

Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Ginger Elliott – African Lion Safari

Date of meeting: November 18th, 2022

Who attended the meeting? What CAZA institute are they from?

1. Amy Chabot - African Lion Safari
 - a. Janel Kuska, Research and Conservation
 - b. Ginger Elliott, Canadian Species Initiative
2. Jeff Mitchell - Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo
3. Stephen Petersen - Assiniboine Conservancy
4. Menita Prasad - Greater Vancouver Zoo
 - a. Jonah Miller, Education
5. Vicky Carriere - Parc Omega
6. Marie-Pierre Lessard - Aquarium du Quebec
7. Cheryl Sheridan - Little Ray's Reptile Zoo
8. Angie Dennis - Science North
9. Jake Paleczny - Yukon Wildlife Preserve
10. Jasmine Spraakman - Edmonton Valley Zoo
11. Katie McMahon - Ripley's Aquarium
12. Samantha McNeil - BC Wildlife Park

Meeting resources:

Wildlife Preservation Canada Conservation Action Plan: <https://wildlifepreservation.ca/what-we-do/conservation-action-plan/>

Meeting summary:

2:00pm Meeting called. Brief hellos.

Stephen Petersen: Interesting paper I just read - Beyond inspiration: Translating zoo and aquarium experiences into conservation behavior.

2:05pm Amy Chabot, Review of CAZA 2022 Conservation meeting report.

2:15pm Open Discussion:

Stephen Petersen: Unclear on goals. Question: Are we creating more work for ourselves by taking away from existing work or? What's the benefit? How can we do conservation better without adding extra work? The Snake ICAP worked well/made sense as a way to find institutional roles, more in husbandry, but it made sense. So snakes would be a good first TAG? In the way you envision it? How would it work, where?

Amy Chabot: There are Canadian species that have a need for recovery strategies and there is a gap between needs. When there is an identified need for Canadian species, how do we articulate recognizing the size and spectrum of our abilities? How do we bridge the gap and step into the role identified? How do we follow up the ICAP?

Identified a need for a plan to get from recommendation to implementation. We have CSI; the Snake ICAP came from CSI; but both CAZA & CSI walked away without a plan for follow up. Part of the conference was understanding the need and requirements of future implementation plans so that we do hold ourselves accountable. Snakes could be a place to start? Or single species ex situ feasibility assessments for species identified as needing recovery action.

Jake Palenczny: We are on the fringes and due to size capacity, we would not be able to be a driving force but really would like to assist where we are able to.

Amy Chabot: I think there is a role for the whole spectrum. General consensus at the meeting was that there is a want and need to organize coordination between CAZA facilities. Ideally I would like to see a structured/organized approach. Moving forward we could have a group begin to draft plans for implementation, please let us know if you'd like to participate. There have been some questions defined that will have to be directed to the CAZA AGM. If it would help for me to provide something for you to rip apart I (with the assistance of Ginger) will begin to do so?

Cheryl Sheridan: We would actually love to be told what and how we can be supportive. At this level we don't have a tonne of experience and it feels like we don't have a role in the conservation committee yet but we really want to assist.

Jonah Miller: I think from a personal perspective I just don't know enough to know what the options and possibilities are, so trying to weigh in just feels... wrong. So I agree that a proposition would actually be helpful. I think that would be my best way to work on this would be to be able to look at what you bring forward and evaluate pros and cons from there

Samantha McNeil: I would have to personally agree with this sentiment as well

Jeff Mitchell: Agreed. Volunteer to assist with drafting processes.

Amy Chabot: This is really good to hear. In the next few weeks we will begin this process and produce something for review. It will not be ready in two weeks, so if anyone would like to update us on some of their conservation actions we would love to hear it.

Ginger Elliott: You can reach out to the Conservation email (conservation.caza@gmail.com). We have had some fantastic presentations previously that have come from other conferences and conservation projects if you have something you believe could be of value to the group please don't hesitate to reach out.

ADJOURNMENT: 2:40pm

Next Meeting Date: Friday December 2nd 2022 from 2:00-3:00PM EST