



# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS 2019 EAZA MANIFESTO

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Progressive zoos and aquariums  
working together for nature

## PROGRESSIVE ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FOR NATURE

In the Anthropocene, politics and civil society need to cooperate to protect biodiversity.  
EAZA is your partner to:

- 1. *make the protection of European and global biodiversity a political priority***
- 2. *make the EU the standard-setter for zoo and aquarium legislation***
- 3. *safeguard the health and welfare of animals in human care and in the wild***



Reef exhibit at Nausicaa, France | photo: P. Turpin

## INTRODUCTION

EAZA, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria is a not-for profit association which represents and links over 400 institutions in 47 countries (of which 26 are EU members). Formed in 1992, EAZA's mission is to facilitate cooperation within the European zoo and aquarium community towards the goals of education, research and conservation.

More than 140 million visits are made to EAZA Members annually – which means our zoos and aquariums connect with one in four EU citizens every year. EAZA provides millions of Europeans a unique opportunity to learn about and contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, in Europe and beyond, by ensuring that our Members achieve and maintain the highest standards of welfare, health and accommodation of the animals in our care.

Driven by this mission, EAZA is calling on the Candidates in the 2019 elections to the European Parliament and on their political groups to commit to the following actions:





European bush cricket (*Eupholidoptera chabrieri*) | photo: M. Bushell

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## MAKE THE PROTECTION OF EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY A POLITICAL PRIORITY

Biological diversity is essential for the wellbeing of humans, plants and animals alike, and for the long-term sustainability of the ecosystems we share.

Nations of the world have committed to achieving the [Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#) aimed at ensuring that “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.” Biodiversity conservation is also a focus of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) which guide decision makers and leaders.

**Successful scientific research and training underpins EAZA Member activities in wildlife conservation, education, animal welfare, ecotourism and other areas. EAZA Members dedicate around EUR 30 million to research. Jointly, EAZA Members employed 1,498 people who conduct research as part of their job description, i.e. almost 5% of the total workforce. EAZA Members publish over 1,000 peer and non peer reviewed scientific papers annually (SEIA 2010). EAZA supports the open access Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research.**

Yet [studies](#) undertaken worldwide prove that we are not on track to meet conservation goals and that the pressure on Earth’s biodiversity is not decreasing. Urgent and concerted action is necessary.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONSERVATION IN 2017

DURING 2017

€ 26.8 MM FINANCIAL SUPPORT & 70.566 STAFF HOURS

WERE CONTRIBUTED TO CONSERVATION, BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY

61 EAZA MEMBERS

SUPPORT WENT TOWARDS CONSERVATION EFFORTS FOR

MORE THAN 375 SPECIES

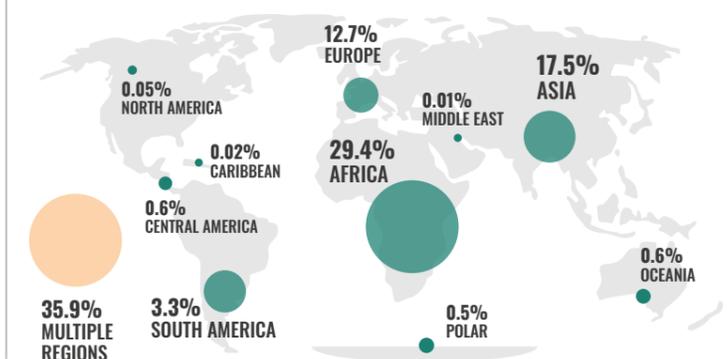
IN COLLABORATION WITH MORE THAN 325 PARTNERS



TOP 5 OF SPECIFIC TAXA RECEIVING THE MOST FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN 2017 WERE



ACROSS 10 WORLD REGIONS



• Based on information available in the EAZA Conservation Database in August 2018.

We therefore call on Members of the European Parliament of the next legislature to:

- 1.1 Make biodiversity a political and policy priority during your term in office and “address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.” (*Aichi Strategic Goal A*)
- 1.2 Ensure that all domains of EU policy effectively contribute to protecting biodiversity by:
  - *Contributing to a circular economy by integrating sustainable production and consumption to your policy areas and minimising negative impacts of the use of natural resources. (Aichi Target 4, Sustainable Development Goals 13, 14, 15)*
  - *Combatting illegal wildlife trade which has been posing an increasingly serious threat to the survival of individual animal and plant populations as well as to the stability of entire ecosystems.*
  - *Always considering native biodiversity protection in the wider context of global biodiversity.*
- 1.3 Ensure that the EU remains at the forefront of global biodiversity efforts, leading by example and inspiring other countries and actors to join the efforts.



### On our part...

- 1.4 EAZA zoos and aquariums will continue to make biodiversity conservation the priority for our collaborative population management programmes including the 400 non-commercial EAZA Ex situ Programmes (EEPs) mandated by the Convention on Biological Diversity and the EU Zoos Directive. Our programme aims are integrally developed with conservation partners following the globally accepted “One Plan” approach to species conservation.
- 1.5 EAZA Members will continue to expand upon our projects, partnerships and funding of conservation initiatives in nature. Research shows that our formal educational activities reach more than 5 million people every year (SEIA 2010).
- 1.6 EAZA Members provide a unique physical link for EU citizens between urban centres and wildlife. We will build on this potential to engage and inspire to take an active role in raising public awareness of the values of biodiversity and the steps our visitors can take to conserve and use it sustainably. (Aichi Goal A, Target 1)
- 1.7 We have a special responsibility towards the conservation of native European species. We will continue to provide our scientific expertise to ensure that the Invasive Alien Species Regulation supports native species whilst not hampering the conservation of non-European species, including those which are of importance for EAZA Members.
- 1.8 We will continue to liaise with CITES authorities on the national, EU and global stage to aid in combatting the illegal trade in animals, plants and wildlife products.
- 1.9 We will continue organising EAZA Conservation Campaigns. For nearly two decades, they have been addressing a variety of threats to species and habitats, raising funds for field conservation projects and promoting biodiversity awareness.



Our Let it Grow Campaign 2016-2017 focused on making local communities havens for native species so that these working ecosystems help protect our continent from biodiversity loss and invasive alien species.

Our Silent Forest Campaign 2018-2019 is in line with the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking (COM (2016) 87). We are working with partners IUCN Species Survival Commission Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group, Birdlife International, and TRAFFIC to draw attention to threatened songbirds in Asia where illegal trade is causing massive declines in populations.



## 2

### MAKE THE EU THE STANDARD-SETTER FOR ZOO AND AQUARIUM LEGISLATION

The vast majority of EAZA zoos and aquariums operate under the legislative authority of the European Union. Thus, they derive their mandate from the Zoos Directive (1999/22/EC) which recognizes zoos as conservation organizations that contribute to saving biodiversity in and outside of Europe. The Directive aims to raise and harmonise standards across European zoos by inviting Member States to introduce licencing schemes and carry out regular inspections to ensure that zoos meet the conditions required by the licence.

EAZA strongly supported the introduction of the Zoos Directive. We have been also actively contributing to its recent fitness check by providing evidence and input from across our membership.

Jointly, EAZA Members generate over EUR 2.5 billion of value added in the European economy based on on-site and off-site spending.



**In line with the EAZA Position Statement on the EU Zoos Directive 1999/22/EC of March 2017, we call on Members of the European Parliament of the next legislature to:**

- 2.1 Endorse the importance that the Zoos Directive attaches to modern zoos and aquariums in conservation, research and education, in Europe and globally.
- 2.2 Promote implementation of the Directive at Member State level.
- 2.3 Identify opportunities for recognition by EU Member States that accreditation by zoo associations, like EAZA, are an indicator that these institutions are meeting the requirements of the EU Zoos Directive.
- 2.4 Support the creation of a reporting mechanism from Member States to the EU Commission to document the progress of implementation.
- 2.5 Promote recognition of Member States with efficient and effective implementation at reasonable costs and ensure support for Member States with less-effective implementation.
- 2.6 Endorse the creation of a stakeholder platform that will advise the Commission on supporting EU Member States in the implementation of the Directive.

#### **On our part...**

- 2.7 We will continue supporting the implementation of the Directive by promoting EAZA's openly-available Standards and Guidelines, i.e.: EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos and Aquaria (2014) - EAZA Conservation Standards (2016) - EAZA Conservation Education Standards (2016) - EAZA Research Standards (2003) - EAZA Guidelines on the definition of a direct contribution to conservation (2015) - EAZA Guidelines on the use of animals in public demonstrations (2014) - European Code of Conduct on Zoological Gardens and Aquaria and Invasive Alien Species (2012).
- 2.8 EAZA and our Members will actively engage in process at Member State and EU level to share our scientific knowledge and expertise about wild animal management and welfare.
- 2.9 We will regularly evaluate our practices and liaise with our extensive network of partners, such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), be at the current forefront of thinking on effective management of wild animals in human care.

EAZA recognises that Member States have different education and training opportunities for people who aspire to roles within the zookeeping profession. We are addressing this via our EAZA Academy as well as our ERASMUS+ funded project developing a European Professional Zookeeper Qualification Framework for use by organisations and academia across Europe.



Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) | photo: D.Castor CC

## 3

### **SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF ANIMALS IN HUMAN CARE AND IN THE WILD**

The EAZA Strategy 2017-2020 has a key pillar for EAZA to 'Lead in zoo animal management and care by maintaining healthy populations of individuals with positive welfare'. EAZA Members build expertise by providing tailored and specialised veterinary care to zoo animals which can be translated to free-living populations. This makes EAZA uniquely placed to contribute to addressing the emerging threats that wildlife diseases pose to biodiversity on global and European levels.

Until now, the EU has seen very varying standards of animal health, in part due to inconsistencies in legislation as well as unequal degrees of implementation across the Member States. EAZA therefore welcomes the formation of the new EU Animal Health Law. If properly developed and fully implemented, such a legal framework will strengthen the already existing high health standards of EAZA Members. It should enable the translation of their expertise from the zoo to the wild in order to tackle wildlife diseases.

**In this regard, we call on Members of the European Parliament of the next legislature to:**

- 3.1 Support the maintenance of high health standards for zoo animals through the formation of the new EU Animal Health Law, recognising the specific expertise of EAZA Members in this field.
- 3.2 Recognise the importance of EAZA-based research and policies e.g. EAZA/ EAZWV Tuberculosis Strategy, for the continued refinement of veterinary diagnostics and animal health.
- 3.3 Ensure that animal health legislation does not jeopardise the essential animal movements within recognised EAZA Ex Situ Programmes for population management.
- 3.4 Recognise the importance of EAZA-based research and policies e.g. EAZWV/ EAZA Transmissible diseases handbook, for the continued refinement of veterinary diagnostics and animal health.

**On our part...**

- 3.5 EAZA will continue to provide its constructive feedback and expertise throughout the creation and implementation of the Animal Health Law.
- 3.6 We will maintain our efforts to promote EAZA health and welfare standards in non-member zoos and aquariums, for example by openly sharing [EAZA Best Practice Guidelines](#) for numerous species.
- 3.7 We will continue sharing our expertise through the following channels:
  - *The EAZA Committee for Technical Assistance provides guidance and mentoring support to developing zoos and aquariums who strive to reach EAZA Standards*
  - *We will continue promoting [EAZA's manual on modern zoo practice](#) – a possible tool for zoo- and aquarium licensing authorities.*
  - *The EAZA Academy, EAZA's professional development department, will continue to offer extensive training opportunities across a range of disciplines, including animal welfare, veterinary record keeping, and zoo management.*

EAZA believes that the professional zoo and aquarium community has significant and targeted expertise to offer European political parties and candidates in the upcoming elections and subsequent parliamentary work.

In all the actions listed in this Manifesto, EAZA will remain a credible, reliable and constructive policy stakeholder, sharing our Members' scientific knowledge and best practice with policymakers on EU and national levels for the benefit of nature in our care and in the wild.



**CONTACT**

**Myfanwy Griffith**

*EAZA Executive Director*

**EAZA Executive Office**  
c/o Artis Zoo - Amsterdam  
PO Box 20164  
1000 HD Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

E [myfanwy.griffith@eaza.net](mailto:myfanwy.griffith@eaza.net)

T +31 20 520 0750

**Tomasz Rusek**

*EAZA EU Policy Manager*

**EAZA Brussels Office**  
c/o IUCN European Union Representation office  
64, Boulevard Louis Schmidt  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium

E [tomasz.rusek@eaza.net](mailto:tomasz.rusek@eaza.net)

T +31 628 500 828

**European Parliament Elections 2019 - EAZA Manifesto**

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Back cover photo - Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) released  
into Romania - Artis Zoo



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EAZA Executive Office  
c/o Artis Zoo - Amsterdam  
PO Box 20164  
1000 HD Amsterdam  
The Netherlands