion for protecting the natural world!

Gala Dinner tickets are purchased separately

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Day 3

Thursday 13th November

Day 3

9am	**Welcome**
9:05am	**Are we going extinct? Psychology for supporting young people about biodiversity loss and climate change.** Dr Louise Edgington, Climate Psychology Alliance **Keynote**
10:15am	**How do we connect with adults to raise aspirations and drive Ocean-friendly behaviour?** Freyja Thomson-Alberts, National Marine Aquarium/OCT
10:25am	**What's the story? How narrative, character, and delivery influences impact** Stuart Owen, Highland Wildlife Park
10:35am	**How do we alleviate eco anxiety on young people to encourage action?** Becky Dodds, National Marine Aquarium
10:45am	**Discussion Time**
11am	**Break**
11:15am	**WORKSHOP 5**
12:25pm	**WORKSHOP 6**
1:30pm	**Lunch**
2:30pm	**Sensing Change: How does The Deep engage with sensory learners?** Jenny Thomas, The Deep
2:40pm	**Why are some people missing from our sector?** Holly Bestley, ZSL
2:50pm	**How can we break down the barriers preventing disadvantaged communities from connecting with nature?** Mark Stead, WWT

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Day 3

3pm	**How do we put the voices of our partners at the heart of our storytelling?** Caroline Heap, Chester Zoo
3.10pm	**Discussion Time**
3.25pm	**BIAZA Survey** Your BIAZA Conservation Education Committee
3.45pm	**Closing Comments** Beccy Angus, RZSS and Chair of BIAZA CEC Chris Eley, Hertfordshire Zoo
4pm	**Close**

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Workshops

	Session A	Session B	Session C	Session D
1	**How do I become a better presenter?** Mandy Glass, Birdworld	**How can we improve our evaluation by using human ethics frameworks?** Stephanie Pace, ZSL	**How can I make my work more effective through setting clear objectives? ***** Andy Moore, Colchester Zoological Society	**VAE Assessment practical workshop** Deana Stephens, BIAZA Cerian Tatchley, BIAZA
2	**How do we increase engagement between our guests and our mission?** Denver Anderson, Twycross	**How can we improve our evaluation by using human ethics frameworks?** Stephanie Pace, ZSL	**How can I make my work more effective through setting clear objectives? ***** Andy Moore, Colchester Zoological Society	**Guided tour of Hertfordshire Zoo** Aaron Whitnall, Hertfordshire Zoo
3	**How does a species get its red list category and what does it actually mean?** Andrea Dempsey, IUCN SSC CSS UK @ Hertfordshire Zoo	**How can you grow the skills and mindset to lead?** Beccy Angus, RZSS Charlotte Smith, Chester Zoo Cat Hickey, ZSL	**Hearing Impaired, Hard of Hearing, Hearing Loss or Deaf? A whistle-stop guide to deaf awareness and communicating with clarity** Danny Bidwell, Knightsfield School	**VAE Assessment practical workshop** Deana Stephens, BIAZA Cerian Tatchley, BIAZA
4	**How does a species get its red list category and what does it actually mean?** Andrea Dempsey, IUCN SSC CSS UK @ Hertfordshire Zoo	**How can you grow the skills and mindset to lead?** Beccy Angus, RZSS Charlotte Smith, Chester Zoo Cat Hickey, ZSL	**Hearing Impaired, Hard of Hearing, Hearing Loss or Deaf? A whistle-stop guide to deaf awareness and communicating with clarity** Danny Bidwell, Knightsfield School	**Guided tour of Hertfordshire Zoo** Aaron Whitnall, Hertfordshire Zoo
5	**How can we confidently assess understanding in conservation education sessions?** Chris Eley, Hertfordshire Zoo Suzie Simpson, SEA LIFE	**How can games and interactive challenges engage audiences with complex topics?** Noirin Burke, Galway Atlantaquaria	**How can behaviour change psychology help build the conservation capital of our audiences?** Jenny Mutch, Chester Zoo	**VAE Assessment practical workshop** Deana Stephens, BIAZA Cerian Tatchley, BIAZA
6	**How can we confidently assess understanding in conservation education sessions?** Chris Eley, Hertfordshire Zoo Suzie Simpson, SEA LIFE	**Can we increase public engagement with unmanned activities?** Sarah Mellor, The Deep	**How can behaviour change psychology help build the conservation capital of our audiences?** Jenny Mutch, Chester Zoo	**Guided tour of Hertfordshire Zoo** Aaron Whitnall, Hertfordshire Zoo

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Please note that workshops are elective, but places are limited.
Attendees will be able to select their workshop preferences online in the weeks leading up to the conference.

***Designed for early career practitioners

DAY 4

OPTIONAL

FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

THE BIG CAT SANCTUARY

As an exclusive optional day, delegates are invited to The Big Cat Sanctuary in Kent, whose mission is to rescue, care for and conserve wild cats while raising awareness through education. This unique site offers a rare setting for conservation education, combining welfare, rescue, and advocacy. Attendees will enjoy guided tours, the unforgettable chance to win a big cat hand feed, and an in depth look at the brand-new Lion Rescue Centre.

Transport will leave Hertfordshire at 8am.

10AM	ARRIVAL
10:30AM	CONSERVATION EDUCATION AT THE BIG CAT SANCTUARY Gill Garbo, Big Cat Sanctuary
11AM	TOUR OF BCS AND THEIR CONSERVATION HUB BCS Staff
12PM	LUNCH AND BIG CAT FEED RAFFLE
1PM	LION RESCUE CENTRE TALK BCS Staff
1:20PM	CONTINUATION OF TOUR OF BCS AND THEIR CONSERVATION HUB BCS Staff
2PM	BIG CAT HAND FEEDS FOR RAFFLE WINNERS BCS Staff
2:30PM	DEPART

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THE BIG CAT SANCTUARY