

New WZACS Launched on 2nd of May 2005 in Melbourne, Australia

From the WAZA Website :

The New World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy was launched on May 2, 2005, at the Joint Annual Conference of ARAZPA and SEAZA, at Melbourne, Australia.

Zoos and aquariums around the world have a new blueprint for their conservation work with the launch of **Building a Future for Wildlife – the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy**. The international launch of the strategy was hosted by Melbourne Zoo at its award-winning Trail of the Elephants.

World Association of Zoos and Aquariums president, Ed McAlister, said the strategy would be an important resource for zoos and aquariums everywhere. 'Building a Future for Wildlife is a blueprint for action on conservation by zoos and aquariums worldwide,' Mr McAlister said. 'The Strategy encourages zoos and aquariums to become models for truly integrated conservation, linking programs inside and outside their properties. It recommends that zoos and aquariums assess their conservation efforts with hard data and measurements, urges zoos and aquariums to set examples for environmental sustainability; and to set and follow ethical standards for animal welfare. It calls on zoos and aquariums to strive to become major advocates for wildlife and wild places in their respective communities; and to maximise the use of education and communication as important conservation activities, and it recommends increased work by zoos and aquariums to support conservation in the wild, through science, research, breeding programs and application of their skills and expertise.'

The Strategy also urges an increase and strengthening of networks, information exchange, and co-operation between zoos and aquariums themselves, and with other organisations. 'Zoos and aquariums are already setting examples for vital conservation work that in some cases would not otherwise occur,' Mr McAlister said. The new Strategy will be backed up by a Resources Manual with practical examples and advice on conservation initiatives.'

In 1993, The World Zoo Organisation (IUDZG) and the Captive Breeding Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) published The World Zoo Conservation Strategy. That strategy defined, for the first time in a single document, the responsibilities and opportunities that the international zoo and aquarium community needed, in order to be fully involved in nature conservation. The pressures and threats to wildlife remain and have indeed increased. The need for help in conservation has intensified. It is therefore an opportune time for all zoos and aquariums to re-examine the ways and means by which they can consolidate and increase their support and involvement in conservation.

The new document (entitled the World Association of Zoos and Aquarium Conservation Strategy, having added Aquariums since 1993) reinforces and expands the overall themes of the first document and presents a vision of the roles that all zoos and aquariums can and must play in the

conservation of wildlife and of their ecosystems. The 72 page document, which is the result of assistance and advice from over 350 people, is truly international in its scope and in its production.

The Strategy is aimed at all zoos and aquariums, however large or small, however rich or poor, and not just those that are members of WAZA. The Strategy provides a common philosophy for zoos and aquariums across the globe and defines the standards and policies that are necessary to achieve their goals in conservation. The 2005 Strategy will be of use and interest not to only zoo and aquarium people but to anyone concerned with biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

The document begins with a supportive foreword from the Director General of The World Conservation Union (IUCN), and a preface by the President of WAZA and by the Chair of the WAZA Conservation Committee, that set out the genesis and production of the Strategy. The document comprises an introduction, followed by nine chapters, with each chapter having a summary, a vision statement, a main text, conclusions, and a series of recommendations. The final pages include four appendices: a glossary of terms used in the text, a list of acronyms with their full title and website, acknowledgements, and a list of the illustrations.

This Strategy, which will be complemented by resources on the WAZA web site, will be used by individual zoos and aquariums, by national and regional associations, and by WAZA itself, as the basis for the development of action plans for the implementation of the recommendations.

A German version of the new strategy will be available in June. French, Spanish, Russian, Czech, Urdu, Hindi, Nepali, Bangla, Dari and Singala versions are currently under preparation in different parts of the world.

**from the WAZA Executive Office, Secretariat,
www.waza.org**



**WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS**

On the following pages ZOOS' PRINT is happy to give you a sneak peer and introduction to the new World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy.