

Update on International Studbooks

Markus Gusset, WAZA Executive Office

International studbooks are to provide a valuable service to the zoological community, offering the most complete and accurate global data on an *ex situ* populations pedigree and demography, where possible including husbandry and veterinary guidance, thus enhancing the management of the population through analysis of the studbook data.

The studbook data should be made available to the zoo and aquarium community in the most useful and globally compatible format. The pedigree and demographic history of a specifically defined taxon is maintained by a studbook keeper. In most cases, staff of WAZA member institutions serves as studbook keepers.

International studbooks are kept under the auspices of WAZA. Within WAZA the international studbook programme is overseen by the Committee on Population Management and is coordinated by a nominated employee at the WAZA Executive Office, in collaboration with the International Species Information System (ISIS). The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) regularly publishes an updated list of current international studbooks in the *International Zoo Yearbook*.

As of March 2010, there were 119 active international studbooks, including 158 species and/or sub-species. In addition, at its 2003 Annual Meeting, WAZA adopted a procedure for establishing interregional programmes, which may concern a number of species for which international studbooks have been established. These programmes, called Global Species Management Programmes (GSMPs), currently exist for elephants (both African and Asian), Java gibbon, okapi and Sumatran tiger.

The International Studbook Coordinator at the WAZA Executive Office (markus.gusset@waza.org) advises on how to establish a new international studbook or GSMP, on the procedures to follow when a studbook keeper changes institutions or intends to resign from his or her duties, and on any other issues related to international studbooks and GSMPs.

Resource manuals for keepers of international studbooks and GSMPs are currently in preparation. An up-to-date list of all international studbook keepers, including contact details, can be found in the Member Area of the WAZA website (www.waza.org).



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