



Policy Statement on WAZA Strategies Conservation & Animal Welfare



Committing to Conservation: The World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy



Caring for Wildlife: The World Zoo and Aquarium Animal Welfare Strategy

In 2015 WAZA launched two new global strategies. These strategies reflect the excellence of and ongoing potential for zoos and aquariums as conservation organisations, supporting and conserving wildlife and leading in the field of animal care.

The two strategies, developed with and supported by leading academics and organisations in the fields of conservation and animal welfare, are essential tools for zoos and aquariums globally. They are being translated into multiple languages.



World Association of
Zoos and Aquariums
WAZA | *United for
Conservation*[®]

Caring for Wildlife Committing to Conservation

Committing to Conservation recommends that all zoos and aquariums commit to the seven steps to conservation leadership:

Caring for Wildlife recommends an integrated and science-based approach to animal welfare:

Step 1: Inform
Educate your governing authorities and staff about the status of wild populations of animals on a regular and ongoing basis, and demonstrate how everyone can play a noteworthy role in reversing the declines.

Step 2: Mission
Update the mission statement and strategic plan of your zoo or aquarium to include: a *declaration* that your institution exists for a higher purpose—wildlife conservation; a *pledge* that your institution will commit resources to this effort; a *plan* for creating a culture of conservation in your staff, communities, governing authorities and donors that gives everyone the opportunity to make a measurable difference.

Step 3: Budget
Assess how much your institution currently spends on field conservation according to the WAZA definition of conservation, and benchmark that with similar regional institutions.

Step 4: Revenue
Work with staff to identify dedicated streams of revenue that can be used for field-conservation programmes. Ideally, these are streams generated both internally (from operating budgets and events) and externally (visitor, donor or government funded).

Step 5: Partnerships
Leverage resources by collaborating and partnering with other zoological institutions, conservation organisations, centres of learning, government agencies and high-net-worth individuals that share our passion for animals and conservation.

Step 6: Priorities
Identify and prioritise species which allow you to deliver conservation victories that clearly demonstrate the impact the animals in zoos and aquariums have on our ability to save their wild counterparts. Connect your animals to field conservation with personal stories of organisational commitment, both financially and with staff expertise.

Step 7: Communication
Develop a communications plan that is positive and proactive about your commitments and actions. Cultivate respected, independent spokespersons to deliver conservation stories to visitors, the greater community and society.

PHYSICAL/FUNCTIONAL DOMAINS							
NUTRITION		ENVIRONMENT		PHYSICAL HEALTH		BEHAVIOUR	
Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive
Deprivation of food	Appropriate nutrition	Environmental challenge	Environmental opportunity & choice	Disease injury	Fitness	Behavioural restriction	Behavioural expression
Malnutrition	Available food						
NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES		MENTAL DOMAIN		POSITIVE EXPERIENCES		WELFARE STATUS	
Pain	Doubt	Boredom	Safety	Healthiness	Security		
Fear	Worries	Frustration	Stimul	Contentment	Comfort		
Disease	Distress	Anger	Controlled engagement	Stimul	Stimul		
Discomfort	Loneliness			Stimul	Stimul		

- Apply models like the 5 Domains of Animal Welfare (Mellor & Beausoleil 2015) to manage and monitor individual animal's welfare on an ongoing basis.
- Adopt an Animal Welfare Charter outlining commitments to animal care.
- Develop comprehensive species specific animal welfare management plans and approaches to exhibit design, monitoring and health, animal movements, animal nutrition and whole of life care.
- Ensure animals used in any interactions, experience positive welfare states and are carefully monitored to ensure welfare is maximised.
- Employ, develop and train staff on up to date animal care and work with others across the discipline of animal welfare to ensure organisational standards are maintained and up-to date.
- Where possible seek animal welfare accreditation from a reputable regional zoo association and always meet or exceed legislative requirements and international treaties in animal welfare and care.
- Become a leader and advocate for animal welfare in your community and further afield; work with partner organisations and welfare groups to raise animal welfare awareness.
- Consider supporting a substandard zoo or aquarium to improve its performance in animal care.