

community, of the good intentions and commitment to conservation of the organized zoo community. In point of fact, Captive Breeding Guidelines under the auspices of an IUCN specialist group may be more successful in bringing the amazing range of techniques and depth of care and welfare that zoos now bring to animal breeding as these facts are not known to the conservation community at large.

CBSG meets every year in a different place around the world in connection so is in a position to provide a very convenient venue not only for developing the Guidelines, but also for getting them reviewed at the WAZA meeting which takes place immediately after CBSG, and also for updating the Guidelines as zoo and wildlife policy changes. Also, as RSG has now found the need to develop policies and guidelines for different orders and taxon groups, CBSG also may find Guidelines so useful that it would seem a good idea to go on refining and expanding them.

What happened to the IUCN Technical Guidelines on the Management of *Ex situ* populations for conservation

Admittedly, no systematic, scientific survey of zoo managers and staff (or even policy makers) in developing countries zoos has been carried out to ascertain how much of the IUCN Technical Guidelines of Management of *ex situ* populations for Conservation is comprehensible and useful, but the writer would be extremely surprised if this number were more than 1-2%. The IUCN Policy Statement

is not a substitute for Guidelines for Conservation Breeding of the type referred here. No doubt, the current IUCN Technical Guidelines will be helpful in formulating some parts of the intended Guidelines and even could be "translated" into normals peak which would be more helpful for countries whose English is more simple, either for reading or for translating into the local language.

Many zoos do not know where to begin in systematizing their breeding programme or how to start on the right foot if starting a new zoo. There is no single document which explains the "big picture" of zoo conservation sufficiently for the purpose of instruction. There is a need for such a document in more than 50% of the of the zoos and zoo associations in the world. The Guidelines, whatever form they take should be simple, universally comprehensible, and easily translated into local languages. The Guidelines should include the political and administrative, aspects of breeding as well as physiological aspects, such as even the decision of individual zoos at a particular time to breed for exhibition, education, research, conservation. There is no reason why every zoo has to breed for conservation – we should create Guidelines which would permit and empower zoos and zoo associations to scale down their objectives to what is realistic and possible for their budget and technical level instead of just trying to keep up with the big kid zoos in high currency countries. **Submitted by Sally Walker, Convenor, CBSG, South Asia**

Ex-Situ Conservation Management Guidelines -- CBSG Working Group Report, Taipei

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1. What are "conservation breeding guidelines"?

- Zoos that are just starting the process of thinking about systematic breeding and conservation programs should have some guidelines regarding how to start and how to decide what level of management to target. E.g., Some zoos think that in order to contribute to conservation, they have to take on the highest possible task (i.e., breeding animals for reintroduction). This sometimes works against effective conservation as it may mean they acquire animals without knowing how to maintain and breed them.
- If we only talk about breeding it may lead us down the wrong path. The issue is captive management and deciding at what level to manage populations of particular species – the entire spectrum of rationale for keeping animals in captivity.
- The term "conservation breeding guidelines" is a bit confusing; are we talking about only captive programs? If so, we should specify that these are "captive" or "*ex situ*" guidelines.
- Confusion arises from the fact that "Conservation Breeding Specialist Group" is not entirely descriptive of what CBSG does. Here we are looking for guidelines for *ex*

situ management, not the entire spectrum of what CBSG does.

- Important elements of these guidelines: *ex situ*, linked to conservation (or to responsible management of animals that is not in conflict with conservation), population management, decision structure of different levels/ purposes of management (like collection planning)
- Possible names: *ex situ* conservation management guidelines (current working title), population management guidelines
- Indonesian zoos are specifically requesting guidelines for conservation – this is more than just "conservation breeding" guidelines
- Often zoos do not have the resources for full blown breeding programs. A first strategy may be to maintain animals, keep them well, and do a basic level of management and perhaps exchange animals with other zoos in the region.

The guidelines being produced, whatever their name ends up being, need to be guidelines on how facilities (zoos, rescue centers, etc.) can determine how they should manage animals and small populations for conservation – taking into account the specific situation of the facility (available resources, etc.) — and include information on how to achieve specific levels of management. They must include general guidelines for animals in captive settings, as well as specific guidelines on how to determine management types and goals.

Needs

- Guidelines are needed on which species can be kept in what type of holding area (i.e., there is a lack of knowledge about species requirements for husbandry, etc.)
- Will this not be included in Zoo Information Management Service?
- ZIMS may not be available in these zoos in the short-term; there are also language and other problems.
- There is a need to know how to make a collection plan.
- This is starting to sound like guidelines on how to run a zoo. That scope is big – is it too big?
- In Indonesia, conservation is understood to include three things: protection, preservation and utilization. In a zoo setting this means: release or rescue = protection; breeding = preservation; education and exhibition = utilization.
- Indonesia is specifically asking for guidelines for bringing conservation into a zoo.
- Is “how to run a zoo” not more a task for WAZA and the zoo associations, and is “how to bring conservation into a zoo” not a more suitable task for CBSG?
- Still, everything is important if you are trying to do conservation.
- It should/could perhaps be done by WAZA but the fact that CBSG is not a zoo association may be beneficial.
- Some zoos are not so much “poor” as they are lacking in good record-keeping. This can be done in the form of cards or Excel files or something more sophisticated. Keepers can contribute a lot to this process.

Suggestion: Working group members could all search for the best guidelines and other relevant documents (for nutrition, husbandry, breeding, etc.), send them to a coordinator, and then adapt these to local needs if necessary. In that way all regional associations have the potential to contribute. This information is available but not in a form that is useful to the needs of many zoos.

CONCLUSION: The main need is to provide access to the existing information for guiding ex situ population management and conservation activities.

Components for Guidelines

- Husbandry: general and species-specific (include zoos that have expertise with particular species – e.g., Taipei Zoo with pangolins)
- Enrichment - Welfare issues - Record-keeping - Staff training (keepers, veterinarians, and other staff)
- Collection planning (why and how to develop a collection plan, what are the input parameters and how done.
- Importance of networking, collaboration and cooperation, and how to go about this (some of this may be mentioned in documents like SSP/EEP MOUs, etc.)
- Population management (genetics, demography, etc), both within and between institutions/ both national and regional/ including meta-populations (captive and wild)
- Guidelines on when a species should perhaps not be in a zoo. This could be done by translating the IUCN guidelines for the management of *ex situ* populations into less academic verbiage.
- How to contribute to *in situ* conservation: research, funding, reintroduction guidelines, etc.
- Conservation education in zoos
- Guidelines should include information about processes as well as content (e.g., how to create a husbandry manual)

- Confiscated animals (can “translate the IUCN guidelines for the placement of confiscated animals into a less academic form)
- Are we providing a conservation resource manual for zoos?

Eventually this document will need to get wide CBSG review and endorsement. If we call it a “policy”, it will need IUCN Council endorsement. This may be difficult both in terms of process and content/scope. There are also ways to just keep it as a CBSG document. This can be decided later.

The above is starting to show similarities with the WZACS tool kit. We must make sure there is sufficient communication between the two groups so we do not work independently but in parallel.

Strategies for Action

Given the working group discussion, there are three different strategies that we can take, which are not necessarily mutually exclusive:

1. Gather all existing information and make it widely accessible (on a website).
2. Gather all existing information; distribute to people in different countries in different regions (the kind of people that would be using it) to see how they perceive the information and get feedback regarding how to make the documents/information useful in the region; modify the information to make it accessible (e.g., simplify language, translate, etc.); distribute revised information.
3. Gather all existing information and glean some general strategies (e.g. how do you approach caring for mammals, evaluating nutrition, compiling husbandry manuals) for distribution.

Short-term strategy:

- Working group members will locate existing information on the components identified above; send to Sally
- We will see what it comes in and what form it has; then we will evaluate which of the three strategies, or parts thereof, would be appropriate.

Partial list of sources of information:

- IUCN-Zoo associations -Legislation -Husbandry manuals
- World Zoo Conservation Strategy

Recommended actions:

1. Send all types of information identified to Sally. Highest priority is collection planning guidance as this is the type of help that was specifically identified by the Indonesian zoos.
2. Post the information on the website (filtered and categorized by Sally).
3. Sally may possibly set up a list serve to facilitate communication and process.
4. Identify a point person in each regional association/entity secretariat to send the official documents from that region. This also ensures the “buying in” of the regions into this process.

The results of this effort possibly could be endorsed by CBSG at a general level, i.e., the “process” involved (e.g., if you are going to have animals in captivity you need to consider collection planning, veterinary care, adequate nutrition, population management, etc.). CBSG endorsement of the “product” (e.g., no animal should move from one collection to another without quarantine, etc.) is less certain.