

EAZA Conservation Standards



Approved by EAZA Council
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Introduction

The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) is a non-profit conservation organisation, with members across Europe and the Middle East. EAZA's mission is to facilitate cooperation within the European zoo and aquarium community towards the goals of education, research and conservation.

EAZA believes that zoos and aquaria have a strong role to play in the conservation of nature and wildlife both at our member institutions and out in the field. EAZA strives for its community to be a significant contributor to and driving force for global conservation and towards building the capacity, skills, and resources to prevent species extinction. The EAZA Conservation Committee is leading efforts to encourage every EAZA member to engage in and contribute to field conservation. The EAZA Conservation Committee works towards ensuring EAZA and its members have a positive impact on nature conservation, including a focus on the conservation of European species and biodiversity.

Purpose

This EAZA Conservation Standard has been developed by the EAZA Conservation Committee with the purpose of outlining what is expected from EAZA members in relation to the conservation of species and biodiversity. It is intended for use by directors, field conservation staff, educators, curators, researchers and others who have a responsibility for conservation activities both inside and outside the zoo premises.

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Recognising that the furtherance of wildlife conservation is one of the main objectives of the Association, members of EAZA:

1. Engage in and support conservation endeavours that contribute to the long-term survival of species in natural ecosystems and habitats, and allocate appropriate resources to such endeavours (refer to the 'EAZA Guidelines on the definition of a direct contribution to conservation (2015) for examples of such activities);
2. Document their conservation efforts through the EAZA Conservation Database;
3. Implement the WAZA Conservation Strategy (2015) to the best of their abilities.
4. Assist the wider conservation community including wildlife agencies, conservation organisations, governments and research institutions in maintaining global biodiversity,
5. Have a special responsibility towards the conservation of species native to the EAZA region and participate in local or regional conservation initiatives wherever possible, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
6. Are encouraged to inform the relevant zoo and aquarium association(s) when leading conservation activities outside the EAZA region.

7. Attempt to evaluate conservation activities, to measure their impact and demonstrate their on-going effectiveness and make that information available;
8. Ensure that conservation activities take relevant guidelines into account (for example the IUCN SSC Guidelines for Reintroductions and other Conservation Translocations (2013), IUCN Guidelines for the Placement of Confiscated Animals (2000), IUCN Species Survival Commission Guidelines on the Use of Ex situ Management for Species Conservation (2014), etc.) and are endorsed by the relevant wildlife management agencies.
9. Communicate and promote the interest of wildlife conservation, biodiversity and animal welfare to colleagues and to society as a whole.
10. Participate as much as possible in EAZA Conservation Campaigns, to promote zoos as conservation-oriented institutions
11. Proactively engage visitors in a range of conservation issues and projects;
12. Promote sustainable use of natural resources and will work towards reducing their carbon footprint.