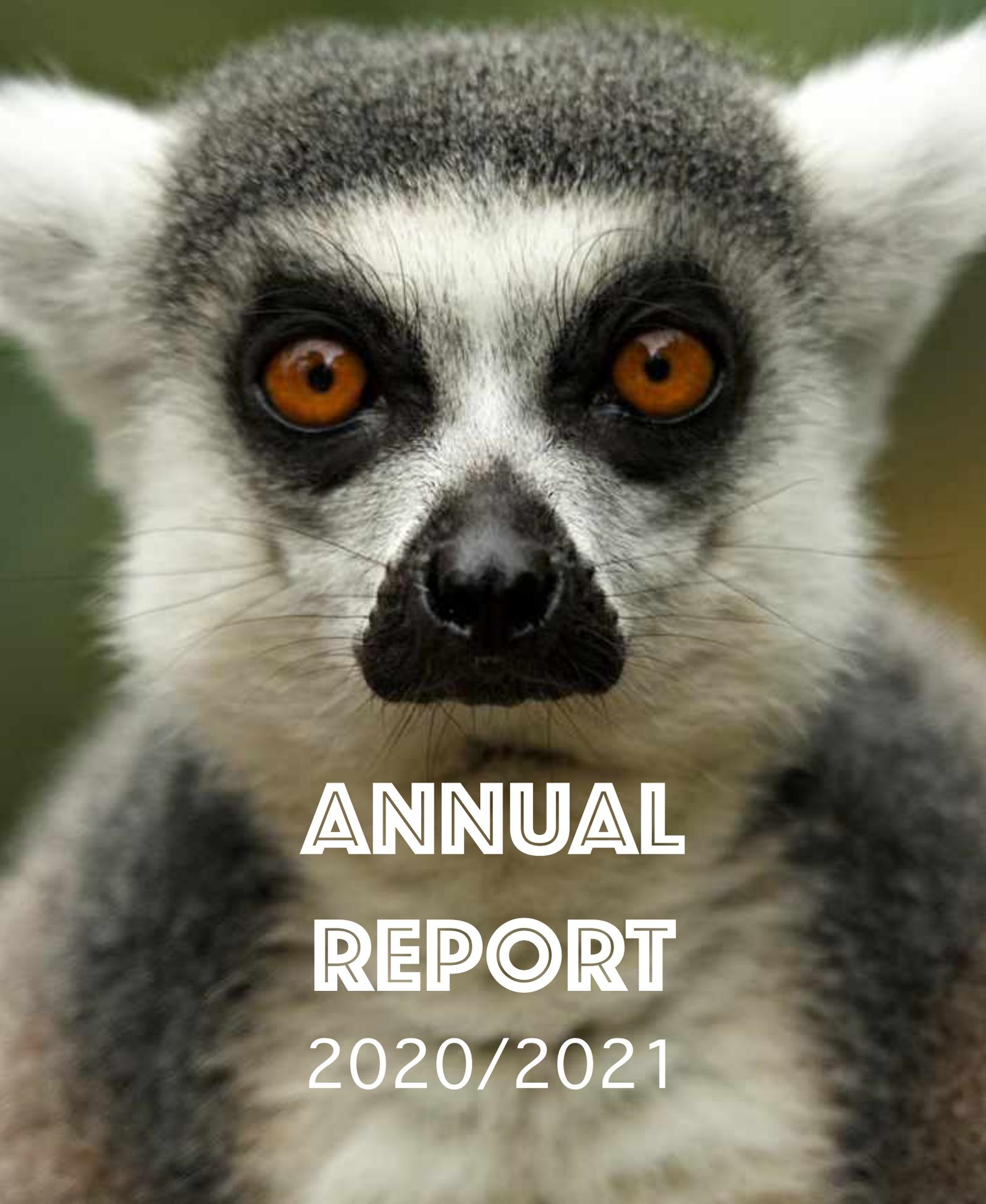




Alameda Wildlife Conservation Park



ANNUAL

REPORT

2020/2021

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2020, what can we say? It has been a rollercoaster year for all. January was full of promise, we were all looking forward to a year building on the successes of 2019. In February we expanded our volunteer and internships program with our first ever Training Seminar, finished off with a group outing to Fuengirola BioParc for a special animal training demo session and behind the scenes tour of the zoo. Just one week later, the world changed.

Gibraltar went into lockdown and the AWCP had to say goodbye to its volunteers and interns for 10 weeks. With just two staff members on per day, the remaining staff were kept very busy with the daily feeding and cleaning routines, ensuring the animals continued to receive their first class care, normally delivered by 6-10 Keepers, volunteers and Interns per day.

As Gibraltar emerged from Lockdown in May, the AWCP had already started the filming for its mini-series with GBC 'The Wild Side'. This six part series concentrated on different aspects of the AWCP's work, from education, conservation, daily routines, training and enrichment. We also saw the very welcome return of our volunteers and new internships began.

The tourist levels in the summer picked up, and visitors were once again allowed into Gibraltar, but it was nowhere near the levels of previous years, with no liners coming in, numbers were dramatically reduced. We also sadly missed our education season in springtime, but we did manage to see a few school children later in the year.

We did however find new ways of doing things; to make up for the loss in income and to adhere to social distancing rules, the October Halloween event was a ticketed event, with Spooky Tours 2-3 times a day. This turned out to be a resounding success and helped to raise much needed funds for the zoo and for our conservation projects. It's a formula we will adopt again in the future, with or without the pandemic!

In December disaster struck again with not just another looming lockdown but also extensive damage to many of our roofs by storm Filomena. The devastation took a few days to realise, as electrical installations failed and damage to many of the indoor enclosures became evident. Within a few days, the Filomena Fund was set up to help pay for the damage, after such a difficult year, funding was already tight. As ever, the local population pulled together, we had support from local businesses, electrical companies came forward to offer their time and materials. Corporate companies offered generous funding, animals were sponsored and many people purchased and renewed their Memberships to help out. A warming end to a difficult year. As the year ended, we faced our second lockdown, but this time, at least, our Interns were allowed to stay and continue their training and to help the Keepers to look after the animals. With the future uncertain, all we can do is look forwards and carry on, utilising the lessons learned from a challenging year.



TO BE A PRO-ACTIVE AND
POSITIVE CONTRIBUTORY
FORCE, HELPING TO
PRESERVE AND CONSERVE
NATURE, WILDLIFE AND
BIODIVERSITY

OUR MISSION



Our primary aim is to ensure the animals in our care are thriving

How do we do this?

- Regular Animal Welfare Assessments
- Enrichment for our animals is part of our every day routine
- Animal training - to ensure we never have to use negative methods to work with our animals, it also is something they enjoy!
- New and innovative enclosure designs and developments
- Regular veterinary care & consultations

2020 Developments:

We held our first-ever Animal Training Seminar in March - For the benefit of our staff, volunteers, interns (and animals).

Head Keeper, Steve Bryant & Keeper, Nic Campbell led the seminar and a demonstration training session in the zoo.

The following day, the zoo was closed early for a staff & volunteer trip to BioParc, Fuengirola for an animal training demonstration with the staff and animals at the BioParc. We aim to hold bi-yearly Animal Training seminars in the future.

ANIMALS & WELFARE



TOP STORIES 2020



During the pandemic lockdowns, Social Media became a crucial lifeline for many. The AWCP was no exception. Here are some of our top stories from this year:

- As well as providing a platform to keep our social media followers in touch with our animals, we also had the opportunity to help parents with a Homeschooling Pack. This was launched in April via our website and Social Media platforms.
- Felicity, the wandering terrapin caused a storm with her trips around the zoo. Each day, Keepers found her in a different area of the park (despite having returned her to her enclosure). She was amusingly relaxed and seemed to be enjoying the scenery and seemed genuinely intrigued by the other animals.
- Jeff the Bat. Jeff became unwell just after the lockdown. New Keeper, Mike Paricos has taken care of him ever since. Jeff was incredibly popular on our social media posts, with well wishes flooding in from the public.
- Jolly, our oldest Barbary macaque became unwell in April, during the first lockdown. At first she was subdued and not eating well. She then became quite weak and visibly unwell. We were left no choice but to call the vet in to sedate her for assessment. Our suspicions proved correct, Jolly was suffering from tooth ache! The vet had to remove three of her teeth that were causing her pain. At the ripe old age of 26, macaques, like humans, tend to start to loose their teeth. In Jolly's case she was lucky to have the vet at hand to help remove the offending teeth. She thankfully made a full recovery.





ANIMAL ENRICHMENT

Staff and volunteers at the AWCP have continued to build on the enrichment program for our animals. Enrichment is an important aspect to animal care and the aim at the AWCP is to incorporate it into the every day lives for the animals. Enrichment devices are a creative way to keep the animals busy. Once out of lockdown, our Keepers and interns have been busy creating new ways to challenge the animals.

With the welcome arrival of a new storage shed after the lockdown, staff are now able to store the devices in an organised manner, this has greatly improved the efficiency of the enrichment routines. Volunteers and interns have taken this onboard and our animals enjoy stimulation and entertainment throughout the day.

EVENTS



Winning photo for the photography competition by Liz Flynn

A quieter year for events, but lockdowns and social distancing lead to some innovative solutions!

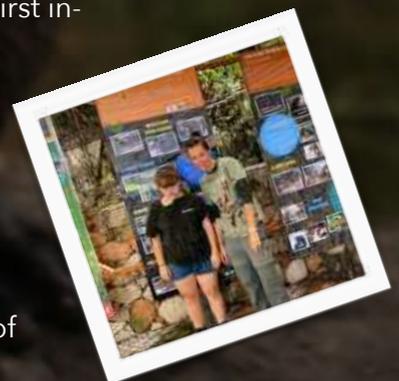
At the beginning of the year, we were still buzzing from the fantastic array of events we had held in 2019, from Open Days offsite at Ocean Village, to Fashion Show Fundraisers, Calentita Food Festival and our Sustainable Awareness Open Day event with the Botanic Gardens. The future couldn't look brighter!

We started the year with our ShowTheLove Green Uniform Day with JustONETree. Most of the schools in Gibraltar took part, each child giving Just £1 and wearing green for the day. This was a resounding success, with the schools raising over £3,000 and planting £3,000 trees in Madagascar.

Just a month later and Gibraltar was facing its first lockdown of the pandemic. The Park was closed to the public on 10th March 2020 and would not re-open until May. Staff were reduced to just four keepers, (just 2 keepers each day to care for the animals) interns and volunteers were sent home. We were lucky enough to have some help from the Gibraltar Botanic gardens Team; Albert Gonzales and Alex Iglesias who kindly assisted with animal food preparation during the day.

Our next even wasn't until May, we were still officially closed to the public, so this event was online:

- World Otter Day with GBC. Our live Facebook session featured our otters "Trixie & Dixie" for World Otter Day madness. We ended the day with an otterly crazy arts & crafts demonstration to make otter masks and otter dens.
- Photography competition was held in June for World Environment Day, a huge number of excellent art works, photography and collages came flooding into the AWCP inbox. Choosing winners was so difficult, the Manager had to make extra categories to ensure the talent was recognised!
- In the summer, further relaxation of restrictions meant we were able to hold our first in-person event. The World Cotton-top Day on the 27th of August was held in conjunction with Eco-Spirit education. The day consisted of Animal Movement and games to explain the challenges these critically endangered animals are facing in the wild. The group then met the tamarins at the zoo with a tour of the park with the keepers. Funds raised went directly to Project Titi in Colombia to help them to preserve and extend their wild habitat.
- Halloween is our usual Open Day event but this years had a twist. Due to restrictions we held Spooky Tours with our 'Zombie keepers'. The intimate tours of up to 8 people allowed the keepers more time to impart the gory and spooky details of some of our inhabitants and their wild counterparts.



CONSERVATION

New Conservation Coin Initiative:

It has been a difficult year for zoos the world over, with zoos struggling, the knock-on effects for conservation projects across the world are imminent. With this in mind, our new Charity; WILD-ACT plans to launch the Conservation Token scheme at the AWCP In 2021. This scheme is similar to the Gift-Aid in the UK, but it is unique in Gibraltar. The entrance fee has been raised just £1 for each visitor, this is an optional increase and visitors can choose to opt out. This £1 is exchanged for a Conservation Coin. Visitors then get to choose which of our conservation projects they'd like to support. Every year, we will donate the equivalent money to each of the conservation projects. This way, the AWCP guarantees each of the projects a lump sum every year. We are very excited to see this new initiative in action. We are sure our visitors will love it too!

This year we have still managed to contribute to all the conservation charities we support; BMAC, Proyecto Titi & MMCP, through fund-raising auctions, Events such as Cotton-top tamarin Day in August and JustONETree in February with our February ShowTheLove campaign.

We hope this new initiative will secure regular funding for these important conservation projects around the world.





CHARITY

The charity, Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Park (FOAWP) was set up in 2013 to help support the work of the AWCP.

Over the years, FOAWP has been responsible for raising vital funds for the AWCP, through Open Days, events and raffles, as well as creating corporate partnerships and attractive larger donations.



The Charity has also helped to run many of our campaigns such as the Conscious Eating and Habits For Habitats Campaigns, running charity stalls and even taking part in local food festivals to promote issues surrounding how what we eat is destroying the planet.

With the focus of the charity moving evermore to the wider environmental issues of the planet and the species we share it with, a new and more relevant title for the charity seemed apt. The Wild Animal Conservation Trust (WILD-ACT) encompasses the work the AWCP carries out externally with conservation projects all over the world, as well as its work closer to home. We hope to continue expanding the work of the AWCP and its charity to have a positive and progressive impact on the natural world and inspire others to follow suit.

One of the core focuses in the coming years will be that of the nature on our doorstep, native species and habitats; raising awareness of and working towards protecting and reviving habitats and species local to Gibraltar and beyond.



PROJECTS

Despite the pandemic, we managed to press on with our projects, once the lockdown was lifted.

Steve Bryant, our Head Keeper was in isolation for the first lockdown, but made up for lost time once he was back at the Park.

Pending projects were the completion of the first Tamarin Tunnel for the Overground Tunnel Project, and the tamarin Breeding Area.

Once the poles were installed, for the outdoor area, the netting needed to be hauled on.

This was going to take a few more hands. Help was drafted in from the Botanic Gardens team, utilising Garden's Manager, Ian's climbing skills to ensure safe installation of the heavy metal netting.

The Alameda Overground project was conceived around 10 years ago. Fundraising for this project commenced at the end of 2018, the first funding came within days of the first email being sent; GVC were the first to fund a tunnel. In order to order the specialist tunnels, we needed to raise over £15,000, a hefty challenge! However, the Overground tunnel project inspired many local businesses to get involved. By sponsoring a tunnel or a 'station' they can name the 'line'. After GVC came Playtech and Ocean Village, WTC and The Reserve have combined to fund the whole of the 'lemur bypass' an integral area that will allow us to swap around our now separated lemur groups, allowing them more stimulation and freedom. Despite the delays, we hope the installation for this area will commence in summer 2021.

The GVC sponsored tamarin tunnel was finally installed by summer 2020 and the tamarins now enjoy access throughout the day. Don't forget to look up next time you're in the AWCP!



SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainability has been at the core of many of the AWCP campaigns over the past few years.

From Conscious Eating and Cut Meat Not Trees, to Habits for Habitats, our campaigns have all been dedicated to inspiring people; our visitors, the community, to make positive changes for the sake of the environment, species and habitats all over the world. 2019 was a year of successful campaigning for sustainable action.

We held Gibraltar's first ever Sustainable Fashion Show. This was aimed to raise funds for the park's projects, but we insisted that the theme be sustainable fashion. Since then, many local shops have started to introduce sustainable fashion brands. We also hosted another Calentita plant-based stall, this time bringing in Beyond Meat produce to Gibraltar for the first time. They are now stocked in outlets and restaurants around Gibraltar, making those meat-free days a little easier for many.

The pinnacle of this momentum was the Sustainability Open day with the Gibraltar Gardens, a chance to bring all these aspects of sustainability together and work together with some of Gibraltar's best environmental entities. These efforts led to the AWCP being awarded the Environmental Stewardship Award at the 2020 Gibraltar Sustainability Awards, hosted by the Nautilus Project.

In December, it was time for another first, when the AWCP joined the UN Coalition for Biodiversity with a pledge for the planet. Our pledge can be found on our website and on Facebook: www.awcp.gi/sustainability.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT



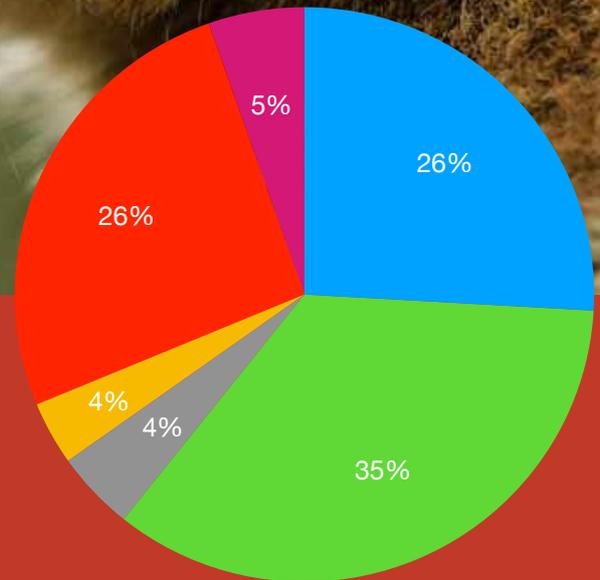
The start of the year looked bright with regards to staff development and CPD. Staff had been allocated conferences and training workshops to attend in the UK and further afield, but we had no idea what was actually in store for the rest of the year!

Aside from this, we managed to hold our first Animal Training seminar for our staff and volunteers to attend, lead by Head Keeper Steve Bryant and Primate Keeper, Nic Campbell. This was followed by a trip to Fuengirola BioParc for an animal training demo by the BioParc Keepers. This was to be the last event and outing for a while. Just one week later and we were in lockdown. Our interns and volunteers were sent home, for nine, long weeks.

Just before lockdown in March, we had held interviews for our third Keeper position. This was awarded to Mike Paricos, who at that time was living in the UK. Mike has previously worked at UK zoos; Wild and Longleat, working with a range of species. Sadly, his expected start-date of April was delayed until July. It didn't take Mike long to settle in and become a valued member of the AWCP team! Mike has taken on the small mammals round but also chips in with the primate section too. His experience with small zoos has meant he has experience of building exhibits and maintenance. This has proved to be an area of interest for Mike and we hope to utilise his skills in the near future!

FINANCES

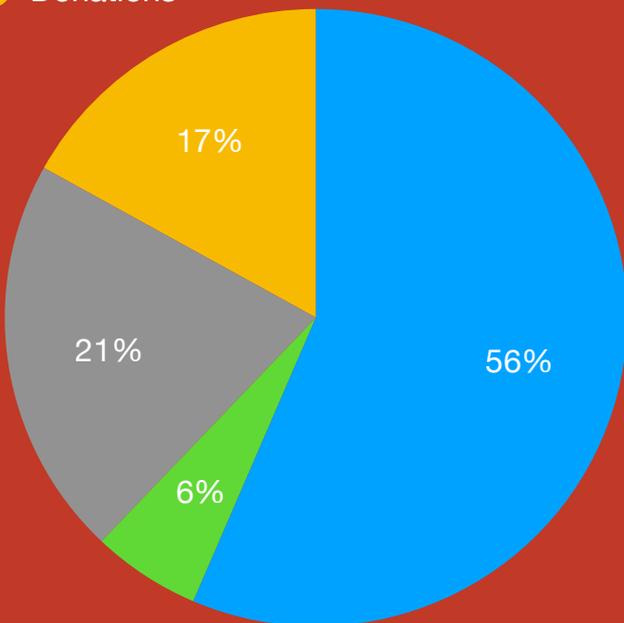
THE OUTS



- Animal Food
- Minor works & Projects
- Vets
- Staff Training
- Utilities
- Conservation

THE INS

- Entrances
- Sales
- Tours
- Donations



Despite the tough times with the Pandemic, we managed to stay afloat and attract income during the summer months and through innovative takes on Open Days, Halloween and our first ever Online Auction at Christmas that raised over £3,000. Certainly a happier end to the year, despite the looming, second lockdown in January 2021.

SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



A tough year financially for any zoo. Unlike many businesses, for zoos, the show has to go on; animals need feeding, enclosures need maintaining and staff have to be there to look after the animals needs and well-being.

The AWCP is no exception. Staff have worked hard to ensure not only are the animals receiving their usual exceptional care, but also that the zoo is still visible and accessible to the public, even throughout lockdowns. Much of our public support this year came via online platforms, Facebook and Instagram. Members of the public sent messages of support and even offered donations of food and materials during the lockdown.

Without our usual Open Days to raise essential funds for our projects the park would be facing a deficit later in the year.

Our online auction was also a great success and gained plenty of public support and goodwill. Local businesses, despite their own financial struggles, were as generous as ever with prizes and items for auction. Online fundraising is certainly something we will look to offer in the future, with or without COVID19, we even managed to finally set up an online donations platform on our website.

A huge thank you again to all our sponsors and supporters. We couldn't do any of it without you!