

CAZA Policy Re: Preservation of Biodiversity

Preamble

CAZA's institutional members are strategically placed to assume a leadership role in the preservation of biodiversity. They can fill this role by promoting environmentally sustainable practices, providing accurate information to all of their visitors about the issue and actively participating in species conservation programs both in-situ and ex-situ.

Zoos and aquariums are ideally positioned to contribute directly to conservation in the wild, both in their own and other countries, by combining two approaches. First, they are uniquely qualified to provide skills and information in the disciplines of animal husbandry, welfare, breeding, small population management, and wildlife health care. Second, they can implement field projects by working with local partners and with supporting institutions. The unusual integration of these two sets of capacity, expertise and information offers an important opportunity for zoos and aquariums to contribute to conservation in the wild.

Policy

CAZA stands ready to aid recovery programs with the provision of resources such as technical support and expertise in the areas of captive breeding and small population management for all species.

CAZA members should lead by example through conducting environmentally sustainable operations and incorporating the probable impacts of climate change on the world's plants and animals into education programs.

To achieve the goals of this policy, CAZA member institutions should adhere to the principles of the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy and should:

Use environmentally sound waste management

- Minimize the total production of waste.
- Manage separation of waste at source to encourage maximum re-use and recycling.
- Minimize the risk of polluting.

Be energy efficient

- Maximize energy efficiency in all on-site and off-site operations.
- Try to reduce travel-related energy consumption.
- Use renewable sources of energy whenever practical.

Use natural resources responsibly

- Use products that embody the most efficient and least environmentally damaging use of renewable and non-renewable natural resources. This applies to products from major construction materials to daily consumables, and should apply back along the supply chain to source.
- Apply the three Rs. – reduce, re-use, recycle – where possible.
- Make sure that animal acquisitions and dispositions are not only sustainable environmentally but also ethically acceptable.
- Buy locally to reduce transportation impacts on the environment

Contribute to equitable development

- Keep in mind that sustainable development requires a reduction in the differences of living conditions across the world and that institutions can contribute to this by:
 - conducting activities that contribute to this ideal;
 - supporting conservation projects that embody this general principle
 - adjusting purchasing policies and practices to help through the use of sustainably produced materials (such as Forest Stewardship Council approved harvesting).

Encourage public awareness and participation

- Use the zoo or aquarium's educational resources to help people understand why changes are important and what they can do personally to live in a more sustainable manner.
- Set an example for other businesses as Earth-friendly operations.
- Use media efficiently to broaden dissemination of actions and information.

Take direct action to conserve wild populations through activities including but not limited to:

- Supporting appropriate breeding programmes in their collections.
- Supporting reintroduction and translocation programmes.
- Advising wildlife managers on behaviour, diet and welfare standards.
- Providing advice and practical assistance on wildlife health issues in the wild;
- Support in-situ and ex-situ conservation work through active participation and/or funding.

Note:

Useful websites:

LEED Building Initiatives <http://www.cagbc.org>
ISO 1401 <http://www.isoratnik.com>

World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy
<http://www.waza.org/conservation/wzacs.php>

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The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been established by WMO and UNEP to assess scientific, technical and socio- economic information relevant to the understanding of climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. It is currently finalizing its Fourth Assessment Report "Climate Change 2007", also referred to as AR4.

<http://www.ipcc.ch/>