

Announcing SAN-IZE – South Asia Network of International Zoo Educators

To: Zoos and other education partners of South Asia
From: The Z.O.O. Crew and W.I.L.D. Lifers

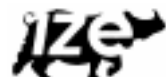
We would like to invite you to participate in wildlife education through SANIZE (pron "san – easy") the South Asian Network of International Zoo Educators as a partner with the new network, ZOO, WILD, and with our other networks and partners. As part of this fresh endeavor we are guided by the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy, WZACS, which was published by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

WZACS uses an IUCN definition of conservation which is "the securing of long-term populations of species in natural ecosystems and habitats wherever possible." WAZA enjoins all zoos and aquariums to support the protection of wildlife in the wild in any meaningful way possible for them regardless of their size or budget. **For some zoos, the most immediate and meaningful way to support protection of wildlife and its habitat is through education.** For ALL zoos, education is or should be part of their conservation mandate. WZACS also makes a strong argument in favour of zoos partnering with other organizations for enhancing and increasing their mutual efforts to value and protect crisis-ridden wildlife and its habitat. WZACS says in its education chapter : "Zoos and aquariums can also form partnerships with other conservation organizations, and can use the network of the IZE, to form a unified global programme to raise awareness and encourage conservation action."

This Strategy puts wannabe educators from governmental as well as non-governmental organizations (societies, associations, schools, animal facilities, etc). in the best possible position as they have been given a big invitation and endorsement by WAZA to associate with zoos. This means you have the best possible venue for conservation education, where your target audience can see, hear, smell and feel the presence of living wild animals in natural habitat enclosures (in some zoos, at least).

Z.O.O. and W.I.L.D. host several important groups and associations which are our immediate partners, including the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation (SAZARC), the IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, South Asia, IUCN SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group, South & East Asia as well as networks which represent Amphibian, Reptile, Chiroptera, Rodentia, Insectivora, and Primate specialist groups and now SAN-IZE. The IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group is based at our office along with a very large and popular invertebrate network.

WZACS states in summary that "education is a central role for all zoos and aquaria and should be part of their organizational strategy, including having a defined education policy, making a strategic plan for education and demonstrating a "green" ethos. While Zoo Outreach Organisation is not a zoo with living animals, we are an organisation which formed to give support to zoos. Z.O.O. is a affiliate member and partner of WAZA and have adopted the Strategy as we serve many zoos along with other environmental and conservation groups. S.A.Z.A.R.C., the

South Asia
network of 

South Asian Zoo Association is a full association member.

Our policy under WZACS, then, includes the following principles :

- **to assist zoos and other conservation educators to interpret animals in context with their cultural, political and economic roles**
- **to inform all of the dramatic impact human activity has on wildlife survival**
- **to reach our audience in depth, using emotion and effective activities**
- **to catalyse behavioural change for aiding conservation of wildlife and habitat.**
- **to focus on the goal — field conservation, saving species and habitats**
- **to evaluate our work and strive always for improvement in our lofty goals**

We have created our policy based on the premise that the educators in our current network have the capacity to educate any target group about wildlife conservation, whether they are associated with a zoo or not. We at Z.O.O. get our inspiration from zoos but our products can be used by anyone who wants to bring about a caring attitude towards nature in their target audience.

Zoo Outreach Organisation, along with our networks and associates including now SAN-IZE has committed to promoting the Strategy and its principles in a big way. We have published several thousand copies of the full WZACS (one of which should have been sent to you or will be), and soon will be printing several thousand summaries in English and other South Asian languages. These summaries are going to be offered to educators, like you, for use in your efforts to educate others about zoos and their many roles in conservation.

Some of you will remember that Z.O.O. hosted the Asian Regional Network of International Zoo Educators for some years. Although we never had a complaint from I.Z.E., we felt we were not doing justice to any region except South Asia, and so we stood down for Asia responsibility. Now we have been permitted to use the IZE name for our new network which will be a support to the Asian Regional Representative, Dr. Flora Hsu of Taipei Zoo <tgx22@mail.zoo.gov.tw>, who represents IZE officially for the whole of Asia, the world's largest continental area ! Dr. Hsu has been collecting news of all Asian zoo educator activities which can be seen, along with many other great things about education on the IZE website, www.izea.org. IZE Secretariat is, incidentally, based at the office of WAZA, which indicates how much importance WAZA puts on education.

So, join us, order our materials, participate in designing them and help WAZA and its many partners educate the world to protect and conserve wildlife and its habitat.

Best wishes, S. Walker (ZOO/SAZARC) & S. Molur (WILD)