

OVERVIEW OF EAZA GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

July 2025

EAZA Executive Office



INTRODUCTION

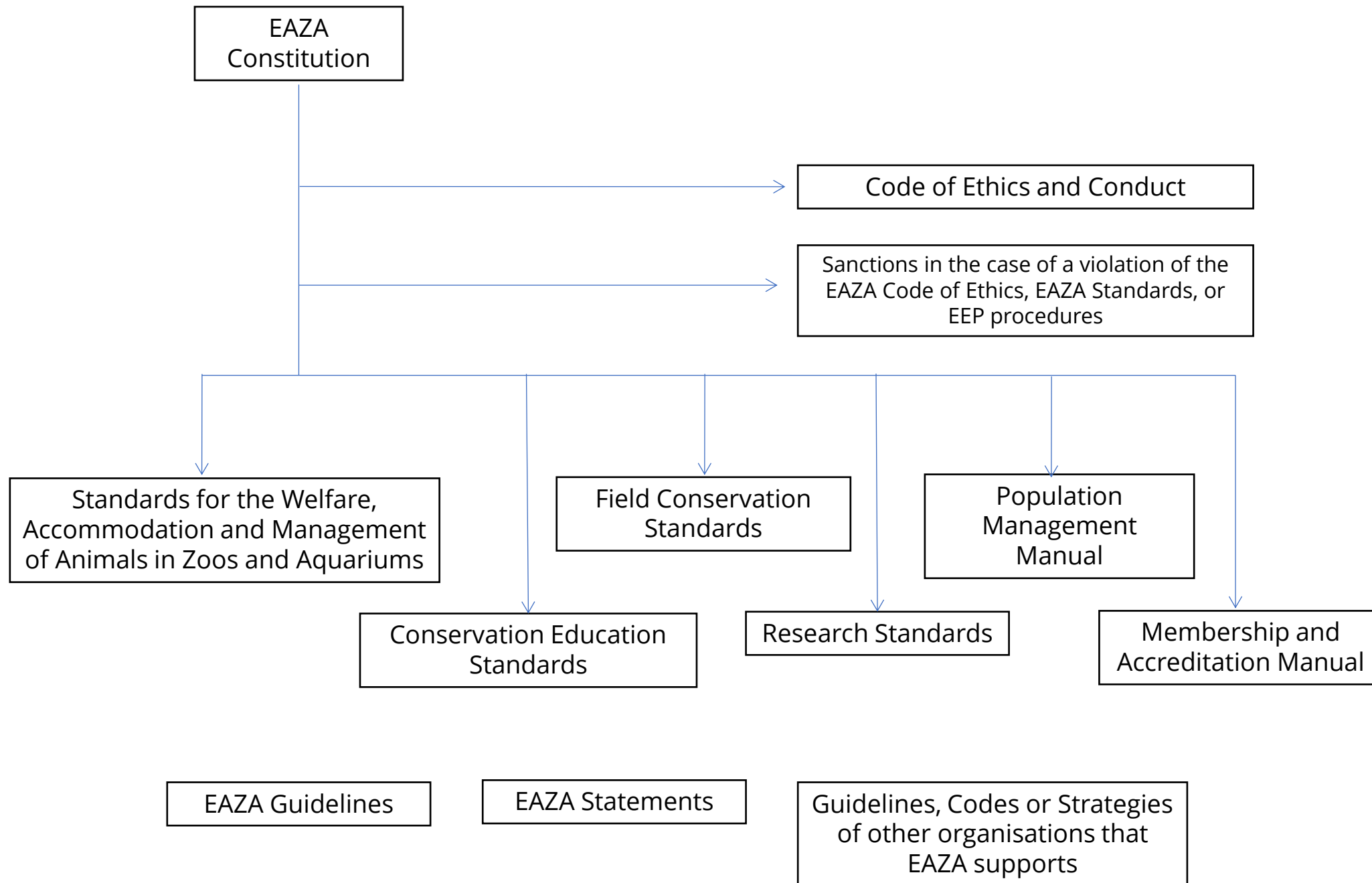
This set of slides provides an overview of the variety of governing documents of EAZA, all of which are available at <https://www.eaza.net/operational-documents/>

It presents a simple structure for how these documents relate to each other and the scope of each type of document.

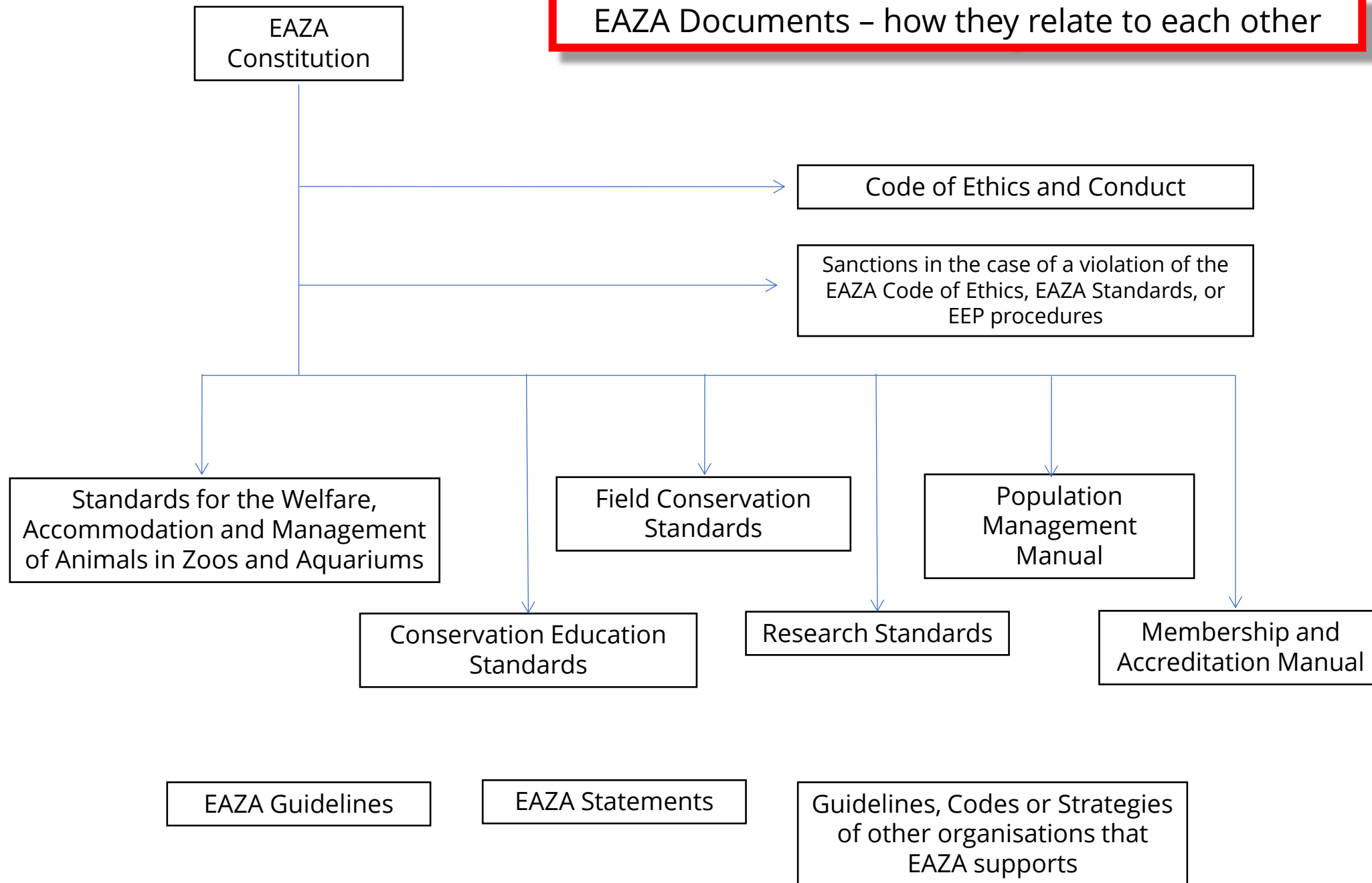
EAZA strives to agree on the terminology used for different categories of documents:

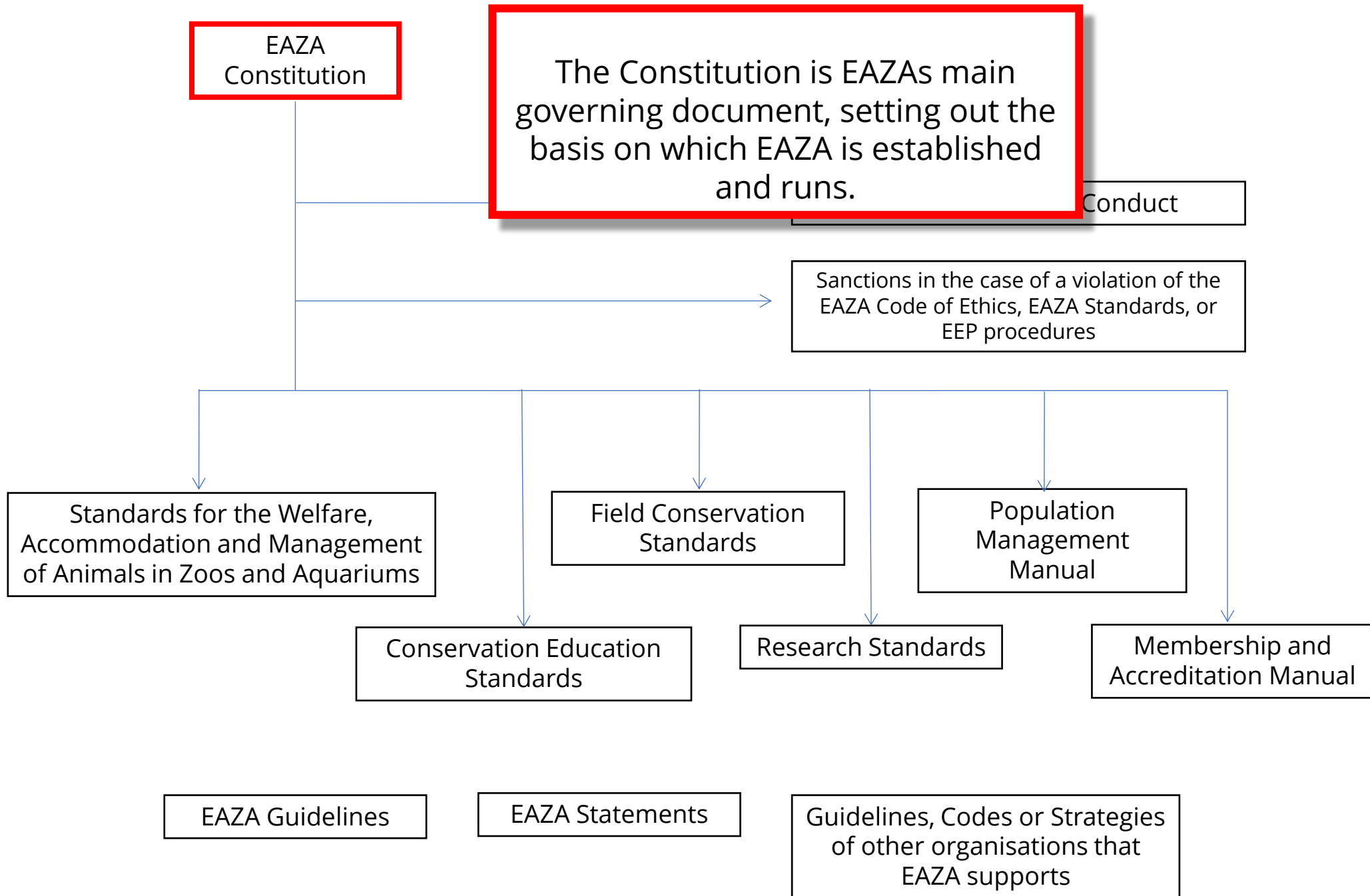
- **Codes, Standards and Manuals** (mandatory except where otherwise clearly indicated within them)
- **Guidelines** (EAZA strongly recommends Members to follow)
- **Statements** (EAZA's view on a topic. Members should support this position but might not be able to implement it in their institution due to legislative and/or cultural differences)





EAZA Documents – how they relate to each other





EAZA
Constitution

The Constitution includes reference to further regulations comprised of codes of ethics and conduct, standards, sanctions and manuals to which the members, committees and corporate bodies of the Association have to follow.

The Code of Ethics and Conduct outlines what EAZA members must do and how they must behave.

Code of Ethics and Conduct

Sanctions in the case of a violation of the EAZA Code of Ethics, EAZA Standards, or EEP procedures

Field Conservation
Standards

Population
Management
Manual

Conservation Education
Standards

Research Standards

Membership and
Accreditation Manual

EAZA Guidelines

EAZA Statements

Guidelines, Codes or Strategies
of other organisations that
EAZA supports



EAZA
Constitution

The Code of Ethics and conduct also references documents from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

For example, EAZA Members should follow the **IUCN Guidelines** on the Use of Ex situ Management for Species Conservation.

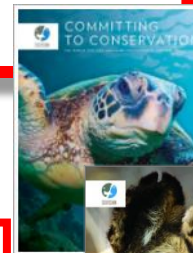
Standards for the Welfare
Accommodation and Management
of Animals in Zoos and Aquariums

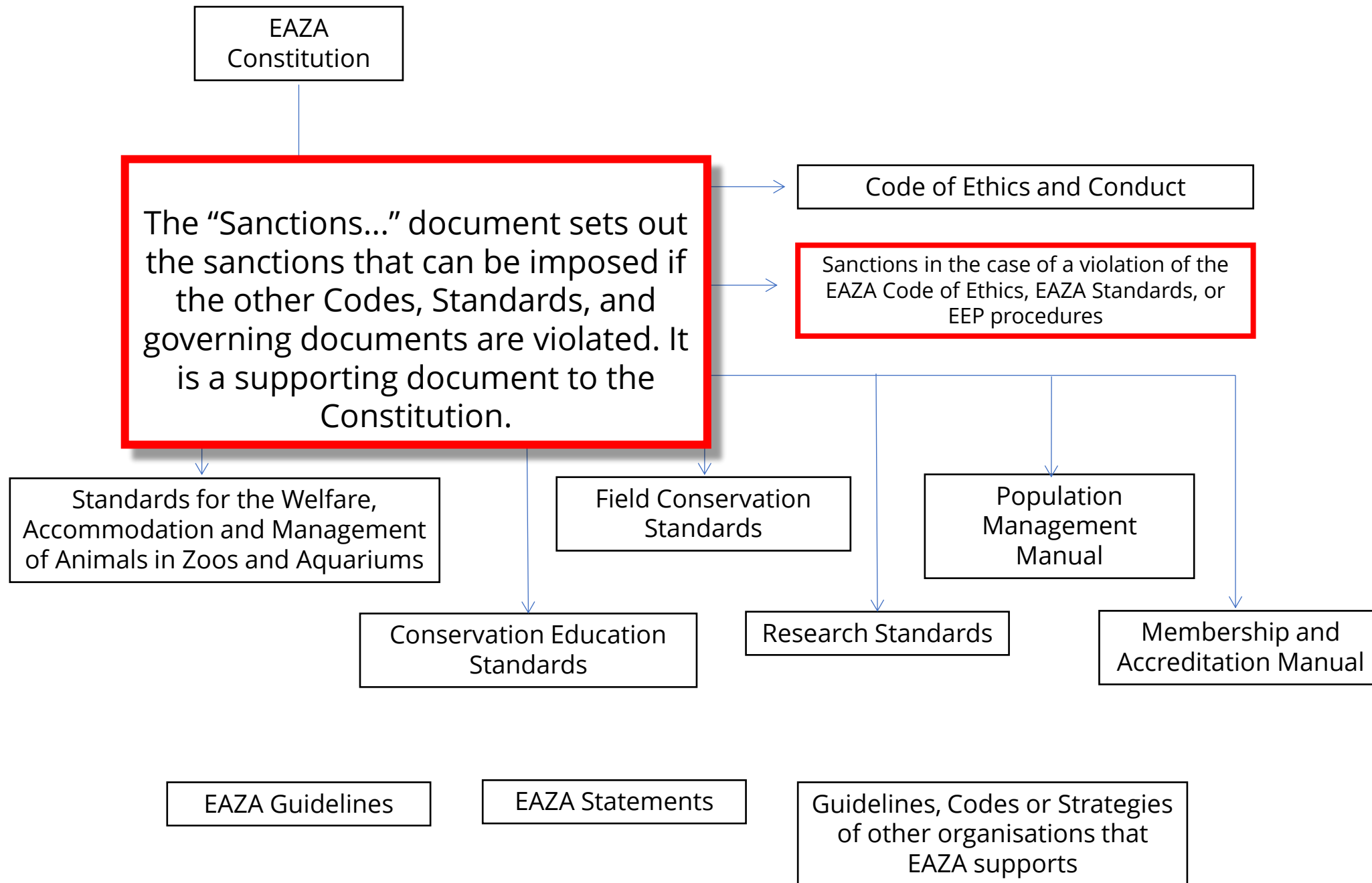
The Code of Ethics and Conduct references **strategies from the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)** stating that all members will implement them to the best of their abilities.

EAZA Guidelines

EAZA

Guidelines, Codes or Strategies
of other organisations that
EAZA supports





EAZA
Constitution

The four Standards documents outline what EAZA Members are expected to do. These expectations are mandatory except where otherwise clearly indicated within such documents.

The Standards are regularly reviewed and updated.

Code of Ethics and Conduct

Procedures in the case of a violation of the Code of Ethics, EAZA Standards, or EEP procedures

Standards for the Welfare,
Accommodation and Management
of Animals in Zoos and Aquariums

Field Conservation
Standards

Population
Management
Manual

Conservation Education
Standards

Research Standards

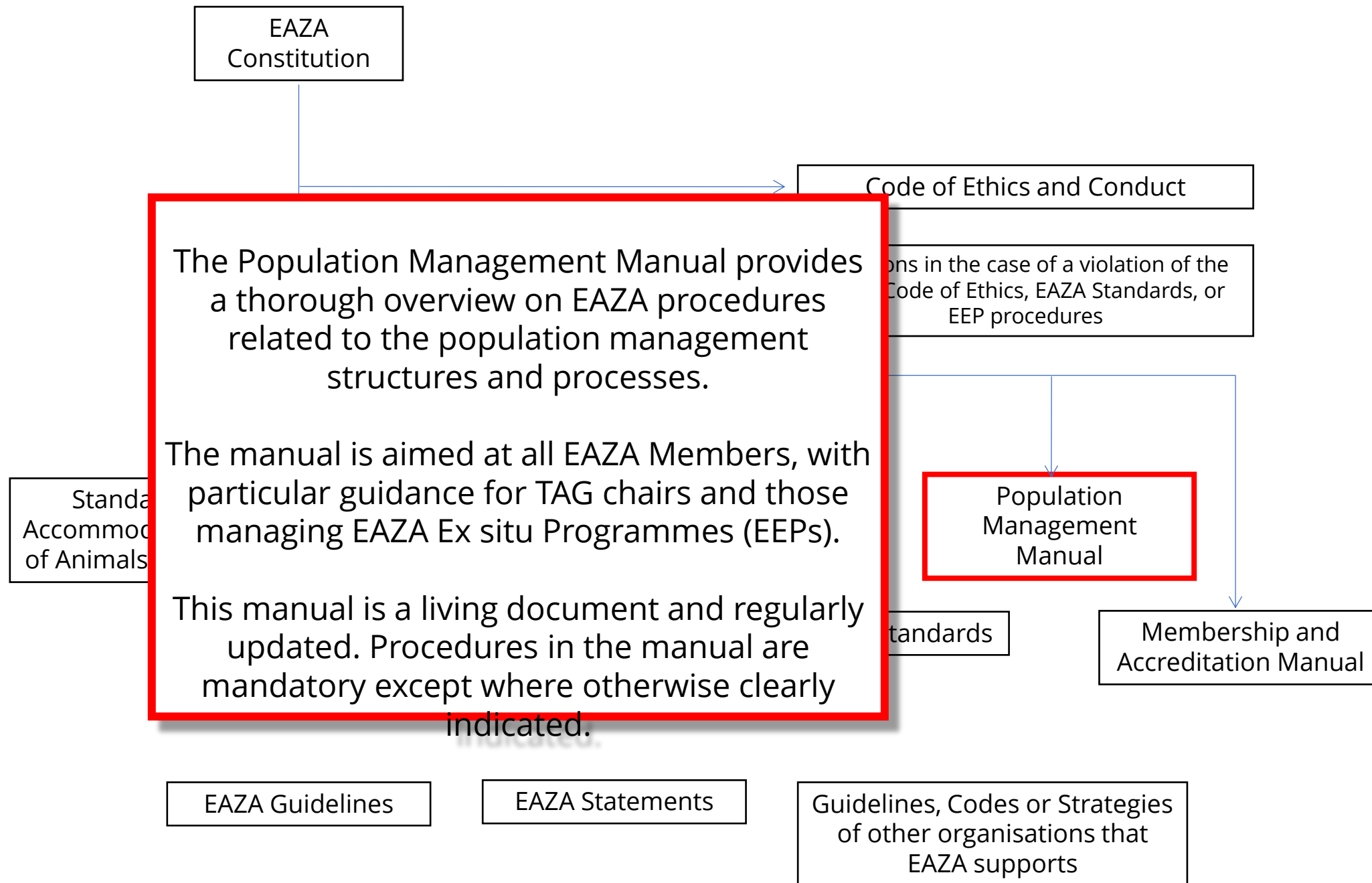
Membership and
Accreditation Manual

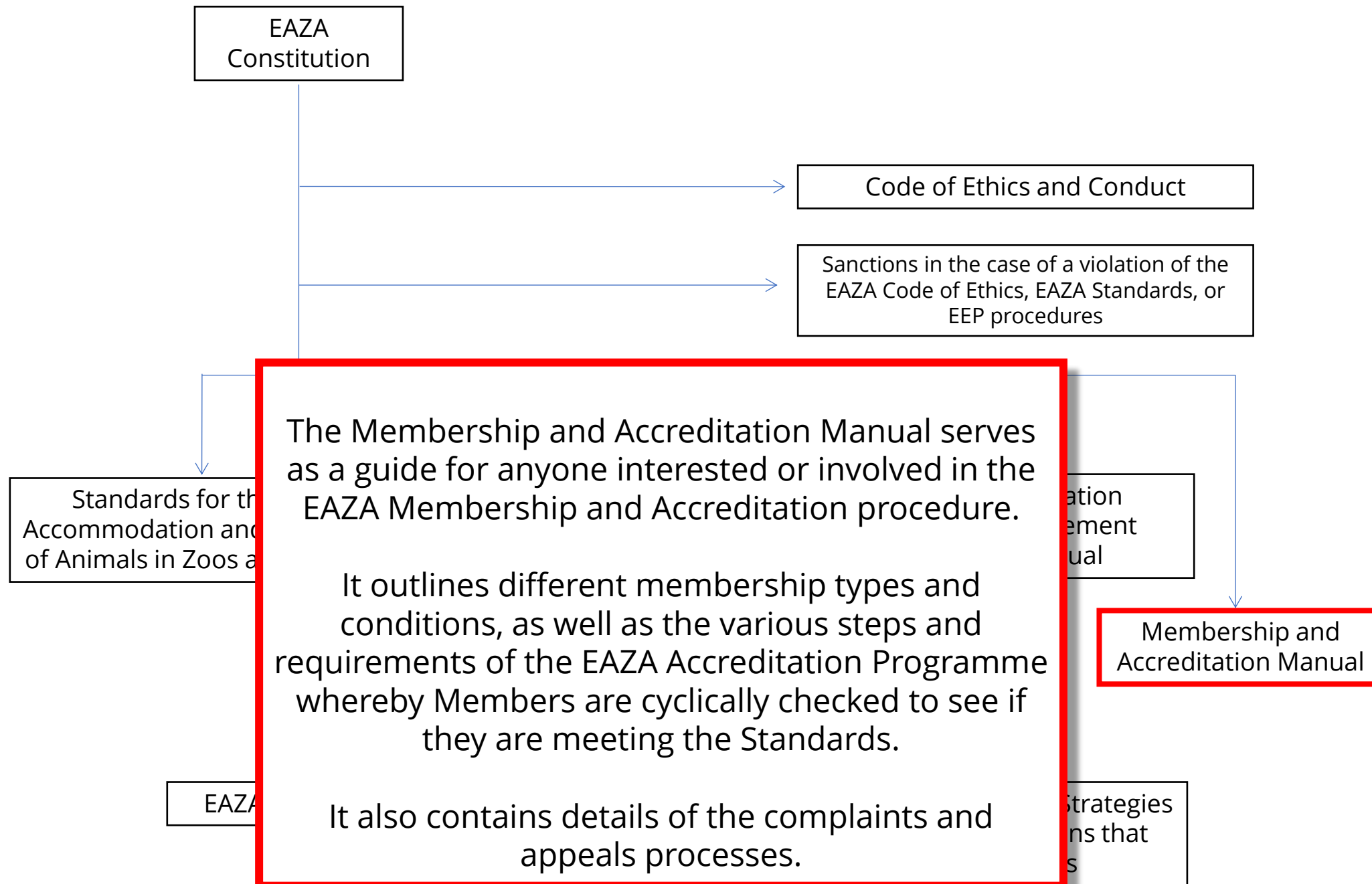
EAZA Guidelines

EAZA Statements

Guidelines, Codes or Strategies
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EAZA Constitution

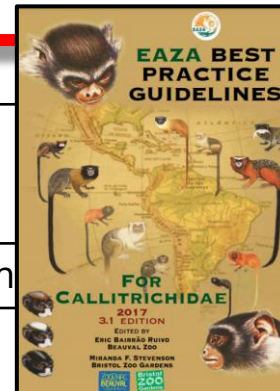
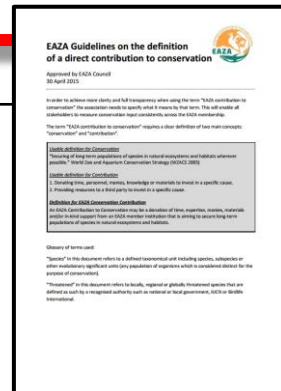
EAZA produces Guidelines documents that Members are strongly encouraged to follow. In some cases it is likely that guidelines will be incorporated into Standards in the future.

For example, there are:

- EAZA Guidelines on the definition of a direct contribution to conservation (2015)
- A variety of EAZA Best Practice Guidelines that support the Standards for Welfare, Accommodation and Management of Animals in Zoos and Aquariums with species specific information

Standards
Accommodation
of Animals in Zoos

EAZA Guidelines



Manual



EAZA
Constitution

Code of Ethics and Conduct

EAZA Statements detail EAZAs view on a topic. Members should support this position but might not be able to implement it in their institution due to legislative and/or cultural differences.

Examples of such statements are:

- EAZA Response to the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (June 2020)
- EAZA Elephant TAG Position Statement on the Reintroduction of Elephants from Zoos (July 2021)
- EAZA Management Euthanasia/Culling Statement (April 2023)
- EAZA Position Statement the Use of Cryopreserved Materials and Biotechnology (October 2024)

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EAZA supports



EAZA
Constitution

Code of Ethics and Conduct

Sanctions in the case of a violation of the
EAZA Code of Ethics, EAZA Standards, or
EEP procedures

Standards for the Welfare,
Accommodation
of Animals in Zoos



EAZA

EAZA Statements

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EAZA supports

EAZA has been involved in the development of, and strongly encourages all Members to follow, Guidelines, Codes and Strategies of other organisations such as:

- European Code of Conduct on Zoological Gardens and Aquaria and Invasive Alien Species (October 2012)
- EU Zoos Directive Good Practice Guidelines (available in multiple languages)

