



EAZA DIRECTORS' DAYS AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

THEME

In this edition of EAZA Directors' Days and Annual General Meeting (AGM), hosted by Beekse Bergen Safari Park, we turn our attention to the shared purpose and values that unite the EAZA community and will help drive forward the upcoming Strategy. We will examine how our collective work in animal care, population management, welfare, and conservation can strengthen both individual institutions and the Association as a whole.

Through focused discussions and interactive workshops, Directors will contribute to defining what a healthy, forward-looking EAZA community looks like: one that is cohesive, resilient, and positioned to respond to future challenges. These inputs will support EAZA Council and the Executive Committee to synthesize the outcomes of this meeting and consider how to incorporate them into the next phase of strategic planning.

We invite all participants to take part in shaping how EAZA evolves as a community: how we support one another, uphold shared standards, and represent ourselves as modern zoos and aquariums.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Event dates: 13-17 April 2026

Host: Beekse Bergen Safari Park, The Netherlands

Venue: Hogon House at Safaripark Beekse Bergen, located at G499+FJ, Tilburgseweg 41, 5081 NG Hilvarenbeek, Netherlands.

Key contact:

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The final conference programme will be made available in the Whova Conference app. All registered delegates will receive an invitation to download and access the app. **Programme updates and information will be announced via the Whova App.**

PROGRAMME

MONDAY 13 APRIL 2026: COMMITTEE MEETING

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Membership and Ethics Committee meeting (closed)

Location: Toguna 2

16:00 Coffee and Tea Break

18:00 End of Meeting

TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2026: COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

08:30 EAZA Executive Committee meeting (closed)

Location: Toguna 2

10:00 Coffee and Tea break

10:30 National Associations Committee meeting (closed)

Location: Toguna 1

and

Technical Assistance Committee meeting (closed)

Location: Toguna 2

12:00 Lunch – Executive Committee, National Associations Committee, Technical Assistance Committee, and Council

13:00 EAZA Council (closed) – Strategy discussions: Purpose and Values

Location: Nommos

15:30 Coffee and Tea Break – Council

16:00 EAZA Council (closed) – Meeting: Approvals and administrative content

Location: Nommos

18:00 Registration desk open

Location: Foyer Hogon House

19:00–19:30 Executive Committee welcome to new Directors/CEOs and first timers

Location: Mugunda (shuttle service offered)

19:30-21:30 Icebreaker for all

Location: Mugunda (shuttle service offered)

WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2026: DIRECTORS' DAY 1

LOCATION: AMMA | REGISTRATION DESK OPEN FROM 08.00

08:30 Session 1: Opening Session

Welcome from Beekse Bergen | *Leentje Lips, Division Director, Libéma, The Netherlands*

Welcome from EAZA Chair | *Christoph Schwitzer, Director, Dublin Zoo, Ireland*

Facilitator Introduction and Ground Rules | *Elisabeth (Lizzie) Crudgington, Blue Mind Designs*

Celebrating 2020 – 2025, looking ahead 2026 – 2032,

10:30 Coffee and Tea Break

11:00 Session 2: What does a good EAZA Member look like?

Setting the scene | *Thomas Kölpin, Membership and Ethics Committee Chair, Director, Wilhelma Zoo, Germany*

Interactive workshop on the topic

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Session 3: What does conservation impact look like?

Setting the scene | *Simon Bruslund, Conservation Committee Chair, Director of Global Development, Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark*

Interactive workshop on the topic

16:00 Coffee and Tea Break

16:30 Session 4: Healthy Populations

Setting the scene | *Brian Zimmerman, EEP Committee Chair,*

Director of Conservation and Science, Bristol Zoological Society, UK and Mads

Bertelsen, Veterinary Committee Chair, Zoological Director, Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark

Interactive workshop on the topic

18:30-19:30 Happy Hour with Exhibitors at Foyer Hogon House

THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2026: DIRECTORS' DAY 2

LOCATION: AMMA | REGISTRATION DESK OPEN FROM 08.30

08:30 Session 5: Positive welfare and underpinning research across all activities

Setting the scene | *Kirsten Pullen, Research Committee Chair, Deputy CEO, Chester Zoo, UK*

Interactive workshop on the topic

10:30 Coffee and Tea Break

11:00 Session 6: Advocacy and External Engagement

Setting the scene | *Wineke Schoo, National Associations Committee Chair, Director, NVD, The Netherlands*

Interactive workshop on the topic

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Session 7: Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Led by EAZA Chair | *Christoph Schwitzer, Director, Dublin Zoo, Ireland*

16:00 Coffee and Tea Break

16:30 Session 8: Conclusions and next steps

Led by Facilitator | *Elisabeth (Lizzie) Crudgington, Blue Mind Designs*

18:00 End of Day Two

19:30 – 00:00 Gala Dinner

Location: Moto (shuttle service offered)

FRIDAY 17 APRIL 2024: AFTER CONFERENCE COUNCIL MEETING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

10:00 EAZA Council (closed): Synthesis of conclusions and next steps

Location: Toguna 1 + 2

12:00-13:00 Lunch – Council

10:00-16:30 Zoo visit and optional guided tours at Beekse Bergen. Exact details to follow