



# Infopack for EAZA-accredited Member

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## **Context:**

At the end of 2024, EAZA's 10-year accreditation cycle was completed. From April 2025, all EAZA Full Members will be able to call themselves "accredited Members".

As part of the EAZA Strategy 2021-2025 (objective 4.2.1), we wanted to create an **infopack for Members** to:

- inform/remind them what being an EAZA Member entails
- facilitate and encourage their proactive communication about their accreditation and their role within our community.

We also want to find ways for EAZA to celebrate the (re)accreditations when Council approves the decisions. This can also be supported on the national level.

**Audience:** anyone responsible for the communications activities of the zoo or aquarium (Comms, Marketing, Education department but also directors)

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# 1. Introduction

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Your zoo / aquarium is an EAZA-accredited Member!

Why should you be happy about it? What is accreditation? Why does it matter—and how can it benefit your zoo or aquarium? How can you share this achievement with your various audiences?

This infopack is meant to answer these questions and provides practical tools and ideas to help you make the most of your status as an EAZA Accredited Member.

Please contact [press@eaza.net](mailto:press@eaza.net) if you have any remaining questions and/or think something else could be added in the infopack.

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## 2. EAZA Accreditation

To maintain and increase the standards and practices of zoological institutions, EAZA has developed its own accreditation and audit system, the **EAZA Accreditation Programme (EAP)**.

### What is the EAZA Accreditation Programme?

The EAP is a **cyclical** and **transparent** system of **independent peer-reviewed** inspection for our Members, that ensures **confidence in EAZA and its Members** from the wider zoo and aquarium community, visitors and external organisations and authorities.

### How does it work?

Whether it is for a new applicant or an existing EAZA Member, the EAP follows three key steps:

1. **The administrative procedure**, i.e questionnaires and paperwork to be provided by the zoo /aquarium.

2. **The screening mission (visit and report):**

A screening team, composed of experienced colleagues from other EAZA Full Member institutions, visit and carefully inspect the facility and review whether or not it meets the strict Codes and Standards expected of EAZA Full Members. This is not limited to animal enclosures and husbandry, but also includes a review of health and safety procedures, veterinary care, collection planning, acquisition and disposition of animals, education initiatives and

involvement with conservation among other elements.

The purpose of the inspections is to provide a peer review of your facility and make suggestions for improvement that all zoos and aquariums can find useful. It also pushes our Members to keep their standards high and facility evolving.

A screening report will be written by the team based on the visit.

3. **The decision on membership:**

Every 6 months, usually in April and September, all screening reports produced in this time period are discussed by the **EAZA Membership & Ethics Committee**. The Committee will make accreditation recommendations to the EAZA Council. **EAZA Council**, that also meet twice a year in the same months, makes the final decision on EAZA accreditation status.



The four possible outcomes for a new applicant are: Accredited Membership, Temporary Membership, Candidate for Membership (CfM) and Denied (see Figure 3).

The three possible outcomes for an existing EAZA Member are: Accredited Membership, Conditional Membership and Termination (see Figure 5).

For more information about the Committee and Council, [see here](#).

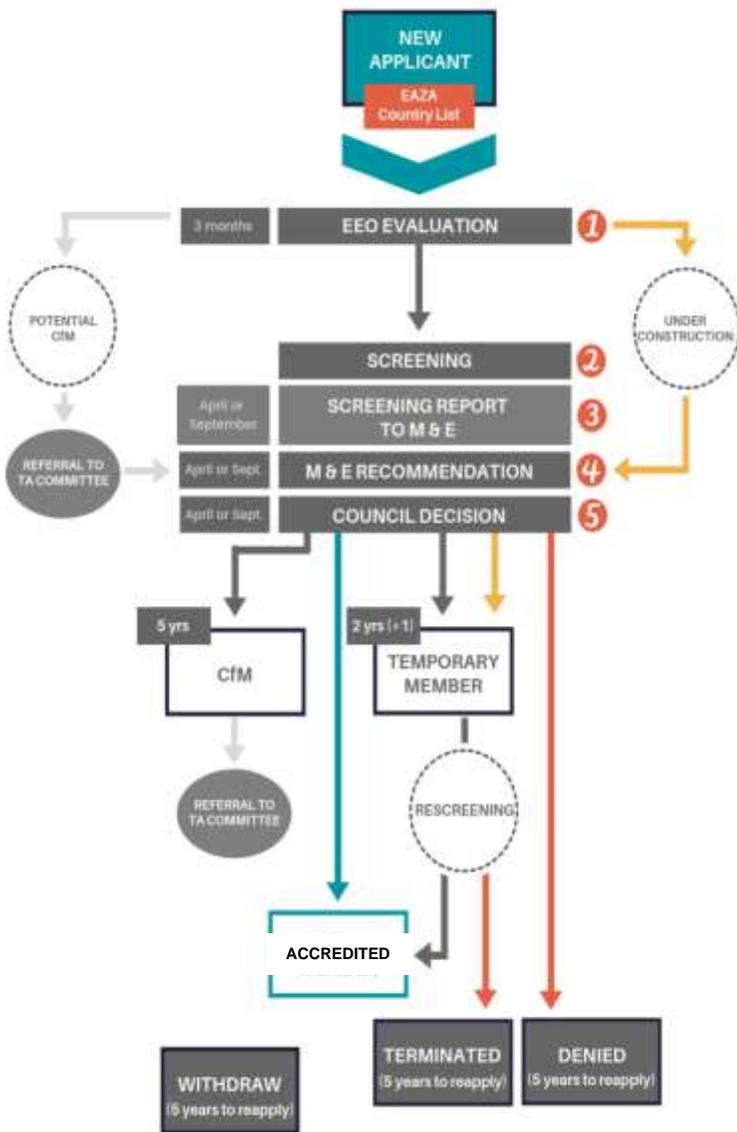


Figure 3: New Full Member Applicant Procedure

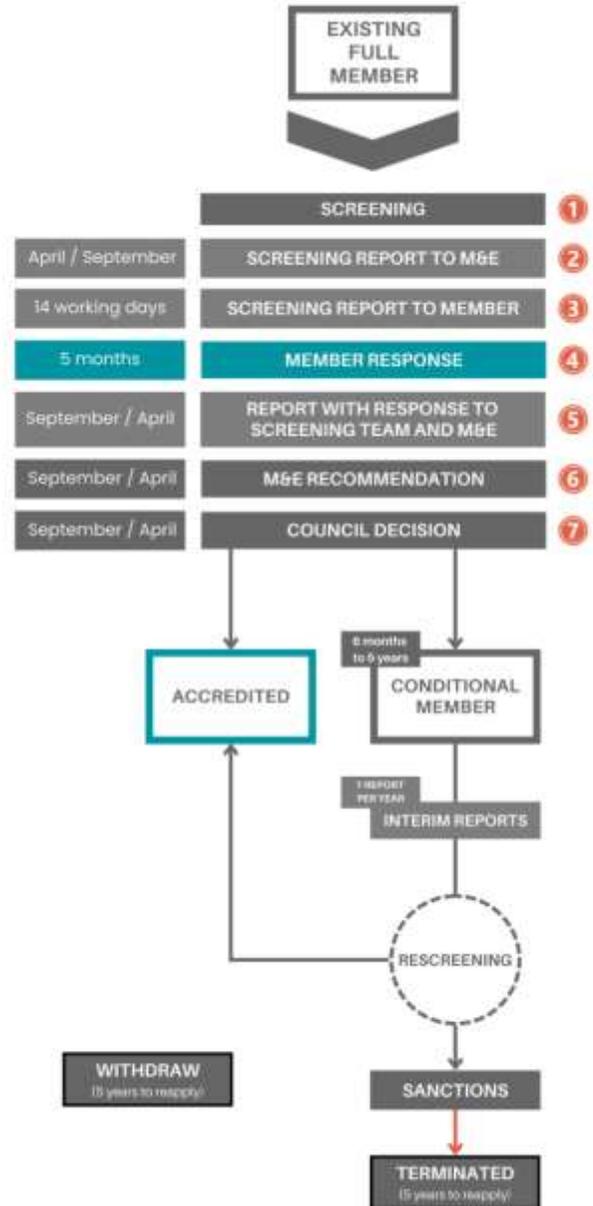


Figure 5: Accreditation Procedure for Existing Members

NB: From 2025, the option for Temporary Membership has been replaced by Conditional Membership for existing Members. This is a more supportive and collaborative process for Members.

If the Member is unable to resolve the 'conditions', listed in the screening report, after the 6-month review period, they will enter Conditional Membership:

- retaining all rights during their Conditional Membership period, except the right to serve on Council.
- must remove 'Accredited' from all communications, as well as the "accredited member" logo (you can continue using the usual EAZA logo).
- lasting from 6 months up to 5 years. If longer than 6 months, the Member must provide yearly interim reports to M&E on progress toward resolving the conditions.

Only Full and Associate Members who have received their official accreditation certificate are allowed to say they are EAZA-accredited Members and to use the "accredited member" logo. Conditional Members, CfMs, Temporary Members, Corporate Members, Associate Members who do not hold animals and terminated Members cannot use the term "EAZA-accredited Member", nor use the "accredited member" logo.

## Who needs to be accredited?

EAZA Members in the categories of Full, Associate Member–Non-Public and Associate Member–Zoo/Aquarium must participate in a cyclical re-accreditation procedure to maintain their membership, on a 5-year timeline.

NB: Until 2024, it was a 10-year timeline.

You can find some numbers and details about the various categories of EAZA Members on the figure "Membership".



**400+** MEMBERS



IN **47** COUNTRIES IN EUROPE AND BEYOND



Progressive Zoos and Aquariums Saving Species Together with You

## Some accreditation numbers

- Average number of new applications EAZA receives per year: 7
- Number of screening visits done yearly: 60 to 70 in the new cycle
- Number of screening reports discussed every 6 months by the Membership & Ethics Committee: 30
- Number of active EAZA screeners: approximately 150

### 3. What does it mean to be an Accredited EAZA Member?

Being an Accredited Member of EAZA demonstrates your commitment to everything a modern zoo or aquarium should be: professionally managed and progressive centres of excellence for conservation, learning, research, and animal welfare. In other words, accreditation verifies and provides evidence that you fulfill the missions of a **good zoo / aquarium**.

NB: We are not implying “EAZA zoos are good, non-EAZA zoos are bad”. We are saying that EAZA zoos are good because they act in compliance with our Standards. We want visitors to know what to expect from an EAZA zoo.

#### Benefits of EAZA Membership

EAZA Accreditation is a **label of excellence** that attests of **your place within the community of leading zoos and aquariums** in Europe and Western Asia. It evaluates and evidences how you comply with EAZA Codes and Standards, provide the animals in your care with positive welfare and the best possible living conditions and have effective research, conservation and education strategies.

Being an EAZA Accredited Member provides **your visitors** with the confidence that they are supporting a good zoo / aquarium, committed to making a positive impact for nature using ethical and legal processes.

Being an EAZA Accredited Member provides **you and your staff** with:



The infographic box contains four main items, each with an icon and a list of details:

-  Access to all the **resources** and collaborative work – guidelines, events, training, online forums
-  Access to our global **partner** network
-  Access to and involvement in **EAZA Ex situ Programmes** for over 500 species
-  **Support** and **assistance** from the EAZA Executive Office in:
  - > Conservation and population management
  - > Communications
  - > Policy and legislation
  - > Membership-related questions

- **Resources:** EAZA gathers professionals with a high level of scientific expertise working for a common goal: preserving species and habitats and reconnecting people with animals / nature. When EAZA Members come together during courses and events, it provides **expert knowledge / skill exchange** allowing zoos / aquariums to keep progressing individually and as a community.

NB: the EAZA Academy has delivered over 150 applied courses to more than 3,800 attendees since 2010. In October 2024, 1,072 delegates from 52 countries and 283 institutions gathered in Leipzig Zoo for the EAZA Annual Conference. **Number of people in Committees, TAGs etc?**

- **Population management** - saving a species takes more than caring for endangered animals. It requires managing animals as a population to keep it more demographically stable and genetically diverse in the long-term. The population management tools used vary depending on the species and may involve the participation of non-EAZA institutions. Managing a population can't be carried out by a single zoo / aquarium. Nor can it be done by the zoo community only. EAZA's experts work in collaboration with external partners (i.e. following the framework of the One Plan Approach) to ensure that the animal populations in EAZA zoos and aquariums contribute to the overall conservation of their species.

**NB: needs output in numbers. Examples of species downgraded on the red list? Numbers of participants per EEP? Number of transfers per year?**

- Stronger advocacy: Working together towards common goals gives more credibility to zoos and aquariums. EAZA represents the interests of zoos and aquariums at the European and global levels. The Association amplifies its Members' voices in lobbying for strong policies and laws for animal welfare, wildlife conservation, and sustainability.

## EAZA Members obligations

EAZA's rigorous accreditation requirements ensure that our Members are contributing to high-quality conservation, education and research, and constantly improve their practices, using the latest available knowledge.

### 1. EAZA Members are obliged to comply with EAZA's governing documents.

These are the core documents that **govern and direct the functioning of EAZA** as an organisation and the activities of its Members. In addition to the EAZA [Constitution](#), [EAZA Code of Ethics and Conduct](#) and [Sanctions in the case of a violation of the EAZA Code of Ethics, EAZA Standards or EEP procedures](#), this includes:

- [EAZA Population Management Manual](#) (updated in 2024)  
Joint management of animal populations is at the core of EAZA Members' collaboration. Coordinating **demographically stable and genetically diverse populations** creates opportunities to contribute to species conservation. Population management is done through **EAZA Ex situ Programmes (EEPs)** for over 500 species.

The EAZA Population Management Manual provides a thorough overview of the rules and procedures for, and gives guidance in relation to, population management in EAZA - from the process of recommending EEP species, the working procedures for an EEP, how to collaborate with non-EAZA institutions, to Institutional Species Planning at your zoo, sanctions and more.

NB: EAZA Accredited Members must participate in EEPs and enter their animal records in ZIMS (managed by Species360).

- [EAZA Membership and Accreditation Manual](#) (updated in 2024)  
Since its establishment, membership of EAZA has increased tremendously, as has the level of **professionalism and commitment to modern standards** expected of our members.  
This manual describes the EAZA Membership and Accreditation process: from the types of membership available, the steps of the accreditation process to guidelines for the screening team and diverse procedures related to Memberships and Ethics decisions, complaints and appeals.

## 2. EAZA Members are obliged to comply with EAZA Standards.

These are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect scientific progress and to allow **better communication** to the public and to lawmakers that EAZA Members are well managed and measured against **higher standards than local legislation**.

- [EAZA Standards for Welfare, Accommodation and Management of Animals in Zoos and Aquariums](#) (updated in 2024)  
These Standards lay down EAZA's expectations on animal care, welfare, safety, health, accommodation and management. Compliance with these Standards gives Members **additional recognition** of their capability to manage the welfare of animals in their care and meet highest sector requirements, recognised by the global benchmark (WAZA Animal Welfare Goal). They also include important **safety rules**, helping zoos minimise the risk of incidents.
- [EAZA Research Standards](#) (updated in 2022)  
Active participation in creating, communicating and using scientific knowledge and evidence-based practice is integral to the understanding and conservation of animals, plants and their habitats.  
These Standards aim to increase the **research involvement and the output** of EAZA Members and set out what is minimally expected from them in relation to research. They help guide, inform and provide a **coordinated approach to research** in zoos.

NB: Recent research papers produced with involvement of EAZA Members are listed in the [Zoo Science Library](#) set up by EAZA and the Association of German-

speaking zoological gardens (VdZ). EAZA publishes the peer-reviewed [Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research](#), JZAR.

- [EAZA Field Conservation Standards](#) (updated in 2022)  
Every EAZA Member is expected to engage in activities that positively impact the conservation of species.  
These Standards outline what is expected from EAZA Members in relation to *in situ* species conservation activities - from planning, management (incl. evaluation), financing to implementation. They also provide guidance and support on how to meet these Standards.

Nb: EAZA Members are required to report their *in situ* conservation work, which is then displayed in the searchable EAZA Conservation Database and the publicly accessible [EAZA Conservation Map](#).

- [EAZA Conservation Education Standards](#) (updated in 2023)  
For conservation to succeed, people need to be inspired to care about and understand the natural world. EAZA Members receive 148 million visits every year. Professionally managed conservation education makes a huge difference for conservation.  
These Standards guide zoos and aquariums in the practice of conservation education by zoos and aquariums, whether it takes place in their institution, in the local community, in partnership with other organisations, within *in situ* projects or collaboratively on a global scale.

### **3. Every Full Member has the obligation to vote at the Annual General Meeting.**

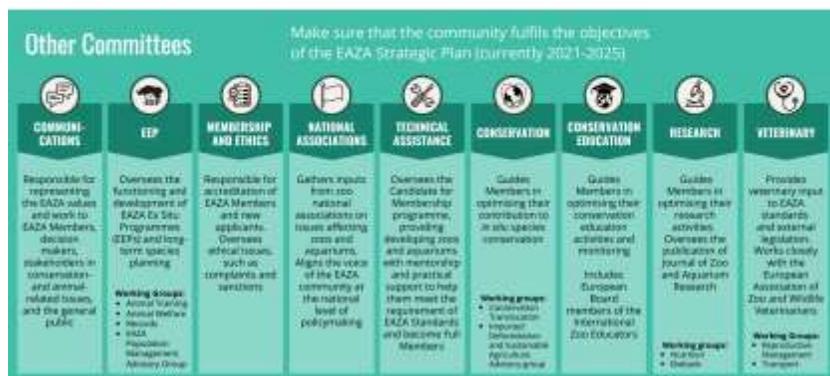
Through the Annual General Meeting (AGM), **EAZA Members are the decision makers** of the Association.

AGM votes on all EAZA Standards and other governing documents.



\* composed of
 

- EAZA Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer
- the Aquarium representative and the Chairs of five EAZA Committees



[Zoom in on the infographics.](#)

#### 4. EAZA Members are expected to dedicate adequate resources to be actively involved in EAZA’s work.

- Allocate the staff time needed for active participation in EAZA collaboration, for example for the coordination of EAZA Ex situ Programmes (EEPs)
- Play an active part in Committees, Taxon Advisory Groups, EEP management
- Send staff to the Annual Conference and Directors’ Days
- Whenever possible, send staff to specialist EAZA conferences taking place every two years: Welfare Forum, Conservation Forum, Conservation Education Conference, Nutrition Conference.
- Play an active part and vote (or send proxy) in the Annual General Meeting
- Consider representing their country in EAZA Council
- Participate actively in EAZA Conservation Campaigns

- Register for the EAZA intranet (Member Area) on the website to get access to Member-only documents and collaborative workspace
- Follow EAZA news (see the different ways to do so below)



## eNews

Directly **delivered to your inbox** and reserved to EAZA Members, our eNews compiles information about events, training opportunities, programme changes, opportunities to get involved in TAGs and Committees, the latest publications and more.



## PUBLICATIONS

Available freely on [www.eaza.net](http://www.eaza.net), **Zooquaria** and **JZAR** are quarterly magazines featuring your work! Find out what your colleagues are up to in the areas of conservation, education, animal care, welfare, sustainability, research and more.

Submit your articles:

- for Zooquaria via email to [sandrine.camus@eaza.net](mailto:sandrine.camus@eaza.net),
- for JZAR via [www.jzar.org](http://www.jzar.org).



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow **our latest news weekly** and stay up-to-date with some of your colleagues' achievements. Use EAZA's handles in your posts so we can share them. Take part in the **#ProudZooPeople** series or **take over our Instagram account** (✉ [sandrine.camus@eaza.net](mailto:sandrine.camus@eaza.net)).

Follow us on:



## FIND YOUR PEOPLE

- Communicator? Meet online quarterly with the **EAZA Communicators' Network** (CN) to discuss relevant topics.
- Welfare specialist? Get the latest updates on the **EAZA Animal Welfare Facebook group**.
- Educator? Join the **EAZA Conservation Education Facebook group** to exchange with your peers.



## 4. How can celebrating your accreditation benefit your zoo / aquarium?

As said above, the EAZA Accreditation Programme is a standardised and comprehensive evaluation process that pushes zoos and aquariums to **keep their standards high and continue evolving**. The EAP attests of your place within the community of **leading zoos / aquariums** in Europe and Western Asia.

Promoting your EAZA accredited status:

- Provides evidence that your zoo / aquarium is a **good zoo** and differentiates you from other animal holders or institutions dedicated to entertainment only
- Places you as part of a **professional network** driven by science with a common goal to protect nature
- Increases the **positive perception** of visitors, donors, potential partners and other stakeholders
- Recognises your staff's hard work, which reinforces their job **satisfaction and team spirit**
- Raises awareness of the **missions of zoos /aquariums** and of their crucial role in nature conservation

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## 5. Material to help promote your EAZA accreditation

Only Full and Associate Members who have received their official accreditation certificate are allowed to say they are EAZA-accredited Members and to use the “accredited member” logo. Conditional Members, CfMs, Temporary Members, Corporate Members, Associate Members who do not hold animals and terminated Members cannot use the term “EAZA-accredited Member”, nor use the “accredited member” logo.

## Certificate for Accredited Members

Every Accredited Member receives an **accreditation certificate**.

Why not take a picture of your staff holding it proudly to announce your accreditation on social media (see example by Bioparc Gijon Aquarium below)? Why not display it at the entrance of your zoo / aquarium, next to a poster on the EAZA community.



## Logos



Accredited members are encouraged to display the Accreditation logo on their digital and physical footprint, along with the EAZA logo. They will be sent this logo upon passing Accreditation.

Download the EAZA logos in [.PNG](#), [.EPS](#) or [.AI](#).

Download the EEP logos in [.JPG](#) or [.EPS](#).

## Posters, banners

Need to create a Canva infographics, translatable in different languages

Example of visuals used in EAZA zoos

- Basel Zoo (Switzerland) in French, German and English



- Mulhouse Zoo (France) in French



## Demain, vers une conservation intégrée

LA SURVIE DES ESPÈCES À TERRE NE PEUT ÊTRE GARANTIE QUE PAR UNE ACTION CONCERTÉE ENTRE PARCS ZOOLOGIQUES ET MILIEUX NATURELS

Une stratégie globale doit pouvoir réunir tous les acteurs de la préservation de l'environnement: gouvernements, scientifiques, populations locales, associations.

Ce type de gestion concertée à échelle mondiale (One Plan Approach) est essentiel pour le seul moyen d'évaluer les risques d'extinction et d'agir à long terme sur chaque espèce répertoriée parmi les plus à risque.

### L'EAZA, Association Européenne des Zois et Aquariums: une stratégie à l'ambition!

- 140 espèces de reptiles qui ont disparu dans le monde
- 1350 espèces de poissons qui ont disparu dans le monde
- 60 espèces de mammifères qui ont disparu dans le monde

### Une biodiversité en danger

38 500 espèces sont à ce jour considérées comme menacées par l'UICN.

### Comment évaluer le risque d'extinction?

Tous membres contributeurs de ce plan, les espèces en danger de l'UICN (UICN International pour la Conservation de la Nature), la Biodiversité dans le monde, la Terre des Océanaires et leur réseau partenaires.

Le statut de l'espèce est évalué et révisé sur l'échelle de l'UICN de Extinct et peut évoluer dans le temps.

### Les parcs zoologiques interviennent à différents niveaux

- Planifier le plan d'action
- Surveiller et contrôler l'état
- Prendre le meilleur guide
- Changer les habitudes de consommation des pays concernés
- Financer le développement durable
- Organiser des séminaires locaux
- Quadrupler le financement
- Coordonner les interventions et les efforts
- Organiser des ateliers
- Publier et partager l'information
- Établir des partenariats
- Former les populations

### NOTRE ACTION

Le Parc zoologique et botanique de Mulhouse est leader en France pour la conservation de la faune menacée via les programmes éducatifs européens.

Il participe à des programmes européens.

Il est responsable de garantir le maintien des populations de gibiers en parc zoologique (Au Chêne).

UNION EUROPÉENNE

Le programme des parcs zoologiques de l'Europe est financé par l'UICN.

En vertu de la loi sur les parcs zoologiques, les parcs zoologiques ont le droit de participer à la conservation de la faune menacée.

Et c'est les associations de conservation qui le font.

- Olomouc Zoo (Czechia) on EAZA Ex situ Programmes in Czech



- Ostrava Zoo (Czechia): EAZA and WAZA flag at the entrance of the zoo



- Zagreb Zoo (Croatia)



## Examples of messages to use on social media, news post, press release

We encourage accredited members to share the news of their accreditation on their native channels and in local media. You can find inspiration from our templates below and from colleagues who have promoted their EAZA membership in recent years.

Please have a look at the [EAZA Communications Guidelines](#) (2023) for more information about the common voice we encourage all Members to adopt.

### Press release

Feel free to use/adapt the press release below to announce your accreditation to your media contacts and partners. Why not use pictures of your team holding the EAZA certificate, of the screening team visiting your facilities or photos illustrating your work in conservation, education, research or animal care.

*We would love to receive your press release to help us build a collection of examples in all EAZA languages. Please add [press@eaza.net](mailto:press@eaza.net) to your mailing list.*

Template:

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## **Name Zoo / Aquarium recognised as a leading zoo / aquarium according to EAZA's highest standards**

For immediate release: **date**

**Name Zoo / Aquarium proudly announces it has achieved accreditation by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA). Being an Accredited Member of EAZA demonstrates our commitment to being a professionally managed progressive centre of excellence for animal welfare, conservation, research and education.**

This week, **name Zoo / Aquarium** received EAZA Accreditation attesting of our place within the community of leading zoos and aquariums in Europe, Western Asia and beyond. We are among the first to be accredited in a new five-year accreditation cycle of EAZA.

The evaluation consisted of a thorough inspection of our facilities by experts from the zoo community. Our rules, procedures and documents were thoroughly checked to verify that we meet the strict Codes and Standards expected of EAZA Members. EAZA Standards are stricter than most national licensing requirements in EAZA countries. The accreditation screening covers all areas of modern zoo and aquarium management, such as: quality of animal habitats and husbandry practices, animal welfare assessments, health and safety procedures, veterinary care, planning of species lists, animal transfers, education and research initiatives as well as our involvement in wildlife conservation, among other elements.

**name Zoo / Aquarium** is committed to nature conservation and is proud of its many achievements including [write a couple of examples in conservation, animal welfare, research, conservation education or population management].

[insert quote from your CEO/Director]

**XX**, EAZA Chair, congratulated **name Zoo / Aquarium** on their achievement. They said: “Every member of staff at **name Zoo / Aquarium** should celebrate receiving the EAZA accredited status as it testifies of their hard work and dedication.”

“The EAZA accreditation programme offers reassurance to millions of visitors and partners that EAZA Members uphold the highest standards and actively contribute to animal welfare, species conservation, education and research. In the face of today’s pressing environmental challenges, the role of reputable zoos and aquariums is more crucial than ever. Through the exchange of knowledge, skills and other resources, EAZA Members play a significant role in the preservation of biodiversity for future generations.”

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Media resources

Photos are available to download [here](#):

Please use the following legends and credits:

### About EAZA

Established in 1992, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria is the world’s largest regional zoo and aquarium association. Driven by the vision “Progressive zoos and aquariums saving species together with you”, EAZA enables collaboration of more than 400 Member institutions in 47 countries, in the areas of: animal population management, animal care and welfare, science-based species conservation, education, research and advocacy. Membership is based on strict accreditation standards.

EAZA Member zoos and aquariums welcome around 148 million visits every year and significantly impact local and national economies as employers and tourist destinations. Every year, they generate around €3 billion of added value into the economy, employing close to 32,000 staff and supporting further 15,000 jobs indirectly.

At EAZA’s core is joint management of animal populations in EAZA Ex Situ Programmes (EEPs). By managing EEPs for around 500 species, EAZA contributes to the conservation of species and their genetic diversity and maintains a network of conservation partnerships. The EEP system implements the One Plan Approach and other guidelines of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It meets the global benchmark for population management set by the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA).

EAZA Members participate in joint EAZA Conservation Campaigns. Fifteen have taken place since 2000, mobilizing the support of millions of Europeans, raising more than €5 million of conservation funding and catalysing important regulatory change. EAZA members' individual support for field conservation currently amounts to at least €30 million and 139,000 staff hours per year, involving partnerships with over 500 organisations worldwide. An increasing proportion of this support (29% in 2023) is dedicated to native fauna in Europe, with projects ranging from reintroduction of waldrapp ibises, genetic analyses of wild cat populations in Scotland, population estimations of brown bears in the East Balkans to building bat nests in Switzerland.

### **About the EAZA Accreditation Programme**

The EAZA Accreditation Programme is a cyclical system of peer-reviewed inspection and accreditation, developed to maintain and increase the standards and practices of zoological institutions and to reflect the latest scientific knowledge in all domains of modern zoo management. It was launched in 2001 for new members and extended to all existing EAZA Members in 2012. The programme requires Members to undergo a screening at least once per accreditation cycle (currently: once every five years). One of the key areas of EAZA accreditation is animal welfare and its assessments carried out by each zoo or aquarium. Thanks to this, the EAZA Accreditation Programme meets the global benchmark for animal welfare evaluation, set by the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA).

For questions, please contact [press@eaza.net](mailto:press@eaza.net).

**ENDS**

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### **Social media**

Feel free to use/adapt the post below to announce your accreditation on social media. Why not use pictures of your team holding the EAZA certificate, of the screening team visiting your facilities or photos illustrating your work in conservation, education, research or animal care.

*Please tag EAZA in your post so that we can reshare it and build a collection of examples in all EAZA languages.*

Facebook: [@EAZA - the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria](#)

Instagram: [@eaza\\_official](#)

LinkedIn: [@European Association of Zoos and Aquaria \(EAZA\)](#)

Template:

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**P-awesome / Fin-tastic** news! 🎉 **Zoo/Aquarium X** is now EAZA accredited, proving our unwavering commitment to animal welfare and conservation.

🌐 The EAZA Accreditation Programme is a comprehensive evaluation process that pushes institutions to keep their standards high and continue evolving. It recognises our work to create a better planet for animals and people and attests our place within the community of leading zoos / aquariums in Europe and Western Asia.

🌐 Good zoos and aquariums aren't just a place to see amazing creatures but a hub for crucial scientific research and species-saving activities.

We congratulate our team for their incredible work and invite you to come explore, learn, and help us make a difference!

#SavingSpeciesTogether #EAZAaccredited @EAZA

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Examples from colleagues:

- From Bioparc Gijon Aquarium  
<https://www.facebook.com/Acuario.de.Gijon/posts/pfbid02n2Hsb6KPLvZX2s4LRjYe9ShgrJcJM8qhVzDXu68X1spKupogHGL9yAPTXHQUrccDI#>

[Spanish] 🌐🌐 ¡Gran noticia para BIOPARC Acuario de Gijón! 🌐🌐

Ayer tuvimos el honor de recibir el diploma que nos acredita como miembro de la EAZA (Asociación Europea de Zoos y Acuarios), convirtiéndonos en el segundo acuario de España en conseguir este reconocimiento.

La adhesión a la EAZA implica una responsabilidad añadida, ya que la asociación establece altos estándares en el cuidado animal y la conservación de especies en peligro de extinción. Este reconocimiento refuerza el compromiso del BIOPARC Acuario de Gijón con la excelencia y la sostenibilidad en sus prácticas diarias.

¡Desde aquí damos la ENHORABUENA a todo nuestro equipo por haberlo hecho posible!

[EAZA - the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria](#)

[#BioparcAcuarioGijon](#) [#EAZA](#)

[English translation] 🌐🌐 Great news for BIOPARC Gijon Aquarium! 🌐🌐

Yesterday we had the honor of receiving the diploma that accredits us as a member of the EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquariums), becoming the second aquarium in Spain to achieve this recognition.

Joining the EAZA entails added responsibility as the association sets high standards in animal care and conservation of endangered species. This recognition reinforces BIOPARC Aquarium of Gijón's commitment to excellence and sustainability in their daily practices.

Here we say CONGRATULATIONS to our entire team for making it possible!

EAZA - the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria

#BioparcAcuarioGijon #EAZA



- From Zoo de la Flèche:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Zoo.de.La.Fleche/posts/pfbid0nggmwHePFH7ezXCNPVms6RLoPjuHQgopLvMExFM4YUQAz6MSMuzVbnNhKpYbkl>

[French] LE ZOO DE LA FLÈCHE, MEMBRE ACTIF DE L' EAZA - the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria 🌿

L'EAZA (Association Européenne des Zoos et des Aquariums) a pour objectif de promouvoir la coopération entre parcs zoologiques dans le but de préserver les espèces. Elle regroupe aujourd'hui plus de 300 membres, en France, seule une quarantaine de zoos font partie du réseau EAZA.

🧐 Au Zoo de La Flèche, faire partie du réseau EAZA, c'est avant tout maintenir un niveau d'excellence, une qualité des installations, un suivi nutritionnel, une approche pédagogique ou encore l'engagement pour la conservation in et ex-situ.

Être membre de l'EAZA, c'est aussi aller à l'encontre du trafic animalier. L'échange ou le prêt d'animaux entre les zoos membres permet notamment de lutter contre ce trafic et d'éviter ainsi la capture en milieu naturel.

[English translation] LE ZOO DE LA FLÈCHE, ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE EAZA - the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria 🌿

The aim of the EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquariums) is to promote cooperation between zoos in order to preserve species. Today it has more than 300 members, in France, only a quarantine of zoos are part of the EAZA network.

🦁 At the Zoo de La Flèche, being part of the EAZA network means, above all, maintaining a level of excellence, quality of facilities, nutritional monitoring, pedagogical approach or commitment to conservation in and ex-situ.

Being a member of EAZA also means fighting against animal trafficking. The exchange or loan of animals between member zoos helps, among other things, to combat this trafficking and to avoid capture in natural environments.



### QR code to EAZA website

Why not add this QR code to your panels and various publications? This way, visitors and readers are only one scan away from learning more about the EAZA community and the missions of good zoos and aquariums.

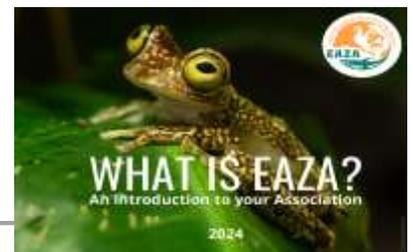
Download the PNG file of the QR code in [1024x1024](#) or [4096x4096](#) px.



### “What is EAZA?” presentation

The ["What is EAZA?" presentation](#) (edition 2024) can help you to showcase your crucial role as part of the EAZA community to your stakeholders.

We encourage you to use it to familiarise yourself and your colleagues with the association's activities and get a better sense of how your work fits within the common goals of our community.



## 6. Questions & Answers

### What is the EAZA Accreditation Programme?

See [section 2](#).

### What is the difference between EAZA accreditation and national zoo licensing?

**EAZA and the EU Zoos Directive**

In 1999, by adopting the Zoos Directive\*, the EU Member States pledged to ensure that every zoo or aquarium carries out:

**ALL of these measures**

- Accommodate animals under appropriate conditions
- Keep up-to-date animal records
- Prevent animal escapes
- Promote public education about biodiversity conservation

**AND at least one of these four measures:**

- Captive breeding, repopulation or reintroduction into the wild
- Research
- Training in conservation skills
- Exchange of information related to conservation

The EAZA Standards, and the work of our Members, are broadly referenced as benchmark in the Good Practices Document published in 2015 to help EU countries achieve the objective of the Directive!

\* the Directive is the overall EU umbrella. In the national law, each Member State may have interpreted it in a stricter way.

Check the nature protection laws in your country to find out what exactly is required!

Now available in many languages

How exactly EAZA Standards compare to your licensing requirements will differ country by country.

Most EAZA countries (especially all countries in the EU + the UK) have their own system of zoo licensing and inspections. This follows from the [EU Zoos Directive](#), which aims to strengthen zoos' contributions to conservation while ensuring that animals are kept in appropriate conditions.

EAZA Standards are stricter than most requirements of the EU Zoos Directive. That is also why EAZA was referenced as a standard-setter in the EU Zoos Directive and in the EU's [Good Practices Document](#) which guides its implementation.

In all countries that have a licensing system, having a zoo license is a necessary requirement for becoming a Member of EAZA.

It can be safely said that in most cases, EAZA Standards go beyond the requirements of national licensing systems. As such, your EAZA Membership is therefore a mark of

excellence—demonstrating your institution's commitment to exceeding minimum legal standards and striving for the highest level of professional practice.

Find out more details on how being an EAZA Member exceeds the requirements of the EU Zoos Directive in these infographics:

[https://strapi.eaza.net/uploads/EAZA\\_and\\_the\\_Zoos\\_Directive\\_fb37619ebe.pdf](https://strapi.eaza.net/uploads/EAZA_and_the_Zoos_Directive_fb37619ebe.pdf)

## **What is the difference between accredited and non-accredited organisations?**

EAZA membership reflects an organisation's commitment to animal welfare, animal care, conservation, education and research. EAZA Members share a vision of "saving species together".

EAZA accredited organisations have successfully gone through our comprehensive accreditation process, certifying that the zoo / aquarium is meeting the high standards set out in our policies.

Accredited organisations demonstrate a commitment to ethical practices and continuous improvement, providing assurance to the public and stakeholders.

## **How to communicate when you have conditional membership?**

Conditional membership is a temporary status during which your zoo / aquarium should be actively working to adjust processes and facilities highlighted by the screening team, so you can fulfill the requirements needed for accreditation as soon as possible. Your communications should focus on internal audiences (i.e. colleagues and staff) rather than external audiences. During Conditional membership, you are not allowed to say that you are an EAZA-accredited Member nor to display the EAZA-accredited logo on your communication channels. If you are asked about your EAZA membership, be transparent and position your current membership as a valuable milestone on your path to EAZA accreditation.

## **How does EAZA ensure animal welfare in its member zoos and aquariums?**

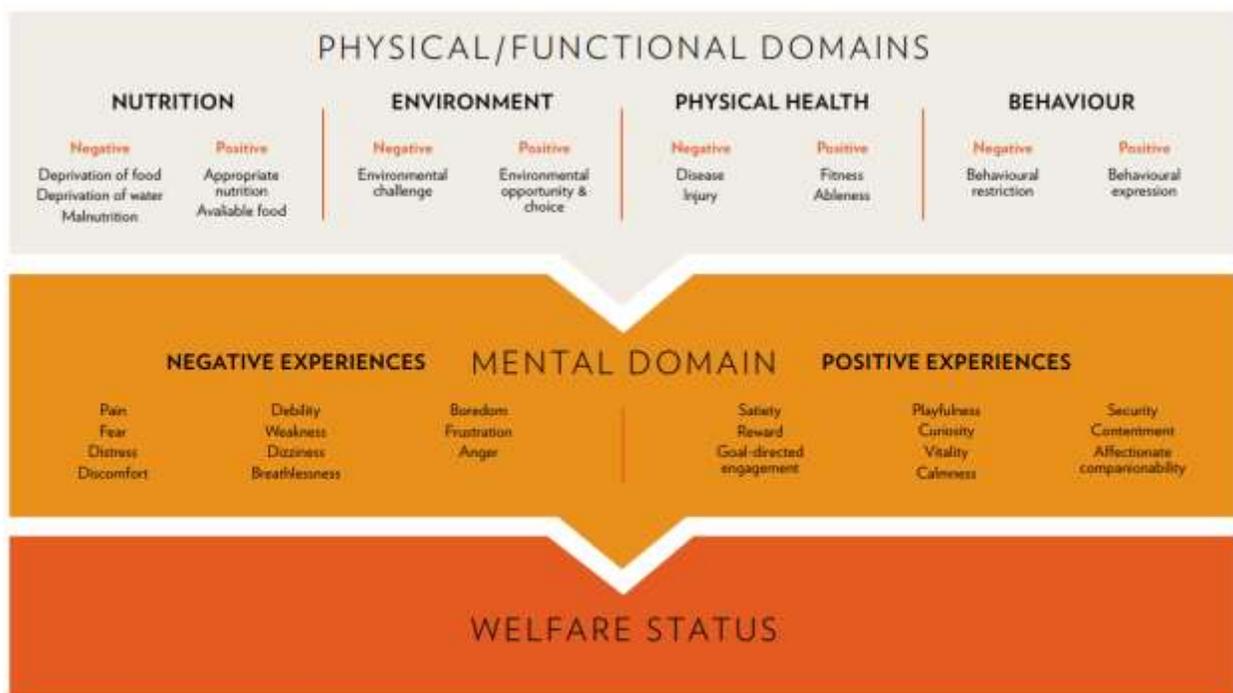
There is no greater responsibility for institutions housing animals in human care than the welfare of these animals. EAZA's Standards and Accreditation procedures include that EAZA Members must have an institutional animal welfare policy in place. This policy should be based on the Five Domains Model of Animal Welfare (see next question for more details) and state their commitment to having an Animal Welfare Assessment Programme to further enhance animal welfare practices.

EAZA is committed to setting high animal welfare standards and promoting positive welfare of animals. We share best practice through courses, events and publications, and constantly

update our standards with the latest welfare science. EAZA's welfare evaluation meets the global benchmark set by the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA).

## How do EAZA Members know the animals in their care have good welfare?

Animal welfare science seeks to understand the impact of nutrition, physical health, behaviour and the environment on an animal's experience, and guide our animal management practices to promote positive welfare. To support this, EAZA has adopted the 'Five Domains Model of Animal Welfare' framework described by [Mellor and colleagues \(2020\)](#). This model includes four Physical Domains – Physical Health, Nutrition, Environment and Behaviour – which all feed into and impact Domain 5 – the Mental Domain.



The 'Five Domains' framework is often used as the basis for animal welfare assessments within zoos and aquariums. Animal welfare science and the methods to evaluate welfare are continually evolving. Through conducting the research on species-specific and individual needs and applying the knowledge gained, animal welfare best-practice in EAZA zoos and aquariums continues to progress. EAZA provides a wide range of [resources](#) for zoos' and aquariums' staff to understand animal welfare better, develop their own institutional welfare assessment programme and stay updated with the latest knowledge.

## How does EAZA facilitate collaboration between zoos, aquariums, and conservation organisations?

Helping the long-term survival of species requires managing individual animals and their populations. It is at the heart of EAZA's mission. The EAZA Ex situ Programmes (EEPs) and their roles are shaped jointly by experts from the zoo community and their partners from the field. By adhering to the [IUCN One Plan Approach](#), this strategy recognises that every animal, whether it lives in the wild or in human care, is vital to the survival and prosperity of its species. This collaborative approach allows the animal populations in EAZA zoos and aquariums to significantly contribute to the broader conservation goals of their species.

## How does EAZA address illegal wildlife trade?

Illegal wildlife trade is a major driver of biodiversity loss. Expectations from zoos and aquariums regarding wildlife trade are evolving rapidly. EAZA is dedicated to being part of the solution and ensuring that its activities, including animal transfers, support only legal, sustainable, and ethical trade practices. In its 2016 Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, the EU praised EAZA's EEP system for protecting the animals from commercial exploitation. In 2024, EAZA's rules for the acquisition and disposition of animals were updated, to stress the importance of non-commercial transactions. Due diligence is required whenever EAZA Members exchange animals with non-EAZA members (including non-EAZA zoos, private keepers, universities, etc.). Furthermore, as a conservation-oriented organisation, EAZA works with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ([CITES](#)) and partners to share expertise on many topics and ensure good protection against trafficking.

## What professional development opportunities does EAZA offer to its Members?

EAZA is committed to enhancing the professionalism and skills of its Members through training opportunities, the European Professional Zookeeper Qualification Framework (EPZQF°) and a variety of events.

The [EAZA Academy](#) delivers a wide range of high quality, applied and accessible courses - in person and online - taught by knowledgeable professionals working within the zoo and aquarium community. Since 2010, the EAZA Academy has delivered over 150 courses to more than 3,800 attendees.

The [EPZQF](#) was created to standardise professional zookeeping training opportunities in European countries. The training modules help staff reach their full potential and the expected competency levels required for the role.

Cooperation is at the heart of EAZA's work. We organize a variety of general and specialist [events](#) to share the latest knowledge of zoo and aquarium practice and learn about each other's disciplines and expertise.

## What policies has EAZA implemented regarding sustainable practices within its Member institutions?

EAZA acknowledges the pressing need to address ecological concerns. Minimising environmental footprint, both within our Membership and in the broader community we represent, is an important focal area of our 2021-2025 strategic plan. Overall, EAZA's dedication to high-quality conservation, education, and research through strict accreditation requirements ensures that our Members not only contribute to the protection of species but also uphold the principles that are laid out by the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (UN SDGs), promoting a sustainable future for all. Members are strongly encouraged to follow the EAZA Guidelines that represent Council advice on specific issues.

- [EAZA Guidelines to Managing Operations to Reduce your Environmental Footprint \(2023\)](#)
- [EAZA Guidelines on Meat and Soya](#) (2022) and supporting infographics: [Meat and Soya](#)
- [EAZA Guidelines on Timber](#) (2022) and supporting infographics: [Timber](#)
- [EAZA Guidelines on Palm Oil](#) (2019) and supporting infographics: [Palm Oil](#)
- [Background information on imported deforestation and sustainable agriculture to aid implementation of the above three Guidelines](#)
- [EAZA Guidelines for ethical and environmental policies for suppliers and contractors](#) (2017)



## How are EEP transfers / breeding recommendations made?

On an annual basis, the EEP Coordinator determines which breeding, non-breeding, transfer and potential other recommendations need to be made per individual in the population. These recommendations should be scientifically based on the goals set out for the population in its Long-Term Management Plan, as well as on the demographic and genetic analyses of the most recent population data. The recommendations are approved by the EEP's Species Committee which is elected by and from the EAZA Member participants' representatives for the given species.

## Do we have evidence of zoos' and aquariums' impact in their various areas of work?

We do! EAZA's [Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research](#) ([FB](#); [LI](#) or [IG](#)) is for instance devoted to showcasing peer-reviewed research papers, reviews, technical reports and evidence-based case studies conducted at or in collaboration with zoos and aquariums.

We thank the [Zoo Scientist](#) for his short and easily understandable summaries of the latest publications evidencing the work of zoos and aquariums and encourage you to follow him ([FB](#); [LI](#) or [IG](#)).

See below for some examples per category of work.

Evidence in Conservation:

***IUCN Commission Statement on the role of botanic gardens, aquariums, and zoos in species conservation*** (available [here](#) in various languages)

On 11 October 2023, the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN SSC) released a Position Statement in recognition of the importance of botanic gardens, aquariums and zoos in conserving wild animals, fungi and plants. The Position Statement lists six main areas in which our organisations play an important role.

The EAZA Executive Office created an [informal document](#), intended for EAZA Members, illustrating how EAZA Members contribute to the 6 areas highlighted in the statement.

## 1 Care, knowledge, and management of ex situ and in situ populations of animals, fungi and plants and their environments



The **Javan green magpie** (*Cissa tholissina*) is heavily impacted by the trade in Asian songbirds and is Critically Endangered. The birds in human care, both in range and within EAZA, are carefully managed to fulfil an insurance role, in case the trade cannot be stopped before the species disappears from the wild. EAZA Members actively contribute to maintaining this species, while combatting the trade.

## 2 Health and pathology



The **chytrid fungus** *Batrachochytrium solomonivorans* (Bsol) threatens the survival of several amphibian species in Europe. EAZA and its Amphibian TAG have developed a free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to provide information on this fungus with regard to its epidemiology, the veterinary aspects, prevention and in situ and ex situ conservation challenges. Five months after the launch, over 455 people had registered to the course!

## 3 Conservation translocations



In 2019, thanks to an unprecedented partnership among EAZA, the Rwandan Government and African Parks, a group of zoo born **Eastern black rhinos** (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) was transported from Europe to Akagera National Park in Rwanda where they were released into their new and wild home. Two successfully reproduced in 2023! This is an important contribution to ongoing restoration efforts, helping to build a sustainable and secure wild population of the species in its native range. This builds on years of EAZA Members' expertise with rhino translocations.

## 4 Ethical research, science and data



The EAZA membership has established dedicated biobanking facilities for the European and Western Asian zoo- and aquarium community to secure genetic material, enable conservation-directed research, improve the viability of small populations, and provide a backstop against extinction in certain cases. The **EAZA Biobank** has been growing significantly in recent years and is now approaching 20,000 samples!

## 5 Working with communities



EAZA collaborates with other regional associations across the globe to save species together. For instance, we contribute to the Global Species Management Plans for **Anoa** (*Bubalus depressicornis*), **Banteng** (*Bos javanicus*), **Babirusa** (*Babylouisa babyrussa*) and **Sumatran tiger** (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) and support the Indonesian zoo association with capacity building to facilitate cooperative population management programmes. Every year, many organisations promote the **Action Indonesia Partnership** on 15 August!

## 6 Capacity building and resources



Oceanário Lisbon Aquarium became the first **IUCN Center for Species Survival** to address the urgent need for knowledge of marine biodiversity to stop an imminent extinction crisis. Of the 700,000 to 1 million marine species in the ocean, less than 18,000 are evaluated by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Between 2018 and 2022, Oceanário contributed to the extinction risk assessment of 21% of the 3,263 marine species assessed in this period worldwide for the Red List!

**Penny F. Langhammer et al. (2024).** *The positive impact of conservation action.* *Science* 384, 453-458. DOI:[10.1126/science.adj6598](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adj6598)

This global meta-analysis of 186 studies measured biodiversity over time and compared outcomes under conservation action with a suitable counterfactual of no action. They found that in two-thirds of cases, conservation either improved the state of biodiversity or at least slowed declines. Specifically, interventions targeted at species and ecosystems, such as invasive species control, habitat loss reduction and restoration, protected areas, and sustainable management, are highly effective and have large effect sizes.

**Correia, J., et al. (2024).** *A Review of Two Decades of In Situ Conservation Powered by Public Aquaria.* *Journal of Zoological and Botanical Gardens*, 5(1): 90-118  
<https://www.mdpi.com/2664432>

The 150 members of the European Union of Aquarium Curators (EUAC) worked together to provide a substantial contribution to in situ conservation over the last two decades. Since 2004, over €250,000 were awarded to conservation; 49 projects in over 20 countries were supported; Nearly 70% of projects secured additional funding and resources to expand; Half of projects produced multiple

scientific publications; Community education was a key aim of many of these projects. (summary adapted from *the Zoo Scientist*)

### **EAZA Conservation Database and map**

Many organisations and people work tirelessly to stop and reverse the decline of the natural world. One of the many ways in which EAZA zoos and aquariums contribute to these efforts is through field conservation. Our Members manage their own projects in the field (in situ), and provide resources and expertise to hundreds of partner projects worldwide.

The **EAZA Conservation Database** is an online tool to facilitate communication on conservation efforts of our Members within as well as outside of the zoo and aquarium community. EAZA Members provide data from all the various conservation activities they are involved in, year after year.



The [EAZA Conservation Map](https://www.eaza.net/publications) is publicly accessible to everyone. It uses information from the EAZA Conservation Database to provide a visual insight of the conservation projects, species and activities supported by EAZA Members. Use its search function to extract the data from your zoo / aquarium.

Every year, EAZA provides an overview of our Members' contribution to conservation.

You can find the latest figures in the EAZA Annual Reports, available on our website:

<https://www.eaza.net/publications>

**Gavrielle Kirk-Cohen and Mary Ellen Amodeo (2025).** *Species360 and EAZA Members combine their data to support species conservation.* [Zooquaria. 125: 12](https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14237)

In 2024, species population data from Species360's Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS) was added to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Over 1,300 zoos, aquariums and other wildlife and conservation organisations contribute data to the ZIMS global database. Taken as a whole, the ZIMS data referenced in the Red List provides a single, comprehensive picture of species population numbers in the wild and in human care.

This addition is a significant advancement in supporting the One Plan Approach, which emphasises the importance of aligning conservation efforts across in situ and ex situ domains to safeguard threatened species.

Evidence in Conservation Education:

**McNally, X. et al. (2024).** A meta-analysis of the effect of visiting zoos and aquariums on visitors' conservation knowledge, beliefs, and behavior. *Conservation Biology*, 00, e14237.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14237>

The University of Sheffield and Chester Zoo combined the results of 56 studies to determine the effect of zoo/aquarium visits on visitors' conservation knowledge, beliefs and conservation behaviours of visitors. In conclusion, they found a positive impact on: knowledge (species conservation), attitudes towards conservation, as well as visitors'

intentions and confidence to engage in conservation actions. *(summary adapted from the Zoo Scientist)*

**Byrne, K., et al. (2023).** *Science Education in Primary Students in Ireland: Examining the Use of Zoological Specimens for Learning.* Journal of Zoological and Botanical Gardens, 4(3), 507-526. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jzbq4030037>

A paper in JZBG compared attitudes and knowledge of 165 primary-level students (from three Irish schools) before and after an in-person, website OR video educational intervention. In-person teaching with zoological specimens resulted in significant improvement in attitudes. Learning achievements were similar in in-person and online lesson types, but an overall improvement in comparison to the pre-intervention phase was detected. Zoological specimens can be an effective tool in primary education. These results may be used to support studies examining the effectiveness of zoo outreach programs in schools versus zoo visits. *(summary adapted from the Zoo Scientist)*

**Carolina's suggestion:** [The Role of Salience and Emotional Resonance in Cultivating Conservation Caring Among Zoo Visitors: Anthrozoös: Vol 0, No 0 - Get Access](#)  
*Based on human-dolphin interaction though. Is it too risky?*

Evidence in scientific knowledge improvement:

**Van Leeuwen, P., et al. (2023).** *Zoos as Sentinels? A Meta-Analysis of Seroprevalence of Terrestrial Mammalian Viruses in Zoos.* EcoHealth 20, 43–52 (2023)  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10393-023-01635-w>

Understanding the interface between wildlife and human activity is critical due to the unpredictable nature of spillover of zoonotic pathogens from animals to humans. The review looked into the prevalence of pathogens (seroprevalence) across zoo populations over the last 20 years. By housing wild animals, zoos have privileged opportunities to detect, identify and monitor animal-related pathogens. More research is needed on a wider range of taxa, and on free-living and domestic animals within zoo areas, as well as an increase in public availability of data. Increased prevalence was found in viruses strictly targeting specific host taxonomy, especially in viruses transmitted through direct contact. Zoos can be sentinels for disease monitoring, which further highlights their contributions to the OneHealth framework (linking human, animal and environmental health). *(summary adapted from the Zoo Scientist)*

**Matthew J. Powell-Palm, et al. (2023).** *Cryopreservation and revival of Hawaiian stony corals using isochoric vitrification.* Nature Communications | (2023)14:4859.  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-40500-w>

A new technique for cryopreserving and reviving entire coral fragments has been developed by researchers from Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute and several universities. This methodology facilitates the quick collection and preservation of coral fragments, which can be a vital tool in securing coral biodiversity and genetic diversity. *(summary adapted from the Zoo Scientist)*

**Flewitt, A., et al. (2023).** *Tagging and location preferences to inform post-release monitoring of the Greater Bermuda land snail *Poecilonites bermudensis*.* *Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research*, 11(3), 345–349. <https://doi.org/10.19227/jzar.v11i3.744>

This study tested a novel method for Bermuda land snail identification through tagging (Alpha fluorescent tags glued to sanded and non-sanded shells) at Chester Zoo. Tag loss and snail survival was monitored in 400 captive snails, over six months. It showed that the Tag method was successful (0% tag loss) and that sanding of shells, which affected survival, was not necessary. Environmental conditions affected snail behaviour and should be considered when monitoring them in the wild. These results inform the post-release monitoring of this species, enabling more accurate population and survival estimates to be made, and could act as a model for other reintroduction projects for land snail species. *(summary adapted from the Zoo Scientist)*

Evidence in animal care:

**Roller, M. et al. (2021).** *The historical development of juvenile mortality and adult longevity in zoo-kept carnivores.* *Zoo Biology*, 40, 588–595. <https://doi.org/10.1002/zoo.21639>

Authors from the EAZA community published an article investigating progress in zoo husbandry in the past decades using records stored by Species360. Based on data collected in 95 carnivore species, kept in zoos between 1950 and 2019, they showed that juvenile mortality has decreased, and adult longevity increased. This suggests zoos' overall husbandry success has increased, indicating zoos' commitment to improve is having measurable consequences.

**Tidière, M. et al. (2023).** *Survival improvements of marine mammals in zoological institutions mirror historical advances in human longevity.* *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 290: 20231895. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2023.1895>

This study found that four marine mammal species – the harbour seal, California sea lion, polar bear, and common bottlenose dolphin – are living longer in zoos and aquariums than ever before. The data also shows that they live up to three times longer in these institutions than their counterparts in the wild. These gains are attributed to improved management practices.

The authors used 200 years worth of data on 8,864 individuals from the world's largest database of information on wildlife in human care – the Species360 Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS) – and the same statistical methods as the ones used to assess improvements in human population welfare. Led by Species360 and University of Southern Denmark, and involving 42 researchers from academic, governmental, and zoological institutions worldwide, the study provides compelling evidence that animal care and management practices at zoos and aquariums have significantly improved over time.

**Wittwer, A., et al. (2023).** *Historical development of the survivorship of zoo rhinoceroses—A comparative historical analysis.* *Zoo Biology*, 42, 797–810. <https://doi.org/10.1002/zoo.21793>

The development of survivorship in three zoo-housed rhino species (white, greater one-horned, black) from 1905 onwards, was investigated in this study. Overall lowest survivorship in critically endangered black rhino (most threatened), highest in near threatened white rhino (least threatened). Historically, survivorship of black and white rhinos improved. Zoo populations of greater one-horned and white rhinos are continuously expanding, but the black rhino's has stagnated in recent years. Husbandry and management of zoo-housed rhinos has improved over time - further research on this taxon is vital to continue this trend. *(summary adapted from the Zoo Scientist)*

Evidence in animal welfare:

Evidence in advocacy:

Various EAZA conservation campaigns led to important regulatory changes and strengthening of legislations:

- **Fighting the unsustainable and illegal hunting and trade of great apes.** 1.9 million signatures collected during the EAZA Bushmeat campaign (2000-2001) led to the EU recognizing bushmeat as a serious environmental problem and changing rules for EU funds, to make sure they never support wild animal meat trade.
  - [European Parliament resolution on Petition 461/2000 concerning the protection and conservation of Great Apes and other species endangered by the illegal trade in bushmeat](#)
  - [EAZA Bushmeat Campaign factsheet](#)
- **Increased protection of songbirds in South East Asia.** EAZA and its Silent Forest Group have been working with CITES to advocate for stronger regulation for songbirds in South East Asia. This resulted in two songbirds being uplisted: straw-headed bulbul in CITES Appendix I and white-rumped shama in App. II. A crucial CITES document (Document 74) highlighting the need for more songbirds to be protected from illegal and unsustainable trade was also approved thanks to the collaborative advocacy.
  - <https://cites.org/eng/cop/19>
  - [www.silentforest.eu](http://www.silentforest.eu)
- **Labelling of products containing palm oil.** The EAZA Ape Campaign (2010-2011) not only raised €535.000 for great ape conservation projects, but also engaged citizens and policymakers towards informed consumer choices. The campaign advocated for an obligation to explicitly label products with palm oil as such, and not “vegetable oil” (an obligation which the EU introduced in 2014). EAZA’s work on solutions regarding palm oil and imported deforestation continues to this day.
  - [EAZA Position Paper on the Proposed Regulation on Food Information to Consumers](#) (2010)

- Mangabay article (December 2014): [EU adopts law mandating palm oil labeling on food products](#)
- Chester Zoo went further and launched their [Sustainable Palm Oil Campaign](#) in 2012. Their work led to Chester officially becoming the world's first Sustainable Palm Oil City in 2019 and they are planning to extend this to other UK cities.
- **Fight against illegal trade in tigers and tiger body parts in the EU.** Thanks to EAZA's advocacy, the topic became part of IUCN's working programme when the Motion 057 on *Law enforcement regarding commercial trade in tigers and tiger parts* submitted by EAZA, with the support from many EAZA Members, was approved in 2020.
  - The article [Camus, S. \(2021\). Setting the agenda for conservation. Zooquaria, 113: 24-25](#) describes how EAZA and its Members played a vital part in the much postponed [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#). A follow up article is scheduled in Zooquaria 126 to be published in May 2025.

Evidence in public support for zoos:

Opinion polls from European countries show an overwhelmingly strong level of public approval for zoos and aquariums. This suggests that the majority of the public sees value in these institutions' existence and their contributions to conservation, education, research and recreation.

- FORSA poll in German-speaking countries, <https://www.vdz-zoos.org/presse/forsa-studie>,
- IFOPO study in France <https://afdpsz.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Resultats-Sondage-IFOP-AFdPZ.pdf>,
- A BIAZA 2023 YouGov national representative polling (available exclusively to BIAZA Members) showed the vast majority of the public in the UK and Ireland are visitors to wildlife attractions, and support their conservation and educational missions.

*Please send the surveys / polls conducted in your country to [press@eaza.net](mailto:press@eaza.net) so we can compile a larger collection of evidence.*