

18th ZOO Science Symposium

14 November 2025
ZOO Antwerpen

Programme

9:00 – 9:30	Registration	
9:30 – 9:45	Zjef Pereboom	Welcome and opening

Session 1

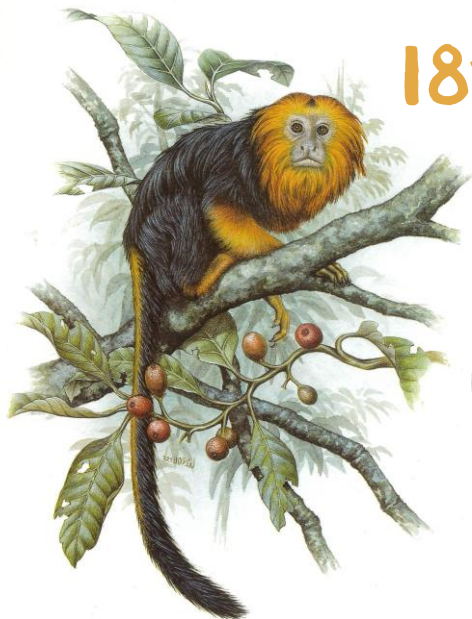
9:45 – 10:00	Steffi Dekegel	Managing shade trees, balancing trade-offs: Economic performance of cocoa agroforests in Southern Bahia, Brazil
10:00 – 10:15	Lola Kepenne	The potential of Sul da Bahia Geographical Indication to promote sustainability in Brazilian cocoa agroforests
10:15 – 10:30	Thirza de Bode	The value of GIS for Biobrasil: From spatial data to meaningful action
10:30 – 10:45	Kristel De Vleeschouwer	What, where, when, how, why? Turning science into meaningful conservation actions for Golden-headed lion tamarins

Coffee Break

Session 2

11:15 – 11:30	Jonas Spruyt	Growing pains: An orthopedic case series in a juvenile Gorilla
11:30 – 11:45	Laurens van Mulders	Chronic kidney disease in Felidae: The inevitable price of carnivore physiology
11:45 – 12:00	Laura Vyt	3D feeders for grazing fish to improve welfare

12:00 – 13:15 Lunch Break



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Session 3

13:15 – 13:45	Nicky Staes	From gut to mind: How microbes shape behavior in our closest relatives
13:45 – 14:00	Paola Sidgwick	Female hormones and the Gut microbiome in Golden-headed lion tamarins
14:00 – 14:15	Kim Vermeulen	Eukaryotic virome of the European zoo bonobos

Coffee Break & Poster session

Session 4

15:15 – 15:30	Eva Theunissen	Evaluating GINAMO's co-creation practices: A social science assessment of stakeholder engagement and uptake of genetic indicators
15:30 – 15:45	Ilan Slangen & Adrienne Jensen	Turning down the heat: Simulating the effect of nest cooling to save Leatherbacks
15:45 – 16:00	Jules Bonte	A Farmer's perspective on species conservation: Evaluating alternative breeding styles to manage group living species
16:00 – 16:15	Philippe Helsen & Jordi de Raad	Beyond the spotlights: Streamlining genomic strategies for safeguarding understudied wildlife
16:15 – 16:30	Poster award ceremony & closing	

16:30 – 17:30 Drink