



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

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ABSTRACT

Supporting development and delivery of effective education is a priority objective of Zoos Victoria's (ZV) sister zoo partnership agreement with Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC) and the Port Moresby Nature Park in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Education staff from the Werribee Open Range Zoo (WORZ) have worked with UWEC's Education team to develop a teaching guide using ZVs Connect-Understand- Act model to help support teachers to deliver conservation education activities in schools around Uganda.

Education staff from Melbourne Zoo are currently working with the Port Moresby Nature Park and the Asia Education Foundation to develop teaching guides and online workshops to deliver conservation education activities in PNG, alongside providing in-country and online collaboration.

These resources have been strongly linked to the curriculum content. The 'Connect' activities in the teaching guides support the facilitation of engaging experiences that inspire learners to want to know more about the natural world and wildlife, whilst sharing existing knowledge. The 'Understand' activities enable the teacher to deliver curriculum-focused activities, where students apply their knowledge and skills through repeated practice. The 'Act' activities enable students to consolidate their learning and apply it to real world contexts, *inspiring sustainability action* relevant to their local communities. Through working collaboratively, staff at zoos Victoria and our international partnership schools have had the opportunity to further our professional working relationship and common goals of *ensuring inclusive and quality education for all students*, as well as create a support resource to increase teacher confidence to deliver meaningful conservation education in our international partnership schools.

BIOGRAPHY

Kirsten Ryan is the Education Manager at Werribee Open Range Zoo and has always had a passion for connecting people with wildlife. Kirsten has worked at Zoos Victoria for 10 years in a variety of roles within the Visitor Experience and Life Sciences team. With a study background in both science and education, she is committed to supporting schools to engage with nature through meaningful learning experiences and exploring ways to help empower them to take conservation action.

Geraint Stirling has worked at Zoos Victoria for 5 years in the Education Team teaching students from Kinder through to Year 12 and leads the Applied Learning programs and work experience for senior students. Geraint spent 8 weeks working with the Port Moresby Nature Park Education Team in 2019, helping the team to implement teaching strategies to engage children in nature and their local environment. He has a Degree in Biological Science and Education (Secondary). Geraint is a fun and enthusiastic teacher who enjoys engaging all students in conservation education.