

World Association of Zoos and Aquariums WAZA

ABOUT WAZA – (mostly) from WAZA website (www.waza.org)

Mission - WAZA's mission is to guide, encourage and support the zoos, aquariums, and like-minded organisations of the world in animal care and welfare, environmental education and global conservation.

History - Following an earlier International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens (IUDZG) founded in Basel (Switzerland) in 1935, a new IUDZG was founded in Rotterdam (The Netherlands) in 1946 by a group of zoo directors. In 1950, IUDZG became an international organisation member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

In 2000, IUDZG was renamed World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) to reflect a modern institution working on a global level to build cooperative approaches to common needs, tackle common issues, share information and knowledge and represent the community in other international bodies such as IUCN or conferences of the parties to global conventions, such as CITES, CBD or CMS. Since its founding, international studbooks have been kept under the auspices of WAZA

Who we are - WAZA is the unifying organisation for the world zoo and aquarium community. Its more than 300 members include leading zoos and aquariums, regional and national associations of zoos and aquariums, as well as some affiliate organisations from around the world. Together, they are "United for Conservation".

WAZA's Vision - The full conservation potential of world zoos and aquariums is realised.

WAZA's Mission - WAZA is the voice of a worldwide community of zoos and aquariums and catalyst for their joint conservation action.

What WAZA does

- We promote cooperation between zoological gardens and aquariums with regard to the conservation, management and breeding of animals in captivity and we encourage the highest standards of animal welfare and husbandry.
- We promote and coordinate cooperation between national and regional associations and their constituents.
- We assist in representing zoological gardens and aquariums in other international organisations or assemblies.
- We promote environmental education, wildlife conservation and environmental research.

WAZA Finances and Funding -- WAZA currently has a total annual budget of ca. 800,000 Swiss Francs (this equals to ca. 550,000 € or 800,000 US\$). The majority (95%) of the annual revenue comes from membership fees.

WAZA provides support and services to its members, raises awareness about zoos and aquariums through publications, the Internet and media work and also takes part in international conferences. WAZA is liaising with

international partner organisations and is campaigning and lobbying for conservation. WAZA also awards a grant for training purposes and supports field projects for conservation of its members on a yearly basis.

About 50% of WAZA's expenses are salaries, 15% is support of partner organisations and conservation and 16% are spent on communication and marketing. The remaining expenses cover travel and the running costs of the office.

Note: If you go to the website and click on the link indicated (www.waza.org/files/webcontent/documents/Annual_Report_2009_final.pdf) you can download the WAZA annual report 2009 (800 KB).

President's note - Welcome to the new website of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA). We are very pleased to have this opportunity to show you what the responsible zoos and aquariums across the globe are doing to slow and ultimately reverse the potentially catastrophic influence that modern society has on our world. We are seeing substantial and profound changes to our world in modern times and it will require a concerted effort by passionate and dedicated groups of people to halt these changes. But the world is ready for change - more and more people are seeing the need for change and are prepared to lead the way.

WAZA is an organisation made up of dedicated conservationists working together to inspire mass audiences and increase their level of commitment to sustainable conservation actions. The collective wisdom of the brightest minds in our industry is harnessed through WAZA and together with our respected partners in conservation we aspire to make a difference in our world. We are conservators, educators, scientists and powerful tools for social and political change. Our efforts are focussed on inspiring people the world over to appreciate wild animals and wild places and guiding society through the changes needed to preserve our natural heritage.

The website is a wonderful resource for those interested in wild animals and wild places, whether they be children and teachers needing photographs and information for school projects, or conservationists, politicians and resource management agencies needing current and scientifically sound information. We welcome you all, and trust that you'll find this site helpful and inspiring. As Mahatma Gandhi once stated, "Be the change you want to see in the world."

Mark Penning, PhD, WAZA President

Members - The worldwide membership of WAZA includes more than 300 zoos and aquariums from over 50 countries, associations, affiliate organisations and a small but growing number of corporate members.

Association Members

ACOPAZOA (Colombian Association of Zoos & Aquariums)
AFDPZ (Association Française des Parcs Zoologiques)
AIZA (Iberian Association of Zoos & Aquaria)
ALPZA (Latin American Zoo & Aquarium Association)
AMACZOOA (Mesoamerican & Caribbean Zoos & Aquaria Association)
ARAZPA (Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria)

AZA (Association of Zoos & Aquariums)
 AZCARM (Asociacion de Zoologicos, Criaderos y Acuarios de Mexico AC)
 BIAZA (British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums)
 CAZA (Canadian Association of Zoological Parks & Aquariums)
 DAZA (Danish Zoological Gardens & Aquaria)
 DTG (Deutsche Tierpark-Gesellschaft e.V.)
 DWV (Deutscher-Wildgehege-Verband e.V.)
 EARAZA (Eurasian Regional Association of Zoos & Aquariums)
 EAZA (European Association of Zoos & Aquaria)
 JAZA (Japanese Association of Zoos & Aquariums)
 PAAZAB (African Association of Zoos & Aquaria)
 SAZA-SDF (Swedish Association of Zoological Parks & Aquaria)
 SAZARC (South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation)
 SEAZA (South East Asian Zoo Association)
 SNDPZ (Société Nationale des Parcs Zoologiques)
 UCSZ (Union of Czech & Slovak Zoological Gardens)
 UIZA (Italian Union of Zoos & Aquaria)
 VDZ (German Federation of Zoo Directors)

Affiliate Members

Al Bustan Zoological Centre
 American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV)
 Back to Africa
 Berufsverband der Zootierpfleger e.V.
 Central Zoo Authority (CZA)
 DGHT e.V. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde e.V.
 European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (EAZWV)
 International Congress of Zookeepers (ICZ)
 International Species Information System (ISIS)
 International Zoo Educators Association (IZE), Disney's Animal Kingdom
 Leibniz-Institut für Zoo- und Wildtierforschung (IZW)
 Oceanis Group Headoffice
 The Frozen Ark Project
 Verband deutschsprachiger Zoopädagogen e.V. - VZP
 Zoo Outreach Organization (Z.O.O.)

Corporate Members

Cairns Marine
 CLR Design, Inc.
 dan pearlman erlebnisarchitektur GmbH
 Dynasty Marine Associates Inc.
 G.K. Airfreight Service GmbH
 Pangea Rocks
 Portico Inc. (The Portico Group)
 Rasbach Architekten
 Studio Hanson/Roberts (Design for Nature and People)
 The Superlative Group, Inc.
 Visions XS Ltd

Partners - WAZA represents its members in, and the members benefit from the various services and resources provided by, the following four international conventions and organisations with which WAZA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding:



Convention on Biological Diversity

<www.cbd.int> -- Signed by 150 government leaders at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the Convention on Biological Diversity is dedicated to promoting sustainable development. Conceived as a practical tool for translating the principles of Agenda 21 into reality, the Convention recognises

that biological diversity is about more than plants, animals and micro organisms and their ecosystems – it is about people and our need for food security, medicines, fresh air and water, shelter, and a clean and healthy environment in which to live.



International Union for Conservation of Nature

<www.iucn.org> -- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organisations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice. IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network – a democratic membership union with more than 1000 government and non-governmental member organisations, and almost 11 000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries.



Convention on Migratory Species

<www.cms.int>-- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme, concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. Since the Convention's entry into force, its membership has grown steadily to include more than 110 Parties from Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.



Ramsar Convention on Wetlands --

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Ramsar Convention is the only global environmental treaty that deals with a particular ecosystem, and the Convention's member countries cover all geographic regions of the planet, with more than 160 contracting Parties.

Executive Team

A permanent Executive Office was established in October 2001. The office is located in the new IUCN Conservation Centre in Gland on Lake Geneva, Switzerland. The building is designed to show that a sustainable work environment is viable, comfortable and affordable. It houses the latest technologies in green building design – read more about Europe's greenest office building at www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/centre.



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