

An Update on EAZA Activities

Myfanwy Griffith, EAZA Executive Office
October 2019



The following updates were provided to Annual Conference attendees and is shared now to recognise, value, and acknowledge the excellent work achieved by EAZA, for and with the membership, between Athens 2018 and Valencia 2019. The full opening plenary (as well as all the other plenaries) can be viewed on the [EAZA YouTube channel](#).

During the Annual conference in Athens the extraordinary Annual General Meeting (AGM) approved the updates to the [EAZA Constitution](#). This is our key governing document and the following changes helped formalise our desire to increase clarity and transparency about how we work:

- Increased detail about classes of Membership and conditions
- Further identifying Committee, roles, responsibilities and terms
- Detailing the process relating to election of Chair and seats on Executive Committee
- Confirming that the AGM has the responsibility to approve new/changes to Standards and Codes
- Confirming the change to the financial year to run from 1 January

Successful Conferences

Various events were (co)-organised by EAZA over the past twelve months. The high attendance and diversity of institutions and countries attending is evidence of the importance of these events in sharing best practice and leading in progressive zoos and aquariums working for nature. We thank all the hosts and organising committees for their excellent efforts. A summary of attendance is given below.

European Zoo Nutrition Conference, Marwell, UK

- 161 people
- 82 institutions
- 32 countries

Directors' Days and AGM, Jersey, Channel Islands

- 136 people
- 115 institutions
- 35 countries

EAZA Education Conference, Skansen, Sweden

- 194 people
- 119 institutions
- 32 countries

Annual Conference 2019, Valencia, Spain

- 881 people
- 357 institutions
- 61 countries

To continue sharing best practice the details of upcoming conferences are outlined below:

- EAZA Welfare Forum, 24-26 March, Apenheul, Netherlands
- Directors' Days, AGM, 22-25 April, Bergen, Norway
- EAZA Conservation Forum, 19-23 May, Zagreb, Croatia
- EAZA Annual Conference, 29 September – 3 October, Leipzig, Germany



Strategic Area: Healthy populations and individuals with positive

EAZA works because of the commitment to EAZA values and dedication shown by EEP coordinators, ESB managers, TAGs and all the EAZA Members. In this period there were 92 changes to TAGs, EEPs and ESBs. The current cycle of TAG evaluations was completed, and 8 EEP evaluations remain for the 'old style' EEPs.

Since September 2018 the following eleven **Best Practice Guidelines** have been approved and made openly available on the [Conservation > Programmes page](#) of main EAZA website:

- Polynesian tree snails
- Mountain chicken frog
- Caecilians
- Egyptian tortoise
- Ploughshare tortoise
- Javan green magpie
- Rufous-fronted laughingthrush
- Capuchin
- Burmese brow antlered deer
- Lesser kudu
- EAZA Marine Mammal Demonstration and Public Interaction Guidelines

The expansion of Population management staff enables EAZA and our Members to carry out **new style Regional Collection Plans (RCPs)**, fully support the Long Term Management Plan (LTMP) process and develop new style EAZA Ex Situ Programmes (EEP). The following RCPs have been:

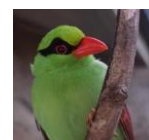
Approved:

- Canid and Hyaenid
- Prosimian
- Cattle and Camelid
- Rhino
- Passeriformes (Asian songbirds)
- Terrestrial Invertebrates

In process (workshop held):

- Waterfowl and Pelecaniformes
- Callitrichid, linked to Global ICAP
- Reptile (Chelonians)
- Deer
- Old world monkey

The RCP workshops for freshwater teleosts, hornbills, and equids are planned to take place by the end of 2019. Once a new style RCP is approved then the recommended new style EEPs can be approved. Forty such new style EEPs have been approved so far.



Long Term Management Plans (LTMPs) were finalised for Orangutan, European Bison, Gelada Baboon, Amur leopard, Spotted and Striped hyena, Ring-tailed lemur, European vultures. Reports are in development for Edwards's pheasant, Omei Shan Liocichla, red panda (as part of the **Global Species Management Plan (GSMP)**)

300 studbooks based in the EAZA region have migrated to **ZIMS for Studbooks**; there are ~100 left to go before April 2020. It is possible to sign up for migration by contacting EAZA Population Biologist Assistant, maaike.voorham@eaza.net. There is also this useful [PMx tutorial](#) available from the main EAZA website.



The [EAZA Position Statement on the Evolution of Elephant Management Systems at Member Zoos](#) was published in July and included a requirement for all EAZA Members with elephants to adopt protected contact by 1 January 2030 at the latest. This date provides a realistic time frame for the implementation of the decision. The TAG will continue to support the use of free contact management in the interim, recognizing that Members of the Association have used the system over many years; this statement therefore does not condemn the use of free contact management, rather it recognizes that the two systems cannot provide a unified framework for the ex situ conservation of the species.



The EAZA Biobank has been very active and MoUs signed with the four Biobank Hubs (see logos), plus the UK based consortium CryoArks. Standard Operating Procedures outlining the staffing, expertise, freezer space etc. requirements for an approved Biobank hub have been developed.



Material Transfer Agreement forms are completed by contributor and define conditions of ownership and use of samples.



The Biobank Terms of Service provide details of the Mission and directives for Biobank, how the Biobank uses samples and develops research priorities. Discussions are taking place with Species360 to develop a ZIMS Biobanking module.

All [Biobank documents](#) are available from the main EAZA website.

Strategic Area: Conservation impact

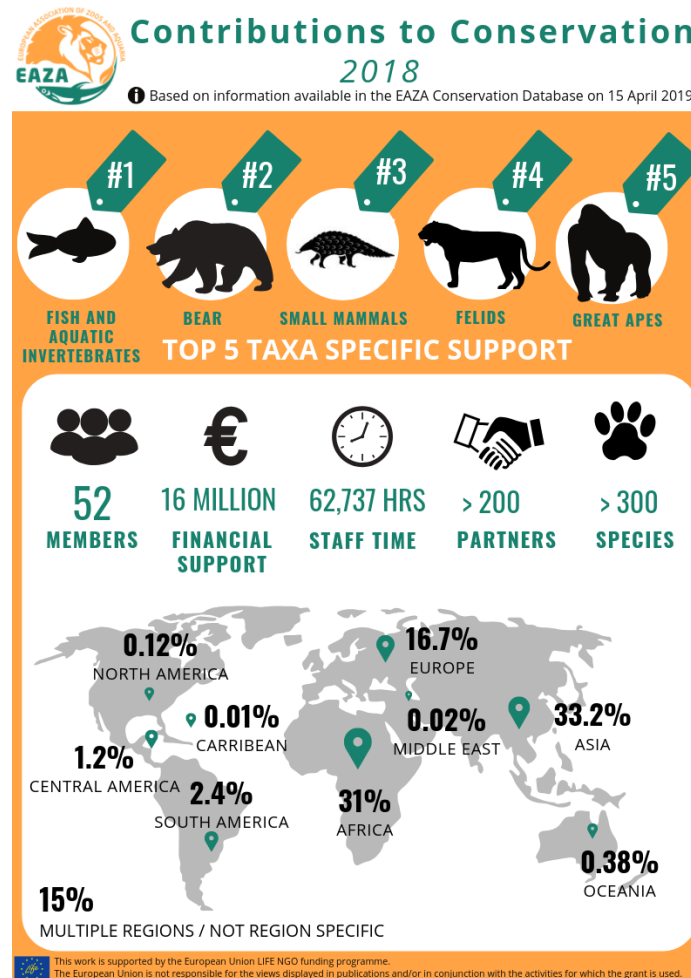
EAZA Conservation Database

The Database enables EAZA Members to create reports of their own institutions' contributions to conservation as well as export search results on topics such as: conservation projects for specific species, in certain countries, supported by EAZA Members in your own country.

Adding data to the Database enables EAZA to have a powerful voice when it comes to conservation towards key decision makers at the European Union as well as other stakeholders and NGO's.

Unfortunately, only 29% of Members added data for the 2018 period and thus we are not able to truly reflect the great work that all of you are involved in. The more Members who add data the stronger our voice can be. **Please add your data to the Conservation Database so that we can share the true representation of all the great conservation work carried out by EAZA Members.**

Members are recognized for adding to the Database via monthly 'Conservation Database snapshots' which appear in EAZA eNews, on the main EAZA website, and on the EAZA Facebook and LinkedIn pages. Since 2016, the projects entered into the Database are listed in the EAZA Annual Report for that year. We also use the data to create key communication infographics like the one that follows:



Conservation Campaign 2018-2019: Silent Forest - Asian Songbird Crisis

This Campaign had been very successful and key highlights, including presentation of certificates to the platinum donors, were shared in the Annual Conference [Campaign Plenary](#). Progress towards targets of the Campaign are as follows:



Target 1: Raise awareness

- Regular articles in appeared in Zooquaria
- The Facebook page has 2,297 followers, Instagram page has 1148 followers, and the Twitter account has 142 followers
- Multiple issues of the 'The Forest Grapevine' e-zine have been distributed
- An EAZA Academy course about best practices in keeping Asian songbirds is due to take place in 2020

Target 2: 175 EAZA Members signed-up to the campaign.

- As of September 2019: 243 participants, from 32 countries joined the Campaign. This includes 54 participants who are non-EAZA.

Target 3: €240,000 allocated across six pre-selected projects

- Around €530,000 was raised total!
 - 94 Institutions pledged a total of €284, 965; (€154, 512 received so far)
 - €10,025 was received in private donations
 - Nearly €20,000 was related to merchandize sales
 - The remainder was in direct donations to the pre-selected projects

The Campaign team, led by Tomas Ouhel of Zoo Liberec and Simon Bruslund of Vogelpark Marlow, were praised for their energy and commitment to such a successful Campaign. Further work on the Asian songbird crisis will continue after the official end to the Campaign.

Conservation Campaign 2020-2021: Which Fish? - EAZA sustainable aquatic resources campaign

76% of the world's fisheries are fully exploited or overfished, 8 billion kilos of unwanted bycatch are thrown out yearly. If overfishing continues, food fisheries may collapse entirely by 2050. It's time to start asking... Which Fish?

This Campaign is very different to ones carried out before. Many people are serving critically endangered fish to visitors and animals and this needs to be communicated effectively to result in positive change. The Campaign will be run in partnership with [EAAM](#) and [EUAC](#) and will focus on the following three axes:

- Sustainable consumption of aquatic resources fed to humans
- Sustainable consumption of aquatic resources fed to animals
- Sustainable collection planning for aquatic species

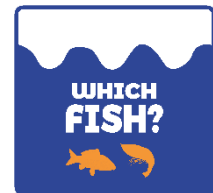
Presentations outlining each of these axes can be seen in this YouTube of the [Campaign Plenary](#) from 30 minutes onwards.

Which Fish? has a participation target to gain over 200 total campaign participants (150 EAZA Members). When joining the Campaign, participants will be asked to opt-in to specific pledges/commitments linked to campaign axes, plus their fundraising target, plus an opportunity to set their own target. Participants will be expected to make a minimum of three commitments. An evaluation tool will be developed for self-assessment of pledge criteria

The [Campaign website](#) is online and an informational brochure available. Species fact sheets, interpretation panels, education handbook etc. will be available shortly.

The Campaign aims to raise €150,000 to support up to 4 projects:

- Linked to Marine Protected Areas
- Linked to alternative food sources
- Linked to more efficient supply chains
- Linked to training.



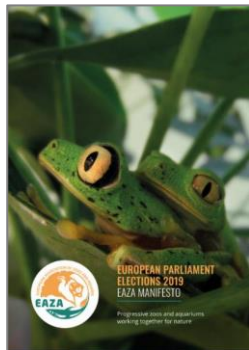
Strategic Area: Representation at the EU and with stakeholders



The [Position Statement on European Commercial Trade in Tigers and Tiger Parts](#) was developed in close cooperation with the Felid TAG and tiger EEP coordinators, and approved by EAZA Council at the end of 2018. It is openly available on the link above and urges the European Union institutions and the national authorities to take immediate action to eliminate the threats that endanger tigers, both in the Asian range states and in Europe. To support the Position, **EAZA Members are requested to send DNA samples from all their tigers to the EAZA Biobank**. This will support authorities wishing to confirm that animals, or derived body parts, intercepted from illegal activities did not originate from a professionally managed programme. EAZA is also working with Czech authorities and the tiger identification scheme (TigrisID).

Additional **conservation lobby work** has focused on the following areas:

- After the **EU Zoos Directive** REFIT, EAZA is part of a consortium working on an EU tender to improve implementation of the Directive. This will involve stakeholder workshops, training for Member State licencing authorities and development of peer to peer mechanisms. Much of the input into these processes is being coordinated via the National Associations Committee.
- A [Nagoya Protocol guidance document](#) has been developed to help Members understand their obligations relating to access and benefit sharing of resources under this protocol.
- EAZA is providing feedback to the evaluation of the current **EU Biodiversity Strategy** to 2020 and will work closely with Commission and Parliament on the creation of next one, to promote the *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation potential of EAZA Members.
- The ongoing work relating to **Invasive Alien Species** continues and we would like to thank TAGs who have provided their feedback to the risk assessments for species proposed for listing. Because of the input from the Monotreme and Marsupial TAG, the EU didn't list the common brush tail possum. A first!



EAZA developed and shared the [EAZA Manifesto for the European Elections](#) in which we invited the MEP candidates and their political parties to endorse the following goals:

- Make the protection of European and global biodiversity a political priority.
- Make the EU the standard-setter for zoo and aquarium legislation.
- Safeguard the health and welfare of animals in human care and in the wild.

At the request of Members, a [Spanish version](#) was also produced.

EAZA attended meetings of the [Bern Convention](#).

Thanks to additional capacity brought about by actions in the EAZA Strategy we were able to have staff attend **CITES** Animal Committee, Standing Committee, and Conference of Parties (CoP) meetings in 2019. This important development for EAZA will help make sure our interests are heard and our vital ex situ conservation work and animal movements are not unfairly restricted. We thank everyone involved in the extensive preparations prior to the CoP to create the position statements for EAZA. 150 Working Documents and 57 Listing Proposals were on the agenda and EAZA provided a position on all the listing proposals and the most important strategic documents/proposals. The decisions of CoP18 on listing Proposals were 89% in alignment with EAZA recommendations. Key updates from the CoP were shared with Members via a Member mailing and a detailed report was provided to Council.



Animal Health lobby work has strongly focused on the New Animal Health law. Much input has been received from individual EAZA Members, National Associations, and MoU partners such as EAZWV, with many responses to specific **public consultations** begin submitted e.g. on Approval and traceability, Disease surveillance and eradication, Entry into the EU for animals and germinal products.

Communications about the **impacts of BREXIT** continue. [EAZA and the EU: EU decision-making and legislation handbook for EAZA Members](#) was produced. It contains a wealth of information in an easily understandable format and is available from the Member Area. In December there will be the annual **Study tour to Brussels**.

All this can only be achieved with dedicated staff, both at EAZA Members and the EEO, who work towards the needs of the membership.

Strategic Area: Communicating our work internally and externally

It is possible to stay up to date with EAZA Activities in a variety of ways. The **News page** on the main EAZA website www.eaza.net contains the latest information about release of Best Practice Guidelines, EAZA Position Statements, and responses to media crises. Releases of Best Practice Guidelines, Conservation Database Snapshots, monthly 'Discover EAZA Members' pieces and other news items generated from, or relevant to, our community are also posted on the **EAZA Facebook** and **LinkedIn** pages. Members can email zoe.andre@eaza.net to sign up for the monthly **eNews** that provides a great overview of reports from Council and the Annual General Meeting, population management programme changes, EAZA Academy Courses, upcoming conferences, funding opportunities and more.

April 2019 saw the approval of **Council Members and the Executive Committee for a new term (2019-2022)**. There were quite a few changes and we extend a very warm welcome to all the new Council members (you can see who they are on the [Council pages of the Member Area](#)). Details of the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs are given below.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Chair
Thomas Kauffels
Opel-Zoo

Vice Chair & EEP Committee
Mark Pilgrim
Chester Zoo

Treasurer
Sean McKeown
Fota Wildlife Park

Secretary
Brice Lefaux
Mulhouse Zoo

Communications Committee
Sanna Hellström
Helsinki Zoo

Technical Assistance Committee
André Stadler
Alpenzoo

Membership & Ethics Committee
Endre Papp
Sostó Zoo

Aquarium Representative
João Falcato
Oceário de Lisboa

National Associations Committee
Volker Homes
VdZ

SPECIALIST COMMITTEE CHAIRS (ON COUNCIL)

Conservation Committee
Eric Bairrao Ruivo
Beauval Zoo

Education Committee
Arlete Sogorb
Lisbon Zoo

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Aquarium Representative
João Falcato
Oceário de Lisboa

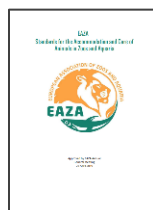
National Associations Committee
Volker Homes, VdZ

Research Committee
Zjef Pereboom
Antwerp Zoo

Technical Assistance Committee
André Stadler, Alpenzoo

Veterinary Committee
Arne Lawrenz, Wuppertal Zoo

The **AGM from 23-25 April 2019**, in Jersey, also saw approval of updates to the following key EAZA documents:



[EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos and Aquaria:](#)

- 1.11 Training and public demonstrations – whereby this Guideline is now a Standard.
- 4.10 Escape of animals from their enclosures – expanded the requirements for emergency plans and animal related emergency drills additional
- 5.2 Stock records – further clarifying the requirements of record keeping systems

[Population Management Manual:](#)

- Guidance on the new Population Management structure and Regional Collection Plan process
- Updating the section on the activities and requirements relating to EAZA Group on Zoo Animal Contraception (which will need further updating now the group have changed their name to Reproductive Management Group).
- Details about the Biobank and associated working procedures
- Procedures to be followed when carrying out reintroductions/ releasing animals into the wild
- Guidance regarding animal thefts
- Updating about the latest science and tools for population management



[Sanctions in the case of a violation of the EAZA Code of Ethics or EEP Procedures](#)

- Updated to reflect the changes to the EAZA Constitution and the Population Management Manual and the Constitution.



Members will get the opportunity to vote on further updates to the EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos and Aquaria at the AGM in 2020. Proposed updates include; making the EAZA Position on Intentional Breeding for the Expression of Rare Recessive Alleles part of the Standards, and clarifying the use and definition of Protected Contact for elephants.

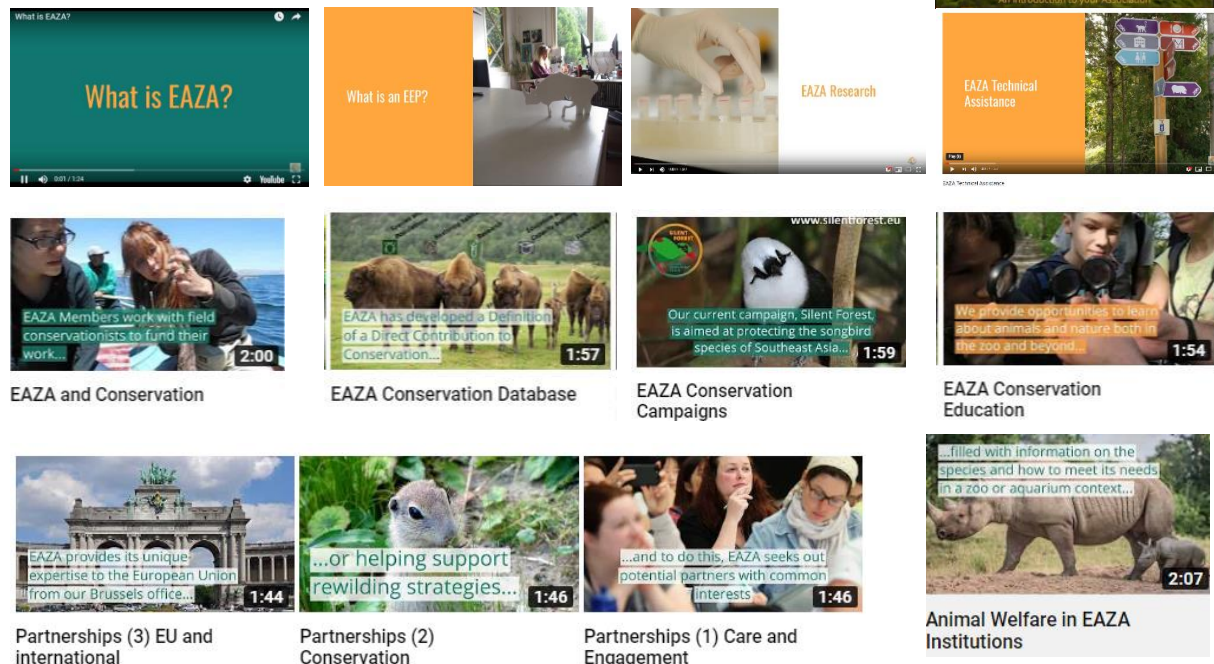
Various **EAZA Publications** were released over the past 12 months. This includes the 2018 [Annual Report](#) and [TAG report](#) which excellently communicate the vast amount of work carried out by all.

[Zooquaria](#) remains to be an informative and popular magazine, and the [Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research](#) (JZAR) continues to be open access and publish high-quality peer-reviewed articles to benefit the zoo and aquarium community.

The '[EAZA? What's that?](#)' PowerPoint presentation is updated in January every year. It can be used with staff within institutions, Governing Boards, potential Members and more, to outline what EAZA is and how we work.



With input from Members and Committees, EAZA has developed a series of '**explainer videos**' that succinctly present the various aspects of our work. These can be found on relevant pages of the main EAZA Website as well as on the [EAZA YouTube channel](#). These are available for Members to use, with their staff, Boards or visitors, and translation options are possible.





EAZA was able to utilise connections between Italian members the Italian Zoo Association and the [Pontifical Academy of Sciences](#) to be part of an important meeting looking at “Science and actions for species protection: Noah’s Arks for the 21st Century” in May 2019. The [concluding statement](#) provides powerful support for the importance of zoos, stating “The worldwide communities of natural history museums, zoological, and botanic gardens are catalytic and significant allies in the global drive toward species protection and nature preservation.”

There has been a vast amount of work across all areas of the **EAZA Strategy 2017-2020** that was agreed by Council and the Annual General Meeting in 2016. Detail about achievement against outcomes due for completion in 2018 are given in Figure 1 and 2. Many of the objectives carry across multiple years, hence the high amount of orange ‘on target’ as we progress through the years this will change to green ‘completed’.

Figure 1: Implementation of the 174 sub-objectives within the EAZA Strategy 2017-2020 by the end of 2018

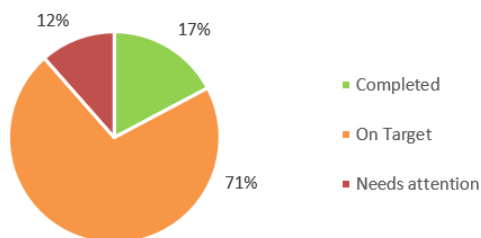
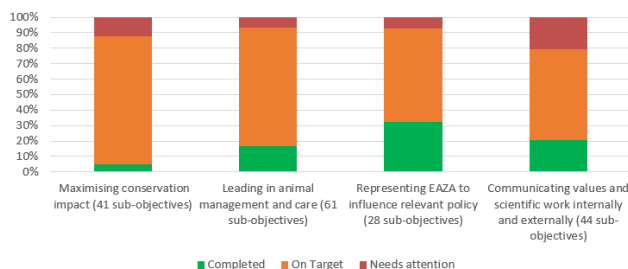


Figure 2: Implementation of sub-objectives within the EAZA Strategy 2017-2020 by Focal Area by the end of 2018



During the Annual Conference in Valencia the inclusive process towards developing a new EAZA Vision and Mission resulted in Council approving the following new EAZA Vision and mission. This will be enacted from 2021 and part of the EAZA Strategy 2021-2025:

Vision: Progressive zoos and aquariums saving species together with you

Mission:

EAZA is the Membership organisation that sets the standard for progressive zoos and aquariums and other partners across Europe, Western Asia and beyond.

We strive continuously to define and demonstrate excellence in integrated species conservation through a transparent and collaborative approach to population management, wild animal care and welfare, representation with international organisations, conservation education, and scientific research.

Membership Updates

(since September 2018)

New and Temporary Member screenings

- 5 new applicants screened
- 6 new applicants in the review process, 3 on hold
- 2 new applicant screenings planned
- 2 new applications for Temporary Membership Under Construction reviewed
- 3 new applications for CfM programme reviewed
- 2 Temporary Members re-screened

New Membership decisions

- 5 new Full Members
- 5 new Temporary Members (incl. 2 Under Construction)
- 2 new Candidates for Membership
- 3 new Associate Members
- 7 new Corporate Members

EAZA Accreditation Programme (EAP)

- 30 screenings completed
- 14 awaiting decision during this meeting
- 28 already planned for end 2019-2020

The percentage of screened members in September 2019 is 59%.

The smaller percentage increase than expected is due to a change in the EAP decision timeline whereby Members now get the period between Council meetings to review their screening report before a final decision is made. This results in a slight lag in the percentage of screened Members however, everything is on track to have all Members screened by 2022 as planned.

We would like to thank all the Members who opened their doors for a screening, and all the screeners and their supporting institutions for their experience and time.

Current EAZA Membership

(as of October 2019)

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Full Members | 302 |
| Temporary Members | 13 |
| Candidates for Membership | 23 |
| Associate Members | 37 |

Total number zoological members: 372

Plus:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Corporate Members | 43 |
| Honorary Members | 4 |

GRAND TOTAL: 422 members in 48 countries

EAZA Academy

In the 2018/19 period, 441 people from 198 institutions across 41 countries took part in EAZA Academy Training. The courses on offer continue to vary to meet the needs of the community. Upcoming training opportunities are as follows:

- Social Research and Evaluation – due early 2020
- Enriching Enrichment – 23 March 2020, Apenheul. Registration is possible via this link: <https://www.aanmelder.nl/awf20>
- Songbird Husbandry – March 2020, the Netherlands, exact dates and location to be confirmed
- Animal Welfare Assessment – Antwerp, exact dates to be confirmed
- Reproductive management – April 2020, Chester, exact dates to be confirmed

Find out the latest updates on courses and registration on the [EAZA Academy pages](#) of the EAZA website.

We encourage Members to utilise the resources produced in relation to the European Professional Zookeeper Qualification Framework (EPZQF): www.zookeepers.eu.



Conclusion

The past twelve months have been a busy and productive time for staff in EAZA institutions and the EAZA Executive Office. Our hard work and collaborations have enabled us to achieve the ambitious aims set out in our Strategy. Everyone should be very proud of the work carried out; it truly puts EAZA at the forefront of progressive zoos and aquariums working together for nature.

All of this is only possible with dedication and input from the whole membership. We look forward to another fulfilling twelve months ahead, and finish with a massive

Thank You!