

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT OF WORLD ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIA



To: all WAZA member associations

Dear Colleagues

I am writing to let you know of an important new WAZA initiative: the *WAZA Global Species Management Program*.

Through this program, WAZA aims to link the species management efforts of the regional associations and to improve the sustainability and conservation value of our regional populations.

As conservation organizations, it is incumbent on us to show leadership in sustainable management and to demonstrate sound stewardship of the wildlife we hold for future generations. Under WAZA, we should also aim to set an example of global collaboration in our efforts to identify and support sound and practical conservation efforts *in situ*.

This initiative has been developed through WAZA's Committee for Inter-Regional Conservation Cooperation (CIRCC) which includes representation from all WAZA member regional associations. The next stage will involve CIRCC seeking the cooperation of your association in assessing candidate species for global management and supporting the development of Global Species Management Programs for these species.

For many species, it will only be through truly global collaboration that their continued existence in the wild will be possible. The zoos and aquariums of the world have a unique opportunity to show leadership in global cooperation at a level not previously achieved.

I would urge you to provide whatever support your organization is able to this initiative.

If you would like any further information on the WAZA Global Species Management Program, please feel free to contact the WAZA Executive Director (waza.director@bluewin.ch), or the Chair of CIRCC, Jonathan Wilcken (jonathan@arazpa.org.au).

Regards

Karen Sausman
President
WAZA