

# WILDCRY

OVER  
**1,000** ANIMALS RESCUED  
OR REWILDED

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

IT'S TOO LATE  
TO REWIND, BUT  
TOGETHER WE  
CAN **REWILD**

SUMMER 2023

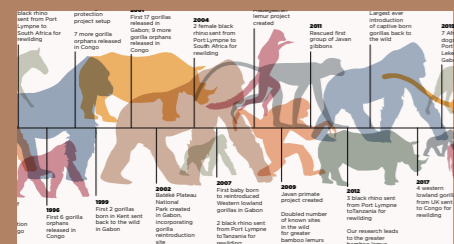
 THE ASPINALL  
FOUNDATION  
CHARITY NUMBER 326567

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from Damian Aspinall

We have had a fantastic start to the year here at The Aspinall Foundation and our tireless teams around the world continue to fight for wildlife thanks to your generous support.

In Indonesia, our brand-new siamang gibbon project is going from strength to strength. The first gibbons arrived at our new rehabilitation centre in late 2022 and their rehabilitation is going extremely well. We hope to be able to release them into areas of protected wilderness very soon. There, they will be protected by our team and they will never again know the cruelty of humans or suffer the indignity of life as a pet.

In spring 2023, I waved goodbye to my neighbour, Tembe the honey badger. Tembe and I have been neighbours at Howletts Wild Animal Park since she was born, but I have always aimed to find a way to get her back to the lands of her ancestors. Honey badgers in captivity offer no conservation value and I am incredibly proud to say that Tembe is now enjoying life in stunning South Africa where she has taken to life in the wild as if she was never captive at all. We hope that, in time, Tembe will meet a male honey badger and contribute her valuable genetics to the local population, offering a tangible conservation benefit to her incredible species.

Projects such as these are only possible thanks to your continued support. Thank you for sharing our passion to protect those who cannot protect themselves. It's too late to rewind, but together we can rewind.



# NEW BEGINNINGS

## RESCUING GIBBONS IN SUMATRA

# 280+

## PRIMATES

released into the wild  
in Indonesia

**Gibbons are beautiful primates who mate for life, sing together as families and can walk on two legs just like us.**

**Shockingly they are one of the most threatened primates on earth.**

Thanks to your gifts we have already rescued, rehabilitated or released more than 280 primates including Javan gibbons, Javan langurs and Javan grizzled leaf langurs into the wild in Indonesia and now with your support we are expanding our important work to protect siamang gibbons.

These iconic tree dwellers are in crisis. Their habitat is disappearing at a rapid rate, and they are often captured and sold as pets or killed for use in traditional medicines. The siamang gibbon (*Symphalangus syndactylus*) has been classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List since 2008.

The largest of the gibbons, the siamang can measure twice the size of other gibbons, reaching 1 metre in height. Renowned for their singing, they have a large gular sac which can be inflated to the size of their head, allowing them to reach incredible volumes.

The species population is both highly fragmented and decreasing. One of the main threats to their survival is habitat loss through forest conversion, mining, logging and human encroachment. Another is the illegal trade in wildlife, they are one of the most heavily traded gibbon species for the illegal pet trade.

# A BRAND-NEW REHABILITATION CENTRE MEANS A NEW HOME

That's why with the support of people like you, The Aspinall Foundation has begun to build the first dedicated Siamang Gibbon Rehabilitation Centre in southern Sumatra.

Funded by generous donations, our team in Indonesia are bringing their years of experience from our Javan Primate Rehabilitation and Release Programme, to support gibbons in Sumatra. They are working directly at the project and training local people to work alongside them.

We aim to accommodate rescued siamang gibbons for rehabilitation and ultimately release them into protected areas to reinforce the genetics of the declining wild populations. An education and awareness programme will also be developed and, in future years, we may transfer siamang from our partner parks in Kent to further strengthen wild populations.



## STANDING AGAINST THE ILLEGAL PET TRADE

**Tragically, primates are common pets in Indonesia and the siamang is the most popular.**

Legal protections are in place: keeping protected species such as siamang is punishable by a prison sentence of up to five years. However, the law is rarely enforced.

Siamang are openly for sale alongside countless other protected species at the animal markets that can be found in many large towns. Crammed into tiny cages and sold to anyone with the money to pay for them, the siamang sold at these






markets are usually infants whose parents were slaughtered so the youngsters could be stolen from the wild and sold into the pet trade.

They are destined for short, painful lives without the companionship of their own species.

The Aspinall Foundation team in Sumatra stand firmly against the horrors of the pet trade and are committed to rescuing, rehabilitating and rewilding siamang. We aim to rescue and rewild at least 100 individuals in the next 5 years. With the number of siamang suffering in Indonesia, this number may well rise dramatically.

## WHAT FACILITIES COULD THE GIBBONS HAVE?

Our Siamang Rehabilitation Centre is being built in a 10-hectare section of forest in Palembang, South Sumatra. The forest belongs to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia. Our aim is for the Centre to include:

-  10 enclosures (it is expected 20 siamang will be housed at the Centre in Year 1)
-  10 quarantine enclosures
-  A veterinary clinic
-  A siamang Information centre for the educational/awareness-raising programme
-  A site office (there is an existing building on the site which will be renovated)

The site has good access to transport links by road and air. There are also several protected areas, including two National Parks, that could provide suitable release sites.

## WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU!

This project was only possible thanks to collaboration and partnership. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our supporters, donors and the teams at The Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, The Animal Sanctuary Trust Indonesia and Dieren Park Amersfoort Wildlife Fund.



# AMAZING FACTS ABOUT THE SIAMANG GIBBON

Siamang gibbons spend almost all of their time in the treetops of the rainforest. They even sleep there, resting in the forks of branches.

Their dramatic form of locomotion, called brachiating, can move gibbons through the jungle at up to

**35 MILES  
(56KM) AN  
HOUR,**

bridging gaps as wide as 50 feet (15 metres) with a single swinging leap.

When they walk, whether along branches or in the rare instances when they descend to the ground, they often do so on two feet, throwing their arms above their head for balance.

## A SINGLE SWINGING LEAP



## SIZE

The largest of the gibbons, the average length of a siamang is 90 cm; the largest they have ever grown is 150 cm.



**50 FEET / 15 M**

## FEATURES

The face of this large gibbon is mostly hairless, apart from a thin moustache.

## MATING

They are one of only a few species of primates that mate for life.

Mated pairs, and even whole families, will sing long, complex songs together. They are most often heard in the early morning and may go on for half an hour or more. This morning ritual is usually initiated by the female, who is the head of the family group. Males and females have different calls.

## SINGING

Renowned for their singing, they have a large gular sac which can be inflated to the size of their head, allowing them to reach incredible volumes.

# TEMBE'S

## JOURNEY BACK TO THE WILD

Captive born and living in Howletts Wild Animal Park, Tembe was – until very recently – the only honey badger in the UK. After months of careful preparations, the team at Howletts waved goodbye to Tembe in March 2023 as she departed for a new life in the wilds of Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.

Tembe was a firm favourite amongst visitors and staff we all miss our muddy-faced girl, but Tembe deserved a highly enriching life that only a place like Africa can give her.



“

There are many words I could use to describe Tembe but the most obvious is **'AWESOME'**. For years she kept everyone on their toes; each day spent with her felt like the first because you never knew what you were going to find.

Some days she was silly, keeping me amused by balancing eggs on her head or deliberately rolling rocks in the way of shutters so I couldn't close them. On others she was adventurous, scaling glass windows and showing everyone just how surprisingly acrobatic honey badgers can be.

The only real constant with Tembe was that she was always on the lookout for a snack. As well as the usual honey, chicken and rabbit, she had a weakness for strawberry sauce and always came running when she smelled it.

Her greatest love, however, will always be destruction and adventure! She adored digging tunnels, covering up entrances and making her enclosure an obstacle course for keepers. She relishes proving just how much smarter she is than us.”

RICHARD LANGSTON  
TEMBE'S KEEPER



# TEMBE'S NEXT ADVENTURE...

A beautiful, independent creature like Tembe needs the right environment to live a life full of new experiences.

That is why we identified a release site for her in South Africa at the Barberton and Loskop Dam Nature Reserves in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa.

Managed by the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency who have extensive experience of rewilding and releasing various native South African species from white rhinos to pangolins and ground hornbills, Tembe will be well looked after.



This has only been possible thanks to the support of people like you so on behalf of Tembe, and all the new escapades she will get up to in South Africa, we thank you.

## GOODBYE TEMBE

We will all miss you but know that exciting new adventures await you!

## THE ASPINALL FOUNDATION BELIEVES...

that animals belong in the wild, safe from the ravages of mankind. Collaborating with Port Lympne Reserve and Howletts Wild Animal Park in Kent, other collections in Europe, plus working on the ground in Congo, Gabon and Java – we have released hundreds of rare and endangered animals back into the wild while ensuring they are supported to continue to thrive.

### OUR REWILDING SUCCESS STORIES

- 8 BLACK RHINO
- 75+ WESTERN LOWLAND GORILLAS
- 9 CHEETAH
- 280+ PRIMATES IN INDONESIA
- 11 PRZEWALSKI HORSE
- 12 EUROPEAN BISON
- 20 MANDRILL
- 565+ RESCUES AND REWILDINGS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



TO SEE MORE STORIES OF  
ANIMALS RETURNING TO THEIR  
NATIVE ENVIRONMENTS VISIT  
OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

# TWO WONDERFUL REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

CELEBRATING  
BREEDING SUCCESS



# AVA

## Recently we celebrated the birth of a litter of cubs on a South African reserve to two captive-born rewilded cheetahs.

The four youngsters were born on 12th November at Mount Camdeboo Private Game Reserve, a 35,000 acre site in the heart of the Great Karoo, an incredible region of South Africa.

Thanks to your generosity, the cubs' father, Nairo, was rewilded by The Aspinall Foundation from our partner, Howletts Wild Animal Park, in a conservation world-first. The cubs' mother, Ava, grew up at Ashia Cheetah Center, in South Africa's Western Cape, and had been released to the Game Reserve prior to Nairo's arrival.



**NOV 2021**  
**NOT LONG AFTER THE CUBS WERE BORN**

The cubs have already begun to display individual personalities. The largest male is confident, loves to climb and is protective of his siblings and the smaller male is feisty and quick to show his teeth. The larger female is gentle and good natured like her mother, with her smaller sister being shy and always alert.



**JAN 2022**  
**HANGING OUT WITH MUM**



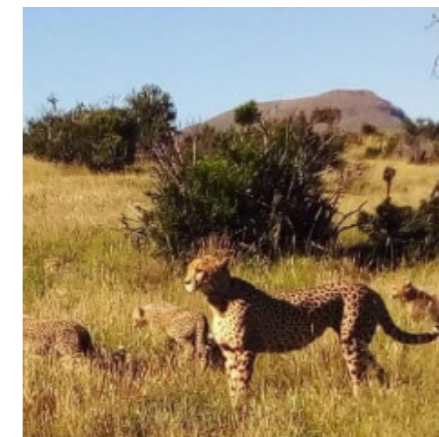
**PLAY FIGHTING WHILE MUM AND SIBLINGS WATCH**



**MARCH 2022**  
**MOTHERLY LOVE**



**SEPTEMBER 2022**  
**GROWING UP**



**JANUARY 2023**  
**LEARNING TO HUNT, STALKING TOGETHER**

You can see some beautiful updates direct from our monitoring team in South Africa, which show how these cubs have been getting on under the epic skies of the Great Karoo.

# “

**Both Ava and Nairo are skilled hunters, so they will both be fantastic providers for the cubs as they begin to explore their surroundings. This project has emphatically proved that two captive-born cheetahs can breed successfully in the wild.**

**DAMIAN ASPINALL,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE  
ASPINALL FOUNDATION**





# TWO WONDERFUL REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

CELEBRATING  
BREEDING SUCCESS



# MAYOMBE

## In late 2021, we were delighted to be able to share the news of the conservation history-making birth of a baby gorilla

Born at our ground-breaking reintroduction project in Gabon and named Taàli - meaning 'hope'; she was the first ever birth to captive-born gorillas in the wild.

Father Djongo was born at our partner park, Port Lympne Reserve, and repatriated to Gabon in 2013. Mother Mayombe was born at Zoo Parc de Beauval in Saint-Aignan, France. The birth was not only a hugely significant triumph for conservation, but a deeply moving legacy for Taàli's grandfather Djala, now 40 years old, whose tragic early life saw him lose his family to poachers and endure abuse at the hands of his captors.



Now, over a year later, we have the pleasure of sharing some updates from our monitoring team and catching up with Taàli and her parents, Mayombe and Djongo on their island paradise.

## \*AFRAMOMUM MELEGUETA IS BETTER KNOWN AS 'GRAINS OF PARADISE.'

This plant, which wild western lowland gorillas preferentially eat, contains a powerful anti-inflammatory compound that can help to prevent heart disease. New and strange to captive gorillas, their interest in this shows that they are beginning to adapt to the wild.

## OUR DIARY OF A NEW MOTHER...

### MAY 31 - JUNE 14 2022

Taàli continues to evolve well. Taàli and Djongo seem to be closer and closer. Indeed, on several occasions, we observe her close to Djongo with Mayombe a few metres away. However, Mayombe still remains very attentive to her daughter and does not hesitate to keep her closer if she feels the need. For example, once we observed Taàli trying to get away from her Mother. Mayombe reacted quickly and got her back to a more secure place.

### JUNE 15 - 29 2022

Since June 24, stems of Aframomum\* have been given to the gorillas at each feeding site. On the first day of this test, Djongo bit into the root of a stem and threw it away. The next day, Taàli nibbled a root for a few seconds and Mayombe breaks a stem with her

teeth but ends up putting it on the ground. Although it is not a success, these first attempts are reassuring.

### AUGUST 14 - 28 2022

Each day, for the morning feed on the rehabilitation island platform site, the gorillas are already present when the feeding team arrives. All three gorillas are feeding well.

On numerous occasions, Djongo and Mayombe are seen feeding on unidentified plants and young shoots along the river and in front of the platform.

Djongo has also made progress. On August 17, he was seen feeding on Aframomum when the stems were distributed at the platform site. Taàli continues to smell and play with this plant, but she hasn't been seen eating it. Taàli is still very active, she plays a lot and sometimes she performs small "chest beats". We also notice that she climbs the trees more and more often. She moves every day on the ground. We see her running twice.

### AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 12 2022

The three gorillas are in good health and continue to adapt to their environment.

Typically, the gorillas are already present when the feeding team arrives in the morning. All three gorillas are feeding well.

Taàli continues to be active, she plays a lot and always climbs trees, at a little higher height each time. She moves daily on the ground alone.

### SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 12 2022

Much play was observed and for the first time, Djongo was observed playing with Taàli during the

dispersal of food. During this event Djongo is sitting on the ground and Taàli is running around him. Djongo uses his hand to play with the child on the ground. The three gorillas continue to be observed together on the island and feeding together.

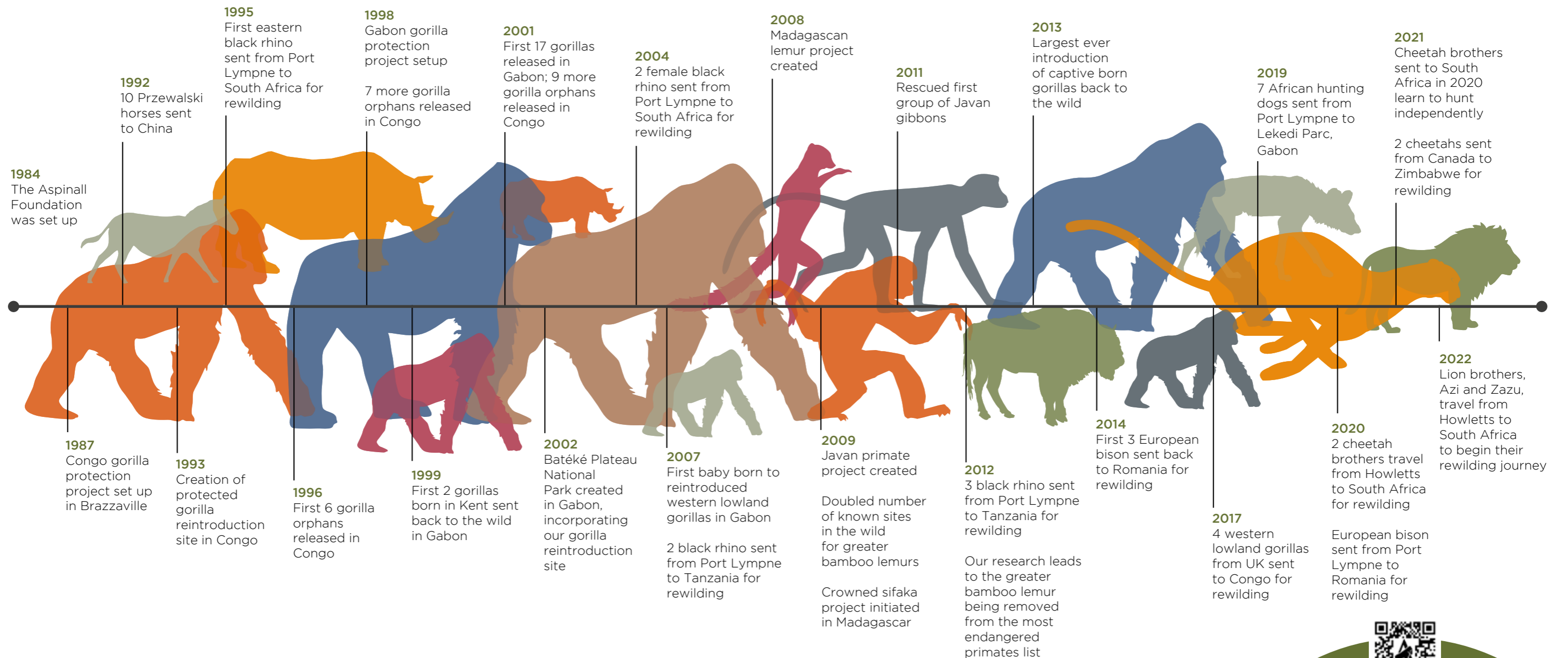
### JANUARY 23 2023

All three gorillas are doing their best to avoid the heavy rain and are eating well. The team currently repairing a monitoring watchtower have repeatedly heard vocalisations and chest beats coming from the family's island.



TO SEE MORE PICTURES  
OF THE CUBS OR READ MORE  
ABOUT TAÀLI

# FUTURE GENERATIONS



## LEAVE A LEGACY

To find out how to leave a legacy that could help change the world, simply scan the QR code and follow the instructions, or visit

[aspinallfoundation.org/legacy](https://aspinallfoundation.org/legacy)

We all want future generations to be born into a world where animals can thrive.

↓ 68%

Wildlife has declined by 68% across the world since 1970, and today, one million species are threatened with extinction.

+290

We have bred, nurtured and released hundreds of animals from our partner animal parks back to the wild.

## YOUR LEGACY IS THEIR FUTURE

The first ever wild birth to a pair of captive-born gorillas and the recent news of a joyful litter of cheetah cubs give us hope for the future. With your support, these and many other animals can thrive in the wild.



# NEW KING CROWNED AT PORT LYMPNE

A dashing young male lion named Hunter arrived at our partner park, Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve, in May.

Hunter has been introduced to Oudrika, the formidable matriarch of the Port Lympne pride, and has moved in with her and her three daughters in the vast enclosure they share. At a whopping 8 acres, the enclosure is the largest non-drive-through lion enclosure in Europe

and was painstakingly designed by the expert team at Port Lympne to provide a safe and stimulating space for a growing lion pride.

Oudrika and her daughters are the stars of the Reserve's Lion Encounter experience, which allows guests to come face-to-face with the pride. The experience is a perennial favourite of park visitors and overnight guests and is often sold out months in advance!

“

We are delighted to welcome this magnificent lion to Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve

TONY KELLY, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE HOWLETT'S WILD ANIMAL TRUST

With the arrival of a stunning new male, we expect even more big cat fans to flock to the park to visit the pride.

We will continue to keep you updated on Hunter's integration with the pride.



# PANDA PARTY!

## BEAUTIFUL NEW RED PANDA AT PORT LYMPNE

The new arrival, a handsome male named Hikaro, came to Port Lympne from DierenPark Amersfoort in the Netherlands. At just 18 months old, he is a boisterous youngster who loves sweet potato, grapes and bamboo. He has moved in with Wanmei, an experienced 11-year-old female, who has long been a favourite of visitors to Port Lympne's 600-acre reserve.

Port Lympne's keepers have reported that Hikaro loves games of chase and is determined to convince Wanmei to join in. She is, as of yet, unconvinced, but is happy to join her new roommate for a nap in their favourite tree.



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