

Report of Associations Committee

64th Annual WAZA Meeting, St. Louis, 5 October 2009, 7:30-9:30 pm

The first official meeting of the Associations Committee as a WAZA Committee began with welcoming participants. Each was asked to introduce themselves and their region or country and describe in just 2-3 words their expectations of this new committee.

Names and Associations represented

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Gerald Dick, WAZA

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Jerry Borin, WAZA Council

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Joerg Junhold, WAZA Council

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Expectations

- Improved collaboration
- Improved communication
- Information support and collaboration
- Global information collaboration
- Prevention of duplication
- Creation of global zoo family
- More efforts
- Understanding
- Broader inclusion
- Enlightenment
- Clear liaison
- Way forward
- Global cooperation
- Rock solid cooperation
- Information sharing
- Clear expectations of WAZA
- Cooperation, transparency, equality

Approval/Revision of Draft objectives of the Associations Committee

Kris Vehrs had provided a beginning with the following :

- To provide a setting for Associations to share issues of concern from their regions.
- To discuss important WAZA initiatives
- To gather feedback and input on key WAZA initiatives and issues

Participants decided to revise the proposed objectives based on the expectations listed above. Sally and Kris will work on a revision and circulate it to participants for their views.

Proposed review of Adelaide Associations Meeting Report was put aside as everyone had read the Report along with the Agenda topics sent around by email and agreed there was no need for a review.

Need for review by regions of WAZA Resolutions

Before resolutions are brought to WAZA for adoption, they should first be sent to Regional Associations for their review and comments to WAZA. WAZA Council should consider

and incorporate proposed changes, if acceptable, and then bring the resolution to the General meeting for adoption. Once adopted, resolutions should be communicated to the Regional Associations for circulation to their members. This new proposal has been approved by WAZA Council.

WAZA Council requests to Associations

a. WAZA branding

There having been adequate discussion on branding, Gerald encouraged all participants to send good stories of projects to WAZA for use in marketing.

b. Statistics on zoos

There is a need for collective data on economic impact, number of visitors, conservation funding, etc. of zoos for a global view of the status of zoos and what they do. This will be useful to all zoos when being interviewed by the press, for their promotional brochures, etc. Participants agreed that the collection of this data is important and they would participate. Gerald Dick will circulate his requests over the Association's list serve.

c. Draft Agreement on relationship between WAZA and Associations

There was general discussion on whether or not agreements were needed between WAZA and its Regional Association members. There were varied opinions and no consensus among the participants. Some believed that there was no need for an agreement, as such. Others felt that it is a requirement of Regional Associations being members of WAZA to share WAZA resolutions with their members. Others believed that there is no clear expectation for Regional Associations and that perhaps a Bylaws change was needed or a Memorandum of Understanding

between each Regional Association and WAZA.

WAZA is particularly interested in how to merge the work plans of WAZA and the Regional Associations so that we are all working at capacity and not duplicating each others efforts.

Regional associations want better communication with and from WAZA and requested that the Association's list-serve be reinvigorated.

CITES

a. Discussion of who is attending upcoming COP

There was general discussion on which Associations might be attending. As of the present AZA was the only organization sending representatives to the CITES Conference of the Parties in March 2010.

b. CITES definition of "bred in captivity"

Lesley Dickie will circulate a proposal from Sarah Christie regarding a revision of the definition.

International Congress of Zookeepers ICZ

ICZ rapid response project "Keepers without Borders" and Crisis protocol for all zoos

Gordon Reid and Sally Walker attended this meeting as invited speakers. Shane Goode, President of ICZ and AAZK (American Association of Zookeepers) is the president of the **International Congress of Zookeepers ICZ**. ICZ is interested in becoming an affiliate organization of WAZA. ICZ plans to make a presentation to the WAZA Council at its March 2010 meeting. ICZ will have a workshop to create their strategic plan, graciously sponsored by the Chester Zoo. The focus of ICZ in 2010 will be health, safety and environment in zoos. In addition, ICZ is interested in creating a Rapid Response team to assist in

crisis. The idea is to create a team that could fly into an area and help out zoos or aquariums in need.

AZCARM (Mexican association) has developed a 10-day course focused on safety and security designed for zookeepers. The first offering of this course will be at Africam Safari in November 2009 with 90 participants. One of the topics that will be discussed there will be developing a crisis protocol. AZCARM offered the curriculum for this course to anyone who would like to use it in their region.

WAZA Zoo Improvement Tools available on WAZA website

Sally reminded the participants that documents such as a WAZA Assessment Tool, a complaint procedure, etc. are on the WAZA website. She will circulate all of them to Associations also.

World Zoo and Aquarium Field Conservation Database

Lesley Dickie introduced the progress of the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Database. An MoU has been drafted between EAZA, WAZA, and CBSG Europe for transferring the EAZA database to WAZA for the benefit of the entire zoo and aquarium community. A management board (comprised of regional representatives) and a technical board will be developed to ensure the globalization of this database. Until now, EAZA has paid for the development of the database. The next step is for discussion and agreement on future funding. A staff position would be necessary (based at CBSG Europe) for quality control and for the development of a public area website to use the database for marketing purposes and also to stimulate further funding of conservation initiatives.

There was discussion by the participants that associations annual budget funds to ensure future financing. EAZA has committed 10,000 Euros a year for this purpose. Individual member institutions could also be approached for funding. An MoU for this also will be needed. EAZA and CBSG will develop a 5-year business plan and strategy for the database to be circulated to WAZA and WAZA member associations.

As time and energy were up, Sally Walker thanked participants for their attendance and input, and Kris Vehrs for taking notes. Sally also agreed to serve as Chair of the Associations Committee for an appropriate period and thanked Gerald and the meeting for same.

Training Announcement

Training courses are offered by Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo. They have enhanced course offerings and developed new partnerships to provide better opportunities in training. Over the next several years their course offerings will increase dramatically for undergraduate students and conservation professionals. They will update their website every couple of months. www.conservationtraining.si.edu and email updated course information periodically. They are developing a new 'green' training complex to meet the training demands, with modern lab space and distance learning capabilities. Questions emailed to zootraining@si.edu. Courses offered in 2010:

- . Effective conservation leadership
- . Amphibian conservation
- . Experimental design and statistics
- . Conservation conflict resolution
- . Additional courses may be offered and courses may change.