

AGENDA

WAZA Mid-year Meeting 2026

Day 1 - Wednesday, 17 June 2026

9:00 AM - 9:05 AM <i>(CEST)</i>	Opening of 2026 WAZA Mid-Year Meeting
9:05 AM - 9:15 AM <i>(CEST)</i>	Opening Address by WAZA President David Field, WAZA President, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland CEO
9:15 AM - 9:25 AM <i>(CEST)</i>	WAZA CEO Updates Martín Zordan, WAZA CEO
9:25 AM - 10:05 AM <i>(CEST)</i>	Day 1 Keynote: Leading Beyond Today: Succession Planning to Build Resilient Institutions Sujata Biswas, Mercer Sr. Principal Talent and Transformation Lead
10:05 AM - 10:25 AM <i>(CEST)</i>	Succession Planning
10:25 AM - 10:40 AM <i>(CEST)</i>	EAZA Academy April Adams, EAZA Director of Member Development
10:40 AM - 10:55 AM <i>(CEST)</i>	Break
10:55 AM - 11:00 AM <i>(CEST)</i>	Welcome Back
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM <i>(CEST)</i>	Future Proofing our Sector. Attract, develop and retain for a resilient and thriving membership Nicola Craddock, Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia (ZAA) Executive Director; Mandy Prestage, Hobart Zoo & Aquarium General Manager
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM <i>(CEST)</i>	Building Conservation Education Leadership: IZE's Emerging Leaders Mentoring Programme Colleen Cavanaugh, Auckland Zoo Conservation Learning and Community Engagement Manager; Sarah Thomas, Auckland Zoo Head of Conservation Advocacy and Engagement
12:00 PM - 12:55 PM <i>(CEST)</i>	Convos with CEOs Moderator: David Field, WAZA President, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland CEO Speakers: Katy Duke, The Deep CEO; Leslie Mudimeli, SANBI - National Zoological Gardens South Africa Executive Director; Phil Ainsley, Zoos South Australia Chief Executive
12:55 PM - 1:00 PM <i>(CEST)</i>	Closing of Day 1

Day 2 - Thursday, 18 June 2026

7:00 PM - 7:05 PM (CEST)	Opening of Day 2
7:05 PM - 7:45 PM (CEST)	Day 2 Keynote - Destination Preferred Future: Our Climb from the Summit to the Peak Dr Ken Chandler, Quest Strategic Solutions, LLC Chief Potential Officer
7:45 PM - 8:10 PM (CEST)	Internal Leadership Programme André Stadler, Alpenzoo Director and CEO; Laura Ganner, Alpenzoo Innsbruck - Tirol Curator of mammals
8:10 PM - 8:25 PM (CEST)	An Introduction to the Keeper Educational Exchange Programme Alice Vassallo, Keeper Educational Exchange Programme (KEEP) Director
8:25 PM - 8:45 PM (CEST)	ALPZA Academy
8:45 PM - 9:00 PM (CEST)	Break
9:00 PM - 9:05 PM (CEST)	Welcome Back
9:05 PM - 9:35 PM (CEST)	Professional Trainings Programmes – AZA Kari Hart, Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Director, Professional Development and Education; Charles Hopper, Santa Barbara Zoo President & CEO
9:35 PM - 10:00 PM (CEST)	The WAZA Advantage: Tools for Today, Leadership for Tomorrow
10:00 PM - 10:50 PM (CEST)	Convos with CEOs Moderator: David Field, WAZA President, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland CEO Speakers: Friederike von Houwald, Bern Animal Park Director; Jennifer Driban, National Aquarium Interim President and CEO; Luis Soto Rendon, Zoologico Guadalajara CEO and Director General
10:50 PM - 11:00 PM (CEST)	Closing Speech by WAZA President David Field, WAZA President, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland CEO