

Edinburgh Zoo to welcome Sloth Bears

Edinburgh Zoo is set to welcome sloth bears for the first time, another vulnerable species. The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) has launched a fundraising campaign to support the initiative.

The wildlife conservation charity aims to raise awareness about the threats facing sloth bears, which are at risk of extinction due to poaching and habitat loss. The new habitat will transform the former giant panda enclosure into a space specifically designed for these unique animals.

David Field, RZSS CEO, said: "The sloth bear's forest and grassland homes are vanishing and many fall victim to poachers. By welcoming this species, visitors will be able to learn more about these amazing animals and what we can all do to help protect them in the wild.

"Within the new area here at the zoo, there will be plenty of outdoor space for them to roam, a play den providing visitors with amazing views and areas where children of all ages can imagine what it's like to be a bear.

"Visitors will be able to get up close to this amazing species, who are known for being particularly noisy. Their snuffling and snorting sounds can be heard from 100 metres away."

Donations to support this conservation project can be made through the RZSS website.

rzss.org.uk/sloth-bear-appeal



PHOTO Sourabh Bharti