

# EAZA Annual Conference

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## **Successful EAZA Annual Conference in Prague**

A record number of 430 participants attended the EAZA annual conference in Prague, 18-23 September 2001. Two meetings took place before the official icebreaker, hosted by Prague Zoo's director Petr Fejk, on Tuesday 18 September. TAG chairs spent the afternoon discussing collection planning issues, whereas the Gorilla EEP species committee worked on developing recommendations and other important issues for this flagship species.

The conference truly kicked off on Wednesday 19 September with many opening speakers, including Ed McAlister of Adelaide Zoo (and on behalf of the WAZA Council) wishing the gathered participants a successful meeting. Highlights of the first day included an inspiring presentation on the very successful EAZA Bushmeat Campaign and the launching of the new EAZA Rainforest Campaign 2001-2002.

Some 35 TAG meetings, 42 EEP Species Committee meetings and seven plenary sessions took place over the next few days. This year's plenary sessions focussed heavily upon collection planning, felid conservation and invertebrates and lower vertebrates.

Several EAZA Committees met during the Prague Conference, including the EEP Committee. This committee approved EEPs for Jamaican boa, Oriental white stork, Mindanao wattle-billed hornbill and Livingstone's fruit bat and ESBs for St. Lucia parrot, thick-billed parrot, fennec fox and forest reindeer. An EAZA Waterfowl TAG was also officially founded, bringing the number of EAZA TAGs to 35.

New EAZA members approved by the EAZA Membership and Ethics Committee were Parc Haute de la Touche, France (Full member), Parc Zoologique d'Amiens, France (Temporary member), Stapeley Water Gardens, UK (Temporary member) and The Hawk Conservancy, UK (Full Member). This brings the current number of EAZA members to 281 institutions and organisations in 34 countries.

The EAZA Conservation Committee spent much time on presenting the EAZA *in situ* Conservation database, an important tool to access and promote the contributions made by EAZA members to *in situ* conservation.

During the conference several computer workshops were held on various topics. Ivan Rea of the ISIS Head Office in Minneapolis was present in Prague to conduct various workshops on the use of ARKS4. He also spent considerable time answering questions of ISIS members and EAZA members who are considering to join ISIS. Further workshops were held on ZooTriton (software on animal nutrition in zoos), EZITT (a distance-learning project for zoo animal keepers, initiated by several EAZA member zoos) and ZooLex.

