

SILL – Mini Case Study #15

SDG 15: Life On Land

Case Title: To Zoo or Not To Zoo

Background Information:

Most people have visited a zoo on that classic field trip in elementary school. We fed the goats, pet the giraffe, saw the butterflies, and rode the hay-filled wagon. Or maybe you did none of that and just heard about them through the grapevine. Regardless, the effectiveness of zoos has been a long debate that we're about to revisit as well.

On the one hand, they keep wild animals born to run free in various environments trapped in cages unfit for such creatures. The care they receive is questionable at some locations, and the frequent visitor engagement is not always wanted by them.^{[1][2][3][4]}

On the flip side, zoos have proven to be a great educational tool for people of all ages. It is a great place to learn about sustainability, diverse species, ecosystems, and more! Additionally, some zoos may be equipped with necessary tools to harbour and protect endangered species.^{[3][6][7]}

Issue: Should zoos exist? Should they be restructured? How might we alternatively deliver their pros or eliminate their cons to increase their effectiveness?

Indicative Activities/Assessments:

1. Create a multi-media artifact that demonstrates the impact zoos have on the world's species.
2. Design, develop, and implement an alternative method of protecting endangered species' whilst also educating the public.
3. Write a position paper that addresses the issue
4. Develop an app that could help zoos run more efficiently (open interpretation i.e. global app where you can upload endangered species alerts or using this app so researchers can see which zoos contain items useful for their research)
5. Along with one other team, plan and run a formal debate of the issue (or a sub-issue) with your fellow students

Sources:

1. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ajp.23369>
2. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306453016301354>
3. <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/13/7117>
4. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/zoo.21681>
5. <https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?p=AONE&u=queensulaw&id=GALE%7CA646134742&v=2.1&it=r>
6. <https://environmental-conscience.com/zoos-pros-cons/>
7. <https://animalsake.com/pros-cons-of-zoos>