Dear WAZA members and friends!

A lengthy process of negotiation and diplomacy has come to a positive result. The Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums has finally decided to prohibit the use of dolphins in their shows. This fundamental breakthrough was recently enforced.

What does it mean to be a non-human person? Good animal welfare is our daily business, but would an animal be treated differently? It is a great pleasure to have a legal expert, James Gesualdi, looking into this and providing recent examples of a somewhat odd approach.

In a meeting which I had recently at the INTERPOL headquarters it was fascinating to hear that the police forces are more and more getting into environmental crime persecution including wildlife crime. Being interested in closer cooperation with the world zoo and aquarium community, it is a pleasure to have them featuring their work in this edition.

A big thank you goes to WAZA members who have actively helped the zoo in Tiblis, which was heavily affected by floods in June.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I hope to see many of you in Al Ain!

Gerald Dick
Executive Director

Conservation impact and good animal welfare are core principles of the zoos and aquariums represented by WAZA. The concurrent development of global strategies for approaching these central issues is an important contribution to our community, and we hope both will be actively used as a resource by members and associates. I sincerely thank the many individuals who have devoted significant time and shared their considerable expertise to create these coordinated and mutually-supportive strategies that set the stage nicely for the work ahead.
In addition to groups that are principally against keeping animals in human care, mainstream political discussions and headlines now often address animal welfare issues in zoos and aquariums and increasingly question the keeping of charismatic megafauna in our facilities. Additionally, some countries make it nearly impossible to exchange specimens for conservation breeding purposes. The intention to close down zoos in Costa Rica and media campaigns such as “Blackfish” against keeping orcas in the US are well-known recent examples of sometimes hostile anti-zoo and aquarium activities.

Within the framework of WAZA, the major building blocks are the WAZA Bylaws, the Code of Ethics and Animal Welfare, the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy (WZACS) and Turning the Tide – A Global Aquarium Strategy for Conservation and Sustainability. In order to be united for conservation, high standards of animal welfare have to be achieved while maintaining excellent facilities for the animals in our care. WAZA is working on a strategic level to provide guidance and support globally. The accreditation processes are the responsibility of the regional associations and WAZA’s purpose and ambit is not to be the ‘world’s police’ for zoos and aquariums. However, some activist groups misunderstand or misinterpret WAZA’s role and claim that WAZA is responsible for everything going on in all zoos and aquariums around the world. Parallels may be drawn to the United Nations when it comes to setting rules or guiding principles and their enforcement at a national level.

Since its inception WAZA’s role within its membership has continuously been discussed, but the work on the cohesion of our community, the improvement of conservation and welfare, and the unification on a global level has never been challenged. In 2015, an updated and revised version of the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy will be published alongside the first-ever World Zoo and Aquarium Animal Welfare Strategy. These two documents will be milestones for the organisation, reflecting the needs and responsibilities of our community in a changing world. At the International and European Associations Congress this year, it was very interesting to hear that many associations, from many different fields, are discussing their future roles and responsibilities in relation to members and non-members. Many associations have concluded that a wider scope reaching beyond current membership will be the way forward. This reminded me of our internal discussions when it comes to animal welfare issues, to providing support or entering partnerships that go beyond just the members of our association. The exploration of future strategies for WAZA will begin at the Annual Conference in Al Ain and continue after its finish, and the insights about the evolution of the role of professional associations will be an important input into the discussion. As far as our community is concerned, it will be crucial to enhance the communication and cooperation among the regional associations, using the metaphor of the “one plan approach” and remembering that no zoo or aquarium is an island (WZACS 2005). Provided that the resources are made available, in the future WAZA may become even more of a facilitator and supporter of regional work and the development of good practices, as well as a political driver, for core conservation and welfare aspects of the global zoo community.

The Taiji dolphin drive hunt and JAZA

Since 2004, the issue of the drive hunts for dolphins has been discussed within WAZA and its relevant bodies. WAZA Presidents and Committees have been involved in this issue and in many discussions over the years. The drive hunts serve the purpose of obtaining dolphin meat for human consumption as well as providing Japanese (and some other nations’) aquariums with live dolphins for display. In recent years, increasing numbers of dolphins have been exported by local dealers in Taiji to other countries, especially China. The method of driving dolphin pods to a small coastal bay was, more than a decade ago, declared to be in contravention of the WAZA Code of Ethics and Animal Welfare. After years of establishing contacts and beginning a dialogue with representatives of JAZA, intermittent diplomatic negotiations followed. It was hoped to find a solution and eventually phase out the taking of dolphins from the wild. It took a while to understand the high level of demand that Japanese aquariums have for dolphins. WAZA advocated for an increase of breeding and improved husbandry efforts, the establishment of formal cooperative breeding programmes and an accreditation system for JAZA members. Over the past years, two high-level meetings took place in Tokyo in an attempt to find a solution. The first summit took place in 2009 and the second in 2014. The agreed outcomes of the meeting in 2009 were the restriction of live takes to only one species (bottlenose dolphins) and a time restriction of the take to the month of September only. A gentler way of capturing animals through herding was also proposed, in order to separate the drives for meat from aquarium acquisition. As we later discovered, these proposed changes were not adopted, and other cetacean species were taken throughout the drive fishery season (September to April).

In 2014, WAZA organized another summit with JAZA, which was immediately followed by a meeting bringing together Japanese animal welfare NGOs and JAZA. At the internal meeting, JAZA presented some alterations of the catch operation, but these were not substantial changes. The catch for meat and for aquariums remained mixed up and the so-called herding method was not distinguishable from the usual drives. WAZA proposed a two-year moratorium in order to find a solution and to phase out the takes for aquariums, unfortunately this was not acceptable to JAZA. After another meeting with JAZA representatives during our 2014 Annual Conference in New Delhi, the WAZA Council made it clear that suspension of membership would follow if no substantial change in practice were presented by February 2015. As JAZA’s subsequent response did not contain any fundamental changes, in April WAZA Council decided they had no alternative but to suspend the membership of JAZA. JAZA was given a 30-day grace period, in which they had a final opportunity to present any new insights or proposals for change in policy. At a meeting of the JAZA board on 20 May 2015, it was decided that JAZA wanted to remain an association member of WAZA. Therefore, JAZA members would not be allowed to take any further dolphins from the drive hunts in future and they are also prohibited from taking part in exports or sales of wild-caught dolphins. JAZA further clarified that members are not allowed to take dolphins from any drive hunts, and will have to provide evidence of origin for any newly-acquired dolphins. JAZA bylaws will be changed in order to have a clear procedure in place for expelling members not adhering to those rules. JAZA will establish a task force for improvement of cetacean husbandry and propagation and is seeking input and support of the WAZA community. WAZA Council appreciated this positive move and significant change of policy and rules within JAZA, therefore suspension of membership was lifted. This now signifies a great success after a lengthy period of negotiation and diplomatic interaction. Without acting as a ‘policing force,’ WAZA has achieved a very significant positive change through a deliberate, fair and transparent process.
Modern communication tools (web-based petitions, social media, mass e-mails etc.) provide a low cost and easy way to distribute information. Any story, whether true or false, and/or inflammatory messages can be shared very quickly with large groups. Any incident, in any location around the world can go viral just with a mouse click. In this globalized world, no story stays within national boundaries and each story has the potential to reach a huge worldwide audience. Examples of this include the animal welfare issues reported at Surabaya zoo in Indonesia, Giza aquarium in Egypt and many others. For activists publishing these stories, it does not matter whether those zoos are members of WAZA or not, they will seek to invoke WAZA as the global zoo organisation that “should do something.” And we are more and more frequently confronted with such situations. WAZA can try to validate the complaint with the help of regional associations and partner organisations, and can contact government or governmental leadership of the country in question (like we did for Indonesia) or help with training (as we did for Colombo Zoo). Such issues can easily become a communication crisis and WAZA has responded by developing a communication plan for crisis management. This plan underscores that the internal information flow between institutions, regional associations and WAZA is crucial for clear, transparent and timely communication. This document is available on the member area of the WAZA website.

Apart from those incidents, some groups are trying to take the legal route, as shown in an article in this issue of WAZA News by James Gesualdi about the concept of non-human legal personhood, and by recent related discussion regarding orcas attempting to go beyond the boundaries of philosophy and existing legal frameworks.

In connection with the dolphin drive hunts, a small Australian dolphin NGO has identified WAZA as a target. With significant monetary resources, they have launched an online petition accusing WAZA of “being complicit” in the drive fisheries. Numerous clarifications, explanations, public statements and even personal meetings could not convinces them that they are incorrect in their assumptions and that they are going after the wrong organisation. They are trying to build a legal case in Switzerland, based only on the fact that WAZA is advocating good animal welfare through the WAZA Code of Ethics and Animal Welfare and that one association member of WAZA previously had members involved in the drive fisheries in Japan (which is no longer case). They have exploited media in order to try to disrupt our community and some members were directly contacted and asked whether they would leave WAZA.

Apart from communication challenges and the more difficult issue of handling non-member behaviour, WAZA and its members must show good performance and demonstrate the leading role for the zoo and aquarium community.

Zoos and aquariums are subject to all manner of oversight relating to the animals in their care. There are federal, state and local laws; regulations; treaties, and conventions. Professional associations accrediting zoological organizations provide another layer of oversight, as do the visiting public and even critics. The dramatic growth in “animal law” as a distinct legal practice has and will continue to drive change in the oversight of the zoological community. For a number of reasons I have simply defined Animal Law as “legal matters involving non-human animals.” Efforts to change our interactions with animals are increasingly focusing on our courts and legal system. The role of the courts has been moderated somewhat by the legal status of nonhuman animals as “property” which precludes them from the right to sue, and in the absence of statutory authorization a potential human plaintiff suing on behalf of an animal must establish standing, i.e., sufficient basis for the court to recognize the human’s interests. The most comprehensive and potentially far reaching challenge to the property status of nonhuman animals, including those in zoos and aquariums, is the quest to have at least some species granted “legal personhood.” This ongoing legal pursuit seeks to change the prevailing legal status of nonhuman animals as “legal things” or property. It should be noted that accredited zoos and aquariums provide for the well-being of the animals entrusted to their care and often refer to the animals as part of their extended family irrespective of their “property” status.

Nonhuman animals are already treated differently than other forms of “property”. For example, they are protected by anticycruelty laws (addressing the avoidance of pain and suffering) and, in some jurisdictions, by animal welfare laws that may affirmatively seek to enhance animal welfare and well-being, perhaps through providing for the “five freedoms” (e.g., hunger/thirst, discomfort, pain/injury disease, expression of normal behavior, fear/distress). Many of these laws do not, however, prohibit most uses of nonhuman animals (including their residence in zoos and aquariums). The animals’ rights perspective, which seeks to improve the care and treatment of nonhuman animals, is also concerned with the reduction and/or elimination of many, if not all, uses of nonhuman animals. For some, it is more concerned with animal well-being and welfare, better laws and more effective enforcement of existing animal protection laws represent the best approach for improving animals’ lives.

The quest to establish legal personhood for animals is meant to imbue them with the capacity to have legal rights, including the right to be free of human use. (Of course, such rights would still necessitate legal guardians, attorneys and effective law enforcement.)

Personhood seems a variant of precedents in a few nations where the “Law of Mother Earth” has been used to establish rights in natural conditions and features such as rivers, plants and wildlife.\(^1\)


...WAZA and its members must show good performance and demonstrate the leading role for the zoo and aquarium community...

James F. Gesualdi – Esq. *

Nonhuman Animals and Legal “Personhood”
Chimps are under discussion at Stony Brook University on Long Island, New York. “living property”. To create the dramatic, breakthrough case, the Supreme Court of the State of New York had granted an orangutan residing in a Buenos Aires zoo legal “personhood.” After a result, Sandra, the orangutan, was expected to be “freed” and moved to a sanctuary. Upon further examination, the decision, still subject to additional proceedings, contained language supportive of personhood, but apparently it did not create the dramatic, breakthrough precedent first reported.1

In the United States, the Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP) has brought cases on behalf of four chimpanzees in the courts of New York State. Two of the chimpanzees are held by different private owners, the other two are in a research facility. The NhRP seeks to “free” these chimps from different forms of “captivity” it considers tantamount to imprisonment. (Nonhuman Rights Project, Q&A about the Nonhuman Rights Project, www.nonhumanrightsproject.org/qa-about-the-nonhuman-rights-project.) Specifically, the NhRP contends, based upon current scientific knowledge, that the chimps should be granted the right to bodily liberty, removed from their current situations and moved to a sanctuary “in an environment as close to the wild as possible”. (See reference to Nonhuman Rights Project, Q&A, above.) After the lower courts refused to grant the chimps personhood, the appeals to date have upheld those decisions, each on different grounds.


7. The NhRP website (www.nonhumanrights.org) is instructive of its approach and well worth reviewing. Of particular interest from their Q&A, “What is the distinction between animal rights and animal welfare? Which are you focused on?” is, “The Nonhuman Rights Project is the only group demanding legal rights for any nonhuman animal. This is about the legal system recognizing that at least some nonhuman animals have legal rights that can be enforced on their behalf ...”. (See reference to Nonhuman Rights Project, Q&A, above.) Groups like the NhRP have repeatedly asserted that their efforts are about rights not welfare. Most of the judges that have heard the NhRP’s arguments have stated their concerns for the welfare of the chimps involved in the litigation. To date, however, alternatives for enhancing nonhuman animal welfare have not really been presented in court though one court took note of Professor Richard Cupp’s scholarly articles about improving animal welfare without establishing legal rights or personhood.

One recent article contains a concise overview of the first three New York State cases brought by the NhRP.2 The first court decided the NhRP lacked standing, the second that rights are linked to social responsibilities (and since chimps have no social duties they have no rights) and the third that, among other possible issues it did not feel it necessary to analyze, the NhRP does not really seek “freedom” so the relief requested via a writ of habeas corpus does not apply as the NhRP would merely “change the conditions of confinement”. (See reference to Brandon Keim, “Another Court Denies Legal Rights for a Chimpanzee”.) Currently, the first three situations remain the subject of further proceedings. With respect to the research chimps, rather than take another appeal the NhRP sought relief in yet another court in Manhattan, New York and a hearing on whether the chimps’ detention is lawful was held on May 27, 2015. In opposition to the NhRP, the New York State Attorney General noted the potential consequences of a writ of habeas corpus for the chimps could potentially lead to the release of animals from zoos. A July 30, 2015 decision declined to grant the chimps’ personhood noting, among other things, that the court was bound by prior appellate decision in another one of these cases and that such a determination should be made by a higher level court or the legislature.

The Argentinian case clearly demonstrates the importance of this emerging legal issue for the zoological community in that the initial reports indicated a zoo orangutan was to be “freed” and moved to a sanctuary. The seemingly more comprehensive approach of the NhRP in the United States has not yet directly involved a zoo or aquarium (and certainly not an accredited zoological organization) though some of the experts enlisted may be from or well known within the zoological world.

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The question is: Wherever a chimp (See reference to Nonhuman Rights Steven Wise, attorney and founder zoos”).

A June 2014 article on the work of the NhRP concluded by describing the impact a legal victory granting chimps nonhuman legal personhood would have, including implications "both wide and uncertain" and a more dramatic impact on zoos than that noted above in the statement to one of the courts: "Chimpanzees would no longer be able to be held in captivity or in zoos and would have to be moved to sanctuaries, [Steven Wise] says, as they would probably not survive in the wild... Ultimately though, he says the most important thing is to trigger a debate about which rights high-functioning animals should be granted. It is a discussion, he believes, "that's going to go on for ever..." Zoos across the world will be watching the outcome of his four test cases with interest – and perhaps some concern" (Chris Green, "US lawyer's test case to gain legal status for four chimpanzees could have far-reaching results").

Another uncertainty is the impact on the conservation of nonhuman animal species that attain legal personhood. Presumably, that might create legal rights for nonhuman animals in the wild. As NhRP founder Steven Wise noted, the discussion is one "that's going to go on for ever". It is essential for zoological leaders to understand these efforts and their potential implications.

If the NhRP is successful, the potential impact on accredited zoos and aquariums is unclear but potentially dramatic. Another Q&A on the NhRP website makes reference to the "shocking conditions at "roadside zoos".

In a December 2014 article it was reported that one judge asked, “If we rule in your favor, does that mean we have to let all chimps out of zoos?”

Steven Wise, attorney and founder of the NhRP responded, “no, you wouldn’t necessarily have to – but there are zoos and there are zoos. The question is: Wherever a chimp is being kept, is his autonomy and self-determination being respected? Zoos and aquariums currently care for numerous species targeted by NhRP for personhood. These nonhuman animals include great apes, dolphins and elephants. NhRP's arguments for personhood are said to be “based on the best scientific findings on genetics, intelligence, emotions and social lives of these animals showing they are self-aware, autonomous beings.” (See reference to Nonhuman Rights Project, Q&A, above.) Some of this scientific knowledge is derived from the experiences and expertise of the zoological community. To the extent that any of these nonhuman animals attain legal personhood, it may well be that ultimately they could be placed in the "best available environment" (release is highly unlikely). Assuming that accredited zoological organizations possess some of the best or better environments where the animals’ "autonomy and self-determination" are respected, the holding of such nonhuman animals may still be altered beyond today’s practices.

INTERPOL’s Environmental Security unit is dedicated to addressing environmental crime, assisting the Organization’s 190 member countries in enforcing environmental laws and enhancing investigative support of environmental crime cases. The unit focuses its resources supporting efforts around the world to promote conservation and environmental security.

Our environmental quality, wildlife and natural resources are under pressure from growing human populations and corresponding changes in land use, pollution and the hunger for resources. The complexity and diversity of these challenges require a coordinated and strategic global law enforcement approach.

INTERPOL's Environmental Security Sub-Directorate

**Ivory Trafficking**

The year, 2015, has already witnessed several large-scale ivory seizures, many of which were in East Africa, or in transit through Asia originating from East Africa. In response, INTERPOL’s Project Wisdom, which is focused on driving investigative outcomes against ivory and rhino horn trafficking, has targeted its efforts in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda through the deployment of Investigative Support Teams to assist member countries in their investigations and intelligence management.

The majority of large-scale ivory seizures have occurred at maritime ports, where the ivory is hidden in shipping containers and is usually concealed by other lawful goods. Seizures of these shipments potentially represent the most information rich point for law enforcement intervention, and can yield valuable intelligence to further dismantle other, less visible, parts of the supply chain.

Several significant seizures in East Africa and Asia in the past years have demonstrated the sophisticated regional networks used by traffickers to smuggle ivory from East Africa to international markets. These networks manipulate and exploit gaps in the monitoring capacity of government agencies, as well as free trade zones, to identify the most effective means to evade detection and seizure, including through seemingly circuitous regional routes.

A significant portion of ivory reaching international markets, especially in Asia, is derived from elephant populations in East Africa. Moreover, large-scale ivory shipments typically indicate the participation of organized crime, with trafficking syndicates operating in multiple countries simultaneously. These crime syndicates source ivory from several hundred elephants for each shipment, and they bear the primary responsibility for the drastic decline of African elephant populations. As such, INTERPOL focuses on enhancing law enforcement responses, through investigation and analysis of elephant poaching and large-scale ivory trafficking in East Africa in order to identify methods to assist national and multinational responses.

To assist national and multinational responses, INTERPOL has developed a set of training courses and guidelines focusing on ivory trafficking, which are available through its training platform.

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*Head of INTERPOL’s Environmental Security Sub-Directorate*
During Operation Paws II (Protection of Asian Wildlife Species), conducted in April and May 2015, more than 13 tonnes of pangolin products were seized, representing some 1,000 animals with an estimated street value exceeding USD 2 million. In Singapore alone, authorities seized almost 3,800 pieces of elephant ivory, four pieces of rhino horn and 22 big cat teeth, worth some USD 5.2 million in total.

Among the live animals recovered were tigers, leopards, bears, monkeys, red pandas, lions and crocodiles, in addition to 3,500 kg of elephant ivory, 280 kg of pangolin scales and more than 4,000 kg of red sandalwood. A large number of turtles, tortoises and birds were also seized across a wide range of countries indicating a high demand for these species.

Coordinated by INTERPOL’s Environmental Security unit as part of Project Predator, Operation Paws II was also supported by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC). The ICCWC, which is composed of five major international organizations, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); INTERPOL; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); World Bank; and the World Customs Organization (WCO), forms a powerful alliance in the fight against wildlife crime.

INTERPOL is uniquely placed to support its member countries in their ongoing wildlife conservation efforts, through building on the successes we have already seen and further developing expertise through collaborations with organizations such as WAZA.

What kind of work does the Cheetah Conservation Fund do to improve the situation of cheetahs in the wild?

Cheetah Conservation Fund work is focused in three major areas that impact the situation of cheetahs in the wild: research, education and conservation. Ensuring long-term survival of the cheetah involves us unraveling a complex web of social, economic and environmental issues. In developing our programmes, which are all based on the scientific research we have conducted over the past 25 years (and my own research, which dates back 40-plus years), we employ a holistic approach that balances the needs of people, wildlife and the ecosystem they share.

CCF’s calling-card programmes address the two main threats to cheetah survival, human-wildlife conflict and habitat loss. In 1994, we introduced the livestock guarding dog concept to Africa, which has been a hugely successful tool in mitigating conflict between farmers and cheetahs. We breed, train and place two large breeds of Turkish dogs, Anatolian shepherds and Kangals, with farmers to protect herds of small stock. The dogs are large and aggressive with very loud barks. Fortunately cheetahs have a flight versus fight instinct, so the presence of the barking dog is usually enough to scare off a cheetah, but if necessary, the dogs will engage.

Farmers using a “CCF Livestock Guarding Dog” report a reduction in losses due to predation anywhere from 80 to 100 percent, which makes these dogs highly sought after. Over the past 20 years we have placed more than 600 dogs and helped start similar programs in Botswana, South Africa, and most recently, Tanzania.

“CCF’s Bush Project” is a programme developed to restore millions of hectares that previously served as cheetah habitat that have been taken over by thorny Sengalia bushes. This occurrence is known as bush encroachment. Cheetahs hunt using bursts of speed and require open or semi-open savannah to capture prey. Not only does thickened bush prevent them from being successful; many cheetahs are suffering injuries, most critically to their eyes, as a result of contact with the plants’ thick spines. Further compounding the problem, bush encroachment is a form of desertification. Senegalia prevents grass from growing and its deep roots deplete the underground water table. To reverse bush encroachment and restore the habitat, CCF is returning farmers using a “CCF Livestock Guarding Dog” report a reduction in losses due to predation anywhere from 80 to 100 percent, which makes these dogs highly sought after. Over the past 20 years we have placed more than 600 dogs and helped start similar programs in Botswana, South Africa, and most recently, Tanzania.

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CCF is also combating the issue of encroachment through production of a biomass fuel log made from sustainably harvested Senegalalia under the trade name “Bushblok”. Not only does this compressed wood pellet product help reduce bush density, but it also creates a clean-burning energy alternative that heats homes and supplies cooking fuel for residents of Sub-Saharan Africa, the majority of whom do not have electricity. CCF is developing ecological standards for ramping up bush harvesting with the goal of restoring landscape-scale tracts of cheetah habitat throughout Namibia. The CCF Bushblok factory in Otjiwarongo provides over 40 jobs for local Namibians, with the potential to provide many more.

CCF also conducts programmes to sustain development of the local economy, which in turns helps reduce conflict between people and predators. We have a programme model we call “Future Farmers of Africa”, which is very popular here in Namibia. We host week-long trainings at CCF for rural residents who are predominately subsistence farmers, to teach integrated livestock and wildlife management techniques. Recently, we expanded these trainings, taking them out into the remote villages to reach even more people, and we have added trainings in how to develop craftwork businesses. We are teaching people how to create artwork and crafts. In addition, our naturalist training courses are teaching rural community members in ecotourism of the area. We have found through our experience that people who have strong livelihoods and can feed their families are more likely to protect wildlife rather than view the animals as threats. CCF also conducts education programmes, both in schools and at CCF, for primary and secondary young learners. We also work with college students through Master and Ph. D. candidates from Namibia, other African nations and many other countries around the world, covering a wide spectrum of specialties that includes biology, genetics, conservation and agriculture.

At CCF, we have the only fully capable conservation genetics lab located at a conservation site in Africa. CCF staff scientists study the cheetah, and collaborators studying other endangered species like the African lion, hyena, cape buffalo and rino also use the facility. Our work in this lab and at our research clinic has resulted in several key advancements impacting cheetah science, including the first viable in vitro cheetah embryos and the mapping of the cheetah chromosome.

What role can the world’s zoo community play to help counteract the principle threats that face cheetahs in the wild?

Zoos are a wonderful place where people come to learn more about wild animals. Many people will not be fortunate enough during their lifetimes to travel to faraway places where including animals exist in the wild, so zoos provide their only contact. By engaging these visitors with public programmes that educate and inspire people to become involved in conservation, zoos can play a major role in countering threats to the cheetah. To solve the cheetah crisis, we need to raise an army of conservationists, and zoos can help do this.

What could be done to promote the collaboration between the world zoo community and field workers?

People who work at zoos need to get out into the field, and boots-on-the-ground conservationists need to conduct more public programmes at zoos. We need a formalized exchange programmes.

We’re sure you have heard of the AZA SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) program? What do you think of it and what kind of contribution do you think it will make to help stop the extinction of cheetahs in the wild?

I think AZA SAFE is a wonderful new programme and it is just the tonic I was hinting at in my last two responses! I look forward to being involved and representing the cheetah.

Laurie’s 3 wishes for the Zoo Genie

The Zoo Genie is ready to answer 3 wishes. Talk to him...

1. I would wish for more people to come to zoos and aquariums so they could learn about all of the wonderful creatures we share the planet with – with the hope that this would motivate them to be more protective of Earth’s biodiversity.

2. I would like to see more people availing themselves of the educational public programming at zoos and aquariums... How can we work together to build a bigger audience?

3. I would wish for zoos and aquarium staff to become more actively involved with conservation organizations in the field. I want them to come visit me at Cheetah Conservation Fund, so they can witness conservation in action and become better informed as ambassadors for all endangered species, but especially for the cheetah. Okay, maybe that’s a little selfish – but these are my wishes!
I have not had an ordinary life … nor am I an ordinary person.
I was born in Savannah, Georgia in 1944 to an unwed mother who didn’t want a baby. Fortunately a compassionate doctor risked his reputation by helping both unwed mothers and couples that could not have a child. It was wartime and young ladies made mistakes.

Abortion was dangerous so the doctor convinced them to let him deliver and give the baby to desperate couples. On my paperwork he wrote: “A lady came to hospital with severe abdominal pain indicative of a tumor. Immediate surgery was undertaken but instead of a tumor, there was a baby. The baby was handed over to the adoptive parents to take home and love.” That was my beginning … not ordinary!

After basic childhood I was not a good girl. By 1958 I was a troubled soul and I made my parents very unhappy. It was wartime and young ladies made mistakes.

I travelled to Mysore, India October 1976 and over 6+ years studied Yoga, Pranayama and Sanskrit with Patabhi Jois and was much improved, to say the least. He left India to teach in the USA for a month and during this gap an Indian veterinarian invited me to visit the Mysore Zoo where she gave me a grand tour. The tour ended with a zookeeper placing a 2-month old tiger cub in my arms causing me to flip from (yoga) to z (zoos). I visited the zoo and the tiger cub daily after that and my “zoo career” began in 1981. It took a while to convince the Mysore Zoo staff that they would be working for me (ha!) but in a short time I was an unpaid but happy zoo lady firmly planted at the Mysore Zoo, doing many things. After some months, the Mysore Divisional Commission asked me to set up a Society, induct members, conduct events at the zoo, develop brochures, booklets, sign boards, a monthly magazine and behave nicely to the press. The Friends of Mysore Zoo (FMZ) was the first in India. I was made the Founder/Secretary of FMZ, ordering everyone around, playing with the tigers, walking them around the zoo, hanging out with them in their large cage, etc. The public and press appreciated all that. I invaded the zoo library to find out what to do and read a great deal about zoos around the world and took interest in all the animals. I kept very detailed notes on the behavior of the tiger cub and learned a lot as well as playing out a dream that I didn’t even know that I had.

My mentor and nemesis, Sri C. D. Krishne Gowda, Director of the Mysore Zoo, was a wonderful friend and colleague. He always went on rounds in the zoo every morning and evening and this timeworn habit was a wonderful instruction. I joined him and got an advanced education in zoo management. He knew every animal and they recognized him also.

In India then there were strict visa requirements and every 3–6 months, unless I could get an extension I had to leave India until I could get another visa. My parents were worried that I might return to my old habits if I stayed in the USA. They solved the problem by giving me a series of 30-day Greyhound Bus tickets so I could go around and see how American zoos were managed. They renewed the ticket every month and it worked well but I don’t recommend trying to sleep in a Greyhound bus for weeks at a time. I was well received by the American zoos all things considered. The Zoo Directors were intrigued to hear about my zoo life and I theirs. In 1983 Dr. Nan Schaeffer of Lincoln Park Zoo visited India to collect lion semen for her project and the zoo made an event out of it. We arranged a lecture and a demonstration for veterinarians, universities, and selected zoogoers, etc. to observe her collection procedure that was first in India. We entertained a number of people from the USA and other countries.

In 1984, I was asked to be a Special Invitee to the National Zoo Advisory Board. This was a boon for me as it met in New Delhi and government would pay travel and accommodation. I visited Dr. T. N. Khoshoo, Secretary, Environment every visit and reported what we were doing at Mysore Zoo. During one visit Dr. Khoshoo and his officers discussed the need for a “national” organization to carry out activities FMZ was doing but on a different scale. It should be focused on all Indian zoos. I should write a grant for all that required to make it work.

The emphasis was to improve the image and utility of Indian Zoos. That meant new everything … new name, publications, objectives, office and view of education. After obtaining the grant we designed thousands of Zoo School packets for distribution to zoos for their visitors. We designed packets for distribution on special days like Wildlife Week, Animal Welfare Fortnightly, etc. Zoos ordered these packets, paid the postage and used them well on various events. The end of 3986 Zoo Outreach Organisation was registered and in 1988 we brought out two new periodicals, one was ZOO ZEN and the other was ZOOS’ PRINT.

In 1988 Dr. Nan Schaeffer of Lincoln Park Zoo visited India to collect lion semen for her project and the zoo made an event out of it. We arranged a lecture and a demonstration for veterinarians, universities, and selected zoogoers, etc. to observe her collection procedure that was first in India. We entertained a number of people from the USA and other countries.
The zoos did not have a sufficient range of information in their libraries and among themselves that insured their capacity and skills. I started a monthly compilation of useful zoo information for all Indian zoos. The compilation (ZOO ZEN) was not printed in bulk as we couldn’t afford it but we xeroxed enough copies for every zoo to have one and some government people as well. We brought it out once a month and after kept up for years. It was positively about ZOO ZEN that was done, CZA informed the zoos where was on the table at that time. I was invited to several meetings to input on this and other issues and was very pleased with the result. On 28 August 1991 the Zoo Act that consisted of legislation for zoos was passed in Rajya Sabha. The Central Zoo Authority of India was constituted on 3 February 1992. I was a member of CZA for six years and enjoyed it very much. I was on several CZA committees but my favorite was the one that assessed all significant Zoos. We had immersed in CBSG and ultimately made it a wonderful organization. Zoo Outreach Organization became immersed in CBSG and ultimately convened a CBSG South Asia that was very beneficial.

Sri S. C. Sharma was tasked with improving the zoo situation by the Environment Ministry. I felt the 2000s needed something more from the Central Government than what was on the table at that time. I was invited to several meetings to input on this and other issues and was very pleased with the result. On 28 August 1991 the Zoo Act that consisted of legislation for zoos was passed in Rajya Sabha. The Central Zoo Authority of India was constituted on 3 February 1992. I was a member of CZA for six years and enjoyed it very much. I was on several CZA committees but my favorite was the one that assessed all significant Zoos. We had immersed in CBSG and ultimately convened a CBSG South Asia that was very beneficial.

I was honored with several prestigious awards: In 2000: The Menon Award for Contribution to Welfare of Captive Wild Animals in India; In 2001: Honorable Scientific Fellow of the North of England Zoological Society, U.K.; In 2004: The Heini Hediger Award for outstanding and dedicated service to Zoos, and in 2008: The Ulle Seal Award for Innovation and wildlife conservation efforts in South Asia.

I enjoyed writing, particularly to promote zoos and wildlife. I published over 300 news and feature articles for Indian newspapers and articles. Most of them were about zoos and zoo animals, but occasionally I also wrote bizarre and amusing articles, such as my series in the illustrated weekly called the Spy from Outer Space. I wrote for important books also, e.g., The Encyclopedia of World’s Zoo, April 2000, ed. Catharine E. Bell, who asked my assistance for topics that had no authors; I wrote 26 articles for EWZ. Also for Dr. Vernon Kisling’s excellent book: Zoo and Aquarium History: Ancient Animal Collections to Zoological Gardens I wrote three sections on South Asia, Asia and (with Willie Labuschagne) Africa, 93 of 415 pages. I was invited to submit an article “Engineering Conservation Action in South Asia”, for the International Zoo Yearbook of ZSL in 2001 and many other books as well.

I was lucky to connect with WAZA starting with a role in IZE that allowed me to attend WAZA for several years. I particularly enjoyed being a member of the Drafting Group for WAZA and I enjoyed attending WAZA as a member of Zoo Outreach Organization and SAZARC membership.

I promoted developing countries and substandard zoos to my colleagues in WAZA and wrote many articles about their needs. Substandard zoos are still very much in my mind and heart...
Experience with Shipping Primates?

During the last LAPB meeting held at Lufthansa Training Center Seeheim, Germany it has become clear once more that since new container requirements for sharks and pelagic fish have been added to the IATA Live Animals Regulations, there is a strong need for exemptions for non-air transport for those species listed under CITES, and the world zoo community is advised to become actively involved with the CITES Animals Committee.

The next IATA LAPB meeting will be held in Chicago this fall from Sept 22-24. The meeting will be of special interest for the zoo community as work on primate containers – CR 31, CR 33, CR 34 – will commence.

At this time we are interested to learn about your experiences and receive comments on shipping primates using above containers, especially in regard to the shipping of baboons, drills, and mandrills as there is a strong case for removing drills and mandrills (maybe even rhesus macaques) from CR31 and listing them in at least CR33, if not CR34. The main concern is that male drills and mandrills need a strongly secured enclosure such as in CR34, while, females and subadults may be more suitably transported in CR33 or even CR31.

Please contact Andreas Kaufmann at andreas@gowi.at (WAZA rep on LAPB Advisory Panel) or Frank Kohn at frank.kohn@fws.gov (US Fish & Wildlife Service) with your comments.

The Biodiversity is Us – Application is Now Available in Chinese!

Thanks to the invaluable support of our member Ocean Park Hong Kong we have actively been working on creating a Chinese version of the mobile phone and tablet application.

This, therefore, brings the number of languages in which the application is available to a grand total of seven languages (English, French, German, Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese). This ensures the application is as widely used as possible and targets people from around the world!

Announcements

Experience with Shipping Primates?

The Biodiversity is Us – Application is Now Available in Chinese!
As the Biodiversity is Us project continues to expand and grow, we are ensuring that the quality of the material and contents are maintained to a very high standard. To ensure this we regularly update the contents of the application and ensure that the social media dialogue is both fun and engaging. Indeed, one of the major successes in the Biodiversity is Us social media campaign has been the very good engagement rates we have on both Facebook and Twitter.

However, we would like to have more of you, our member institutions, share these contents with your visitors, both online and to real visitors, so that together we can leverage a higher impact of our messaging and clearly highlight the important role zoos and aquariums have in addressing the challenges faced by biodiversity. For example, our celebration of World Biodiversity Day on social media (using Thunderclap) which promoted individual actions, reached out to over 380,000 users. This was only possible due to the multiplier effect generated by the institutions and NGOs that shared our message in the build-up and on the day and promoted it to their own followers. This is another example of how, together, we can have an impact greater than the sum of our parts.

Also, as you might have already heard, if you have not yet done so, now is the time to implement the Biodiversity is Us tools in your institution and use these tools! So that, as a community, we expand the global awareness of the role of biodiversity and the simple everyday actions visitors to our institutions can take to have a positive impact.

For any questions or for submitting further pictures of implementation, please contact me! ✓

A strong conservation-centered institutional identity is now the main characteristic of zoos and aquariums that have aligned their goals and activities with WAZA’s World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy. Under this paradigm, zoos and aquariums provide conservation in a genuinely integrated way. This is the case for ALPZA’s new strategy, which is aligned with the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy. Under this paradigm, regional zoo and aquarium associations are essential parts to guide their members by developing and implementing strategies that take into account specific regional issues while still remaining aligned to global conservation goals.

ALPZA, through its Conservation Committee, is working to build a new path for zoos and aquariums in the Latin American region. In 2008, the ALPZA community established a committee exclusively dedicated to conservation. This new group started to promote and encourage zoos and aquariums of Latin America to develop their skills, talents and resources towards biodiversity conservation, integrating regional conservation efforts with global conservation goals.

Soon, a certification program to recognize and increase the potential of conservation projects led by ALPZA members was implemented. After a few years of running this program, it was clear that the Association was ready for more. The need to join new trends in conservation was evident and a strategic planning workshop with integrated conservation as a core principle to guide ALPZA members was needed.

Therefore, if you have not yet done so, now is the time to implement the Biodiversity is Us project tools in your institution and use these tools! So that, as a community, we expand the global awareness of the role of biodiversity and the simple everyday actions visitors to our institutions can take to have a positive impact.

For any questions or for submitting further pictures of implementation, please contact me!
Thanks to the support of WAZA, EAZA, CBG5 Europe and CBG5 Brazil, Copenhagen Zoo, Leipzig Zoo, Zoo Parc de Beauval and Beauval Nature Association, Fundación Temaikèn and Zoological de Buenos Aires, ALPZA was able to organize this key meeting. After 2 years of organization, on Friday 29th May 2015, Buenos Aires welcomed representatives from the ALPZA community to actively contribute to the “ALPZA-CBSG Strategic Planning Workshop for Integrated Conservation”, which has been to this date, the greatest international cooperative initiative ALPZA has experienced. Eight institutions from six countries (African Safari, Fundación Parque Zoológico de São Paulo, Fundación Temaikèn, Fundación Zoologíca de Santacruz, Parque das Aves, Zoological de Buenos Aires, Zoological National del Parque Metropolitano de Santiago and Zoo Parc de Beauval) represented the ALPZA community. Most of the regional and global zoos associations were also present: ACOPOAZA (Asociación Colombiana de Parques Zoológicos, Acuarios y Aflines), AFDZP (Association Française de Parcs Zoologiques), AZA (Asociación de Zoos and Aquariums), AZCARM (Asociación de Zoológicos and Acuarios de México), EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquariums), SSB (Sociedade de Zoológicos e Aqüários do Brasil), SPZ (Sociedade Paulista de Zoológicos) and WAZA. Finally, four NGOs that lead Latin American in situ conservation initiatives were also part of this workshop (Proyecto Titi from Colombia, Proyecto Sapo from Argentina, Conservation Land Trust Argentina and the Latin American representative of BirdLife International).

After three days of intensive thinking, a new strategy with innovative objectives to be reached by the ALPZA community for the upcoming years was created. Recognition of both conservation projects and also conservation achievements is one of the main focuses of the agenda, also an assigned percentage of the budget to be directly invested in conservation, as well as a strong connection with in situ conservation initiatives are some of the main goals of this plan that will be officially launched in 2016. Other goals include the creation of the first species cooperative management programs established in ALPZA, collaboration with other institutions (governments, NGOs, local communities, academics) to vigorously implement a strategy which originated from our own communities, academic and proactive conservation communication initiatives led by ALPZA’s, and a closer integration of ALPZA with the wider conservation community.

It is exciting to experience what the implementation of this valuable plan will be. Our community has already enthusiastically started the implementation of the first stages of the strategy, fully aware of the responsibility that lies with us. More important than complying with what has been proposed, we see that this strategy is a chance to increase the impact that our community can have on biodiversity conservation and, therefore, significantly contributing to the welfare of the world.

ALPZA stands now empowered to vigorously implement a strategy which originated from our own communities, academics and proactive conservation communication initiatives led by ALPZA’s, and a closer integration of ALPZA with the wider conservation community.

The conservation community, and the world as a whole, is facing a rapidly closing window of opportunity; the June 2015 update of the IUCN Red List has revealed that nearly 30% of (22,824) of assessed species are now threatened with extinction, and conservation efforts continue to be surpassed by the mounting pressures on biodiversity. Zoos and aquariums globally are critical players in successful protection of species in the wild, utilising their funds, expertise, facilities and public profiles to drive conservation efforts within their organisations, in the field and through the engagement of their visitors. There has never been a greater need to collaborate strategically, combining our strengths and resources in the face of so many challenges.

Inger Anderson, IUCN Director General, states “Given the scale and immediacy of the global conservation challenges we face – none more than the extinction crisis already upon us – we cannot expect zoos and aquariums to carry the burden of conservation within their gates alone.”

In light of this, zoos and aquariums are building new and stronger relationships with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) to play a more integrated and global role alongside the world’s largest conservation network. The IUCN SSC is a volunteer network composed of almost 20,000 experts, including scientists, field researchers, zoo and aquarium staff, government officials and other conservation leaders worldwide. The SSC encompasses 130 taxa-focused and thematic Specialist Groups, which primarily work to:

• assess and monitor species’ status and trends (including for the IUCN Red List);
• identify emerging conservation issues, threats, and opportunities;
• develop species conservation strategies and action plans globally; and
• contribute information to international conventions (e.g. CBD, CITES), agreements and policy interventions.

WAZA and a number of regional zoos and aquarium associations, especially EAZA and AZA, have been working closely with the IUCN SSC to build links with these Specialist Groups. BIAZA also recently had a strong focus on working with IUCN at their annual conference. Overlap overlap exists between Taxonomic Advisory Groups (TAGs) and Specialist Groups, building relationships between these networks combines complimentary expertise to deliver a truly One Plan approach to planning. This unified approach between the traditional ex situ and in situ measures delivers more holistic and effective protection of wild species, in addition to creating sustainable populations in human care.

Many zoos and aquariums have initiated relationships with Specialist Groups directly. Examples include: Manx Wildlife recently became the host of the Antelope Specialist Group, as did the Arizona Central for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo for both the Small Carnivore Specialist Group and the Lagomorph Specialist Group. San Diego Zoo Global is the long-term host of the Iguana Specialist Group and other conservation leaders worldwide. The SSC encompasses 130 taxa-focused and thematic Specialist Groups, which primarily work to:

The relationships between zoos and aquariums and the IUCN SSC largely focus on greater collaboration for species conservation assessments and planning, and global networking with species experts. They provide mutual benefits to the zoo or aquarium and the Specialist Group, including bolstering knowledge, increasing capacity, improving credibility and reputation, creating opportunities for staff, accessing new audiences and grants, and increasing strategic conservation impact.

Our organisations possess different strengths and capacities to address global conservation challenges. The closing window of opportunity means that we will only succeed in reversing species declines if we acknowledge the diversity of our strengths and work together.

For more information on working collaboratively with the IUCN SSC, please contact Kira Husher.

Kira Husher – IUCN SSC Director of Specialist Group Partnerships

Building Bridges for Conservation

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Buenos Aires Zoo Andean Condor Project, an ALPZA certified program.

Silver brown bare‑face tammar Conservation Program, an ALPZA certified project.

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Building relationships between these networks combines complimentary expertise to deliver a truly One Plan approach...
The Cuban Crocodile (Crocodylus rhombifer) exists only in a small area on Cuba, and is believed to be the rarest species of crocodile. This is because of poaching and due to cross breeding with the American Crocodile (Crocodylus acutus).

In 1974, Soviet Cosmonaut, Mr. Vladimir Shatalov, who was the chairman of the Soviet-Cuban Friendship Society visited Cuba. At a mass meeting in Havana, he was personally presented with two baby Cuban Crocodiles by Fidel Castro. He brought them back to Moscow and kept them in his bathroom. Unfortunately his wife didn’t think this was a good idea, especially as they started to grow bigger. So, Vladimir had to choose between his wife and his crocodiles. Finally, he chose his wife and donated the crocodiles to the Moscow Zoo, where they had a good life until 1988.

In the spring of 1981, I visited Moscow Zoo, where they were planning to rebuild their old terrarium section. I was asked by the Director, Vladimir Spitzin, (now my oldest friend in the zoo community) if I wanted to take the crocodiles back to Sweden. Yes, but only until the Green Party demanded an Animal Welfare Agency…

We later named the crocodiles Castro and Hillary and they adapted very well to their new home and the first breeding occurred in 1984. Since then, they have had babies nearly every year.

Did Castro and Hillary then have a peaceful life?

Yes, but only until the Agency appealed to the higher court, the Swedish Administrative Court of Appeal.

In the Swedish Administrative Court of Appeal, the Agency could hardly use their former experts so instead they turned to Professor James Perran Ross, University of Florida. They produced a paper from Professor Ross, which they claimed that our crocodiles did not have a proper exhibit and that his statement was of course of the highest value, since he was a leading authority on crocodiles. The lawyer of the Agency claimed that since it was not possible to expand the existing exhibit ‘euthanasia is not a bad solution’. I think everybody should be glad that this person did not work with elderly people!

When I read this statement I was very confused as our crocodiles and exhibit were not mentioned anywhere! I telephoned the professor and discovered that he had not been informed about the case and that he had only answered some vague questions. When I explained the situation, he was quite upset and wanted to have all the documentation about our exhibit. I had my staff put everything together and send it to him in Florida, together with pictures and film clips on the crocodiles and exhibit. He then went back to the Swedish Administrative Court of Appeal with a statement he had written together with two other crocodile experts, Dr Fritz Huchzermeyer, from South Africa, and Dr Adam Britton, from Australia. Their statement ended with ‘we therefore support maintaining these specimens in what is quite clearly a very suitable enclosure and exhibit’. The result was of course that the crocodiles won and could stay.

The story of Castro and Hillary was a very big one in the Swedish media for several years. It did not paint a very good image of the Animal Welfare Agency, and with the next change of Government the Agency was closed down. (So you may say that this was the final victory for Castro and Hillary.)
Back to nature!

In November 2014, I was contacted by Antonio Casanova Guilaré, Director of the CITES Management Authority of Cuba and Centre of Supervision and Environmental Control. He said that he had heard about our breeding success with our Cuban Crocodiles and knew they were the pair given by Fidel Castro, to the cosmmonaut. He asked, as they were pure Crocodylus rhombifer, would we donate some of their offspring for their releasing project? At that moment, they only had about 100 pure adults 


Of course, I immediately responded that it would be a great honour to donate ten 2-year old crocodiles. We made an agreement with KLM Airlines that they would sponsor the transport of the crocodiles (not hand luggage this time!) and tickets for those accompanying them. This group included a filmmaker, who wanted to do a documentary for Swedish Televisi, a Cuban friend, my daughter and myself. One of the conditions of sponsorship was that we should mention KLM whenever possible, label the crocodile boxes with KLM logos, wear KLM caps, and so on. Just a few days before we were leaving, the KLM Director in Amsterdam became worried that if the crocodiles were to die during the transport it would reflect badly on KLM, so at the last minute they decided that we should not mention KLM at all! Once the new conditions were met, they kept the deal we travelled to Cuba on KLM.

We also encountered another small problem some weeks before leaving. On the Swedish CITES application, I stated that the animals were destined to be reintroduced into the wild. This caused an officer at the Swedish Environmental Agency (which is the scientific authority regarding CITES permits) to react. He had read all he could about Cuban Crocodiles and found out that until 1976 there were still problems with cross breeding with the American Crocodile. He noted that Castro and Hillary originally left Cuba in 1974, and wondered whether they were in fact hybrids. So he refused to give the clearance for the CITES permit! I presented several documents from three different biologists, attesting that they had full control over the two babies Castro had given to Vladimir Shatatolov in 1974, and agreed that they could test the offspring when they arrived. Was this the end? Of course not, why should an officer at the Swedish Environmental Agency trust his colleagues at the Cuban counterpart agency? Nothing happened until one evening when I had a phone call from the Swedish Board of Agriculture (the administrative CITES Authority and the one that produces the CITES certificate). They claimed that they had found a solution of the problem. They asked me if I could change the code on the application from N (for releasing project) to Z (which means Zoo to Zoo)? If we wanted to send some crocodile breeds to a Zoo it was nothing the Swedish Environmental Agency could act upon. The only condition being that the Cuban authorities would do the same on their import CITES. I sent the mail to Havana and it took them 30 seconds to reply ‘we will do anything that makes the Swedish bureaucrats sleep tonight’. (Their answer to the Swedish Board of Agriculture was more correct. Simply: Yes, no problem!) A few days later I was told by the Cuban Ambassador in Stockholm that he had been ordered from Havana to demand an explanation from the Swedish Foreign Office, why the Swedish Authorities did not trust their colleagues in Cuba. Perhaps that solved the problem!

Finally, in April 2015, everything was organised and we went to Havana. The story had a big media coverage with head lines such as ‘Fidel Castro’s Grandchildren Return’. The Swedish Ambassador made a statement saying that it was the funniest day during her trip to Cuba. The Director of the Cuban CITES said with a laugh that ‘we will put the crocodiles a few hours in Havana Zoo, before we take them to the reserve, so we will fulfil the Swedish CITES demands.’ It was such a big thing in Cuba that even Fidel Castro showed up the third day to see his ‘grandchildren’.

It feels very satisfying to have been involved with a project like this and I am very happy that the crocodiles have finally won over all these bureaucrats!

Since some years now the Heini Hediger award is presented to figures of the zoo and aquarium community for their outstanding contributions to the zoo and aquarium world together with a precious trophy – a ceramic golden and colour plated rhino. Often we were asked where this lovely rhino has been produced and here is the answer: De Rosa Collections is a family owned manufactory just outside Montevideo, Uruguay. Back in 1945, a young man, Jorge De Rosa Thompson, enrolled in the National school of ceramic design in Argentina. Besides developing his own business at the banks of the Rio de la Plata, he stayed at the school as professor. In 1956 he moved with his family across the river and opened his company in Uruguay. In 1996, after years of growth and success he handed over the business to his son, Jorge De Rosa Duo who built a new production plant and focused on artistic and elegant use of platinum, 18 karat gold, and vibrant enamel glazes in the creation of their hand-made ceramic figurines. Almost exclusively this company produces animals in various sizes and has also established relationships with zoos and aquariums worldwide. When I first came to know about these compelling ceramics their allure immediately let me think of a trophy for WAZA and the Heini Hediger award. And during a short visit in their studio I was fascinated to see the hand-made production by about 20 dedicated friendly workers, many of them being in the job for over 30 years. Agustina De Rosa, daughter and co-owner believes: “The aesthetic and sophisticated gilding have been brought together in distinguished designs that please both the eye and the heart.”
WAZA Members Help Tbilisi Zoo, Georgia

Shai Doron – The Biblical Zoo, Jerusalem

After the night of 13 to 14 June 2015, following the catastrophic flooding of the city of Tbilisi and its zoo, which resulted in the death of three members of zoo staff, and the escape and shooting of many of its animals, the Jerusalem Zoo put together an emergency assistance delegation with the assistance of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Nili Avni-Magen of the Jerusalem Zoo and Dr. Igal Horowitz of the Ramat Gan Safari Park (both WAZA member institutions) travelled to Tbilisi on the first available flight, 24 hours after the flooding disaster occurred to assist with efforts to re-capture and contain escaped animals, and make the facility safe for the staff and animals as the water receded.

By the time the delegation reached the Zoo 48 hours after the flood, most of the escaped animals had either been captured or shot by authorities. We assisted local veterinary staff by bringing much-needed medical supplies and by working with the Tbilisi Zoo staff to set up protocols to ensure the survival of the remaining animals. The most urgent task was to organize the removal of mud and to find and dispose of animal carcasses given the heat and humidity and the resulting risk of infectious diseases.

The Jerusalem Zoo has a long tradition in assisting and cooperating with other zoos around the world in varying circumstances, whether they are in need of immediate assistance or simply seeking to develop their expertise. In these dire circumstances, we felt it was our moral and professional duty to do whatever we could to help our traumatized colleagues in Tbilisi. We were heartened upon our arrival to find that colleagues from the Czech Republic, including the Prague Zoo, as well as from the Yerevan Zoo – a real testimony to the support of the international zoo community for its members. Also Moscow zoo provided two experts who helped to accommodate survived animals. In the words of Dr. Nili Avni-Magen – “Even though our visit was short, at the very least, it was important to provide moral support to our colleagues.”

The next stage will be to assist Tbilisi Zoo with plans for reconstruction which may involve moving the zoo to a new location. The Jerusalem Zoo remains willing to assist in any way possible in the future.

Miroslav Bobek – Director, Prague Zoo

On Sunday, June 14, at half past eleven in the morning, I have noticed in an internet news of Czech Radio the headline “The flood has engulfed Tbilisi and washed out the zoo, animals running on city streets.” The second half of it was later changed to even more dramatic headline “Carnivores, hippos and crocodiles run wild on the streets”. But even the first milder version reminded me of what we were facing two years ago. And it was obviously much worse in Tbilisi.

During the next few hours we exchanged hundreds of sms’s and held tens of phone calls. When we met in Prague Zoo at 4 pm, it was already clear that the next day we would send a support team led by Petr Velensky to Tbilisi. And we succeeded. On Monday, June 15, before 7 pm at Prague Airport, we said farewell to five curators and keepers from Prague Zoo, who were joined by one colleague from Zlin Zoo and another from Zoo Usti nad Labem.

On Saturday night an almost ten-metre-high wave of water, mud and debris swept through part of the Zoo, located in the Vera River Valley. Everything went so quickly that the Zoo director and his wife, who had arrived to control the situation, could not leave. After they left their car, they could not manage to escape the floodwaters and had to climb on the roof of one of the cages. Later they were rescued by boat. Three staff members of the Zoo died and many of its 600 animals – half of all the mammals there – fell victim to the catastrophe.

Step by step I learned from my colleagues how they were becoming involved. For example, out team was helping with cleaning of the penguins, who had survived under a car, although motor oil spilled on them. To remove it first they had to be covered by lukewarm plant oil, then washed in lukewarm water, then thoroughly washed with a sponge soaked in detergent, then again rinsed in water – and all of this had to be repeated once or twice again.

Unfortunately most of the news we were receiving described how our colleagues were wading through waist-deep mud and extinguating dead bears, lions, jaguars, monkeys, birds… It was very hard, dirty and depressing work. Many animals died in the deadly torrent, others were shot by soldiers. Their bodies were left buried in the mud and nothing seemed to confirm news reports about dangerous animals escaping to the town, the news headlines were exaggerated. But three days after the floods, just at the moment when our colleagues were looking for a cadaver of a white tiger in his cage flooded by mud, the same tiger attacked and killed a man in the town. Although the cage remained locked, the tiger, carried by water to the top, managed, with unbelievable strength, to pry open the bars of the cage’s ceiling and squeezed itself through a narrow slit to escape.

Gradually the huge mistakes which the army made became evident. The soldiers did not let the keepers continue their work and started thoughtlessly shooting the animals, even those, which were already immobile. Later the Zoo management did not receive any information, which no doubt contributed to the ensuing tragedy. The Georgian public is very well aware of it, the people organized a large protest to support the Zoo in front of the Government office.

The help of our team in Tbilisi was very important, both in reality and also in a symbolic way, and it aroused respect and gratitude. When still en route, Petr Velensky sent an sms from Warsaw Airport: “Before boarding the plane a Georgian came to me and said: Prague Zoo? Thank you! And he shook my hand even though I said nothing.” And this situation occurred again and again in many different ways. We can be proud of the work of our team, led by Petr Velensky – and speaking about Prague Zoo, I am happy that we are able to provide help, and not only accept it.
The Rocky Coast complex at the North Carolina Zoo opened in 1996 and contains exhibits for polar bears, seals, arctic foxes and arctic seabirds. The original polar bear exhibit consisted of a large 150,000 gallon pool with a relatively small land area surrounding it. The exhibit was designed to look like an Alaskan sea cliff with high artificial rock walls and a rocky beach bordering the pool. As was common at the time for polar bear exhibits, most of the exhibit space was given over to the pool, with relatively little land area and only a small digging area included.

The recently completed, much-expanded exhibit quadrupled the size of the original (original exhibit area = 700 square metres; combined new and old exhibit = 3000 square metres), which greatly exceeds the Manitoba Standards for polar bears (enclosures of 600 square metres for two bears with an additional 200 square metres for each additional bear). The new exhibit includes a substantial amount of natural soil substrate and is heavily planted with trees and shrubs to which the bears have full physical access.

The exhibit expansion includes 70 square metres of additional off-exhibit holding rooms (three rooms), a quarantine area of 100 square metres and a maternity den and yard of 155 square metres. This is in addition to the 70 square metres of pre-existing holding rooms, for a total of over 395 square metres of off exhibit space. On most days the bears will have access to all these spaces in addition to the exhibit areas, as it is the North Carolina Zoo’s philosophy and practice to provide maximum choice to its polar bears and not exclude them out of any available spaces.

The new area compliments the original, swimming pool-dominated exhibit by adding a spacious terrestrial domain for the bears to use and explore. Layers of soft soil cover much of the interior, giving the bears places to dig, or stretch out on the cool earth. A customized sleeping den faces the exhibit’s large glass windows in the Ice Cave viewing area. The den’s interior opens up as a cave for the bears to find shade and shelter. The den’s exterior forms a mound and is set into a hillside for climbing and a platform for the bears to use to survey the surrounding area. To keep the bears cool in the summer, a hollow, hand-crafted rock containing air conditioning coils to cool it is positioned just inside the viewing glass of the Ice Cave.

The new holding complex is connected to the old facility by a transfer chute that allows access to either the old exhibit itself or old holding. With this arrangement, a bear can be transferred into or out of either exhibit and into or out of holding dens in both the new and old facility. Cameras allow keepers to monitor all the stalls and transfer chutes from a central location. Cameras also give keepers complete views of both exhibits and the outdoor yards so that bears can be located by sight anywhere in the complex.

Visitors see the exhibit from three vantage points, across a moat, inside Piper’s Den (an interpretive building). The Ice Cave (280 square metres) provides an introduction to the arctic environment, setting the scene of ice as the natural habitat of polar bears. A mural of this icy habitat greets visitors as they enter the cooled Ice Cave with images of pack ice over the custom designed terrazzo floor and up the painted walls to a far horizon to illustrate the expanse and scale of the Arctic Ocean. A 90-inch monitor takes up most of one wall showing authentic footage of wild polar bears playing, sparring, wandering and leaping on the sea ice that sustains them. Further inside the cave, a small stream of water tumbles down out of ice blue walls. The fountain replicates the way meltwater looks and sounds as it works its way through a glacier. Graphics support the murals and sculptures inside the Ice Cave. Messages focus on polar bear natural history to explain how they use their frozen sea ice habitat.
Expansions Aid Breeding Down Under

In April 2015, Perth Zoo (Western Australia) reopened a small zone in the centre of its site featuring Goodfellow’s tree kangaroo (Dendrolagus goodfellowi buergersi) and the Southern cassowary (Casuarius casuarius johnsonii) following redevelopment of these exhibits.

The refurbishments mean that Perth Zoo can increase its breeding groups of both species – a regional program in the case of cassowary and global for the tree kangaroo – and improve visibility and education opportunities for visitors to learn more about these iconic endangered species of the Australasian region.

The expanded, connected rainforest exhibits will allow staff to emulate wild annual patterns and introduce or isolate the cassowary throughout the year. Staff will monitor the behaviour of the sole male and two females to help learn more about mate-selection in the species. It has also provided an opportunity to construct a fully glassed secondary viewing area where interpretation focusses on the threat processes affecting the estimated 1000 Southern cassowary left in the wild.

The primary viewing area – a timber walkway through towering trees – is shared with the cassowary’s immediate neighbours, the tree kangaroos. A new male has recently arrived from Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary in Queensland for introduction to Perth’s existing two females.

Perth Zoo has long enjoyed a relationship with the “Tenkile Tree Kangaroo Alliance” in Papua New Guinea and contributes raised funds to recovery efforts in the wild. Similarly, it supports “Rainforest Rescue’s” – Save the Cassowary campaign – helping to fund their habitat restoration, rehabilitation and research activity.

Sungazer (Smaug giganteus) conservation efforts in their native country of South Africa are well underway and our understanding of this species’ biology and conservation requirements are now advanced. Habitat loss is of course a major threat, but so is trade. While the species has been traded for many years, we are now realising that it is unlikely that any of the so-called breeders have indeed bred these lizards in captivity. We have yet to find any conclusive evidence of captive breeding of this species and certainly none at any market we have visited. It is very likely that if you have imported this species, those individuals were collected from the wild or pregnant females collected and gave birth in captivity. We are working with local captive facilities to demonstrate “real” captive breeding and we urge all prospective buyers of sungazers to be equally cautious.

The international trade in reptiles is unfortunately inundated with illegal and underground transactions, which pose serious threats to wild populations. The Endangered Wildlife Trust is focussing on addressing the threat that illegal trade poses to sungazers. Sungazers are sought after by traditional medicine trade. They are listed as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List (although this is likely to be uplisted with findings from current research), on South Africa’s Threatened or Protected Species List and are CITES Appendix II listed, meaning that anyone who so much as touches a sungazer needs a permit to do so and trading in or killing them without a permit will result in criminal prosecution.

Linked to this, we have begun the process of establishing a non-detriment finding assessment in accordance with CITES II requirements. The non-detriment finding result was that trade does have a detrimental impact on the wild population and the South African Scientific Authority has signed off on the document; this is currently in the process of being formally gazetted and will result in any so-called breeding facility having to prove F2 generation prior to receiving any export permits. If you are thinking of purchasing sungazers, please be sure to carefully crosscheck the sellers’ credentials and permits. For further information, please contact Ian Little ianl@ewt.org.za; chairman, Sungazer Working Group) or Bradley Gibbons bradleyg@ewt.org.za; secretary, Sungazer Working Group).

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Goodfellow’s tree kangaroo.

© Perth Zoo
Rainforest exhibits.

© Perth Zoo
Goodfellow’s tree kangaroo.

© Perth Zoo
Rainforest exhibits.

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Sungazer.
Zoo-supported Project Receives “Green Oscar”

Arnaud Desbiez – Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Campo Grande, Brazil

The Whitley Award will enable Arnaud Desbiez to expand conservation efforts from the Pantanal – the largest continuous wetland in the world – to the Cerrado biome, a plateau of tropical scrubland, gallery and dry forests. This biome is Brazil’s second largest ecosystem after the Amazon rainforest and has the richest flora among the world’s savannahs. Yet, only 2.2% of the Cerrado is under legal protection and deforestation rates here are even higher than in the Amazon. In 2009, over 50% of the ecosystem has been transformed into pasture or agricultural lands planted with cash crops such as soy and sugar cane. Here, Arnaud Desbiez and his team will collect data to support the creation of a network of protected areas and tackle threats to the species’ survival. In his acceptance speech, Arnaud Desbiez said: “I am so grateful to the many zoos that have come together to fund our work.” Since 2010, the project has received funding from the following institutions: Association Beauval Nature, Association Française des Parcs Zoologiques (AFdPZ), Association Jean-Marc Richard pour la Conservation, Bergen County Zoo, Brevard Zoo, Cerza Zoo, Chester Zoo, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Conservation des Espèces et des Populations Animales (CEPA), Disney’s Club Penguin Coins For Change, Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund (DWCF), Fresno Chaffee Zoo Wildlife Conservation Fund, Houston Zoo, Idea Wild, Oklahoma City Zoo, Minnesota Zoo, Nashville Zoo, Natural Research (MMA), Papoose Conservation Wildlife Foundation, Phoenix Zoo, Prince Bernhard Nature Fund, Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), Sea World Busch Gardens, Taronga Zoo, Taiwan Forestry Bureau, Wroclaw Zoo, Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOC) and its partners Chita Zoo, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens, Sacramento Zoo, Salisbury Zoo –Chesapeake AAZK, Greenville Zoo, San Antonio Zoo and Aquarium and Reid Park Zoo Teen Volunteers. Arnaud Desbiez is one of seven individuals to have been awarded in the 2015 Whitley Awards. A video of the project narrated by David Attenborough can be seen at YouTube.

The current distribution of the Critically Endangered Siamese Crocodile (Crocodylus siamensis) is strongly diminished and fragmented. Extant wild populations exist in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Thailand. In Laos a severe decline in range and abundance has occurred and now the species, which is classified “at Risk” in this country, is rare or locally extinct (Bezuijen et al. 2012, 2013). During recent field research in Laos we got aware of a Siamese crocodile population nearby Ban Soc, Bualapha District, Khammouane Province. From this province only two unconfirmed records were reported from another river system long time ago. Our recent crocodile sighting thus represents a so far not reported population of the Siamese crocodile from Khammouane and the proof that the species has persisted in this province. Now, a first population assessment is being processed by our team as well as genetic analyses to support the discovery of a natural population and to provide a basis for further conservation measures such as potential restocking of genetically wild C. siamensis of local provenance. We are also engaging to establish a provincial protected area to secure this currently unprotected population.

This discovery is dedicated to our colleague and friend Ralf Sommerlad, the senior founder of WAZA Project 10007, who passed away on 22 June 2015.

The Whitley Award, a prestigious international nature conservation prize, to Arnaud Desbiez at a ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society in London in April 2015, in honour of his work to conserve the rarely sighted giant armadillo in Brazil. This “Green Oscar” rewards the Giant Armadillo Conservation Project, which has been funded almost exclusively by zoos (80% of project funding). Despite being one of the oldest mammal species on earth – in effect a living fossil – very few people will ever spot a giant armadillo (Priodontes maximus) in the wild. Until recently, not many people were aware that the species even existed, and most of the information about it was anecdotal. However, since Arnaud Desbiez, a former zoo keeper now working for the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, founded the Giant Armadillo Conservation Project in 2010 and started a long-term ecological study of the species, new information about parenting behaviour and their role as “ecosystem engineers” has emerged. Thanks to a National Zoo Association, over 100,000 people have now been directly engaged in an awareness-raising campaign. More impressive yet is that authorities in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul have selected the giant armadillo as an indicator species for the creation of protected areas. A species few know of five years ago will now be championing habitat conservation measures.

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Assessing the Genetic Diversity of Red Pandas

The red panda (Ailurus fulgens) is a charismatic, beautiful but threatened flagship species addressing Himalayan conservation issues. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species lists the conservation status of red pandas as vulnerable, with an estimated population of less than 10,000 adult individuals surviving in the wild. This status is currently under review. The species is elusive and sightings are particularly rare due to its low densities, biology and inaccessibility of its habitat. Most of the previous work on their status has been based on counting their scats. Scats, but also hair or urine (in snow), are sources of DNA and enable conservationists and researchers to draw various valuable conclusions in assessing the status of a target species.

Located at the conservation genetics group of the Senckenberg Research Institute, our international project aims to establish a non-invasive genetic monitoring scheme for the genetic assessment of both zoo and wild red panda populations, carried out using the same methodological framework. In close cooperation with the Red Panda Network, we will create a reliable genetic marker system to establish a link between the wild and zoo populations. This procedure will be part of a PhD project carried out by Damber Bista located at the Central Department of Zoology, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.

A first strategic goal will be to integrate genetic data from laboratory analysis into the international studbook to improve long-term population management. The current global zoo population of Nepalese red pandas (A. f. fulgens) can largely be traced back to individuals import ed into Europe and the USA in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Although all red pandas can be traced back to their founders, we do not know if these founders were related – currently, all analyses of the zoo population treat the founders as unrelated animals. Therefore, until now there are no undisputed data on the real genetic diversity within the zoo population. The longer this situation remains unchanged, the greater the chance that the zoo population could suffer from negative effects of in-breeding or a founder effect. In order to fulfill the full suite of requirements for a viable zoo population, it must be demographically robust, genetically representative of the wild and able to sustain these characteristics for the foreseeable future. The studbook analysis will be carried out by Florian Schafer as a Master’s thesis in the study programme “International Nature Conservation” at the Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany, supported by WWF Germany. The main results will be better information about the number of founders, effective population size, inbreeding and genetic diversity, all derived from molecular data.

Linking the populations will be the primary step through providing accurate information about the origins of the zoo population to evaluate whether the existing zoo population could provide possible donors for reintroduction or supplementation in the wild. As red pandas in zoos provide the perfect experimental opportunity to test best-practice protocols for source, quality and quantity of samples and collection protocol, the findings will sustain our goal to establish a genetic marker system.

Reintroduction of the Longhorn Beetle

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The newly hatched beetles are very active and quickly begin to mate. The female will lay her eggs in the thick bark of the oak and the larva eats its way into the inner bark. Just as quickly as they came, they will be gone again. Plagionotus detritus only lives as the fully formed beetle for a couple of weeks. The larva has a development period of one or two years before it pupates. The exact period is depending on weather conditions and availability of food under the bark. Prior to pupation, the larva will bore into the thick bark of the outermost sapwood and create a pupal chamber. After two weeks as a pupa, it hatches as a fully formed beetle.

In 2014, the ex situ population of Plagionotus detritus reached new heights, with a record number of 130 beetles being hatched at the breeding facility and these beetles colonised over 30 oak logs. After years of modifying the rearing technique, the time has come to reintroduce the species. Reintroduction will initially take place at the historical localities in Uppland (Båtfors area) and Småland (Strömsrum). In these areas, the habitat has been restored in accordance with the Action Plan by the County Administrative Board of Uppsala and Kalmar. The reintroduction is done by moving oak wood colonised by the beetle’s larvae from the breeding facility at Nordens Ark to the reintroduction sites. The logs are placed near giant oak trees, so that when the beetles hatch they will be close to an oak stem suitable for egg laying. The long-term goal of the project is that there should be viable populations of Plagionotus detritus in at least five Swedish landscapes and that the species is taken off the Swedish Red List.

The Bali Starling Conservation Project, one of Begawan Foundation’s first initiatives, commenced in 2000 with the objective to rescue this endangered bird from the edge of extinction and to restore healthy populations of the bird to the wild. The major problem facing the bird’s repopulation is theft, both from official breeding facilities and from the wild. The key to the success of the project is conservation and environmental awareness – formal and informal education programmes in both the student and the adult local community are being undertaken by the Bali Starling Conservation Project. The most recent releases by Jane Goodall in June and Ban Ki Moon in August 2014 are a vindication that we are on the right track, that our goals are achievable.

Staff and management, at the request of the local community, have commenced education programmes in local community schools, and will continue to work with the local banjar to give them the necessary awareness and further build their sense of ownership for the increase in numbers of the wild population of Bali starlings. Awareness by means of education programmes is a “must”. It is essential that any education programme be experiential, where the children are assisted to find solutions to problems rather than being given answers. The key to the success of the project is the involvement and the participation of the local community, beginning with the children.

Begawan Foundation’s current site is in a small village in central Bali, adjacent to an international school with a focus on green studies. Local villages are divided into smaller banjar (smallest unit of traditional village organisation in Bali) to which all members of the community belong. The kepala desa (village chief) and the king of this area are responsible for ensuring that local village law is adhered to. Since 2012, there have been four local releases of Bali starlings, and a programme of education and awareness is being undertaken in the schools and community.

The Bali Starling Conservation Project, commissioned to breed the birds and restore them to the wild. Poaching is a direct threat to the continued existence of the Bali starling. After failed attempts by a number of organisations, it was clear that the birds would not be adequately protected at the national park in west Bali and a different restoration site would be necessary. Between 1999 and 2003, 49 birds were bred at a resort near Ubud, belonging to the founders. In 2006 and 2007, several releases were undertaken on Nusa Penida, a small island southeast of mainland Bali. In 2010, Begawan Foundation moved its birds and all enclosures back to mainland Bali to start a new breeding and release programme.

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There are currently 132 active international studbooks (ISBs), including 167 species or sub-species (nine ISBs cover more than one taxon). The following events regarding ISBs have occurred since 1 April 2015:

- **ISBs archived**
  - None.
- **ISBs established**
  - None.
- **Transfer of ISBs to new keepers**
  - None.
- **Transfer of ISBs to new institutions**
  - On 27 April 2015, CPM approved the transfer of the clouded leopard (Neofelis nebulosa) ISB, kept by Bonnie Breitbeil, to Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo (USA).

The WAZA annual conference will take place at the Danat Al Ain Resort Pearl Ballroom. For registration and accommodation booking please visit the WAZA website.

The general theme of the conference:

**Zoos and Aquariums making a difference in Conservation and Animal welfare – 80 Years of Zoo and Aquarium Leadership**

**Keynote Speakers:**

- **Steve Burns**, Director Zoo Boise and incoming chair of AZA Board of Directors, USA
  - *How to become the greatest force for conservation in the world*
- **Heather J. Bacon**, Veterinary Welfare Education and Outreach Manager, Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education, The University of Edinburgh, UK
  - *Zoo Animal Welfare: The cornerstone of successful conservation*
- **Tom de Meulenae**, CITES Secretariat, Switzerland: Wildlife trade: How WAZA can support CITES

**Panel Discussion on Current Challenges, moderated by Jenny Gray:**

Steve Burns, Heather Bacon, Rick Baronji, Susan Hunt, Lee Ehmke, Ghanim Al Hajeri, Tom de Meulenae

WAZA Membership as of 31st August 2015

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<td>Life and Honorary members</td>
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WAZA Executive Office Contacts

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WAZA Membership as of 31st August 2015

- **Associations**: 22
- **Institutions**: 188
- **Affiliates**: 15
- **Corporates**: 36
- **Life and Honorary members**: 111

**Future WAZA Conference Venues**

- **2016**: African Safari, Puebla, Mexico | 9–13 October 2016
- **2017**: Barcelona, Spain | 15–19 October 2017
- **2018**: Bangkok, Thailand | 21–25 October 2018
- **2019**: Buenos Aires, Argentina (date to be confirmed)

**New WAZA Members**

- **Randers Regnskov**, Tropical Zoo | Denmark as institutional member
- **Ray Hole Architects** | UK as institutional member

**New Directors**

- **Carol Kruse** has been appointed Director at Zoo Miami, USA
- **Dinara Kurmanbayeva** has been appointed Director at Almaty Zoo, Kazakhstan
- **Piar Chand** has been appointed Director at PNHZ Park Darjeeling, India
- **Beth Heidorn** has been appointed Executive Director at Racine Zoo, USA
- **Timothy Morrow** has been appointed new CEO/Executive Director at San Antonio Zoo, USA
- **Kyle Burks** has been appointed Director at Sacramento Zoo, USA
- **Matthias Reinschmidt** has been appointed Director at Zoo Karlsruhe, Germany
- **Federico Coccia** replaced Paolo Giuntarelli at Bioparco di Roma, Italy
- **Shinichiro Maki** replaced Kenichiro Nohara as Director at SEA Aquarium, Singapore
- **Doug Piekarcz** has been appointed Director at Akron Zoo, USA
- **Mats Höggren** replaces Lena Lindén at Nordens Ark, Sweden
- **Adrian Penny** has been appointed Director at SEA Aquarium, Singapore
New institutional member

Randers Regnskov, Tropical Zoo, Denmark

- Sponsors:
  - Richard Østerballe (Zootopia, Givskud Zoo), Henrik Johansen (Aalborg Zoo)
- Founded: 1996
- Area: 2.3 hectares
- Collection:
  - Mammals: 38 species, 2655 specimens
  - Birds: 36 species and 225 specimens
  - Reptiles: 41 species, 139 specimens
  - Amphibians: 7 species, 2103 specimens
  - Fishes: 80 species, 135 specimens
  - Invertebrates: 27 species, 130 000 specimens
- Staff: 43 permanent, 44 temporary
- Visitors: 264 000 paying, 80 000 free
- Owned by:
  - Self owned company/Foundation
- Director: Henrik Herold
- Member of: DAZA, EAZA
- Address: Toervebryggeb 11, Randers, 8900, Denmark

The Randers Regnskov translates to The Randers Rainforest, located just minutes from the city centre of Randers. The zoo is a mainly indoor tropical zoo facility focusing on giving the visitor an experience of being in the real rainforest. The exhibits, in the three domes, are naturalistic and immersive with numerous free roaming animals of all groups registered. Each dome focuses on a continent being either Asia, South America or Africa.

The zoo is approved by the Danish government, and acts under the standards set by the ministry of Culture. The Zoo was screened and approved in 2013 by EAZA. The zoo is an active member of the captive breeding efforts in EAZA (EEP) and holds two studbooks. We have a very strong focus on conservation participating in the international efforts in the framework of EAZA, as well as our own programmes in the rainforests of Amazonian Ecuador.

We play an active role in educating our visitors, as well as having a special focus on children by operating an educational department. We participate actively in the zoo community as the director is chairman of DAZA (2nd term) and has been a member of the EAZA council.

www.regnskoven.dk

New corporate member

Ray Hole Architects, United Kingdom

- Sponsors:
  - David Field (ZSL London Zoo), James Cretny (Marwell Wildlife)
- Founded: 23 June 2006
- Director: Mr Ray Hole
- Member of: Corporate Member (EAZA, BIAZA)
- Address: 9th Floor, 69 Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 1JD, UK
- Telephone: +44 (0) 208 662 4600

Ray Hole Architects are an award winning architectural practice working predominantly within the leisure industry. One of the core areas of our business is wildlife and zoological parks, where we have developed a growing international reputation. RHA regularly represent the UK on specialist trade missions abroad and are members of international trade bodies such as British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA), BALPPA, IAAPA, EAZA AND UK India Business Council. Ray Hole is also a past president of the TEA.

In addition to our professional skills and experience, the key overriding benefit is how we approach each project. We start with an open mind, absorbing ideas from any source. We like to work very closely with the client team, reviewing progress at regular intervals to ensure that continual development of ideas is consistent with the client’s needs and aspirations. It is this iterative process, harnessing the collective talents, that provides the best chance of a successful, world class project.

www.rayhole-architects.com
A fun and educational free App packed full of useful information with links to social media for global impact.

- Discover 400 different animal species
- Test new knowledge in biodiversity games
- Be inspired with a new action everyday
- Discover how Zoos and Aquariums are conserving biodiversity

Download the App

We are a private, full owner sponsored institution. We have highly educated and trained staffs with 3 full time veterinarians, biologists and trained staff that work well together to ensure the animals and plants we have are well cared for. We are successful breeders of endangered and difficult to breed species. We have never sold any of our animals, however we do allow for animals to go on breeding loans to other institutions for the benefit of the species. We take part in ex-situ and in-situ conservation projects and we allow school visits to our facilities as well as internships for persons interested in the field all free of charge.

We collaborate with Universities and other conservation organisations that can benefit projects and species. We are members of EAZA and hold the Vice-chair position at the AAZA. We have a strong work ethic and Al Wabra has continued to move forward with husbandry and conservation standards over the last 16 years, improving greatly as we go. We feel that our institution will be able to add good merit to the WAZA community and we look forward to learning from and contributing to WAZA and all its members.

© Gerald Dick
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus banksii samueli).

© Gerald Dick
Addax Antelope (Addax nasomaculatus).