



University of  
**Southampton**

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

EX SITU CONSERVATION MEASURES: BETWEEN WILD  
ANIMAL EXPLOITATION AND WILD ANIMAL WELFARE

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Annual Rule of Law and Sustainable Development  
Seminar Hosted by the Centre for International Law and  
Globalisation, Southampton Law School

**Date:** 7th February 2025

**Venue:** Hybrid - University of Southampton





Wild animal exploitation practices, such as trophy hunting, canned hunting, and captive breeding, raise ethical questions concerning the welfare of exploited wild animals. Wild animal exploitation is, however, usually justified by reference to conservation (and ultimately sustainability) arguments. For example, trophy hunting is argued to generate revenue for impoverished local populations as well as for conservation measures. These contentious arguments have been disputed by various scholars. As climate change and biodiversity loss continue to contribute to the shrinking of habitats, ex situ conservation methods, such as captive breeding, become more attractive. The Convention on Biological Diversity recognises the complementary role of ex situ conservation measures. However, these approaches may harm the welfare of individual animals and may be contradictory to the need for wild animals to flourish in accordance with their biological nature. The example of ex situ conservation measures points to the tension between environmental holism and welfarist and/or rights-based individualism. It is important to ensure that ex situ measures take cognisance of the dignity of wild animals to create a balance between the conservation of species and the welfare of individual animals. As such, intrusive conservation measures necessitate the need for the protection of individual wild animal interests.

It is the main objective of the annual Rule of Law and Sustainable Development Seminar, hosted by Southampton Law School, to facilitate discussions concerning the protection of wild animals in the context of increasing ex situ conservation measures. We invite scholars from all disciplines to participate in the event to foster interdisciplinary perspectives on ex situ conservation measures and wild animal welfare.



**We cordially invite you to submit your abstracts (not exceeding 300 words) to Susanna Djurholm (S.I.Djurholm@soton.ac.uk) before the 30th of November 2024.**