

Sites of particular interest on WAZA website

Zoos & Aquariums

More than 700 million visitors pass through the gates of the zoos and aquariums united in the WAZA network each year. More than 250 zoos and aquariums are institutional members of WAZA. About 1300 zoos and aquariums are linked to WAZA through their membership in a regional or national association member of WAZA. **Try this :** Choose a region & country and you can pull up a map showing the location of their zoos and some basic information on member zoos. For example : Asia, Sri Lanka, Colombo Zoo, Sri Lanka. National Zoological Gardens, Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, Dehiwala , Sri Lanka, Phone: +94-11-2761554, Fax: +94-11-2734542, url: www.colombozoo.gov.lk.

Press/News & Events

Press Releases- Press Contact, News, Events, etc.

If you access the site you can find articles, news, events listed to be clicked if you want to read the full article. Topics vary such as this small sample:

WAZA branded Conservation Projects were granted significant support, 2010/12/09

25,000 US\$ grant by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

Turning the Tide, 2010/10/28, WAZA mobilizes World's Aquariums to maximize their potential towards conserving biodiversity

WAZA: 10 Years of Success in Conserving Biodiversity, 2010/10/18, New evidence confirms that Zoos and Aquariums are making significant contribution to conserving threatened species

Euthanasia of Tiger Cubs, 2010/06/29, A statement of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)

Leaders in biodiversity conservation, 2010/06/01, Zoos and aquariums worldwide receive more than 700 million visitors annually and spend about US\$ 350 million on wildlife conservation each year

UN Year of the Gorilla, 2010/03/11 boosts conservation of the world's most endangered great apes and generated € 100,000 for field projects

International Year of Biodiversity, 2010/01/12, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and UN Secretary-General Officially launch of the International Year of Biodiversity
Biodiversity is Life, Biodiversity is OUR Life, 2010/01/08, Ban Ki-moon calls on every country and each citizen of our planet to join together in a global alliance to protect life on Earth.

No time for monkeying around – 350's the limit World's zoos unite over climate change

2009/11/30, WAZA petition sent to UN Secretary General UN climate change conference, 7-18 Dec, Copenhagen (Denmark), 2009/11/07

WAZA calls on World leaders to combat Climate Change

Conservation

Conservation through Zoos and Aquariums

WAZA defines the responsibilities of the world's zoos and aquariums in regard to the conservation of global biodiversity (see conservation strategies). It sets the conditions that individual zoos and aquariums and their cooperative networks should satisfy in order to realise their full conservation potential.

WAZA is a long-standing member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). WAZA has Memoranda of Understanding with the Convention on Biological Diversity, IUCN, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the International Zoo Educators Association. WAZA has observer status at the

Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). WAZA provides support to the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, the IUCN/SSC South American Camelid Specialist Group and the Amphibian Ark.

Ex situ conservation

Under the auspices of WAZA, and in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London and the International Species Information System, 121 active international studbooks are currently kept, which include 159 species or sub-species. More than 1000 species or sub-species are managed under cooperative conservation breeding programmes at the level of the regional association members. In addition, WAZA supports science and research, promotes environmental education, encourages animal welfare and participates in international campaigns.

In situ conservation

Preserving individual species in human care is not enough to protect global biodiversity. Conservation of intact ecosystems is the only chance for the survival of our planet's wildlife. A steadily increasing number of zoos and aquariums have recognised that the real challenge of biodiversity conservation is saving wild species and habitats (see WAZA conservation projects). It is the aim of WAZA to increase the number of zoos and aquariums involved in the conservation of wild species and habitats and to make zoological institutions the primary non-governmental field conservation organisations. **See Conservation section on pp. 26-30.**

Marketing & Media

Marketing Activities of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The marketing efforts of WAZA have two goals: To increase awareness of environmental problems WITHIN the Zoo Community and to encourage the WAZA constituency to become actively involved in a wide range of conservation issues. On the other hand, WAZA aims at informing governments, international NGOs and other stakeholders OUTSIDE the zoo world about the already considerable and steadily increasing contribution the members of the WAZA Network make to enhance the conservation of species, populations and habitats. One of the tools for reaching the goal of increasing awareness within the Zoo Community are the Zoo Marketing Conferences jointly organised by WAZA and EAZA at biannual intervals.

Note this date : The International Zoo and Aquarium Marketing Conference hosted by Granby Zoo, Granby (Quebec) in Canada - only one hour from Montréal - will take place June 13-16, 2011. Topics of the conference: "Strategic Marketing in Action" - themes are: Strategic Marketing, Marketing the Zoo and Aquarium Community, Marketing Education and Conservation, Turn Bad News into Good News, Social Marketing in Action

Get involved - Membership

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.

Member categories

Institution members shall be zoological gardens, aquariums or similar zoological institutions established and managed primarily for cultural, educational, scientific, and conservation purposes. Institution members must also be open to the public on a regular and predictable basis. Only the respective full time, paid chief executive of the

institution may serve as its official representative. *South Asia: 1) India - Nandankanan Zoo, Darjeeling Zoo, & 2) Sri Lanka - National Zoological Gardens.*

Association members shall be organisations, both national and regional, whose primary members are zoological gardens, aquariums or similar zoological institutions. The purpose of these organisations is to support the vision, mission, and interests of their members and to establish standards and levels of cooperation between them. Association members may officially be represented by either an elected officer or by a full time, paid executive. *South Asia : South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation, SAZARC, Coimbatore.*

Affiliate members shall be organisations that support the vision, mission and interests of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The official representative of an Affiliate member may attend the Annual Meeting and participate in discussions. Affiliate members may not be represented on Council or standing committees, but may be on other committees and subcommittees. They are not entitled to a vote and shall not be considered when determining a quorum *South Asia: India - Central Zoo Authority & Zoo Outreach Organisation.*

Commercial or Corporate Members shall be individuals or entities that provide supplies or services to zoological gardens or aquariums and who support the vision, mission and interests of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The official representative of a Commercial Member may attend the Annual Meeting. Commercial Members may not be represented on Council or standing committees, but may serve on other committees and working groups. They are not entitled to a vote and shall not be considered when determining a quorum. **South Asia : NIL and this should change ! Number of Commercial members by country or region:** Denmark-2, Germany-6, United Kingdom-2, United States-9.

Virtual Zoo

Virtual Zoo module is a kind of educational game in which you can "visit the Zoo" by picking a picture, select a species **Example: picking a species ... Asian elephant** by clicking on their outline or photo, go to a region of the world with a click of the mouse or visit a fascinating website called ZooLex which deals with one of the very important aspects of zoos, their design and architecture. There are hundreds of animals ... this is a way to learn about wildlife and many aspects of zoos.

Example:

Asian Elephant (site photo not used due to copyright)

Facts about this animal : The Asian elephant differs from his African cousin in that the outline of the back is convex, with the highest points of the silhouette being the head and the hind quarters sloping, the large forehead and the smaller ears. The height at the shoulder in males is up to 330 cm, the head body-length is 550-640 cm. They can weight up to five tons (males). Females are smaller and lighter than males. The head is very large, the forehead is flat, vertical, with two humps on the top. The surface of the trunk is rather smooth and there is a finger-like projection at the tip (above). The ears are relatively small and more or less pentagonal in shape. Females are nearly always, males sometimes without visible tusks. If they are present, they are curved and rather massive. The legs are shorter than in the African species. They have five nails on each fore foot, and four nails on each hind foot. The skin is smoother than in the African Elephant. The colour is dark grey to brown, often mottled about the forehead, ears, base of trunk and the chest with flesh-coloured blotches. The hair covering is scant, the hairs are long, stiff and bristly. Did you know? that the Asian elephant is more closely related to the mammoth, which became extinct about 3'000 years ago, than to the African elephant?

Factsheet for Asian elephant from Virtual Zoo

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|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Class | MAMMALIA |
| Order | PROBOSCIDEA |
| Family | ELEPHANTIDAE |
| Name Scientific | <i>Elephas maximus</i> |
| Name English | Asian Elephant |
| Name French | Eléphant d'Asie |
| Name German | Asiatischer Elefant |
| Name Spanish | Elefante asiático |
| Name Local | Bahasa, Gajah |
| Name Hindi | Hathi (male)& Hathni (female) |
| Name Tamil | Anai |
| Name Malay | Ana |
| CITES status | Appendix I (Great Britain) |
| IUCN status | EN Endangered |

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WAZA Annual Conference photo in foreground of famous cathedral, Koln. WAZA photo.