

The World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy – Chapter 7

Partnerships and Politics

Summary

This chapter presents a vision of increased global cooperation between zoos and aquariums and other organizations to achieve conservation goals. Zoos and aquariums represent a unique mix of technical and interpretative expertise, legal and environmental ethics and biological diversity. However, no zoo or aquarium is an island - it cannot alone carry out everything needed for biodiversity conservation. Thus these institutions need partnerships - with each other and with other institutions such as parks, protected areas, government departments, wildlife and environmental agencies, animal welfare organizations, conservation organizations, and academic, professional, cultural, commercial and community organizations. Zoos and aquariums should become members of national and regional associations and support their well-intentioned but under-resourced colleagues. They should however also support governments in reforming or closing those that fail to achieve acceptable standards.



**World Association of
Zoos and Aquariums**

Zoos and aquariums can be mutually supportive by exchanging training, programmes and material and by involving local zoos in conservation projects and outreach programmes. The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) is formalizing links with several organizations, including IUCN - The World Conservation Union. WAZA members frequently work with IUCN Specialist Groups, both taxonomic and discipline-based. Partnerships with academia bring increased research opportunities, and partnerships with schools can provide the chance to influence curricula. Linking with libraries and art galleries promotes creative visual and written natural history. Conservation affects people whatever their occupation or social class, so common interest can be developed with architects, engineers and town planners. Partnerships with the media reinforce the conservation message. WAZA requires that all institutions should work within conservation legislation and abide by the WAZA Code of Ethics. Operating ethically and providing information enables zoos and aquariums to influence public opinion and voting habits. By developing strong collaborative relationships with a broad spectrum of partners, zoos and aquariums can substantially increase their conservation impact.

Vision

Through increased cooperation and judicious encouragement, zoos and aquariums will continue to raise standards of animal management, educate the public to act on behalf of conservation issues, and assist in field projects. Partnerships will strengthen global cooperation and help all zoos, aquariums and other conservation organizations to improve and to achieve their conservation goals. Zoos and aquariums will be encouraged to help one another, particularly those that have fewer resources and/or expertise.

7.1 Introduction

Zoos and aquariums represent a unique mix of technical and interpretative expertise, legal and Environmental ethics, and biological diversity. There is a growing trend for them to cooperate with each other and with other government and nongovernment organizations. For example, zoos and aquariums may take part in cooperative breeding programmes, education programmes, research projects or field projects to help to prevent or minimize wildlife extinctions, preserve biodiversity, and create a conservation consciousness in individuals, institutions and societies.

In the coming years, zoos and aquariums that are truly effective will improve and expand upon these activities, as well as helping less successful zoos to use their individual potential constructively. Partnerships will strengthen global cooperation and help zoos and other conservation organizations to achieve their conservation goals. Even a small zoo can make an important contribution to conservation, and in collaboration, zoos and aquariums can form a highly effective global network through which they can reach a vast number of individuals, organized groups, business communities and political institutions.

Working with sensitivity and patience, paying respect to the diverse political, historical, social and economic characteristics represented in each culture, each zoo and aquarium will make the most appropriate contribution to conservation in the context of its own culture and economy.

7.2 No zoo is an island

Without intervention small populations reach a point of no return and this fact has been used to justify the existence of zoos and aquariums and breeding through the cooperative management of species. But the role of zoos and aquariums in species conservation is far greater than providing a savings bank of animals. Today, these institutions invest resources to save large tracts of habitat, sponsor corridors where fragmented populations of large mammals can interact, and educate the public to become involved in habitat conservation.

Zoos and aquariums need other zoos and aquariums in order to be relevant and effective in their contribution to conservation: they cannot independently carry out all tasks related to the conservation of biodiversity. They are most effective when they have the assistance of other organizations, both governmental and non-governmental.

A potentially vast and impressive network will become ever more achievable if all zoos develop sincere and creative means to communicate and collaborate with others. The first priority must be international cooperation between the zoos themselves. This is most easily achieved through regional and national zoo associations that represent individual zoos and aquariums, and through the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), the global zoo organization.

Types of partnership

The collective zoo network comprises zoological parks and gardens, safari parks and aquariums that have learned from one another. Many individual zoos and aquariums have reached a high level of development through sharing their increasing expertise. Partnerships for zoos and aquariums are not merely useful and desirable; they are essential. In particular, zoos and aquariums should consider forming partnerships with:

- other zoos and aquariums (local, regional and international);
- national and regional zoo and aquarium associations;
- the global zoo and aquarium association (WAZA);
- friends of the zoo associations;
- parks and protected areas;
- governmental departments, ministries, and wildlife agencies (e.g. forestry, environment, education, agriculture, animal husbandry or veterinary, tourism);
- community organizations (civic organizations, schools, libraries);
- environmental agencies;
- other governmental and non-governmental conservation and animal welfare organizations;
- related academic, professional, cultural, commercial and community organizations (e.g. research institutions, colleges, universities, training institutes, museums, zoological associations, botanic gardens).

Box 7.1 shows examples of effective partnerships between zoos and aquariums and other agencies.

Cooperative breeding programmes

One well-established example of shared experience and expertise between zoos is cooperative long-term breeding programmes. These can provide the genetic diversity needed to sustain a declining population, restore a population extinct in the wild or, at the very least, preserve genetic material for the future.

The first example of a cooperative breeding programme occurred in 1900, when several zoos sent their stock of Père David's deer, *Elaphurus davidianus*, to Woburn Abbey. In 1923, the director of Frankfurt Zoo established the International Society for the Conservation of the European bison (*Wisent*) *Bison bonasus*. The zoos of Berlin, Frankfurt, Halle, Hamburg-Hagenbeck and others contributed animals, and Warsaw Zoo accepted responsibility for the studbook in 1932. The society drew inspiration from the Society for the Conservation of the American bison, which was disbanded in the late 1930s due to its success in saving this species. In subsequent years, the use of studbooks and cooperative breeding programmes has continued to grow enormously. (See also Chapter 4.)

The 1990s saw zoos and aquariums become involved in a number of wide-ranging species conservation programmes. Many (particularly in temperate countries) began to help with field projects in areas chosen for their high biodiversity. Some projects aimed to reintroduce zooborn animals to the wild habitats from which they had disappeared. Others were designed to protect habitats, strengthen corridors and foster conservation awareness among people living in the natural range of target species. Species conservation programmes also included the formation of systematic and scientific programmes, such

as the Species Survival Plans (SSPs of AZA), the European Endangered Species Programmes (EEPs of EAZA), the Australasian Species Management Programmes (ASMPs of ARAZPA), and the African Preservation Programmes (APPs of PAAZAB). These programmes have become the essential basis for cooperative *ex situ* population management for selected species.

Field projects

Zoos and aquariums that undertake field projects will usually need to form partnerships with other organizations, whether the projects are situated in a distant country or locally. When zoos and aquariums conduct field projects in the future, they need to coordinate their activities with those of national and regional zoo associations, and local conservation organizations.

This cooperation will allow organizations to avoid duplication of effort, territorial prerogatives, and cultural dissonance. It will also enhance the resources (which may be living organisms, funding or expertise) that may be brought to the project. Where appropriate, and with regional governmental approval, local communities should be included as potential beneficiaries of such projects. (See also Chapter 2.)

7.3 Not all zoos are equal

Not all animal collections calling themselves zoos or aquariums meet the standards necessary for effective conservation work in today's world; they may lack a solid financial base, or have poor standards of animal care and weak institutional ethics, or not be members of a national, regional or global zoo organization or association.

Poorly maintained animal collections are a negative reflection on all well-maintained zoos and aquariums, and they can be a drain on wildlife resources and a cause for welfare concern. Such facilities may seem an impediment. Nonetheless, some of them may have good intentions and may even be close to being accreditable. These zoos can be seen as an opportunity for institutions with high standards to assist in solving this serious problem.

A challenge for all well-resourced zoos and aquariums will be to develop partnerships with well-intentioned but under resourced institutions. Appropriate mentoring, and technical, logistic and perhaps financial support, will help these facilities to achieve their potential within the world conservation community. At the same time, and importantly, the global zoo network should work assiduously towards strengthening the hand of governments as they attempt to reform or close zoos and aquariums which are unable to achieve desired standards of animal management and welfare.

In the last decade, many zoos and aquariums have conducted outreach programmes that centre on field projects in other parts of the world. Such projects include the establishment of breeding centres, the purchase and management of wild lands, habitat improvement, translocation and reintroduction programmes and community education and development. They often require substantial resources, both financial and in kind through staff time, technology transfer and training. Zoos and aquariums in developed regions are financially and

Box 7.1

Asia

The Taipei Zoo, the TOAF Foundation, the Han-Shan Primary School and the Council of Agriculture and Taipei Zoological Foundation collaborated on a wetlands project to save the Taipei grass frog *Rana taipehensis*, which was declining due to use of pesticides and loss of habitats. The zoo encouraged local farmers to grow organically and sell waterlilies *Pomacea canaliculata*. Help was also given to protect the lilies from the Tobacco killer cutworm moth *Spodoptera litura* by spraying natural plant extracts and cutting the grasses which harbour the moths. A teacher training programme on wetland issues was organized for the local community. Through community and national partnerships, people can make enlightened environmental decisions based on the 'Five E-Values': economical benefits, environmental services, ethical concerns, 'esthetics' and educational benefits.

North America

Brookfield Zoo is one of 130 institutions, conservation organizations and municipalities partnering with 19 federal, state and county agencies and owners of natural lands in 'Chicago Wilderness'. 'Chicago Wilderness' is a group of organizations which make up the Greater Chicago Biosphere Project, a 15-year-old initiative which has produced many useful research and information products for individual, corporation and community use and which may result in the first urban biosphere reserve. Zoos, aquariums, museums and nature centres help to provide extensive communications and outreach efforts to the Chicago metropolitan public. The city provides several thousand volunteer field workers who assist in environmental conservation and restoration, linked by a switchboard network hosted by Brookfield Zoo.

Europe

The Copenhagen Zoo 'adopted' a group of Golden lion tamarins *Leontopithecus rosalia* in the Poco das Antas Reserve in Brazil by paying the salary of a field biologist collecting data for the long-term conservation of these animals. The biologist contributes authentic stories from the field that the zoo can use in interpreting its Golden lion tamarin exhibit effectively. In this way, Copenhagen Zoo and other funding zoos bring 'home' conservation activities 10,000 km from Europe. The Golden lion tamarin project gets funding to continue the all-important conservation research. A genuine win-win situation has been extended to 'adopt a corridor', and other components of the reserve. Projects such as this provide opportunities for zoos to support field conservation, for conservation projects to attract global attention and funding and for promoting an understanding of living conservation at work.

In June 2003, Zurich Zoo inaugurated its new Masoala Hall, a rainforest exhibit simulating conditions found in Madagascar's Masoala National Park. Within the confines of the 10,000 square metre exhibit, with humidity levels of over 80% and temperatures in the mid 30s C, are a wide range of plants and animals. Many of the over 17,000 plants have come from seeds collected in the forests outside the National Park and grown in nurseries set up by Park managers with support from Zurich Zoo. The building has its own rainfall with sprinklers sending down up to 80,000 litres of water a day, and there are few barriers between visitors and wildlife as they wander through this faithfully reproduced Malagasy rainforest. There are many links between the exhibit in Switzerland and the National Park in Madagascar. Already Zurich Zoo is bringing long-term financial contributions to a number of projects in communities around the park that will improve access to drinking water, health care, education and markets for local produce. Revenues generated by the new exhibit are channelled through the National Parks Service (ANGAP) in Madagascar, and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in New York, to help cover the management costs of the National Park and continuing development initiatives in surrounding villages. Visitors to the exhibit are also encouraged to travel to Madagascar and thereby increase much-needed tourist earnings. The benefits of this type of partnership between a European Zoo, a National Park in a developing country, and an international conservation society, are numerous and far-reaching.

Africa

The African Association of Zoos and Aquaria (PAAZAB) and the South African Crane Working Group (SACWG) are cooperating to help Wattle cranes *Grus (Bucconis) carunculatus*. SACWG is part of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, a local non-government organization. It has developed a recovery programme for the regional population of Wattle cranes. The programme requires the establishment of a secure regional captive population of Wattle cranes for reintroduction. PAAZAB members participate by breeding cranes supplied to them by SACWG.

Australasia

In Papua New Guinea, members of the Australasian regional zoo association (ARAZPA) have come together with local communities, the PNG Office of Conservation and Environment and non-government organizations such as the Nature Conservancy to form the Tenkile Conservation Alliance. The aim of the project is to conserve the Tenkile, *Dendrolagus scottae*, a recently described tree kangaroo species. In 1998, researchers estimated that as few as 100 Tenkile may remain, and the species was still threatened by hunting for ceremonial purposes. Under the Tenkile Conservation Alliance, representatives from the PNG government and Australian and PNG zoos negotiated a moratorium on hunting with local communities. The Tenkile Conservation Alliance is currently running a Tenkile research and conservation field project (WAZA Project Nr. 04016) and developing community outreach and information programmes.

technically often in a position to lead improvement in the standard of zoos worldwide.

Field conservation projects provide a good opportunity to forge zoo-to-zoo and aquarium-to-aquarium links through technology transfer and training, particularly in the areas of education, basic management skills and marketing. Local zoos and aquariums can be key resources for engaging local communities in projects and encouraging people to appreciate their natural environment. Institutions conducting field projects should make every effort to include, where practicable, local zoos and aquariums in the project. Such ties will help the local institutions to promote understanding and contribute to the sustainability of local wildlife management. It is not appropriate for a well resourced zoo or aquarium involved in a field project to ignore or snub poorly maintained or under-resourced animal institutions in the region. Well-resourced institutions should attempt to work with local institutions to improve their standards and capabilities.

Such interaction and partnerships will establish trust and cooperation between zoos and aquariums in all parts of the world. They will also expose local zoos to the standards and ethics of the international zoo community. Substandard facilities often contribute to the regional destruction of wildlife and promote dubious values among their visitors. Sensitive mentorship, interaction and partnership in these cases may be useful to regional conservation, as are field research and habitat improvement. Where possible, zoos with *in situ* projects should coordinate with national and regional associations; if such associations do not exist in the area, they should cooperate with individual zoos.

Equal partnerships, such as the exchange of training, can promote understanding and friendship on both sides. Visiting zoo personnel can be trained in the host country's culture and economics, as well as in technical subjects related to conservation. Conversely, people of ancient cultures can share their knowledge of alternative management techniques, local medicines and natural foods. The exchange of such knowledge can improve our understanding of species held in zoos and aquariums and our ability to interpret the importance of some animals in other cultures. Such an arrangement will create an atmosphere where equal and genuine partnerships are possible. (See also Chapter 5.)

7.4 Special linkages

WAZA

WAZA encourages partnerships among zoos and aquariums of all sizes, ages and degrees of complexity, as well as partnerships with related institutions, agencies, and individuals. It has recently begun to reinforce and formalize its links with governments, governmental organizations and international NGOs, especially IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Transport Associations and the United Nations Environment Programme, which administers the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. WAZA and its member zoos also have partnerships with like-minded professional organizations such as the International Zoo Educators Association. Using the huge pool of scientists it represents,

WAZA should focus on providing technical and scientific advice with a view to furthering species and habitat conservation, promoting sustainable development and enhancing animal welfare. It should also expand and formalize its partnerships, for example by granting affiliate member status to professional organizations that are interested in working under its umbrella and by concluding memorandums of understanding with governmental bodies and major NGOs that are not interested in affiliate membership. In forums such as conferences of parties to international agreements, WAZA should coordinate the activities of delegates from zoo associations as well as those from individual zoos and aquariums.

IUCN

IUCN with its worldwide membership, its regional and country offices, and its Commissions with their networks of scientific, technical and policy experts, provides many opportunities for linkages with the zoo and aquarium community. Particularly valuable is the Species Survival Commission (SSC), which hosts taxon-based and disciplinary Specialist Groups and task forces that hold a wealth of information and expertise on taxa of conservation interest, conservation biology, veterinary medicine, translocation of living organisms and environmental issues. Zoos and aquariums can access this information by interacting with the Specialist Groups. In turn, the zoo community can often help the Specialist Groups to make contact with relevant people and organizations in countries and regions where they have no representation.

Linkages with relevant specialist groups (SGs) are particularly helpful when a zoo is contemplating a field project. Some zoos have already helped fund Specialist Group newsletters and Specialist Group activities; for example, *Small Carnivore Conservation*, the newsletter and journal of the Mustelid, Viverrid and Procyonid SG has been supported by Antwerp Zoo, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Marwell Zoological Park, Central Park Zoo, NY and other zoos.

The IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) aims 'to conserve and establish populations of threatened species through conservation breeding programmes and through intensive protection and management of these plant and animal populations in the wild.' It does this through systematic, scientific and focused group processes which link *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and the people who can provide scientific expertise, catalysis and coordinating ability. Other specialist groups, especially the Re-introduction Specialist Group, are increasingly finding useful ways to link with zoos.

Zoos and aquariums frequently provide staff expertise and funding for other IUCN groups. In particular, they contribute to the work of Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshops, which assist in the development of strategic recovery plans for threatened species and their habitats, and to Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) workshops, which assess species for inclusion on the IUCN Red List. Workshop participants make management and research recommendations on issues such as the need for networking taxon groups, field studies, field technique

training, habitat improvement, health monitoring, zoo breeding for education, research or conservation, and education and awareness programmes.

Other organizations

When zoos and aquariums partner with academic organizations, they often find opportunities for cooperative research in conservation, biological, veterinary and social sciences. When zoos link with schools for nature and environmental education, the schools can help the zoos to plan educational literature and programmes around a unified curriculum of a city or a region. When education departments in municipalities and states plan their environmental programmes, they will find the educational resources of zoos a valuable adjunct to their other activities.

Partnerships with botanic gardens, national parks, and museums can help to break down the artificial institutional division between plants, animals and ecosystems that has existed since the 18th century. Partnerships can be made with institutions in the zoo's own locality or with institutions in underdeveloped countries if the zoo has the financial and technical means to provide technical material, training, equipment and other help useful to conservation. Other conservation and animal welfare agencies and organizations, particularly in less developed parts of the world, welcome financial and technical assistance from well-established zoos, which can often find experts for advisory projects from their own staff.

Twinning exhibits, particularly new exhibits, with reserves and conservation projects, can be particularly rewarding and bring benefits to all concerned.

Cooperative efforts between natural history institutions can also be usefully extended to other cultural facilities. Joint programmes with the zoo or aquarium and its local libraries could focus on nature writing, for example, and involve public readings by authors, poetry competitions, writers' workshops and a host of other creative projects centred on writing and nature. Similar partnerships could be forged with art organizations, encouraging painters and other visual artists to help carry the messages more typically promoted only by zoos.

Because conservation affects all people whatever their occupation or social class, collaborative programmes about conservation and wise stewardship of the environment need not be restricted to cultural institutions. Many professional organizations – such as those for architects, landscape architects, engineers, building contractors, and others involved with planning and developing the human environment – should find areas of common interest and activities that they can promote in concert with zoos. Creative thinking by zoos and aquariums will find yet other partners creatively to bring conservation messages to wider audiences.

Within their local communities zoos and aquariums can become leaders in public debates about sound ecological practices, encouraging examination of such regional issues as suburban development, clean water, pesticide pollution and other areas of human activity that affect local wildlife. Partnerships with local media are particularly

useful here. Usually zoos and aquariums foster contacts with the media primarily for their own promotion but they could also do it for the sake of conservation.

7.5 Policy and legislation Responsibilities

Local, regional and national governments determine legislation and policy on the environment, biodiversity, animal welfare, sport hunting and fishing. In the coming decades, there will be an emphasis on the whole Earth ecosystem; zoos and aquariums will be in a position to inform, encourage and work with governments and legislators in this broad context. Zoos and aquariums must comply with all the legislation and policy that affects conservation. Responsible zoos and aquariums will monitor their sister institutions in this regard by refusing to participate in illegal or unethical transactions and by trying to reform such institutions through peer pressure. If compliance is not forthcoming, responsible zoos may take even stronger measures, such as reporting them to WAZA and relevant government authorities. The WAZA Code of Ethics requires member zoos and aquariums to abide by national and international wildlife and welfare legislation. All regional and national zoo associations should be members of WAZA, and thereby committed to the WAZA Code of Ethics, as well as being committed to their own national or regional ethical conventions. (See Chapter 9.)

All zoos and aquariums should be members of regional or national associations. Such associations have proved themselves to be extremely effective forces for improvements in zoos, whether by policies, peer pressure or politics. All regional and national zoo associations should make every effort to represent and engender a conservation conscience appropriate to their culture within their member institutions, and to bring their members' activities into a common ethical and technical framework. National and regional associations should persuade their respective governments to improve or create zoo legislation that will provide mechanisms to help zoos carry out their conservation purpose. To be effective, government zoo policy should include legislated regulations that underpin explicit and species-specific standards and guidelines.

Zoos and aquariums should not only maintain an ethical position in support of conservation but also where possible use their unique institutional profile to influence public opinion and voting habits. Providing information on conservation issues that can be resolved or improved by local, national or international legislation or simply by local community action is one of the most powerful conservation tools that zoos and aquariums can bring together. Institutions should liaise with each other either individually or through their association to obtain accurate information in order to strengthen their efforts.

Zoos and aquariums address visitors through different means, including educational displays, lectures, and printed material. Zoos and aquariums can enlist zoological societies in these tasks by providing well-designed and effective educational materials, by organizing action and by keeping in contact with other conservation organizations in the community. Zoos and aquariums can present issues in international forums through their associations, and locally

by providing representation on local councils and committees.

Influencing policy makers

Visits by politicians, policy makers and celebrities provide an opportunity for expert zoo and aquarium staff to promote issues involving wild species and wild habitat survival. The information given should be focused on these broader issues rather than on more narrow, zoo or aquarium specific ones. Zoos and aquariums can also influence law makers and other influential community members by taking them to off-site venues – local or overseas – that are important to wildlife. The opportunity to visit wild habitats or wildlife refuges in the company of animal curators or researchers is often very appealing to non-specialists. In these ways, zoos and aquariums can build on the universal appeal of wildlife by providing a close encounter with the animals and the knowledge of specialist zoo staff. The trust and knowledge engendered by such encounters will lead to improved conservation legislation, locally and worldwide. The result will be to the benefit of all wildlife.

Legislation

Some countries have created basic zoo and aquarium legislation and a few have established species-specific standards and norms for animal care, conservation, education and other aspects of an institution's operation. In some cases, national or regional zoo and aquarium associations have helped the government to formulate legislation. Those countries without appropriate legislation or regulation of any kind will benefit from using that of other countries as a model when formulating their own policies and regulations.

Zoos and aquariums in countries with the appropriate regulation are well placed to encourage other institutions – both regionally and internationally – to address regulatory issues. In particular, they can help zoos and aquariums in countries where there is no relevant legislation to establish and enforce an effective system for maintaining high standards of zoo and aquarium management.

7.6 Conclusions

Zoos and aquariums enlighten, enthral and inspire their audiences about wildlife. As with all natural history institutions, their greatest responsibility is to encourage a level of respect and an understanding of nature so deep that people will become enthusiastic about conservation. People who are compassionate, informed and enthusiastic about conservation will choose to make lifestyle changes, to make everyday decisions that support the environment, and to vote for politicians who want to set progressive conservation policies.

The physical separateness of our natural history institutions, be it zoo, aquarium, botanic garden or museum, is not an effective way to carry messages about diversity and connectedness, to demonstrate interdependency, to present holistic views of nature, or to convey dynamic stories of ecosystems. It is of course impossible to relocate such facilities, but they can demonstrate their interdependence through strategic partnerships. Through collaboration, each institution can

strengthen its role as nature's ambassador. All zoos and aquariums should link with other organizations that can help them carry out their conservation mandate. Such organizations will in turn benefit by their association with the zoo and aquarium community.

There is a need to create an awareness of the benefits deriving from partnerships, association membership and adherence to a common conservation ethic. Accredited zoos and aquariums should create incentives to bring about change in collections which are not convinced of these benefits. The strongest incentive may be to reinforce the fundamental belief that an individual's actions should have merit in the eyes of a greater community. In this regard, recognized, *bona fide* zoos and aquariums will be quick to support and encourage facilities taking their first steps towards developing partnerships. This will help them to fully appreciate the merit and benefits of networking and partnerships.

Recommendations

The World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy (WZACS) strongly recommends that zoo and aquarium partnerships and networks be established or strengthened at local, national, regional and international levels.

The WZACS reminds all zoos and aquariums that they must comply with the legislation and policy that affects conservation and animal welfare. The WZACS maintains that all zoos and aquariums should be or should strive to be members of a regional and/or national zoo association.

The WZACS recommends that regional and national associations should make every effort to produce and present a conservation conscience appropriate to their culture within their member institutions, and to bring the activities of all their members into a common ethical and technical framework.

The WZACS urges national and regional associations to persuade their respective governments to improve or create zoo and aquarium legislation that will help zoos and aquariums to undertake their conservation purpose.

The WZACS urges those countries that do not have zoo and aquarium legislation to use and adapt the existing relevant legislation of other countries when formulating their own policies and regulations, and to seek the help of those zoo and aquarium associations where legislation already exists.

