WAZA and the Decade

Gerald Dick

WAZA Executive Director
WAZA is the umbrella organisation for the world zoo and aquarium community.

Members are leading zoos and aquariums (institutions), regional and national associations, as well as affiliate organisations (e.g., zoo educators, zoo keepers) and corporate members.

Membership requires binding commitment to conservation and animal welfare.

Who is WAZA today?
WAZA's Vision:
The full conservation potential of world zoos and aquariums is realised.

WAZA's Mission:
WAZA is the voice of a worldwide community of zoos and aquariums and a catalyst for their joint conservation action.
Evolution of Zoos

19th century

Living Natural History Cabinet
Theme: Taxonomic
Subjects: Diversity of species, Adaptations for life
Concerns: Species husbandry, Species propagation
Exhibit: Cages

Zoological Park

20th century

Living Museum
Theme: Ecological
Subjects: Habitats of animals, Behavioral biology
Concerns: Cooperative species management, Professional development
Exhibit: Dioramas

Conservation Centre

21st century

Environment Resource Centre
Theme: Environmental
Subjects: Ecosystem services, Biodiversity
Concerns: Holistic conservation, Organizational network
Exhibit: Immersion exhibits

Menagerie
Conservation is “the securing of long-term populations of species in natural ecosystems and habitats wherever possible.”

– World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy, 2005
What is “conservation”?

• Conservation is “the securing of long-term populations of species in natural ecosystems and habitats wherever possible.”
  – World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy, 2005

Critical to a modern zoo’s mission is working to preserve wild populations of the animals it exhibits.

• WAZA network of zoos and aquariums reaches out to 700 Mio visitors annually
• WAZA affiliated zoos and aquariums spend 350 Mio $ for in situ conservation annually
• 230 WAZA branded conservation projects on www.waza.org
International Relationships

- IUCN, MoU
- CBD, MoU, partner in the decade
- CMS, MoU, Year of the Bats Partnership
- CITES, MoU, Support to find place for confiscated animals
- RAMSAR, MoU
- IATA, WAZA seat on Live Animals and Perishables Advisory Panel
- IZE, International Zoo Educators Association, MoU
- AMMPA, Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks, MoU,
Gorilla: Overview of activities 2009
Biodiversity: Overview of activities 2010
linked to ecosystem SERVICES

QUAND LES ÉCOSYSTÈMES RENDENT SERVICE

Les services des écosystèmes sont les bénéfices que les hommes tirent des écosystèmes et de leurs composants. Ces bénéfices sont d'abord d'ordre direct, tels que l'alimentation, l'eau, la gestion des maladies, la régulation climatique, l'appréciation esthétique, le logement et nombre d'autres bienfaits. Notre bien-être dépend de la capacité des écosystèmes à fournir de tels services de manière permanente, qui elle-même dépend de leur résilience face aux perturbations.

Les actions humaines donnent lieu à des perturbations des écosystèmes et des services qui en découlent, qui affectent profondément le bien-être humain. Il est de notre responsabilité de réfléchir à nos attitudes et à nos comportements envers l'environnement et en particulier concernant la préservation de la biodiversité.

Ecosystem services are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems and all their components. Ecosystems provide us with such benefits as food, water, disease management, climate regulation, spiritual fulfillment, aesthetic enjoyment and many others. Our well-being depends on the ability of ecosystems to continuously provide these benefits for our use, which in turn relies on ecosystem resilience and their capacity to quickly recover from adverse changes.

It is the result of human action that is driving the changes in ecosystems and ecosystem services, which are greatly affecting our well-being. It is therefore our responsibility to think seriously about our attitude and behaviour towards the environment, and in particular to the conservation of biodiversity.
WAZA partnerships

FORESTS FOR WATER AND WETLANDS

I YOU NEED:
- Frog
- Cardboard
- Scissors or string that will go around your head or neck
- A pencil

1. Cover the dragonyfly with the cardboard.
2. Cut out the dragonyfly's body and legs.
3. Cut out the eye holes.
4. Place the dragonyfly on paper and cut out the dragonfly.
5. Give the paper shape to the cardboard for the eyes to fit.
6. Attach the eyes to the body.
7. Now put it on and be a dragonfly!
Worldwide Partnership

Contribution by CITES, Ramsar, CMS, UN Habitat, FAO, WWF, TNC, CI, BirdLife International, . . .

WAZA signed an MoU together with 25 global organisations and the UN-CBD in support of the Decade, New York – 20 Sept 2011
Aichi target 1

First global survey on biodiversity awareness and impact

- 32 institutions
- 2 rounds, one now and one after 1.5 years
- One round consists of pre and post visit survey
- 9600 surveys per round
La biodiversidad somos nosotros

Biodiversity is us

We are all related

Biodiversity is us

La biodiversité c’est nous

Nous sommes tous liés.
Examples from WAZA Members
• Special themed guided tours on biodiversity
• Target group: teenagers over 13 years and adults
• Outreach so far > 700 people
• Language: German, French, English, Italian
Shopping for the rain forest – hints and proposals, how the forest stays full of apes

The rainforests of the world are threatened by the consumer’s behaviour. The habitat of many primate species is cut for wood and paper products and burned for palm oil and rubber plantations. Orang-utans and gibbons in Asia as well as gorillas in Africa are therefore threatened by immediate extinction. The exhibition at the great ape house at Zoo Zürich informs about the source and production means of these consumer goods responsible for forest destruction and gives concrete action proposals. Themes are products like palm oil, shrimps, rubber, beef, mineral resources, tropical wood and paper. The exhibition found large visitor attention and received 2008 the Prix Expo of the Academy of Natural Sciences Switzerland (SCNAT).
Shopping for the Rainforest

Hints and tips on how to keep the monkeys in the forest.

Every week fifty orangutans die in Malaysia and Indonesia as a consequence of the destruction of the rainforest. They are burned on their trees in forest fires, or they are victims of callous poachers.

PanEco saved the male orangutan Agam from this cage in 2005 and brought him to a rehabilitation station, where he had contact with other orangutans for the first time and learned to fend for himself in the rainforest. Since 2006, Agam lives in the Bukit Tigapuluh National Park.
Consumption and origin of food exhibition
• Menue change in the zoo restaurant: from Brasilian chicken, tiger prawns and ice cream with palm oil
• To only European chicken and local fish
Chester Zoo, UK
10 flagship programmes and support of 60 projects, in over 50 countries and which see annual investment of over £1 million, including direct financial contributions, capacity building, technical support, staff costs and administration.
The Horticulture and Botany team are involved in many long term conservation initiatives both in the UK and overseas, from plant propagation to reintroduction programmes and awareness campaigns.

Mascarenes

- critically endangered plants on the Mascarenes Islands in partnership with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF).
Training and propagation techniques of highly threatened Mauritian plant species. Success stories include the first cultivation of the critically endangered endemic plant *Zanthoxylum heterophyllum* outside of Mauritius. This species has less than 50 mature individuals remaining in the wild.
Borneo

• Support of the HUTAN-Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme (KOCP) in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo since 2007.

• 2011 inclusion of the Orangutan Bridge Building Project. To help tackle the issue of fragmented populations of orangutan and other primate species, a team of zoo staff and Bornean field staff built seven bridges across the Kinabatangan River. The bridges were tested within the orangutan enclosures at Chester Zoo.
UK Native Species

• Count Me In! was a heritage lottery funded partnership between rECOrd (Cheshire wildlife records office) and Chester Zoo.

• Training and awareness raising events for members of the public (e.g. identification workshops) and the promotion of citizen science for biodiversity monitoring of native UK wildlife.
A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

Some of our British wildlife and plants are threatened by invasive non-native species:

Invasive non-native species have no natural predators in Britain, so they quickly out-compete or smother some native species.

They can carry diseases that harm native plants and animals.

Some can hybridise with native species, and the hybrids may replace the wild species.

Bluebell

Native Bluebells are threatened by invasive Spanish Bluebells (Hyacinthoides hispanica) which hybridise with them. Hybrids now outnumber true Bluebells in many of our woodlands.

Red Squirrel

Red Squirrels have been displaced by Grey Squirrels (Sciurus carolinensis) across most of England; they are also killed by a disease carried by Grey Squirrels.

White-clawed Crayfish

Native White-clawed Crayfish are now rare in the UK. They are in direct competition with the non-native Signal Crayfish (Procambarus clarkii) and have been killed by crayfish plague carried by Signal Crayfish.

Water Vole

Water Voles are now rare in Britain due to mink predation and habitat loss. American Mink (Mustela vison) have no natural predators in the UK. They can squeeze into Water Vole burrows to catch them.

www.cheshire-biodiversity.org.uk
Ex-situ Education

We aim to incorporate in-situ conservation messages into the theming and signage of all enclosures and also as standalone pieces. One example of this is ‘The problem with palm oil’ banner. This banner details what palm oil is, its uses, highlights issues relating to the increasing oil palm industry and advocates the use of sustainable palm oil.
Managing a dispersed collection provides exciting opportunities to engage with an audience outside botanical gardens, to cultivate an interest in nature and horticulture and to promote the importance of plants and biodiversity. It also provides team working opportunities and the chance to create a community project.
Selamatkan Yaki (Indonesian for ‘Save the Sulawesi crested black macaques’), is a conservation, research and education programme focusing on protecting the remaining populations of Sulawesi crested black macaque monkeys (*Macaca nigra*).

**Threats:** Habitat loss, fragmentation, disturbance by tourists, bushmeat
Cirl Bunting reintroduced into Cornwall

Cirl buntings Emberiza cirlus have disappeared from large parts of the UK, but are still relatively abundant in coastal areas of South Devon. There is a continuing range retraction and so for this reason aviculturists from Paignton Zoo Environmental Park, along with others, have been working to translocate birds of the current year for rear and release at a suitable site in the adjacent county of Cornwall.

The Cirl bunting re-introduction programme has been progressing since 2006 and is especially successful. The potential for achieving a self-sustaining population of this attractive bunting away from Devon is very good.

This project is a partnership involving Paignton Zoo Environmental Park, Natural England, the RSPB, the National Trust and ZSL.
Paignton Zoo, UK

THE FOREST ELEPHANT

Once thought to be a sub-species of the African savannah elephant, a 2010 genetic study found that the two are very different species.

Forest elephants are highly threatened by deforestation of their Central and West African rainforest habitat. Within Nigeria, Omo-Shasha-Oluwa is amongst the last 10% of suitable forest remaining, but even this is under threat and time is running out!

PARTNERS IN ACTION

The Initiative is a collaborative effort of Pronatura Nigeria, Nigerian Conservation Foundation, Paignton Zoo Environmental Park and ERM Foundation, alongside the State Government of Ogun, Osun and Ondo.

TAKE ACTION NOW!
You can help by sponsoring us and spreading the word. Contact us for details.

For more information:
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Website: Forestelephants.wordpress.com

VISIT AND SUPPORT US!
What is A Bioblitz?

• Groups of scientists, naturalists and volunteers conduct an intensive field study over a short, usually 24 hour, time.
• The first BioBlitz was held at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington D.C. in 1996
• In the UK since 2006.
• Bristol Natural History Consortium now host the National Bioblitz Network. (www.bnhc.org.uk)
Why Zoos?

- Zoos own a considerable area of land
- Commitment to conservation

Opportunity to present zoos as significant contributors to UK wildlife recording and conservation
• Africa Programme (eg Cross River Gorilla)
• N Carolina: Hellbender salamander
Africa Programs

- Chimpanzee research and snare removal in Kibale National Park, Uganda
Conservation programs feed back into what is going on here at the zoo

- Information from the field projects incorporated into the signs and graphics at NCZP exhibits
Conservation programs feed back into what is going on here at the zoo

- Information from a number of field projects has been used for zoo education projects
Thank you for listening