

EAZA Guidelines on Meat and Soya



Approved by EAZA Council
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The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria recognises and is concerned about the impact of deforestation and habitat conversion on biodiversity worldwide. Across the EAZA region, there are different approaches and interpretations of how best to address this impact on biodiversity and habitats worldwide. This document aims to provide EAZA Members guidance by providing recommendations on how to get involved at an institution, association and political level with the topics of meat and soya.

The Imported Forestry and Sustainable Agriculture Working Group will continue to guide Members through supportive actions to limit imported deforestation in our supply chains, through government consultations, scientific research and wider NGO sector initiatives aiming to improve certification schemes.

Please also refer to the existing [EAZA Guidelines on Palm Oil and EAZA Guidelines on Timber](#) and the more extensive available background information on each of the topics in the document [Background Information on Imported Forestry and Sustainable Agriculture](#). Information on these topics continuously becomes available and next to the recommendation below, the Imported Deforestation and Sustainable Agriculture Working Group aims to summarise and update background information on a regular basis for EAZA Members to use.

Recommendations for EAZA Members

- Use your restaurants to educate visitors about how meat consumption drives deforestation and biodiversity loss in South America and provide them with delicious alternatives to help them reduce their meat consumption.
- Support conservation projects in soy and beef landscapes in South America and use them as an educational tool for visitors to understand the importance of reducing meat consumption.
- Support active forest protection and restoration in soya landscapes.
- Buy locally sourced meat and work with your local farmers to understand what their animals are being fed on to reduce embedded soya in your meat products.
- Understand your own meat and soya supply chain through supplier audits.
- Where soya is used as animal feed (either directly by your zoo or aquarium, or by your meat suppliers), ensure this is grown to a recommended certification scheme standard. There is not currently one leading scheme we can recommend with

sustainable soya, however this [document](#) by the UK roundtable on soya provides a breakdown of the key schemes.

- Collaborate and offer expertise to certification bodies (e.g. Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS), Proterra) to promote landscape based effective platforms for meta-population management of key species.
- Collaborate with soya certification schemes in improving the certification system so that audits focus on impacts of actions rather than the actions themselves.
- Create awareness about and encourage visitors to learn more about soya, in order to maximise consumer influence and where the option is available in country, encourage support and purchasing of certified sustainable soya, and ban the use of unsustainable soya.
- Activities should include, but not be limited to, education and information, consumer advice and facilitating consumer voice and choice.
- Engage with industry and government in their country (as Members or National Associations) where possible to encourage improvement of standards within certification schemes and increase support for soya through initiatives such as the [UK Soya Manifesto](#), released in November 2021 and Europe's [Towards Conversion-free Soya](#).