

## Announcement

### The Zoological Park, a new ally for Biodiversity

**The Zoological Park, a new ally for Biodiversity is a very useful addition to the literature for improving zoos worldwide through legislation. It is a guide for the application of a law passed in 2003 regarding conservation of wildlife in Spanish zoos. It was a Spanish transposition of Council Directive 1999/22/EC (European Communities), Government of Spain, and now brought out in English to help other countries.**

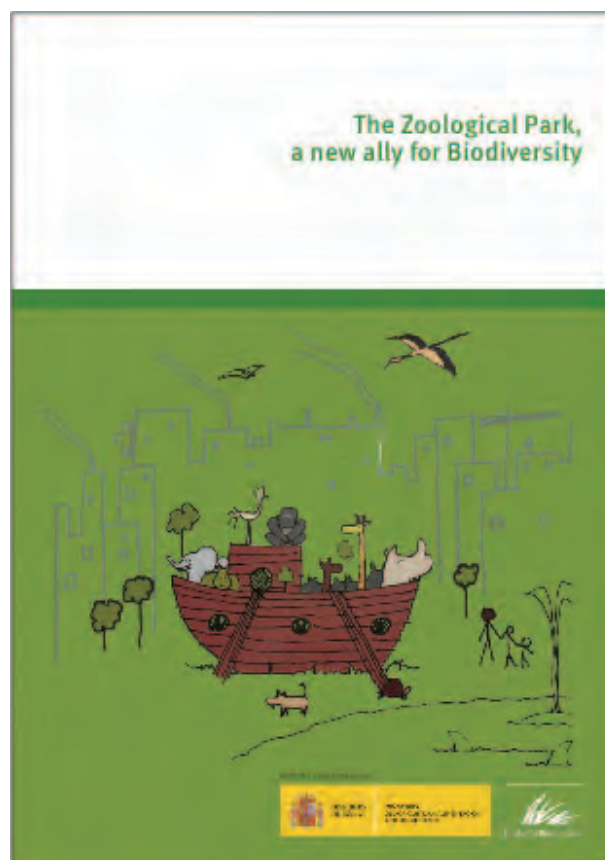
The guide book explains that the Zoos Directive mentioned above gives a mandate to zoos to "become true partners in the conservation of biodiversity". It makes available tools for both professionals and public, e.g., people involved in making that partnership a legal, technical and ethical reality. It also includes inspection, legislation, conservation and welfare among other important aspects of the zoological park activity.

Zoo Outreach Organisation was approached with a free e-copy of the book and immediately requested permission to circulate it. Recently we emailed hundreds of copies to zoos and various zoo personnel and related personnel. After reading about the book in this announcement and would like to have it, please write to [zooreach@zooreach.org](mailto:zooreach@zooreach.org) or to the Dr. Vanessa Herranz Muñoz, [vherranz@bastetconservation.org](mailto:vherranz@bastetconservation.org) Bastet Conservation.

The first edition (2006) was much appreciated and considered a unique document for its thorough coverage of the subject and balanced treatment of different points of view. The second updated edition was published in 2010 (Spanish version) and sparked interest globally. Now, the current version (English) has been brought out to stimulate interest and to be shared with the international zoo community.

The book is web-based. It is brought out by Bastet Conservation, an NGO, the authors (Myriam Rodríguez-Guerra and Federico Guillén Salazar) and the Biodiversity Foundation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Spain. The collaborators hope that the English edition will provide useful and effective advice for application of the Directive and for further global zoological park activity towards the conservation of biodiversity.

The fact that the Forward to this book has been written by the Minister of Environment, Spain (2004-2008), Cristina



Narbona Ruiz says a great deal more than what is in print. Clearly the government takes the Council Directive as well as biodiversity and zoos very seriously. Thus we are including the Forward in full in this review.

#### Forward

Knowledge of the natural environment has become increasingly accessible to urban populations due to the abundance of information now available in magazines, articles, scientific books and films, and also due to expanded opportunities for travel experiences in exotic destinations. Rising social interest in our natural environment and animal welfare has opened a broad-ranging debate on the function of zoological parks, which includes opinions that question the benefits of their activity, and even their very existence.

The earliest zoological parks, established for strictly recreational purposes, assigned insufficient attention to the enormous value embodied in the wild fauna housed in their facilities; valuable not only from an environmental perspective, but also as a highly effective means of educating an emotionally engaged public. Today's zoological parks, which receive over 600 million visitors annually, have tremendous potential as vehicles of communication with the visiting public, capable of heightening its awareness of the need to protect wild species and their habitats.

Furthermore, many zoological parks around the world are currently involved in *ex situ* conservation programs that contribute to the conservation and recovery of wild populations. The importance of these actions is reflected in the 1992 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the 1993 World Zoo Conservation Strategy, and, more



recently, in European level regulation of the sector through Directive 1999/22/EC relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos.

I concur with Achim Steiner, former Director General of the IUCN, who stated that the latest World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy "...brings *ex situ* institutions into the mainstream of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development: not only can zoological parks contribute to an understanding of biodiversity and its interactions, they are in the unique position of providing conservation in a genuinely integrated way."

To achieve this goal, the conservation actions of zoological parks must be involved in international, regional, national and local biodiversity action plans and species recovery programs, to ensure that their activities are not isolated. Zoological parks can and should perform serious conservation work, through their involvement and collaboration with environmental organizations, national and regional authorities, scientific institutions, universities, professional associations, and NGOs.

Stimulated by rising social sensitivity and the desire to promote the welfare of their animals, zoological parks in Spain had already commenced work to reinforce their educational, research, and conservation activities through their national associations and strategies. Law 31/2003 of 27 October on the conservation of wild fauna in zoological parks, which incorporated the European Directive into national law, is the first national legislation that situates the activities of zoological parks in the realm of the protection of wild fauna and the conservation of biodiversity.

The Ministry of Environment understands that for collaboration toward compliance with the law, a knowledge of the law must first be ensured, and that all parties involved must be encouraged to participate and contribute toward its application. Since Law 31/2003 provides a definition of the conditions for adaptation by zoological parks to their role in conservation, it is desirable that the actions undertaken by public and private sectors converge and are coherent with the objectives pursued by Directive 1999/22/EC throughout the European Community.

I trust that this document will facilitate an adequate understanding of the legislative and technical aspects of Law 31/2003, and will prove useful to everyone interested in the new function to be assumed by zoological parks in this great undertaking of the conservation of biodiversity, in which we should all participate.

**December 2006**

**Cristina Narbona Ruíz, Minister of Environment, Spain, (2004-2008)**

***In order to further spark your interest we have listed some of the chapters and sub-chapters from the book below.***

#### **Why a law on conservation in zoological parks?**

The conservation of biodiversity, everyone's concern  
Biodiversity in zoological parks?

Starting point

Directive 1999/22/EC relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos

Law 31/2003: an environmental law for zoological parks

Other laws applicable to zoological parks in Spain

- Zoos as Zoological Nuclei or Livestock Operations

- Zoos as "entertainment establishments offering recreational activities
  - Zoos as "fauna recovery and protection centres" and "CITES specimens rescue centres"
- Summary of Law 31/2003

#### **What constitutes a zoological park?**

New functions of zoological park

What does the sector think?

The legal concept of zoological parks

. A bit of history

. The European Definition of zoological parks

. The concept of zoological park under Law 31/2003

#### **How should they conduct their activity?**

Animal welfare

. What are environmental enrichment programs and what purpose do they serve?

. Parameters defining the environmental quality of enclosures

Safety of enclosures

. What makes a safe enclosure ?

Task Planning'

. Key aspects for the development of conservation and education programs

. What are captive breeding programs and what purpose do they serve?

Human and material resources

. What is the ideal technical staff profile of a zoological park?

Educational, veterinary and services equipment

Record keeping on the zoological collection

#### **Who is involved?**

The role of public administrations

Who can collaborate?

#### **When is the deadline for compliance?**

Law 31/2003

Other institutions

for the licensing of zoological parks

Documents of interest

Law 31/2003 on the conservation of wild fauna in zoological parks

Council Directive 1999/22/EC relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos

The Iberian Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Implementation of Directive 1999/22/EC in the European Union

ANDA / Eurogroup for Animals

**Don't forget. If you want a copy of the ebook and guide, write a request to**

**Pravin, [pravin@zooreach.org](mailto:pravin@zooreach.org) or [zooreach@zooreach.org](mailto:zooreach@zooreach.org)**

**or**

**Vanessa Herranz Muñoz, [Vherranz@bastetconservation.org](mailto:Vherranz@bastetconservation.org)**