

BIOGRAPHY

Douglas is a self-employed zoological consultant with clients in the UK, continental Europe, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Ukraine and China. His areas of expertise are in all zoological aspects of zoo management, in particular collection planning, exhibit design and enhancing conservation output.

His experience was built-up over a period of 43 years working fulltime in zoos globally, most recently as Head of Living Collections at RZSS Highland Wildlife Park from 2008 to 2018. During his time managing the collection, the park saw an almost four-fold increase in visitor numbers driven largely by the development of the animal collection and culminating in the birth and rearing of the first polar bear cub in the UK in 25 years.

His zoo career started in October 1975 at RZSS Edinburgh Zoo and Douglas has held senior posts in zoos around the world: Curator at Singapore Zoo; General Curator at Mountain View Conservation & Breeding Centre, Canada; Zoological Director at Rome Zoo; and Curator of Mammals at ZSL London Zoo.

He has developed master plans for zoos in Brunei, Nepal, Vietnam and Rome and conservation projects for saola in Vietnam, Amur leopards in Russia, Arabian leopards in Saudi Arabia and a continent-wide action plan for European bison.

He is an associate lecturer at the University of Glasgow, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and Sparsholt College, Hampshire, where he lectures on welfare and ethics for the national zoo management course. He is also vice-chair of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA).

STATEMENT

Edinburgh Zoo was the zoo of my childhood and where my professional career began. My intimate knowledge of the Zoo, the Wildlife Park and the wider zoo community, based on over 40 years working in zoos on three continents, enables me to bring a wealth of first-hand experience to the board. I am sure that my background and perspective would be a welcome and necessary addition to the board's existing skills set.