BIAZA Reptile and Amphibian Working Group (RAWG) Annual conference 2026
Agenda

Icebreaker drinks 17th February at The Oakfield Pub – Chester Zoo from 5pm

Day one (18th February) morning:

Time	Talk title	Presenter/host	Institution/Organisation
08:30-9:00	Arrival of delegates – Tea & coffee provided	-	Chester Zoo
09:00 – 09:20	Welcome and housekeeping	Adam Bland	Chester Zoo/ RAWG
Session 1	**Native Species**		
09:20 – 09:40	Overview of Sand Lizards at Chester Zoo and Talacre	Joshua Fulford	Chester Zoo
09:40 – 10:00	Headstarted vs. Wild: Comparing Skin Microbiomes of Natterjack Toadlets	Rachel Haynes	Queens University Belfast
10:00 – 10:20	Adders in BIAZA collections: conservation, education and research opportunities	Jim Foster	ARC
Session 2	**Research and Keeper Development**		
10:20 - 10:40	Putting zoo research into action and Research Working Group update	Clare Wilkie	Crocodiles of the World
10:40 - 11:00	KEEP; Educational keeper exchanges for better animal and keeper welfare	Kim Sutton/ James Star	KEEP
11:00 - 11:20	Anaesthesia of Rio Cauca caecilians (*Typhlonectes natans*) using tricaine methanesulfonate (MS-222) immersion: a pilot study	Ian Ashpole	Chester Zoo
11:20 - 11:40	Is it too loud? Effect of background noise on the welfare of captive mantella frogs	Dr. Luiza Passos	Liverpool John Moores University
11:40 – 11:50	**Coffee Break**		
Session 3	**Husbandry/Captive Breeding**		
11:50 – 12:00	Sponsor talk	Edward Bostock-Howard	Zoo Fab
12:00 – 12:20	Not sure I'll be doing that again! - Captive Breeding of *Ceratophrys cornuta*	Calvin Allen	WWT
12:20 – 12:40	Husbandry and Reproduction of Eastern indigo snakes	Adam Radovanovic	Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park
12:40 – 13:00	Captive breeding of the Harlequin toad (*Atelopus varius*) at Manchester Museum	Matthew O'Donnell	Manchester Museum
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch Break**		

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Day one (18th February) afternoon:

Session 4	**Ex- Situ Conservation**		
14:00 – 14:20	Two emergency responses for threatened amphibians	Dr Benjamin Tapley	ZSL
14:20 – 14:40	Repatriation of the Lesser night gecko (*Nactus coindemirensis*) from Jersey Zoo to Mauritius	Ciaran Westgate	Jersey Zoo
14:40 – 15:00	How do you study a lizard that doesn't want to be found? The Challenges of establishing the first wild study on the crocodile monitor in Papua New Guinea	Ben Miles	Chester Zoo/Toledo Zoo
Session 5	**Husbandry in Conservation**		
15:00 - 15:10	Sponsor talk		Pinmoore animal Laboratory Services
15:10 - 15:30	In and ex-situ conservation of the Awakopaka Skink – **Pre record**	Sonja Murray	Aukland Zoo
15:30 - 15:50	Conservation of Pool Frogs at Banham Zoo - Sarah Lee - Banham Zoo	Sarah Lee	Banham Zoo
15:50 - 16:15	Developing husbandry practices for Leptophryne sp. toads in Java	Arief Mutargan & Risma Aprilianti	Taman Safari & IPB University
16:15 – 16:30	**Coffee Break**		
	Keynote speaker		
16:30 – 17:00	Gerardo Garcia – Animal and Plant Director at Chester Zoo	Gerardo Garcia	Chester Zoo

Day one ends.

~19:00 onwards delegates meet for dinner and drinks in Chester.

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Day two (19th February) morning:

Time	Talk title	Presenter/host	Institution/Organisation
08:30-9:00	Arrival of delegates – Tea & coffee provided	-	Chester Zoo
Session 1	**Research and Captive breeding**		
09:00 – 09:30	New Zoo Licensing Standards and implications for UK herpetological collections	Iri Gill	Chester Zoo
09:30 – 09:50	The sharp end of venom research	Edouard Crittenden	Liverpool School of Tropical medicine
09:50 – 10:10	Management and breeding of the Madagascan big headed turtle (*Erymnochelys madagascariensis*) at Jersey Zoo	Matthew Cassidy	Jersey Zoo
10:10 – 10:30	Captive breeding of the Gansi egg eating snake	Neil Trickett	Wild Discovery
10:30 – 10:50	Sponsor talk	Thomas Marriot	Exotics Keepers Magazine
10:50 – 11:00	**Coffee Break**		
Session 2	**Enclosure design and**		
11:00-11:10	Sponsor talk	James Dale	Aquatect
11:10 - 11:30	Planting for Purpose	Danielle Kilroy	Marwell Zoo
11:30 - 11:50	Masters of disguise, *Uroplatus henkeli*, building a cryptic army	Matt Cook	Chester Zoo
11:50 - 12:10	Behaviour workflow - an integrated approach to husbandry – **Pre record**	Meg Rostron	Colchester Zoo
12:10 – 12:30	Shedding light on amphibian welfare: how does UVB exposure affect the behaviour and stress levels of captive mantella frogs?	Chloe Davis	Liverpool John Moores University
12:30 – 12:40	Sponsor Talk	Alan Dudley	Safe4
12:45 – 13:45	**Lunch Break**		

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Day two (19th February) afternoon:

	Enclosure theming workshop		
14:00 – 15:15	Group 1	Zoo Fab team	Zoo Fab
15:15 – 16:30	Group 2	Zoo Fab team	Zoo Fab
	Tour of Chester Zoo Ectotherm facilities		
14:00 – 15:15	Group 2	Ectotherms team	Chester Zoo
15:15 – 16:30	Group 1	Ectotherms team	Chester Zoo
	RAWG Raffle		
16:30 – 17:00	Raffle and close	RAWG SG	RAWG/Chester Zoo
17:00	Departure of delegates		

Day two ends. Conference ends.