

WAZA Guidelines for Member *in situ* Conservation Involvement

Introduction

WAZA has activated the implementation of the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy (2005). This further emphasises the role zoos and aquariums should play in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. To this end, WAZA states that *in situ* conservation involvement of its constituency is of paramount importance to the modern zoo and aquarium concept.

Recognizing that zoo support groups such as Volunteers and Members are important advocates for the activities of zoos and aquariums, WAZA invites zoo supporter groups to participate in the pursuit of zoo and aquarium based *in situ* conservation activities.

Implementation and maintenance

The *in situ* involvement of WAZA members must be in compliance with all applicable national and International legislation.

WAZA members shall at all times take cognisance of IUCN Guidelines. This applies in particular to projects involving the release of animals to the wild.

WAZA members should focus their conservation involvement within local, national, or regional Biodiversity Action Plans and/or similar species recovery programmes. Where these have not been set up or are not effective, their formation should be initiated, supported or strengthened.

The WAZA Conservation Committee is currently working to articulate, more formally, a methodology for field project management.

WAZA members should engage themselves in projects or programmes that

- are realistic and have clearly achievable goals; .
- are based on sound scientific and management principles;
- have a potential for raising public awareness;
- have the potential for attracting sufficient funds to achieve their goals;
- are most likely to lead to a self-sustaining conservation outcome.

Whenever possible, the *in situ* involvement of WAZA members should benefit local stakeholders and meet the needs of local communities.

WAZA members should be sensitive to cultural value systems in the range countries concerned.

WAZA members should take a collaborative approach to *in situ* conservation involvement. At the very least consultation will take place with:

- the relevant range country government authorities,
- the relevant IUCN/SSC Specialist Groups,
- appropriate non-governmental conservation organisations, in particular those of the range country, and
- the relevant national or regional zoo and aquarium associations.

To contribute significantly to the long-term conservation of wild populations, WAZA members should prioritize the empowerment of range state conservation professionals.

WAZA members should consider setting up training courses for conservation professionals or will lend support to organisations operating such courses.

Projects and programmes implemented or supported by WAZA members should have an inbuilt, ongoing and independent evaluation component;

Information and Communication

WAZA members commit to sharing with and disseminating to local communities and other stakeholders information on their *in situ* involvement, and in particular they will provide at regular intervals data for inclusion into conservation databases established within the WAZA Network.

WAZA members commit to disseminating all information relevant to their *in situ* involvement as widely as possible.

WAZA members acknowledge WAZA branding as an added value to their *in situ* involvement and should make applications for such as appropriate.

The projects of Zoos and Aquariums, which are not institutional members of WAZA, may be branded if submitted through their Member Regional Associations.

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