The zoo is part of the Reichswald, part of the "Flora-Fauna-Habitat Lorenzer Wald and Tiergarten" and, as a bird sanctuary, part of the EU's Natura 2000 strategy. Therefore, the zoo has a natural responsibility, to showcase how it values sustainability in its forested areas, to show the beauty of the wildlife which needs protecting and visually demonstrate ways to promote the preservation of biodiversity.

The zoo is an architecturally designed natural space, showcasing nature to the citizens of the city. Their animals and plants are artists whose stories are written down by humans and explained by the animals themselves, against the backdrop of the landscape.

The way and manner in which zoo animals kept in the City of Nuremberg Zoo and presented to the public are a cultural acknowledgement, as the city wants to illustrate their relationship with the animals and a shared future for humans and animals. In its development the zoo reflects the image of animals and nature in society. The zoo wants to play a powerful and creative role in shaping this image, to sharpen current political awareness surrounding the loss of nature and to encourage decision making in the spirit of sustainability.
City of Nuremberg Zoo

Show time
Reichswald of tomorrow, animals of yesterday

The project "Show Time - Reichswald of Tomorrow, Animals of Yesterday" aims to take visitors on a deliberately contradictory journey through time.

Against the backdrop of the Reichswald, it is expected to flower for seven months. Lush, cheesy, strange, fragrant, strange looking blossoms distort the once familiar forest. Exotic vegetation overgrows the German oak, obscuring the beech, drawing attention to paulownias, magnolias, azaleas, witch hazels.

This stage design made up of Asian blossoms suggests that this exotic vegetation may save our forests from the climatically induced deforestation. This "Future Forest" is home to highly endangered Asian mammals, that, almost all belong in the past in their homeland today.

This pessimistic story of climate change and species extinction is counteracted by aesthetic images. The beauty of the manmade images is shown provocatively in front of the background of pictures depicting a story of destruction.
The project "One World - Protecting Routes, Saving Systems" aims to show visitors the global networking ecosystems with migratory birds and African steppe animals via compelling visuals.

The European bee-eater not only eats bees and other flying insects, but their return to Germany is both a consequence of climate change and an indicator of insect-rich ecosystems in agricultural wasteland and disused gravel and sand pits. The White Stork, an African economic refugee in Franconian chimneys, joins the European bee-eaters along with zebras and Eland antelopes. They have always belonged together and all come from Africa, probably just as humans did too.

The One World Project came about due to its parallels with the migration debate in Europe. It is meant to construct a lesson by allowing innocent animals, which have always been commuters between continents, to explain the origin of migration in an unbiased way.

Migratory birds don't benefit much from local protection, either in Europe or in Africa, when their routes are not protected. If the animals are killed on their ancestral migration routes, ecosystems are weakened on both continents.