

# AGENDA

## WAZA Mid-year Meeting 2026

### Day 1 - Wednesday, 17 June 2026

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<b>9:00 - 9:05</b> (CEST)	<b>Opening of 2026 WAZA Mid-Year Meeting</b>
<b>9:05 - 9:15</b> (CEST)	<b>Opening Address by WAZA President</b> David Field, WAZA President, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland CEO
<b>9:15 - 9:25</b> (CEST)	<b>WAZA CEO Updates</b> Martín Zordan, WAZA CEO
<b>9:25 - 10:05</b> (CEST)	<b>Day 1 Keynote: Leading Beyond Today: Succession Planning to Build Resilient Institutions</b> Sujata Biswas, Mercer Sr. Principal Talent and Transformation Lead
<b>10:05 - 10:25</b> (CEST)	<b>Succession Planning</b>
<b>10:25 - 10:40</b> (CEST)	<b>EAZA Academy</b> April Adams, EAZA Director of Member Development
<b>10:40 - 10:55</b> (CEST)	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:55 - 11:00</b> (CEST)	<b>Welcome Back</b>
<b>11:00 - 11:30</b> (CEST)	<b>Future Proofing our Sector. Attract, develop and retain for a resilient and thriving membership</b> Nicola Craddock, Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia (ZAA) Executive Director; Mandy Prestage, Hobart Zoo & Aquarium General Manager
<b>11:30 - 12:00</b> (CEST)	<b>Building Conservation Education Leadership: IZE's Emerging Leaders Mentoring Programme</b> Colleen Cavanaugh, Auckland Zoo Conservation Learning and Community Engagement Manager; Sarah Thomas, Auckland Zoo Head of Conservation Advocacy and Engagement
<b>12:00 - 12:55</b> (CEST)	<b>Convos with CEOs</b> Moderator: David Field, WAZA President, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland CEO Speakers: Katy Duke, The Deep CEO; Leslie Mudimeli, SANBI - National Zoological Gardens South Africa Executive Director; Phil Ainsley, Zoos South Australia Chief Executive
<b>12:55 - 13:00</b> (CEST)	<b>Closing of Day 1</b>

## Day 2 - Thursday, 18 June 2026

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<b>19:00 - 19:05</b> (CEST)	<b>Opening of Day 2</b>
<b>19:05 - 19:45</b> (CEST)	<b>Day 2 Keynote - Destination Preferred Future: Our Climb from the Summit to the Peak</b> Dr Ken Chandler, Quest Strategic Solutions, LLC Chief Potential Officer
<b>19:45 - 20:10</b> (CEST)	<b>Internal Leadership Programme</b> André Stadler, Alpenzoo Director and CEO; Laura Ganner, Alpenzoo Innsbruck - Tirol Curator of mammals
<b>20:10 - 20:25</b> (CEST)	<b>An Introduction to the Keeper Educational Exchange Programme</b> Alice Vassallo, Keeper Educational Exchange Programme (KEEP) Director
<b>20:25 - 20:45</b> (CEST)	<b>ALPZA Academy</b>
<b>20:45 - 21:00</b> (CEST)	<b>Break</b>
<b>21:00 - 21:05</b> (CEST)	<b>Welcome Back</b>
<b>21:05 - 21:35</b> (CEST)	<b>Professional Trainings Programmes – AZA</b> Kari Hart, Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Director, Professional Development and Education; Charles Hopper, Santa Barbara Zoo President & CEO
<b>21:35 - 22:00</b> (CEST)	<b>The WAZA Advantage: Tools for Today, Leadership for Tomorrow</b>
<b>22:00 - 22:50</b> (CEST)	<b>Convos with CEOs</b> Moderator: David Field, WAZA President, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland CEO Speakers: Friederike von Houwald, Bern Animal Park Director; Jennifer Driban, National Aquarium Interim President and CEO; Luis Soto Rendon, Zoologico Guadalajara CEO and Director General
<b>22:50 - 23:00</b> (CEST)	<b>Closing Speech by WAZA President</b> David Field, WAZA President, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland CEO