



**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS AND AQUARIA**
Annual Report 2025

Cover image

In 2025, the Return of the Wild Horses project strengthened the population of Przewalski's horses (*Equus przewalskii*) in central Kazakhstan with seven new individuals © Oliver Le Que, Prague Zoo

This report is presented to you by the EAZA Executive Office. Managing editor: Sandrine Camus.

It was designed by Vrije Stijl and printed by Grafisch Perfect, on FSC quality paper (sustainable) using organic inks and printing plates free of chemicals. All waste is disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.

Glossary

BPG: Best Practice Guidelines

CfM: Candidate for EAZA Membership

CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

EEO: EAZA Executive Office

EEP: EAZA Ex situ Programme

IUCN: International Union for the Conservation of Nature

LTMP: Long-term Management Plan

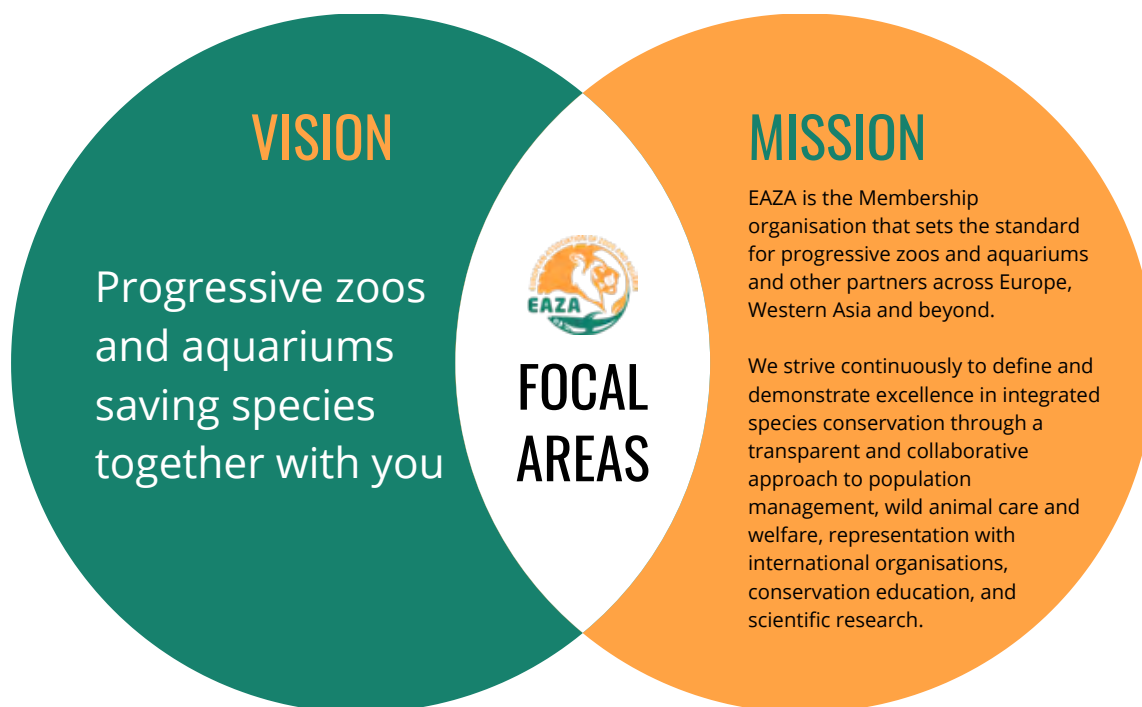
RSP: Regional Species Plan

SG: Specialist Group

SSC: Species Survival Commission

TAG: Taxon Advisory Group

ZIMS: Zoological Information Management Software



CONTENTS

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR	4
A MESSAGE FROM THE EAZA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	5
FOCAL AREA 1 LEADING IN ZOO AND AQUARIUM ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND CARE	6
ACCREDITATION	6
POPULATION MANAGEMENT	6
<i>POPULATION MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM EAZA TAXON ADVISORY GROUPS</i>	10
ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE	20
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING: EAZA ACADEMY AND BEYOND	20
FOCAL AREA 2 MAXIMISING THE CONSERVATION IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT OF EAZA AND OUR MEMBERS	22
FIELD CONSERVATION	22
CONSERVATION SNAPSHOTS 2025	24
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	25
EAZA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGNS	26
<i>CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS FROM EAZA TAXON ADVISORY GROUPS</i>	28
FOCAL AREA 3 REPRESENTING THE EAZA COMMUNITY ALONGSIDE APPROPRIATE STAKEHOLDERS AT THE NATIONAL, EU AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS TO INFLUENCE POLICY AND GOOD PRACTICE	38
WORKING TOGETHER ON POLICY AND LEGISLATION	38
GLOBAL FORUMS: IUCN AND CITES	39
EAZA'S PARTNERS	41
FOCAL AREA 4 FACILITATING, GUIDING AND PROMOTING THE VALUES AND SCIENTIFIC WORK OF ACCREDITED ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY	42
FUTURE OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS	42
ZOOQUARIA	43
ZOO AND AQUARIUM RESEARCH	43
BIOBANKING AND MORE	44
ZOO NUTRITION	45
<i>RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS FROM EAZA TAXON ADVISORY GROUPS</i>	46
FOCAL AREA 5 MANAGING OPERATIONS TO REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF EAZA AND OUR MEMBERS	53
SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS	53
SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY	53
PLANTING TREES TO OFFSET CONFERENCE EMISSIONS	55
OUR PEOPLE	56
EAZA EVENTS: FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE	56
EAZA MEMBERS	58
MENTORSHIP AND CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMME	59
MEMBER LIST	60
GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE	65
EAZA COUNCIL	66
SPECIAL THANKS	67
EAZA EXECUTIVE OFFICE	68
FINANCES	69
STANDING WITH UKRAINE: CONTINUED SUPPORT THROUGH THE EMERGENCY FUND	69
TREASURER'S REPORT	69
FINANCIAL REPORT	70

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The year 2025 was one of many transitions. In April, I was honored to be elected as the new Chair of EAZA, alongside a strong combination of new and returning Council colleagues for the 2025-2028 term. Our predecessors had done much to position and positively govern EAZA, improving transparency, accountability, and long-term resilience across our membership. This underpinned many successes in this final year of our current Strategy, as well as supporting plans for thoughtful, inclusive development of the next one. And while significant challenges remain to be addressed, our Association is stronger than ever before, giving us every reason to approach the next strategic period with realism and confidence to deliver meaningful impact for biodiversity and society.



CHRISTOPH SCHWITZER
DUBLIN ZOO, DUBLIN,
IRELAND

I'd like to thank outgoing Chair, Endre Papp (Sóstó Zoo, Hungary), and all outgoing Council and Executive Committee members, for their stewardship of the Association through many developments over the past few years. The new Executive Committee represents an effective mix of continuity and fresh perspectives, of passion for zoos and aquariums and strong dedication to our mission of saving species together, all backed by diverse representation of our membership. You can find the Executive Committee and Council members listed on page 65 and 66. I would encourage Members to reach out to your representatives if you have any questions or feedback about our Association.

An important decision in 2025 was the approval of the updated EAZA Constitution by the Annual General Meeting. This governing document guides our processes and ensures EAZA remains transparent, accountable, inclusive and agile in an ever more complex world. The Constitution's update and its implementation were overseen by a task force on systems and structures for a stronger association, whom I would like to thank for their work. This included surveying Member needs and identifying solutions to increase engagement and understanding. EAZA is us, its Members, and the more every one of us is involved, the stronger we will be.

2025 saw the rollout of the new five-year EAZA Accreditation Programme cycle for existing Members and updated rules for animal acquisition and disposition in our EAZA Population Management Manual. EAZA also met WAZA's Population Management Goal. Increasing the frequency of peer-reviewed assessments, and reinforcing Member accountability, care and compliance while supporting Members to reach our standards enables EAZA to strengthen its credibility with regulators, partners, and the public.

Importantly, EAZA continued to position itself as a leader in professional zoo and aquarium expertise and conservation through dedicated representation at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) and 20th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP20). This has been a significant growth area for EAZA as part of

the current strategic period, and I encourage you to find out more about the activities and impact of EAZA at these important meetings further on page 39.

Another way EAZA leads on conservation is through our campaigns. The Vietnamazing campaign came to an end in December 2025. Involvement of 57 institutions helped raise over €325,000, which will be distributed to vital projects to help save species in Vietnam and the wider region. The next campaign, Wetlands for Life, focuses on wetlands as critical ecosystems that provide essential services, climate change resilience and human livelihoods. I call on everyone to get involved and make this campaign just as successful as previous ones.

As we move into a new strategic period, the role of progressive, scientifically grounded zoos and aquariums has never been more important. Biodiversity loss, climate change, habitat degradation and increasing pressures on wildlife continue to accelerate globally, requiring stronger collaboration across sectors and borders. EAZA and its Members are uniquely positioned to contribute through conservation breeding, field conservation support, research, education, advocacy and the development of professional expertise. Together, we represent one of the largest coordinated conservation networks in the world, and our collective impact continues to grow.

I would like to thank all Members, Executive Office staff, volunteers, partners and supporters whose work contributes every day to EAZA's mission of saving species together. A special shout-out to my colleagues on the Executive Committee and on EAZA Council, who all give freely and generously of their time and expertise despite their very busy day jobs. I look forward to working with all of you as we shape the next chapter of our Association and continue striving for a future in which both wildlife and people can thrive.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EAZA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to share our Annual Report 2025 with you. It showcases the immense amount of work our Committees, Taxon Advisory Groups (TAGs), EAZA Ex situ Programmes (EEPs), Members and more have carried out towards realising our vision of progressive zoos and aquariums saving species together with you. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on all that was achieved throughout our 2021-2025 strategic period. We should be justifiably proud about how far we have come together, especially considering we started this period whilst in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, and then had to manage the evolving impacts of the war in Ukraine, energy crises, and shifting social pressures.

The resilience of our Members and EAZA as an Association throughout this period has been assisted by our established structures and strong sense of supportive collaboration. You'll see lots of evidence of these themes throughout this Annual Report; from the Committees working towards completing their action plans to all TAGs now having a Regional Species Plan in the new style. I echo Christoph's praise of our increased representation at the IUCN WCC and CITES CoP20 in 2025. This is the culmination of strategic foresight, capacity building and partnership engagement over many years. I am also especially pleased to note that at the end of 2025, almost 100% of EAZA Members reported on their conservation activities within the EAZA Conservation Database (see infographic page 23). This was a major milestone for EAZA!

Careful financial management is essential to the success of any organisation. I'd be remiss if I did not mention the change to EAZA's VAT status as per 2025. As the diversity of our activities has grown, so has our obligations under tax law. EAZA becoming a VAT-registered entity resulted in an overall positive benefit to the budget; however, the practical administration and reporting was challenging to start with. It will also mean ongoing complexities and costs, especially to our conferences and courses.

Fortunately, the EAZA Executive Office staff turnover of 2024 did not carry into 2025. Work on the office structure and salaries supported more stability. Further phased implementation is planned for 2026 to ensure working conditions stay competitive. We remain thankful to Mulhouse Zoo (France) and Prague Zoo (Czechia) for their continued support of staff as part of the EAZA Population Management Centre. Chester Zoo (UK) and Copenhagen Zoo (Denmark) also provide valuable opportunities for staff to work outside of the main office hubs in Amsterdam and Brussels.

Our activities are only possible due to the time and expertise provided by EAZA Members, Executive Office staff, and external stakeholders. These collaborations enable EAZA to stay at the forefront of zoo and aquarium



MYFANWY GRIFFITH
EAZA EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
AMSTERDAM, THE
NETHERLANDS

management and species conservation. I want to take this opportunity to share a heartfelt thank you to the amazing team in the Executive Office. I feel immensely privileged and proud to work with everyone towards our common vision.

We now enter an 'evaluation period' where we reflect on the accomplishments of the 2021-2025 strategy and plan for the next one. The 2025 year was one that started with a transition to a new Chair and Council who will lead on this process. We will take the time in 2026 to engage thoroughly and thoughtfully assess where EAZA wants to go in the future. For now, please take the time to enjoy this Annual Report and celebrate all we have achieved together.

EAZA Executive Committee at Directors' Days 2025; from left to right: Brian Zimmerman (EEP Committee Chair), Sanna Hellström (Finnish Council member), Wineke Schoo (National Associations Committee Chair), Ilona Pšenková (Czech Council member), Jörg Junhold (Treasurer), Becca Biddle (Vice Chair), Christoph Schwitzer (Chair), Thomas Kölpin (Membership And Ethics Committee Chair), Xavier Vaillant (Secretary). Absent: Max Janse (Aquarium Representative) © EAZA





LEADING IN ZOO AND AQUARIUM ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND CARE

In 2025, EAZA further strengthened its standards, structures and professional expertise and supported Members in applying evidence-based approaches across a wide range of species, institutions and national contexts. This work connected accreditation, population management, animal welfare, veterinary practice, animal training, biobanking and professional development.

As the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan reached its final year, this focal area reflected both consolidation and important transition. In addition to meeting the 2027 Population Management Goal set by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), we also completed the first Regional Species Plan (RSP) cycle under the population management structure. All Taxon Advisory Groups (TAGs) now have one or more published RSPs. Following an evaluation and fine-tuning of the process by the EEP Committee, the second RSP cycle was launched in autumn 2025. A review of the EAZA Population Management Manual also neared completion, with proposed updates prepared for submission to Council and the AGM in 2026. The year also saw major cross-committee work on population management communication.

ACCREDITATION

With the completion of the previous accreditation cycle behind us, 2025 marked a year of consolidation, refinement, and forward-looking discussions for the Membership and Ethics (M&E) Committee, chaired by Thomas Kölpin (Wilhelma Zoo, Germany). As part of the transition to the five-year accreditation cycle, the Committee focused on embedding revised processes, supporting consistent application of the revised standards, and addressing emerging ethical challenges across an increasingly diverse membership.

A key area of work was the new accreditation cycle, which began in earnest in 2025. The Committee devoted significant attention to ensuring consistency across screening outcomes, particularly around the distinction between Conditions, Concerns and Recommendations. This led to structured guidance for screeners and rapporteurs, clearer timelines for resolving conditions, and clarity on welfare and safety focused needs, with the intention of being supportive to Members, while safeguarding EAZA's standards and credibility.

POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Animal population management structure

In 2025, EAZA was proud to meet the WAZA 2027 Population Management Goal (PMG). This global benchmark confirms that the population management framework of our association, with EAZA Ex situ Programmes (EEPs) at its core, contributes to advancing professional and effective management of animal populations. After meeting the WAZA Animal Welfare Goal in 2023, the WAZA 27PMG represents another significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to



The EAZA Accreditation team organised a workshop for (future) screeners at the EAZA Annual Conference to brainstorm around fictional screening scenarios © EAZA



Population Management Structure

2025 SUMMARY

Putting the *needs of the population at the core* and leaving the *'one size fits all'* approach

REGIONAL SPECIES PLANS (RSP) PUBLISHED

Jellyfish

Larger New World Monkey

Pelecaniformes, Ciconiiformes and Phoenicopteriformes

Small mammal - moles, tenrecs, shrews etc.

RSP WORKSHOPS COMPLETED

Terrestrial Invertebrates

Callitrichids

Cattle and Camelid

IN 2025

EEP Committee reviewed 220 changes to TAGs/EEPs/ESBs

139 new-style EEPs approved
2 discontinued

78 non-EAZA EEP participation requests reviewed

84 LTMPs finalised

4 EEP pages created



TOTAL (by 31.12.2025)

509 EEPs
all new-style, no more ESBs

318 non-EAZA facilities officially involved in ≥ 1 EEP (incl. EAZA Temporary Members)

256 LTMPs available

105 EEP pages available to provide background information

42 TAGs

28 TAG evaluations completed

5 in progress

9 not yet evaluated

The **EAZA Population Management Manual**, including all the relevant working procedures and policies, is available on www.eaza.net as one of our governing documents.

conservation, animal welfare, and global collaboration.

The EEP Committee, chaired by Brian Zimmerman (Bristol Zoo Project, UK), supports the community on topics related to population management and oversees the 42 TAGs on behalf of EAZA Council. They continued to make further progress on a variety of topics as included in the EAZA Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

The Committee is especially pleased with the progressing implementation of the new population management structure and is now, after a review of the structure, gradually transitioning to the 2nd cycle. As part of the review, several areas were prioritised for fine-tuning. These changes were integrated and in the 2nd half of 2025, the first RSP workshops of the 2nd cycle were held. 2025 also marked the year that all old-style programmes were transferred to new-style EEPs, meaning that the category of European Studbook (ESB) is no longer applicable (see infographics for more details).

The list of Veterinary Advisors continued to grow in 2025 and plans are being developed to best integrate them in the respective EEPs/TAGs.

The Population Management Manual (last update: 2024) was reviewed and updated and will be submitted to the relevant EAZA bodies for official approval in 2026. The review meant that technical updates and changes in rules and procedures made over the last years were integrated,

a legal review was conducted, and general editorial updates were incorporated. Additionally, many TAG (Vice) Chairs reached the end of their official 1st term and elections were organised, when applicable.

Population management methods

In 2025, the *Introduction to the EAZA Ex situ management* course was taught three times in Europe to provide new EEP Coordinators with sufficient background on working procedures and population management. In support of the WAZA Population Management goal, the course was also taught to our peers in the Brazilian Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZAB) and in the Southeast Asian Zoo and Aquariums Association (SEAZA) to help them further professionalise their population management structure. Additionally, the online training course on breeding and transfer recommendations, launched in 2024, has been well received with 26 official trainings given in 2025.

Species360 has brought the Species Conservation Toolkit Initiative (SCTI) under its organisational umbrella, to ensure that key population management tools, including PMx, are secure for the long term. EAZA has remained involved, to support the availability, development, and application of these tools for the global conservation community. In addition to providing significant core funding for the integration and continuation of these tools, EAZA actively



Introduction to the EAZA Ex situ management course participants in Brazil © AZAB

contributes through participation in the PMx Technical Group and the Association PMx Steering Committee, ensuring both technical oversight and strategic alignment with the needs of EAZA-managed programmes.

The Records Working Group (RWG), chaired by Hannah Jenkins (Species360), made significant progress in 2025. Their workshop at the EAZA Annual Conference supported the community with animal moves, including presentations about legislation and logistics, and an interactive game to think about pitfalls and contingency plans. The group also started work on Best Practice Guidelines (BPG), with groups assigned for different topics. The RWG continues strengthening recordkeeping practices and supporting the EAZA community through collaborative efforts and targeted resource development.

Population management challenges

EAZA supports Members in applying the approved population management methods across a wide range of taxa. Specific practices and legal frameworks can differ between institutions and countries, so EAZA's role is to provide a shared basis of evidence, professional standards and consistent messaging. In 2025, EAZA laid foundations for such guidance on management euthanasia (ME) as one of the available population management strategies. A task force bringing together expertise from the EEP, Veterinary, Communications and National Associations Committees, alongside the EAZA Executive Office, produced guidance for Members - to be approved by AGM in 2026 - covering:

(1) the scientific background and rationale for population management; (2) practical veterinary considerations, including responsible use of carcasses for feeding where appropriate and lawful; and (3) communications guidance to support transparent, accurate and responsible public engagement.

The EAZA Executive Office (EEO) and several Committees continued their work to address Brexit-related challenges, particularly where differences between UK legislation and the EU Animal Health Law created obstacles to animal transfers. Although some progress has been achieved, EU-UK animal moves remained significantly below pre-Brexit levels, which continued impacting EEPs. Lobby work in 2025 focused on resolving technical obstacles (e.g. requirements for specific identifiers for birds moved into the EU) as well as on making sure that zoo- and aquarium priorities were reflected in the future Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement which the EU and UK agreed to negotiate in 2026.

During the Bird TAGs mid-year meeting, the EAZA Wildlife Trade Taskforce, reporting back to the EEP and Conservation Committees, organised a workshop focussing on due diligence in acquisition and disposition procedures. This will help provide further guidance to the community.

The EEP Committee also oversees compliance with EEP rules and procedures. In 2025, they received five EEP-related complaints, resulting in one official warning and strong letters in the remaining cases. All further cases were solved after discussion among the parties.



Simon Bruslund (Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark) and Ewa Wikberg (Nordens Ark, Sweden) talking about rules for animal acquisition and disposition at the Bird TAGs mid-year meeting © EAZA

POPULATION MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM EAZA TAXON ADVISORY GROUPS

This section includes some of the population management achievements from the TAGs for 2025. Many more valuable activities were conducted across the EAZA membership than what could possibly fit in this report, and we extend our thanks and congratulations to all involved. You can find all published Long-term Management Plans (LTMPs) and RSPs on the Member Area (members.eaza.net/LTMP-RSP).

Most of the **Terrestrial Invertebrates TAG's** efforts in 2025 were spent preparing for the 2nd RSP meeting that was held in Copenhagen Zoo (Denmark) in November. Significantly more ambitious than the first RSP, it focused on European invertebrate species and particularly how EAZA Members could get involved in their conservation. Thirty-two delegates attended from 21 different organisations, including representatives from IUCN Species Survival Commissions (SSCs) and invertebrate conservation NGOs.

Interesting developments included the assistance by the Gooty ornamental tarantula EEP with the rehoming of over 150 seized tarantulas, providing a potentially significant new founder base to the EEP.

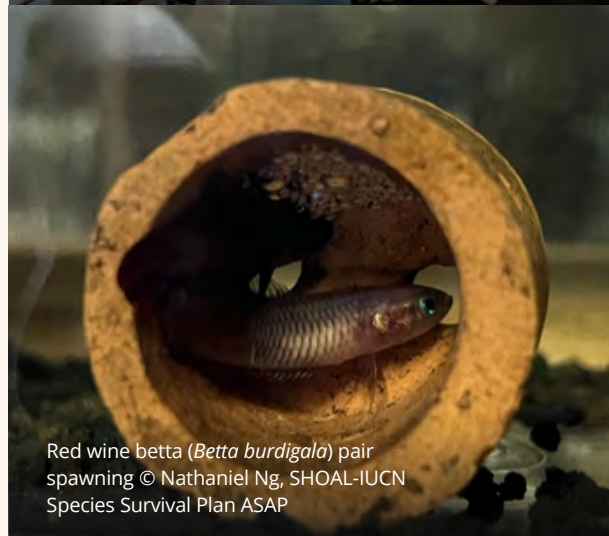
One of the main topics for the **Freshwater Teleost TAG** remains the identification of genetically valuable groups and finding an effective way to manage them. The current focus is "line breeding" – i.e. no exchanges between groups over multiple generations, creating separate lines that are genetically distinct to maintain genetic variation. Following a pilot study by the EAZA Population Management Centre, valuable lineages for the EEP for Asian killifish (*Aplocheilidae*) were identified and animals moved accordingly. Conservation species prioritisation for the EEP for Gouramis (*Osphronemidae*) was completed. This is one of the recently established EEPs overseeing dozens of species, often highly threatened. Prioritising species and actions is a challenge faced by many other EEPs within the TAG. Achieving our goals and improving the genetic representation requires cooperation with research institutions and with the private sector. The EEP for Poeciliids (*Poeciliidae*) was presented at an international meeting focused on clarifying expectations and frameworks for such cooperation.

The EEP for Perches (*Percidae*) is in a unique situation. The offspring of the last Swiss female of Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*), reared at Aquatis Lausanne (Switzerland) and Museum of Besançon (France), are now in the care of Aquatis Lausanne and Basel Zoo (Switzerland), awaiting a decision from the Swiss government on a potential reintroduction programme. The species is probably extinct in Switzerland.

The **Marine Teleost TAG** set up the European seahorse Species Committee in 2025 to help with decisions around the two EEP species. Intensive research was conducted in the TAG to determine the origin of individuals in the EEP for Long-snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*). Results showed that the 205 specimens across 15 EAZA Members originate from three populations: Mediterranean, North Sea and Bay of Biscay. The strategy is to manage these distinct populations separately in aquariums. Each region needs to explore the founder population size and diversity and may need an acquisition/breeding plan set up for the future. The TAG started exploring the establishment of a Weedy seadragon EEP with world-scale management after the great reproductive success of the species in three non-EAZA



TITAG Regional Species Plan participants
© Copenhagen Zoo



Red wine betta (*Betta burdigala*) pair spawning
© Nathaniel Ng, SHOAL-IUCN Species Survival Plan ASAP



Long-snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*) couple © Chris Brown

institutions. The high number of offspring can rapidly increase the risk of genetic degradation. Additionally, the conservation status of *Phyllopteryx taeniolatus* in the wild is uncertain, with global warming triggering algae blooms and other threats.

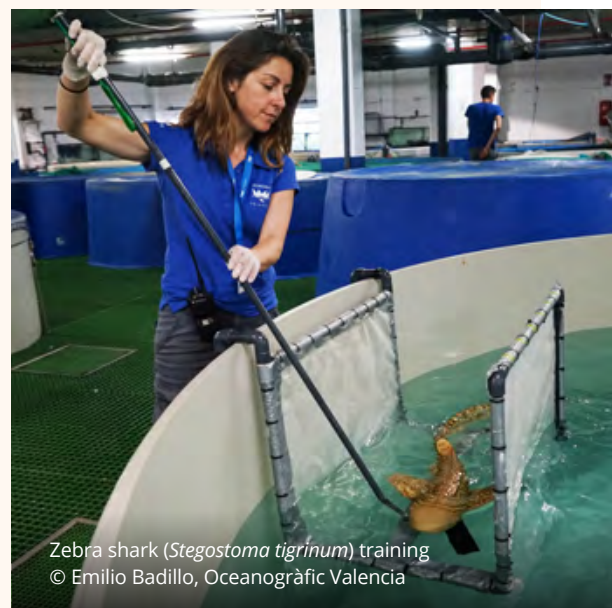
The coopted internal 'EUAC-EAZA Teleost Breeding Strategy and Action Plan' was published in September. This document aims to i) give an overview about the present situation in Europe; ii) gather the possible methods of cooperation (from individual efforts to coopted breeding centres); iii) compile the challenges of sustainable marine teleost breeding in public aquariums and zoos; iv) discuss financial possibilities; and v) suggest possible steps for a long term-coopted European marine teleost breeding programme.

The **Elasmobranch TAG** has been actively promoting animal exchanges between institutions and the importance of a well-defined population management strategy. Significant efforts were made in genetics to ensure that these exchanges are meaningful and well-informed. However, genetic studies remain a challenge as some species are difficult to handle and obtaining samples for DNA analysis can be extremely difficult. Other challenges described in previous reports persisted. The reproduction of certain species has led to the collapse of their *ex situ* populations, with limited opportunities for transfers between institutions due to inbreeding. Further progress is needed in contraceptive treatments, as separating males and females often requires additional space, but research in contraception also involves handling animals, which can be particularly delicate.

Following a meeting held in October 2024, the **Jellyfish TAG** RSP was officially published in 2025, defining its main goals in four key pillars that guide the group's activities: i) collaboration, ii) sustainability, iii) scientific advancement, and iv) public awareness. Supporting the TAG's mission, these pillars aim to create a strong network of aquariums and research institutions, promote sustainable jellyfish cultures in public aquariums, support scientific research on jellyfish biology and reproduction, and work with jellyfish as ambassadors to increase public understanding of marine ecosystems and environmental challenges. The TAG also defined several priority goals, including strengthening jellyfish conservation research, expanding breeding and husbandry programmes, developing standardised care protocols, establishing polyp and jellyfish banks, and promoting knowledge exchange through workshops and initiatives such as the European Jellyfish Camp and outreach events like "Jellyfish Day". These actions will be implemented and further developed during 2026.

The **Amphibian TAG** saw expanded breeding for many threatened species, including Montseny brook newt (*Calotriton arnoldi*), Sabana Suriname toads (*Pipa parva*) and yellow-spotted tree toad (*Rentapia flavomaculata*) at Chester Zoo (UK); lemur leaf frogs (*Agalychnis lemur*) at many institutions; several southern Darwin's frogs (*Rhinoderma darwinii*) reared through to metamorphosis by breeding males at ZSL London Zoo (UK); Laos warty newts (*Laotriton laoensis*) at Cologne Zoo (Germany). Allwetterzoo (Germany) gained understanding on the breeding and metamorphosis of fringe-limbed treefrog (*Ecnomiohyla valancifer*) and opened a salamander Ark currently housing 50 *Salamandra salamandra*.

A new EEP was established for the Olm (*Proteus anguinus*), coordinated by Chester Zoo. A challenge is that not all animals held by EAZA Members are recorded in ZIMS yet.



Zebra shark (*Stegostoma tigrinum*) training
© Emilio Badillo, Oceanogràfic Valencia



The Jellyfish TAG RSP was presented at the EUAC 2025 Conference, hosted by Istanbul Aquarium © Hugo Batista



Atewa slippery frog (*Conraua sagyimase*)
© Benjamin Tapley

Multiple breeding successes were achieved in the **Reptile TAG**. Many are significant for reasons of conservation, science and husbandry, e.g. the breeding of Telfair's skinks (*Leiolopisma telfairii*) at ZSL London Zoo (UK), the unassisted natural breeding of Malaysian giant turtle (*Orlitia borneensis*) at Prague Zoo (Czechia), or the first F2 generations of three chameleon species, all originating from confiscated founders at Vienna Zoo (Austria). There were also several notable first breeding successes in human care, including the Critically Endangered *Bavayia exsuccida* and Endangered *Tarentola gigas* at Allwetterzoo Münster (Germany), *Pseudocerastes urarachnoides* in Plzeň Zoo (Czechia) and *Pristurus celerrimus* at Hagenbeck Zoo (Germany). Some of these successes will enable repatriation into the wild. For instance, 12 Vietnamese crocodile lizards (*Shinisaurus crocodilurus vietnamensis*), bred in Cologne Zoo (Germany), were sent to the Melinh Center for Biodiversity (Vietnam), where they will help to strengthen conservation breeding efforts on site and, if necessary, will be released into the wild to support natural populations.

In 2025, the TAG established eight new-style EEPs. Coordinated population management of some EEP species progressed across both *in situ* and *ex situ* contexts. For example, the Komodo dragon EEP recorded successful breeding events, coordinated strategic transfers, and improved genetic oversight which contributes to long-term population sustainability, while supporting monitoring efforts on Flores and surrounding Indonesian islands where systematic cameratrapping surveys have confirmed the continued presence and broad distribution of these reptiles.

In 2025, the **Penguin TAG** reported good news: the population of Magellanic penguins (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) increased significantly due to low chick mortality in contrast to previous years; discussions were held with the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) about importing birds into EAZA to broaden the genetics of the stable but female-heavy gentoo (*Pygoscelis papua*) *ellsworthii* subspecies, that the EEP is focusing on breeding; the population of the Falkland subspecies (*P. p. papua*) increased slightly; blood samples for the second part of the research on hybrid Humboldt x African penguins were brought over to the EAZA Biobank hub in Edinburgh; and the production of Penguin BPG progressed.

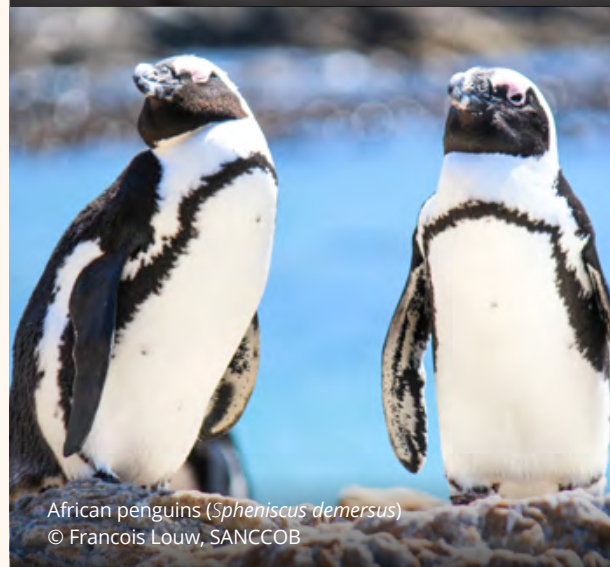
Challenges remained. EU-UK border challenges and avian influenza are still heavily discussed topics regarding transfer recommendations. The loss of a few holders and the rescheduling of new enclosure builds made it difficult to find place for African penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*). The success of many holders is now even more at risk than the years before. It is great to see so much effort and an increase in chick survivorship, but we need ongoing commitment from holding institutions to ensure sufficient space for colonies.

In 2025, the **Pelecaniformes, Ciconiiformes and Phoenicopteriformes TAG** made significant progress in strategic population planning and programme development, starting with the publication of its new RSP. It identifies priority taxa for the establishment of future EEPs and provides a framework for transitioning existing programmes to the new-style EEP format.

An analysis of Chilean flamingos (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*) held in UK zoos identified concerns related to small flock sizes and potential genetic narrowing. Discussions were initiated on possible management actions to support population growth, improve breeding success, and maintain genetic diversity. In the meantime, work continued on the development of BPG covering all ibis species held within EAZA.



Orlitia borneensis hatchling © Petr Hamerník, Prague Zoo



African penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*)
© Francois Louw, SANCCOB



Chilean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*)
flock © Dublin Zoo

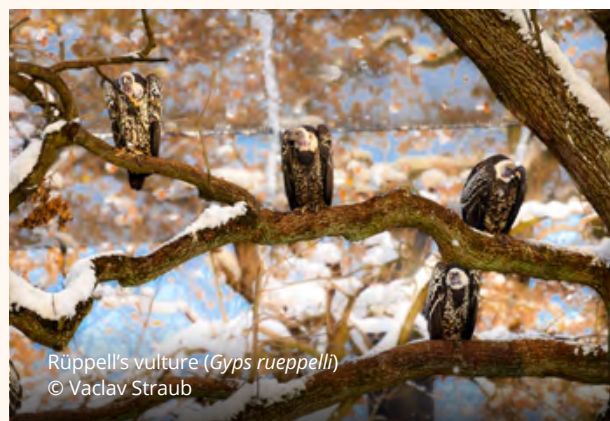
In the owl subgroup of the **Raptor TAG**, the Burrowing owl EEP and the Verreaux's eagle owl EEP were established. The Ural owl EEP continued to support reintroduction work in Austria and Bavaria while contributing to genetic coordination across a wider European network. In 2025, 50 young were hatched, including offspring from non-EAZA institutions, and 40 were released: 22 in Bavaria and 18 in Austria. This meant that 80% of the EEP's offspring that year directly contributed to population restoration. The programme also continued to balance *ex situ* breeding goals with the needs of reintroduction and long-term genetic management. BPGs are in preparation for the burrowing (*Athene cunicularia*) and snowy (*Bubo scandiacus*) owls.

The vulture subgroup also made significant progress. A new Combined Asian vultures EEP was established covering white-rumped (*Gyps bengalensis*), Indian (*G. indicus*), slender-billed (*G. tenuirostris*) and red-headed (*Sarcogyps calvus*) vultures, as well as Himalayan griffon (*G. himalayensis*). A ZIMS Studbook for the latter was also created. Established programmes continued to perform strongly, with more than 30 Griffon vulture chicks hatched in 2025, continued success in the Cinereous vulture and Bearded vulture EEPs, and more than 10 chicks hatched in the Hooded vulture EEP.

In 2025, the **Galliformes TAG** further encouraged the keeping of Endangered species within the EAZA community. Population management efforts were deployed towards challenging species that require specialised aviaries rather than large mixed exhibits, like the Malay crestless fireback (*Lophura erythrophthalma*) and red-billed curassow (*Crax blumenbachii*), whose populations are slowly but surely rising. A new-style EEP was established for the Bornean crested-fireback (*Lophura ignita*), a species that needs to be revived in EAZA zoos. The TAG will work closely with the World Pheasant Association, whose members still hold a substantial population of this species. A new-style EEP was also approved for Collared partridge (*Arborophila gingica*) to function as a model species for other, more threatened, species of the same genus. Thanks to the Grouse EEP, Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) have been distributed throughout the EAZA community, as well as to and from various European conservation projects that are actively reintroducing birds into ranges where the species was completely or almost depleted.

During 2025, the **Gruiformes TAG** officially established five new-style EEPs: Grey crowned-crane (*Balearica regulorum*), Black crowned-crane (*B. pavonina*), Siberian crane (*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*), Trumpeters (*Psophia* sp.), and Sarus crane (*Antigone antigone*). Among the many hatchlings of the year, the successful breeding of two kagu (*Rhynochetos jubatus*) at Bird Paradise (Singapore) is especially notable as it is the first breeding of this Endangered species in an EAZA institution for some years and an important boost for the small EAZA population. The EEP Coordinators of the larger crane species met to develop a strategy for avoiding space competition between the different programmes and ensuring sustainability of all the recommended EEP species. This strategy will be woven into the LTMPs for each crane EEP.

For the **Charadriiformes TAG**, the year was filled with good news for the Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). The TAG supported partners within and outside the EAZA region by sharing the recently published BPG for the species, containing significant input from holders and experts. In the summer, Rotterdam Zoo (the Netherlands) received confiscated Atlantic puffin eggs from the Dutch authorities. Incubation was continued, and a large number of birds were successfully reared by the team. These birds are very valuable for the genetics of the *ex situ* population. The TAG also worked on BPG for redshank (*Tringa totanus*) to be published in 2026.



Rüppell's vulture (*Gyps rueppelli*)
© Vaclav Straub



Red-billed curassow (*Crax blumenbachii*)
© Jonathan Beilby



Kagu chick (*Rhynochetos jubatus*) at Bird Paradise © Mandai Wildlife Group



Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) hatchlings from confiscated eggs © Rotterdam Zoo

During 2025, the **Parrot TAG** recruited EEP Coordinators for vacant EEPs. In addition to the established Cockatoo working group, a new Amazons working group was established, consisting of the current EEP Coordinators of Amazon parrots.

In 2025, the **Songbird TAG** completed a “LTMP marathon”, publishing LTMPs for 11 EEPs, in preparation for the RSP scheduled in 2026. The TAG also carried out a rigorous pre-selection process reviewing all 6,600 songbird species using a scoring system and TAG members’ consultation during the Bird TAGs mid-year meeting. This model has since served as inspiration for the RSP preparation of other species-rich TAGs.

The **Monotreme and Marsupial TAG** upgraded all the EEPs under their remit into new-style EEPs. They continued working on the BPGs for the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), common wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*) and Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*).

The RSP workshop held in 2024 gave the **Prosimian TAG** a strong basis for renewing global initiatives in the course of 2025. The new TAG’s working group on lorises, galagos, and nocturnal species aims to aid rescue centres in range with practical knowledge about husbandry and management of species under human care. They established close ties with the newly formed working group for nocturnal primates of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group (SG). The Blue-eyed black lemur EEP action plan was put into practice, meaning the recommended “breeding hubs” were established in Apenheul (the Netherlands) and Mulhouse Zoo (France) and transfers were carried out according to plan.

Interregional cooperation and providing support to institutional prosimian collection planning are among the TAG’s main priorities. The TAG engaged with colleagues from other regions in capacity sharing and to promote joint population management efforts. Following the successful transfer of Mongoose lemurs (*Eulemur mongoz*) and Coquerel’s sifakas (*Propithecus coquereli*) from the Species Survival Plan in 2024, the EAZA and the AZA Prosimian TAGs looked into the potential to manage other species as global programmes. Cooperation with institutions in South America progressed with the establishment of links for the transfer of red-bellied lemurs (*Eulemur rubriventer*) to Brazil.

The year was productive and forward-looking for the **Callitrichid TAG**, with continued emphasis on programme development and management, advanced conservation focus, clear communication, and strengthened collaboration across the community. The TAG focused on supporting Coordinators, refining planning processes, and maintaining strong channels for information sharing. They also prepared for the RSP meeting, held in November at Yorkshire Wildlife Park (UK). It brought together colleagues from across Europe, alongside invited participants from Brazil and Colombia, whose regional expertise added depth to discussions and ensured planning aligned with conservation needs in native habitats.



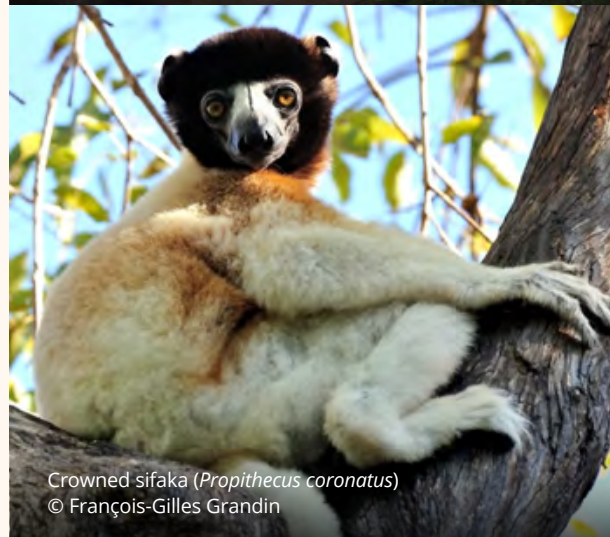
Vineous-breasted amazon (*Amazona vinacea*)
© Kees Groot, Copenhagen Zoo



Asian fairy bluebird (*Irena puella*) © Simon Bruslund, Copenhagen Zoo



Eastern quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*)
© Copenhagen Zoo



Crowned sifaka (*Propithecus coronatus*)
© François-Gilles Grandin



The Callitrichid TAG mid-year meeting was hosted by Apenheul (the Netherlands)
© Greg Clifton

Throughout 2025, the **Afro-Eurasian Monkey TAG** worked to support all EEPs under its remit, particularly when discussing issues of space, breed-and-cull strategies and outplacement of animals. The large baboon, colobus and patas (*Erythrocebus patas*) populations are a particular challenge, with an important solution being the sharing of cross-cutting EEP solutions and promoting mixed-species exhibits. The TAG launched a baboon focus group after an inspiring session at the EAZA Annual Conference. They will continue to discuss the challenges which Coordinators and holders are facing in relation to these species.

Within the **Great Ape TAG**, the Chimpanzee EEP continued working with holders to lower birth mortality. This number dropped from 57% in 2024 to 41% in 2025. The EEP also continues its efforts to bring all Western chimpanzees females (*Pan troglodytes verus*) with breeding potential into a breeding situation. The same approach is being applied to Central chimpanzees (*P. t. troglodytes*). They are also focusing on increasing animal welfare in terms of proper social structure of all groups as well as safety in all holders. Special attention is given to decrease the number of adult single males in the population. The first Chimpanzee EEP workshop was held in October at BIOPARC Valencia (Spain) and attended by over 40 participants. The Chimpanzee EEP social media platforms were enriched with an Instagram account sharing news from both the Chimpanzee EEP and individual holders.

Both orangutan species managed under the Orangutan EEP umbrella decreased in population size, due to the exclusion of Russian EEP participants. In both populations, the need to outplace males continues posing a significant challenge.

The **Small Mammal TAG** published the RSP for the subgroups Chiroptera, Afrotheria, Scandentia, and Eulipotyphla. Three new-style EEPs were proposed, including for the Rodrigues fruit bat (*Pteropus rodricensis*) that now also extends to the Mauritius fruit bat (*P. niger*). Additionally, the TAG established the EEPs which had been earlier proposed in other subgroups' RSPs. The frightful loss of small mammal diversity in EAZA populations is one of the main concerns of the TAG. The situation is especially alarming for the Livingstone's fruit bat (*P. livingstonii*) after Jersey Zoo (UK) had to discontinue housing the largest colony of the species, as well as for the Malagasy giant rat (*Hypogeomys antimena*) whose *ex situ* population is still very low for a rodent species. Both taxa are endemic to tiny areas and are classified as Critically Endangered. A few EAZA facilities are the only ones to breed them in worldwide, so we have to hold the responsibility of "ark" populations until better times come again.

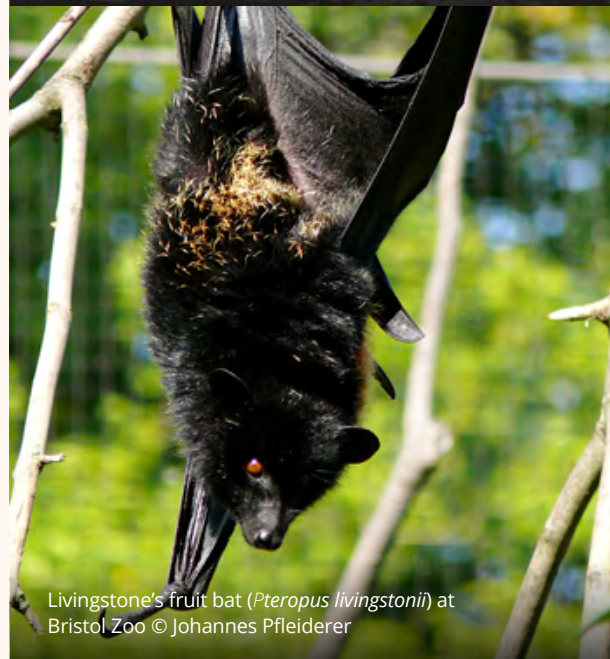
The **Canid and Hyaenid TAG** reported several positive developments in 2025. The Bush dog EEP collaborated with Brazilian partners to breed wild-caught males with EEP females, aiming to import offspring once a second litter is born (while allowing the first litter to learn the rearing experience). This will improve the genetic diversity of the EEP. The Fennec fox EEP saw 12 successfully reared puppies (four litters). There is great interest from new holders, also outside EAZA, in keeping spotted hyenas (*Crocuta crocuta*). Adding non-EAZA institutions to the EEP could bring some new lines and increase breeding success. This is given priority for the near future due to a lack of breeding and the aging of females. Finally, preparations started for the RSP planned for 2026, with discussions focusing on EEP priorities and opportunities for collaboration with other regions.



Mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*) © Artis Zoo



Participants of the first Chimpanzee EEP workshop © BIOPARC Valencia



Livingstone's fruit bat (*Pteropus livingstonii*) at Bristol Zoo © Johannes Pflaederer



Bush dogs (*Speothos venaticus*) © Eden Edmonds, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park

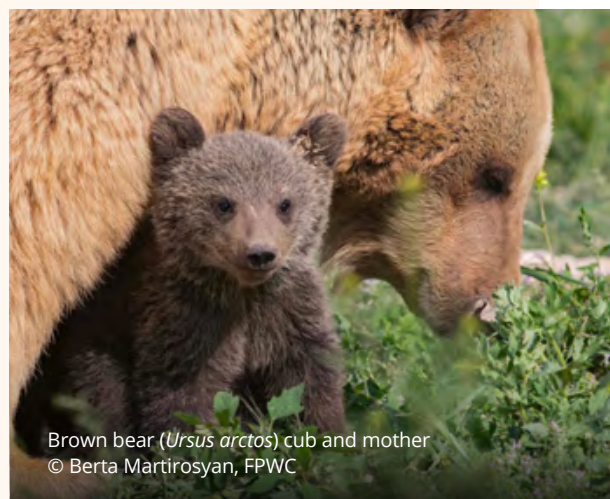
The **Bear TAG** expanded its membership in 2025, to boost capacity, expertise and scientific contributions. New roles were created to focus on advancing bear research, and additional Veterinary Advisors were appointed. The introduction of EEP Vice Coordinators further strengthened support for programme activities.

A key focus for 2025 was the revision of the Ursid Husbandry Guidelines (1st edition, 2007) to accommodate the substantial advances made in the past two decades in husbandry practices, welfare science, and knowledge of wild ursid ecology. Revisions include expanded chapters on ursid evolution and morphology, modern habitat design, *ex situ* social grouping strategies, and the role of training and positive reinforcement in husbandry and veterinary procedures. Additionally, the “Bear Basics” document, developed by members of the TAG and the Captive Bear Expert Team of the IUCN SSC Bear SG, provides essential guidance on identifying welfare gaps and aligning care practices with internationally recognised minimum standards. It is an important tool for advancing bear welfare globally, especially in regions where facilities may lack access to species-appropriate expertise.

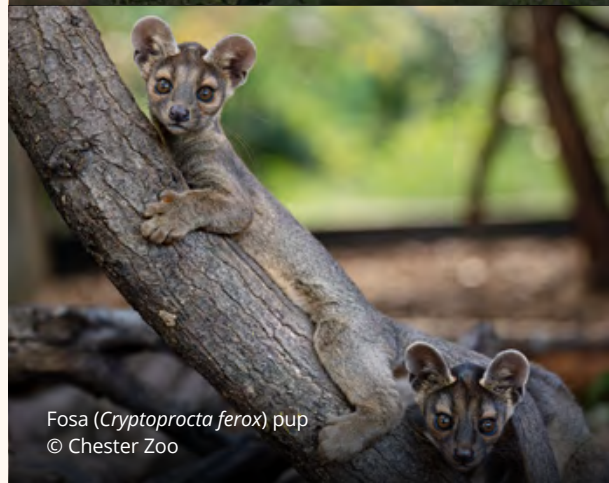
Throughout 2025, the **Small Carnivore TAG** saw significant advances in many EEPs. The European mink EEP now accounts a record of participants (19!). Target population numbers are achieved and genetic diversity above 90% maintained. The construction of a new breeding centre with a laboratory has started in Calviac (France), with a capacity of 26 animals. The EEP for Asian short-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinerea*) was approved and discussions resulted in a reduction in breeding and more success in group management. Mixed sibling groups or non-breeding pairs are proving successful. After five years of preparation between the EEP and the Species Survival Plan, a genetically important fosa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*) male, from San Diego Zoo (USA), was successfully introduced to a female at Chester Zoo (UK), which resulted in four healthy offspring and in increasing the number of founders to 16. Whilst the EEP for Owston’s civet (*Chrotogale owstoni*) within the European region has reduced, the population at Save Vietnam’s Wildlife has grown to 30 animals. The latter now has a full ZIMS Studbook, with breeding recommendations for 2026 created in PMx, a first for the Vietnamese population. By pairing genetically valuable wolverines (*Gulo gulo*) with new partners, several breeding successes were achieved, increasing the genetic diversity within the EEP. In addition, reproduction in older individuals was made possible by introducing them to new partners.

Among the many EEP changes in the **Felid TAG**, the following were proposed: a new Generic and white tiger EEP to support the TAG’s objectives of phasing out these populations; the splitting of the Eurasian lynx EEP into an EEP for Carpathian lynx (*Lynx lynx carpathicus*) and one for the Northern lynx (*L. l. lynx*); and a new EEP for Serval (*Leptailurus serval*) to support ongoing population control.

Key population management challenges for the TAG continued to include small cat reproduction, space availability, compliance and support of the recommended species vs non-recommended species, health management and ongoing transfer issues between EU and UK. These challenges remain important discussion points with Coordinators working well to find effective solutions. A dedicated small cat husbandry working group was established to focus on targeted best practice husbandry guidance for small cats. Coordinators maintained close collaboration, working together to identify priority species and advance their programmes.



Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) cub and mother
© Berta Martirosyan, FPWC



Fosa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*) pup
© Chester Zoo



Carpathian lynx (*Lynx lynx carpathicus*)
at Wuppertal Zoo © Alex Sliwa

In 2025, the **Marine Mammal TAG** faced significant challenges due to several institutions discontinuing the keeping of dolphins, prompting the need to relocate animals and placing considerable strain on the capacity of current EEP participants. In addition, the Position Statement proposed by the TAG in 2025 concerning water treatment systems for pinnipeds intensified pressure on several institutions and EEPs. Meeting these recommended standards will require thorough assessment and, in some cases, substantial facility modifications. Discussions on these matters will continue into 2026.

The **Elephant TAG** manages two programmes. In 2025, the Asian elephant EEP population slightly decreased, following the LTMP's restricted breeding recommendations. The main challenge remained to reconstruct our management system so that it can hold a 50% male / 50% female population. The successful transfer of a bull from Artis Zoo to WILDLANDS Emmen (both the Netherlands) improved the mating behaviour of another bull of reproductive age at the receiving zoo. According to its LTMP, the African elephant EEP needs to progress from current three to seven or eight births per year to maintain a self-sustaining population. Two transfers were completed in 2025. One adult bull was relocated to a breeding facility to support future reproduction, and one artificially inseminated adult cow was transferred to another zoo to establish a new breeding group.

The TAG's Training Group identified three key focus areas: promote the animal training theory; share best practice examples of husbandry; and highlight the benefits of protected contact and the process of transitioning to this practice. Discussions started on how to best address the third point, including developing webinars and a resource page.

Many programmes in the **Equid TAG** focused on breeding efforts: seven surviving foals will help counter the aging of the kulan (*Equus hemionus kulan*) population; 21 Somali wild ass (*E. africanus somaliensis*) foals were born; an increased number of births and surviving foals was reported in the Grevy's zebra EEP but they remain low and the availability of adult females is extremely limited; and eight foals were born in the Maneless zebra EEP which is important for the stabilisation and future prospects of the programme. Increasing the number of births in the Hartmann's mountain zebra EEP remains a priority.

Birth numbers in the Przewalski's horse EEP remained stable despite a higher number of breeding recommendations. This is likely due to delayed transfers between participating facilities. The programme needs young animals to maintain population stability and provide suitable candidates for the ongoing reintroduction project in Kazakhstan. The EEP also focused on explaining to holders the importance of deploying the breed-and-cull strategy as a management tool when appropriate and possible.

The **Rhinoceros TAG** oversees three EEPs. In 2025, the Greater-one horned rhino EEP continued to balance the limited space and the impact of the improved birth rate following the lifting of the no-breeding recommendations in 2023. The EEP needs holders for single bulls and groups of bulls. In addition, the EEP is working with the Species Survival Plan to find ways to improve its founder base to ensure the long-term sustainability of the population. The Eastern black rhino EEP focused on increasing the breeding rate to be able to continue providing animals for translocation to Africa and supplement populations where needed. The EEP is therefore looking for new holders. The White rhino EEP is focusing on stabilising growth without losing breeding potential through reproductive pathologies, often correlated to reproductive inactivity in large mammals. In 2025, the population remained stable but major challenges included keeping the bachelor groups functioning, timely replacing non-breeding bulls, introductions of adult animals and management of less stable rhino groups. The TAG also provides



Antillean manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) feeding near the surface © Duisburg Zoo



Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) mating © WILDLANDS Emmen



Maneless zebra (*Equus quagga borensis*) at Kidepo Valley NP, Uganda © Luboš Melichar, Liberec Zoo



Greater one-horned rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) © Stefan Leimer, Basel Zoo

technical support to holders interested in becoming non-EAZA Rhino EEP participants.

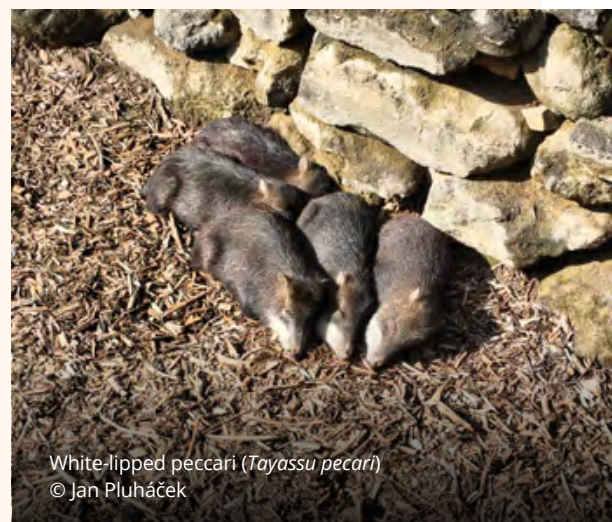
A key issue for the **Tapir and Suiform TAG** is the long-term sustainability of EEP populations and the population management methods used to achieve it. In 2025, the TAG reviewed the situation in its 10 EEPs. One programme, for Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*), currently has no animals in the EAZA region. Two others, for the Babirusa (*Babirusa babirusa*) and Malayan tapir (*Tapirus indicus*), have small populations and significant scope for growth, so breeding restrictions are not currently applied. In the seven remaining programmes, breeding restrictions are used to manage population size. However, where such restrictions continue over the long-term, they may contribute to reduced fertility in some individuals, weaken population viability, and increase pressure on available space. While management euthanasia is currently applied only by a small number of holders, wider use of this approach could help support the long-term viability and stability of several EEP populations within the TAG. In addition, the TAG began closely monitoring the population of white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*), which is held in nine EAZA zoos but breeds regularly in only two.

The **Cattle and Camelid TAG** held its RSP workshop in September and created an ambitious plan for the next five years. The focus remains on Asian threatened species, with the addition of a task force to investigate the development of an EEP for Wild camel (*Camelus ferus*). They also aim for greater focus and raising the profile of European bison (*Bison bonasus*).

The Action Indonesia Global Species Management Plan partnership, which is led by many EAZA institutions, is supporting the Indonesian Zoo and Aquarium Association (PKBSI) to manage Studbooks in ZIMS, plan training and mentor their Studbook keepers in the future.

During 2025, the **Deer TAG** prepared for the second RSP workshop planned for 2026. Ungulate transfers from non-EU countries, including the UK, into the EU, are still a major obstacle, which makes introducing new founders in the respective populations challenging. The TAG also ran a survey among members to learn about the situation around emerging diseases and the respective veterinary and transfer regulations. Depending on the species and countries involved, Bluetongue virus, Chronic Wasting Disease and Tuberculosis have caused great delays and even cancellations of recommended deer transfers mainly due to new regulations, incorrect enforcement of existing regulations and the aftermath of UK's departure from the EU.

As in previous years, the EU Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Regulation (1143/2014) remained challenging. Three deer species, the Reeves' muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*), axis deer (*Axis axis*) and Sika deer (*Cervus nippon*) are now included in the EU IAS list. This means that their captive populations should be phased out unless there is a legitimate reason for keeping them, such as research or – particularly relevant for EAZA – *ex situ* conservation. EU legislation requires member states to establish a mechanism for holders to apply for a permit for *ex situ* conservation, but the development and implementation of these mechanisms have only been partial. To help zoos interested in applying for the permits, the TAG can provide material and information following collaboration with the EAZA EU Policy team. Moreover, the EU Regulation allows EU countries to include more species in their national IAS lists, which some have indeed done. For example, the water deer (*Hydropotes inermis*) and European fallow deer (*Dama dama*) have also been added to various national lists. While these species are not managed at the moment, the water deer is threatened in the wild (Vulnerable), and the fallow deer might also be categorised as such soon. The TAG tracks such national-level decisions and assists as necessary.



White-lipped peccari (*Tayassu pecari*)
© Jan Pluháček



European bison (*Bison bonasus*) © Borås Zoo



Lesser mouse-deer (*Tragulus javanicus kanchil*) © Noam Werner

In the **Antelope and Giraffid TAG**, a new EEP was established for Slender-horned gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*) to support the *ex situ* population in two Tunisian breeding centres, with funding, knowledge on small population management and husbandry, so that animals are available for future reintroductions. With a wild population of less than 600 and numbers still decreasing, this is a crucial initiative to save the species from extinction. Meanwhile, the mountain bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci*) is facing an even greater threat of extinction. EAZA, on behalf of the Mountain bongo EEP, therefore signed an MoA with Kenya Wildlife Service and Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy to send four male bongos from the EEP to a breeding programme in Kenya so that their offspring can be reintroduced to the wild.

Management in mixed species habitats is increasingly popular for antelope holders, as it provides each species with more space while creating an attractive experience for visitors. To address common questions about these habitats, the TAG organised a workshop in Safari Park Dvůr Králové (Czechia) and at the EAZA Annual Conference. Information on mixed-species habitats is also available on the EAZA Member Area. Like for deer, the Bluetongue virus is still making international transfers of antelopes difficult or impossible, a headache for many EEP Coordinators.

During 2025, the **Caprinae TAG** concentrated on strengthening its strategic framework by developing clear, integrated guidelines to ensure consistent management standards across the entire taxon. Reflecting the TAG's commitment to long-term, international research partnerships, a European-Japanese working group was initiated to discuss the reciprocal transfer of cryopreserved sperm from golden takin (*Budorcas taxicolor bedfordi*) bulls between Japan and Europe, to strengthen the genetic outlook of the EEP.

Like other ungulate TAGs, this TAG continued to face challenges in organising transfers between zoos. Logistical constraints, differing national requirements and expectations for veterinary examinations and diagnostic testing, and the Bluetongue situation across Europe, all contribute to considerable delays and excessive transport timeframes.

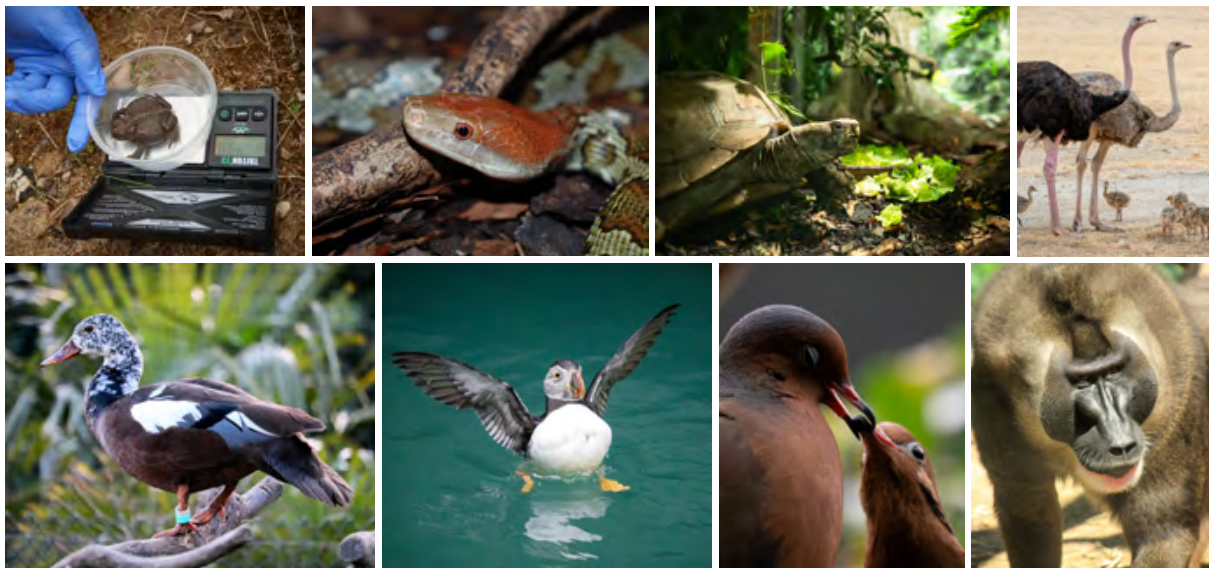


Slender-horned gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*) in Tunisia © Marwell Wildlife



Takin (*Budorcas taxicolor*) © Marie Demoulin

ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE



EAZA Best Practice Guidelines published in 2025

Photos left to right: natterjack toad (*Epidalea calamita*) © Alopex Media; Moellendorff's ratsnake (*Elaphe moellendorffi*) © Matthew Cook, Chester Zoo; Asian giant forest tortoise (*Manouria emys*) © Nordens Ark; North African ostrich (*Struthio c. camelus*) © Antoine Joris, Sigean African Reserve; white-winged duck (*Asarcornis scutulata*) © Mandai Wildlife Group; Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) © Frank Rønsholt, Copenhagen Zoo; Socorro dove (*Zenaida graysoni*) © ZSL London Zoo; [mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*) and] drill (*M. leucophaeus*) © Erlebnis Zoo

Moreover, the EAZA Animal Training BPG were translated into Dutch, Finnish and French.

During the year, the Veterinary Committee, chaired by Mads Frost Bertelsen (Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark), worked on updating the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EAZA and the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (EAZWV), scheduled for approval in April 2026. Overall, activities under the MoU continue to progress well, with partnership goals being met across all areas. The agreement will see minor editorial corrections – but its scope, intent and obligations will not change.

The Handbook on EU Animal Health Law and Confined Establishments was released in Polish and additional language translations may be available once the 2nd edition of the handbook is available. The Legislation subgroup of the Veterinary Committee has started working on this update together with the EEO.

The Infectious Disease subgroup continued to actively monitor outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Bluetongue Virus. Crisis responses included issuing support letters from EAZA where appropriate.

The EAZA Reproductive Management Group, chaired by Sue Walker (Chester Zoo, UK), published a review of human contraceptive implant use in zoos and aquariums, using over 30 years of data collected by these institutions.

The Animal Training Working Group (ATWG), chaired by

Annette Pedersen (Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark), contributed to chapters 3 and 4 of WAZA's new welfare strategy *Advancing Animal Welfare*.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING: EAZA ACADEMY AND BEYOND

The EAZA Academy continued to deliver professional development opportunities for the zoological community in 2025, offering training to EAZA Members, Candidates for Membership, and non-members. The focus remained on strengthening best practice, advancing evidence-based animal management, and providing accessible learning formats across the network.

A range of training options were available, including in-person workshops, hybrid seminars, self-paced online courses, and shared digital resources. The Academy also continued developing new course materials and procedures to support consistent and high-quality learning experiences.

In partnership with EU4Ocean, the Academy introduced a new Ocean Literacy programme. Ania Brown – at the time consulting for the EEO – delivered a one-day in-person course at the EAZA Conservation Education Conference and developed a complementary self-paced online version

available on our website. The course equips zoo and aquarium professionals with a deeper understanding of ocean literacy principles and their relevance to climate change, ocean health, and environmental sustainability.

The ATWG hosted the very first *European Animal Training Seminar* at ZSL London Zoo (UK). It brought together delegates from 37 countries and leading behavioural experts, including Paul Andronis (Northern Michigan University, USA) and T.V. Joe Layng (Endicott College, USA), to explore advanced concepts such as non-linear contingency analysis and the constructional approach to animal training. The hybrid programme featured plenary presentations, case studies, practical demonstrations at ZSL London Zoo, and hands-on workshops aimed at strengthening compassionate, science-based training practices. The ATWG delivered three additional workshops during the EAZA Annual Conference and three online presentations at the European Association for Aquatic Mammals (EAAM) annual conference.

The EAZA Academy hosted *The Basics of Zoo Animal Nutrition* at Apenheul (the Netherlands). Led by Heidi Bissell (Zoo Diet NaviGator, USA), Marcus Clauss (Zürich University, Switzerland), and Lauren Samet (Marwell Wildlife, UK), the workshop provided foundational training in nutrient requirements, diet formulation, and the use of the Zoo Diet NaviGator software. The course supported keepers, nutritionists, and veterinary staff in developing confidence and competence in dietary design.



Thousands of students attended the Team for the Ocean festival at Nausicaá (France) in June © Nausicaá

The EAZA Animal Welfare Working Group, chaired by Holly Farmer (Paignton Zoo, UK), ran two practical workshops at the EAZA Annual Conference around the welfare aspects in the revised EAZA Standards for Welfare, Accommodation and Management of Animals in Zoos and Aquariums, to support the accreditation process. Members of the Working Group delivered an animal welfare assessment workshop in November at Bristol Zoological Society (UK).



> 5,200 followers



EAZA Animal Welfare webinars

7 New webinars hosted

35 Available on EAZA video



> 61,000 total views



In-person courses

381 people
from **45** countries
and **277** organisations

- 2** *Introduction to EEP Management* (EAZA Executive Office, the Netherlands)
- 1** *A Deeper Dive: Ocean Literacy at your zoo or aquarium* (Chester Zoo, UK)
- 1** *European Animal Training Seminar* (ZSL London Zoo, UK)
- 1** *Trailblazing Trainers* (Łódź Zoo, Poland)
- 1** *Animal Welfare Assessment* (Bristol Zoo, UK)
- 1** *The Basics of Zoo Animal Nutrition* (Apenheul, the Netherlands)



Ongoing online self-paced courses

- *Introduction to Animal Welfare**
- *Introduction to Animal Welfare Assessments**
- *ZIMS for Studbooks**
- *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*
- *Reproductive Management*
- *Ocean Literacy **NEW 2025!***
- *Exhibit Design for Zookeepers*
- *Zoo Animal Feeding and Nutrition*
- *The Importance of Conservation Education*
- *Conservation Education Methods*
- *Keeper Talks*

*Members only



MAXIMISING THE CONSERVATION IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT OF EAZA AND OUR MEMBERS

This focal area reflects the breadth of the EAZA community's contribution: from direct support for projects in the field and practical tools for Members, to public engagement that helps visitors understand biodiversity loss and take meaningful action.

The year combined consolidation with new initiatives. An "inspiration guide" was published to help Members meet the EAZA Field Conservation Standards, while the EAZA Conservation Database continued to provide essential evidence of the community's contribution to conservation. Conservation education advanced through new resources, webinars, the EAZA Education Conference and closer links with the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication. At campaign level, Vietnamazing reached its conclusion with lasting partnerships and a new conservation network, while Wetlands for Life was introduced as EAZA's next two-year conservation campaign, connecting species, ecosystems, climate resilience and local action.

Across TAGs, EEPs and Member institutions, EAZA continued to demonstrate how *ex situ* expertise, field partnerships, education and advocacy can reinforce one another. Whether through reintroductions, conservation breeding, public campaigns, community engagement, research support or collaboration with IUCN Specialist Groups and local partners, the EAZA community helped translate the One Plan Approach into practical conservation outcomes.

FIELD CONSERVATION

Support to reach Field Conservation Standards

The inspiration guide "*Your journey towards developing field conservation activities*" was published in early 2025 to support EAZA Members in fulfilling the EAZA Field Conservation Standards – which set the expectation and requirement for all EAZA Members to do field conservation. The Conservation Committee, chaired by Eric Bairrao Ruivo (Beauval Zoo, France) until September and by Simon Bruslund (Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark) from then, believes that developing field conservation activities is a journey rather than a destination, and the guide encourages Members to focus on continuous improvement and learning in this area. The journey can be broken down into 10 defined steps. From initial exploration and internal capacity assessment to project implementation, communication and evaluation, each step is accompanied by simple questions that encourage reflection and planning. Each Member can progress at their own pace through these steps and carefully identify areas where additional support, collaboration or partnerships may be needed. Throughout the document, guidance, practical examples and templates from EAZA Members as well as external resources are provided to help make decisions or illustrate how the different elements of the journey can be applied in practice.

Several EAZA Members are involved in Project Muskox 2030 studying the Swedish muskox (*Ovibos moschatus*) population and its impact on the ecosystem © Jonas Stenström



Conservation Database

All EAZA Full, Temporary and Associate Members (that are zoos and aquariums) are obliged to enter their data into the EAZA Conservation Database. The information gathered is a valuable resource for the community itself and for the Association to evidence the contribution of zoos and aquariums to conservation. In 2025, it was used in

documentation and publications to inform TAGs, in media relations, presentations, articles, as well as in advocacy – most notably, in the EAZA Manifesto for European leaders.

On the EAZA website, Members' conservation activities are publicly searchable in the EAZA Conservation Map. Selected projects are highlighted monthly as Conservation Snapshots (see page 24).



CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONSERVATION TOTAL SUPPORT 2025

i Based on information available in the EAZA Conservation Database on 5 June 2026



285,549 HRS
STAFF TIME



€37.9 MILLION



273
MEMBERS

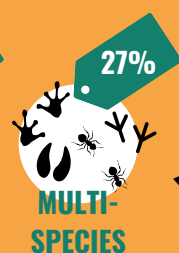


>500
PARTNERS

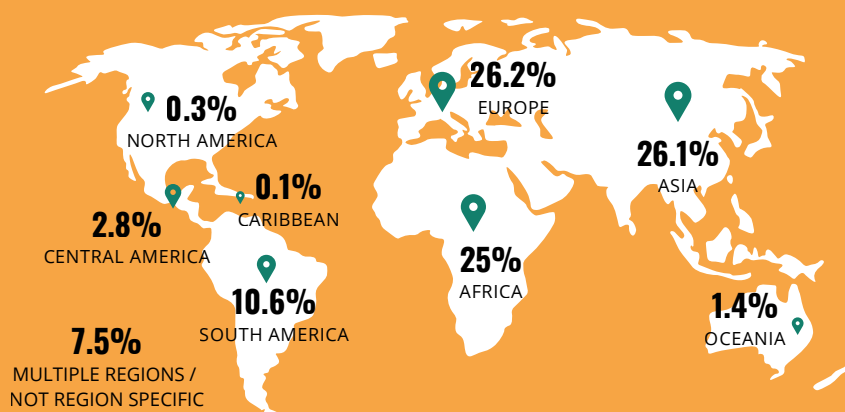


>900
SPECIES

AREAS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT



OTHER* 7%
REPTILES 3%
AMPHIBIANS 3%
INVERTEBRATES 3%
FISH 1%



**includes plant, habitat conservation, conservation tools and advocacy*

Progressive Zoos and Aquariums Saving Species Together with You



For a full breakdown of projects supported in 2025 and entered by our Members into the EAZA Conservation Database, please see the list in the [Conservation Annex](#), scan the QR code and/or explore the [EAZA Conservation Map](#).

CONSERVATION SNAPSHOTS 2025



Find all the snapshots on www.eaza.net/news

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

The Conservation Education Committee (CEC), chaired by Antonieta Costa (Lisbon Zoo, Portugal), continued to focus on strategic objectives, including empowering EAZA Members to meet the EAZA Conservation Education Standards. Several subgroups of the CEC are handling different components of the Committee's action plan, and significant progress was made in developing support materials, such as evaluation tools, conservation education plan resources, and screening guidelines.

Resources and tools

In addition to two CEC newsletters sent in 2025, two Educator's Hub webinars took place. This new collaborative space for learning and growth was designed to bring educators from EAZA zoos and aquariums together to share their expertise, experiences, and unique skills. This initiative fosters collaboration, professional development, and a sense of community among Educators.

The EAZA Conservation Education Facebook group continued to be a valuable tool for the CEC and the wider conservation education community in 2025. The group counts over 4,800 members and receives hundreds of posts per year, sharing information about events and research, celebrating successes and seeking support.

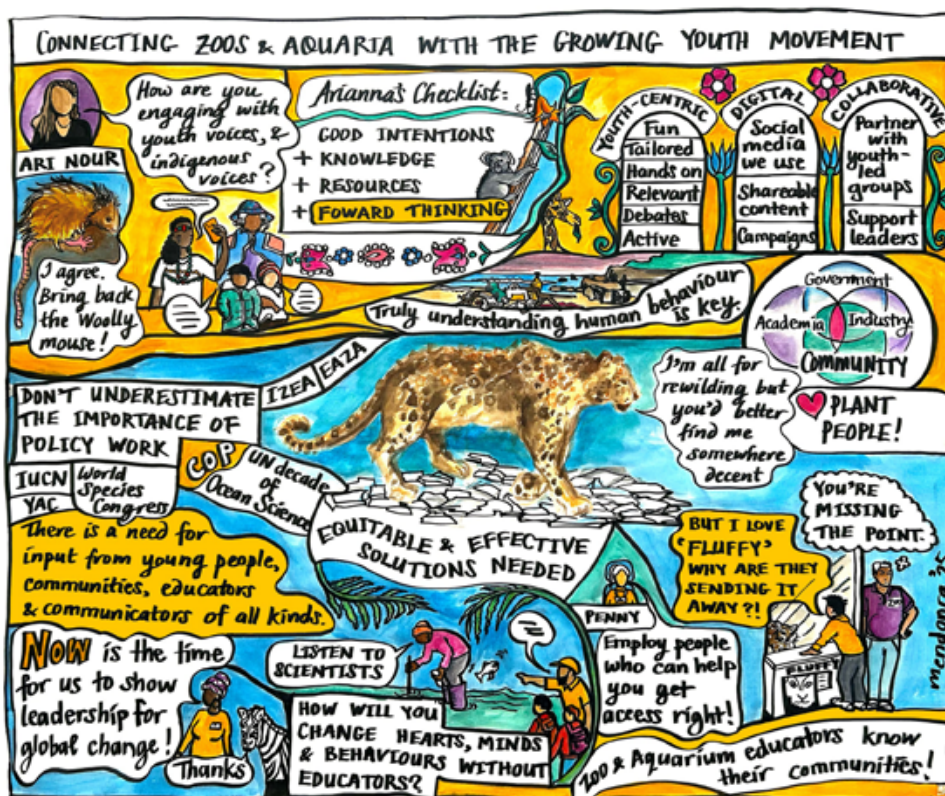
Frankfurt University (Germany) developed a Conservation Education Measurement Toolbox aimed to be used by EAZA Members. The CEC is working on enabling this implementation.

Networking and collaboration

In March, the EAZA Education Conference was hosted by Chester Zoo (UK) under the theme *Zoo Educators Creating Global Conservation Impact*. It was attended by 200 in-person and 41 online delegates joining from 119 institutions across 42 countries. The conference featured workshops, plenary sessions and presentations on topics like 'Wellbeing and Nature Connection', 'Contributing to Global Agendas and Evidencing Impact' as well as 'Leadership and Youth Voice, and Finding New Ways'.

The CEC has partnered with the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication and its Regional Vice Chair for West Europe, Diana Garlytska, began serving as CEC liaison. This collaboration aims to align EAZA CEC initiatives with those of the IUCN, and to identify new opportunities for cooperation between zoo educators and the wider IUCN community. This partnership strengthens our shared efforts and helps ensure that our education initiatives support international conservation goals.

The CEC also has liaison in the Conservation and Communications Committees. In 2025, work started with the EEP Committee to involve education in more RSPs.



EAZA Education Conference, Chester Zoo, England, March 2025. Graphics by Dr Pen Mendonça

Pen Mendonça was live-drawing summaries of the Education Conference sessions, here on the importance of empowering future leaders
© Pen Mendonça

EAZA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGNS

Vietnamazing

The Vietnamazing campaign came to an end in December 2025. Many participants actively promoted Vietnamazing by engaging the public with the Vietnamese species they care for and/or selling campaign merchandise. The campaign team facilitated a visit to Europe by a distinguished delegation from the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), strengthening international cooperation. In the field, the campaign enabled more conservation-oriented biodiversity research, resulting in better

understanding of species ecology and regional distributions, improved local protection, the insertion of several species into the Vietnamese Red Data Book and even leading to the description of new species! Much like the broader campaign activities, this work is set to continue long after the end of the campaign thanks to the recently created Vietnamazing Conservation Network. Promising conservation measures are in the pipeline, such as further reintroductions to restock wild populations.



Wetlands for Life

Introduced at the EAZA Annual Conference in September, our new conservation campaign Wetlands for Life focuses on wetlands as critical ecosystems that provide essential services, climate-change resilience and human livelihoods. The goals of the Wetlands for Life Campaign are to:

- **Fundraise** for pre-selected conservation activities, addressing issues – identified in collaboration with the IUCN SSC Flamingo SG – affecting regions where flamingos occur: water diversion and extraction in Mediterranean and West Africa; the need for effective community-based wetland management in South and East Africa; mining in South America; rapidly planned coastal tourism infrastructure development in the Caribbean; and water pollution in Asia
- Increase **public understanding** of the critical importance of wetlands for humans and the world's biodiversity, and the complexities of wetland protection
- Increase Member involvement in the **creation, restoration and management of wetlands**, on- and off-site
- Encourage EAZA Members to build lasting **partnerships** with local botanical gardens, research institutes, community clubs and NGOs for wetland conservation
- **Engage local communities** in wetland conservation through hands-on experiences (e.g. wetland monitoring and clean up) and through opportunities for activism/advocacy
- **Improve water use and management**, including the reduction of harmful chemicals and the use of nature-based solutions in EAZA Member institutions

We can't wait to see the creative initiatives that EAZA Members will lead, and to showcase them across the community, inspiring action for wetlands everywhere. More information and registration via wetlandsforlife.eaza.net.

One of the campaign's project aims to contribute to the conservation of Lake Natron, in Tanzania, while improving community well-being © Akshita Rabdiya



CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS FROM EAZA TAXON ADVISORY GROUPS

This list presents selected conservation and education highlights from the TAGs for 2025. Many more valuable activities were conducted across the EAZA membership, and we extend our thanks and congratulations to all involved.

In 2025, the **Terrestrial Invertebrate TAG** recruited their first Education Advisor to develop resources, particularly for the Wetlands for Life campaign.

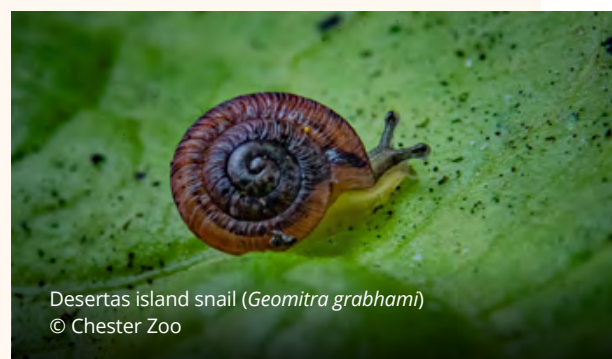
It was a great year for snail conservation. Nearly 7,000 snails *Partula* snails – including from ZSL London and Whipsnade Zoos (UK) – returned to four islands in French Polynesia. An unmarked, juvenile *Partula varia* was spotted in the wild – making it the first wild-born member of this reintroduced snail species to be spotted in over 30 years. *Partula tohiveana* was reclassified from Extinct-in-the-Wild to Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, indicating the importance of long-term reintroduction and monitoring for invertebrate species. Additionally, 1,329 Desertas island snails from the EEP – bred at Chester Zoo, Bristol Zoo (both UK) and Beauval Zoo (France) – were released to restore the population of *Discula lyelliana* and *Geomitra grabhami* on the Desertas Islands (Portugal).

Most EEPs in the **Freshwater Teleost TAG** are actively involved in *in situ* conservation. Strong synergies exist in Madagascar, where the Madagascar rainbowfishes, Cichlids and Asian killifish EEPs collaborate with overlapping partners. Similar collaboration is developing in Mexico among the Goodeids, Poeciliids and Pupfish EEPs. A key initiative by the latter focused on Lake Chichancanab, home to seven pupfish species. Field surveys to assess their status were led by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and Bristol Zoological Society (both UK), with European Union of Aquarium Curators (EUAC) funding and local partners. They detected one species so far.

Significant progress was made under the Extinct in the Wild Mexican pupfish Conservation Action Plan, supported by Reverse the Red. Strong engagement from local authorities, communities and educational institutions in Nuevo León laid the groundwork for reintroducing three Extinct in the Wild species after nearly 30 years. In parallel, Chester Zoo (UK) supported the prioritisation of key sites for Mexican goodeid conservation, establishing a validated baseline and launching implementation of the national Goodeid Action Plan.

Thanks to the work of many colleagues from 19 organisations, the **Marine Teleost TAG** launched its second 'Fish of the Year' educational campaign, dedicated to the native European seahorse species in 2025. Three posters, translated into 12 languages, highlighted the special characteristics of these animals, the threats they face, and the ongoing research and rescue activities around Europe.

The Eggspection Europe working group, established in 2025, focuses on egg identification, data collection, and on identifying partners to support the long-term management of the species under human care. The group held a workshop at the EUAC annual conference to share knowledge about fish egg collection devices, egg identification methods, and breeding practices of hard substrate spawner species. Hopefully they will help build a breeding community leading to a more sustainable livestock supply for public aquariums.



Desertas island snail (*Geomitra grabhami*)
© Chester Zoo



Blackfin pupfish (*Cyprinodon beltrani*)
discovered in Lake Chichancanab
© Alex Cliffe, ZSL Whipsnade Zoo



The **Elasmobranch TAG** remained involved in collaborative initiatives supporting conservation goals and raising awareness about species management and sustainability. One example was SR360, an interregional group of institutions that collaborate for the conservation of *Rhina ancylostomus*. European partners are investigating the origin of the animals held in our institutions. In addition, collaboration is ongoing within the StAR (*Stegostoma tigrinum* Augmentation and Recovery) Project in Europe, led by Oceanário de Lisboa (Portugal). This initiative aims to recover zebra shark populations, crucial for healthy marine ecosystems, and highlights the importance of coordinated international efforts in the conservation and management of threatened species.

In addition to their *ex situ* successes, **Amphibian TAG** members delivered large-scale advances and reintroduction efforts that reinforced wild populations. As part of the national species action plan, Nordens Ark (Sweden) conducted a first release of 19,000 zoo-bred European green toads (*Bufo viridis*) tadpoles to Gotland and continued releases of zoo-bred *B. viridis* on Öland. They are also developing a new conservation project for relict *Pelophylax lessonae* population in southern Sweden, managing the *ex situ* breeding with an Institutional Studbook to form a sustainable population for future conservation actions. Barcelona Zoo (Spain) released 35 *Calotriton arnoldi* in Sot de Llança, 63 in Sot de la Mina and 254 larvae in Home Mort. The Mountain Chicken Recovery Programme successfully translocated 24 zoo-bred frogs (*Leptodactylus fallax*) from Nordens Ark to Montserrat to test *in situ* chytrid mitigation strategies in semi-wild populations. Paris Zoo, Amiens Zoo and the Picardie Nature association (all France), developed a field monitoring and conservation programme for *Salamandra salamandra terrestris* in northern France. In collaboration with Herp Conservation Ghana and the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, ZSL London Zoo (UK) established *ex situ* populations of Atewa slippery frog (*Conraua sagyimase*) – and achieved the world first breeding in human care – and Afia Birago's puddle frog (*Phrynobatrachus afiaborago*) to develop conservation breeding protocols which will be implemented in Ghana.

The amount of conservation and education activities involving **Reptile TAG** members remained high. Conservation examples included the release of 134 Critically Endangered northern river terrapin (*Batagur baska*) into 16 protected stations in Bangladesh by Vienna Zoo (Austria); ZSL London Zoo (UK)'s support of an EDGE Fellow working on leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in Venezuela; the Rakosi Vipera programme, developed with big contributions from the TAG and Plzeň Zoo (Czechia), focusing on Hungarian meadow vipers (*Vipera ursini rakosinensis*) in Kiskunság National Park; or conservation projects led by Turtle Island and partners for the Vallarta mud turtle (*Kinosternon vogti*) in Mexico.

In education, substantial progress was made by the Komodo dragon EEP with awareness programmes reaching schools, community leaders, and indigenous groups across multiple villages in Indonesia, reinforcing coexistence messaging and local stewardship for Komodo dragon conservation. Key milestones included the publication and distribution of the Baar Tribe Book, integrating traditional ecological knowledge into conservation practice, and the expansion of infrastructure at the Pota Information and Education Centre, significantly increasing long-term outreach capacity. Other activities continued in European zoos, utilising *ex situ* animals to raise awareness of the situation in the wild. For instance, Cologne Zoo's (Germany) messaging on maternal care in Philippine crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) included a conservation story, as the young will later be repatriated to the Philippines to strengthen the wild population and the previously repatriated zoo-bred individuals.



Zebra shark (*Stegostoma tigrinum*)
© Simon Pierce



Mountain chicken frogs (*Leptodactylus fallax*)
arrive in Montserrat from Nordens Ark
© Kristofer Försäter



Hatching *Pseudocerastes urarachnoides*
© Jaroslav Vogeltanz

The **Penguin TAG** started working on a TAG-specific education guideline to help penguin holders optimise their conservation education. It will showcase engaging ways to increase knowledge about penguins as well as scientifically-proven methods of inducing behavioural changes. The TAG is also collecting examples and free-to-use-material to create an inspiration bank in 2026.

Conservation-wise, collaboration continued with the 'Sphenisco' project in Chile, that all holders were encouraged to talk about on World Penguin Day. Birdland Park (UK) helped monitor Humboldt penguins (*Spheniscus humboldti*) with the Punta San Juan Program in Peru. The TAG continued to support SANCCOB's actions to protect the African penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*) from extinction. Their Head of operations, Melissa Knott, presented their latest work at the EAZA Annual Conference, which was followed by a productive discussion.

In 2025, the **Pelecaniformes, Ciconiiformes and Phoenicopteriformes (PCP) TAG** co-organised the International Northern Bald Ibis Symposium, bringing together researchers, conservation practitioners, zoo professionals, and *in situ* partners. The event reviewed current knowledge on *Geronticus eremita*'s ecology, migration and conservation, and explored future reintroduction opportunities in Europe and North Africa. Discussions advanced a potential reintroduction project in Catalonia, building on successful past initiatives and strong cooperation between EAZA zoos and field partners. Results from 21 years of data from Proyecto Eremita were presented, with ongoing analysis assessing whether the population of approximately 300 birds is now self-sustaining. The PCP TAG Chair and IUCN SSC Flamingo SG Chair, Cathy King (Lagos Zoo, Portugal) also led the organisation of the 4th International Flamingo Symposium. Experts from 26 countries shared findings including flamingo ecology, monitoring, conservation and wetland management. The symposium strengthened international networks and reinforced the role of flamingos as flagship species for wetland conservation, while the TAG was preparing the *Wetlands for Life* EAZA Conservation Campaign (2026–2027). Read more about it on page 27. Interregional engagement was further enhanced through a presentation by the PCP TAG Chair at the Latin American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (ALPZA) annual meeting, highlighting the conservation role of EAZA Members for species under the TAG's remit.

In 2025, the EAZA **Raptor TAG** remained actively involved in practical conservation support beyond direct management of EEPs. TAG members' expertise with the Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) supported staff training in artificial insemination, incubation, semen cryopreservation, *ex situ* breeding techniques and reintroduction-related approaches. The partnership with the Philippine Eagle Foundation and the Guadalupe Bearded Vulture Centre was also highlighted during the Global Biodiversity Conservation Conference in Davao, Philippines in October. The TAG also discussed strategic efforts for gyrfalcons (*Falco rusticolus*) with Icelandic experts preparing a national management plan following concerns about population decline associated with highly pathogenic avian influenza, and offered support in veterinary advice, vaccination-related discussion, acoustic monitoring design and broader management planning. Additionally, 13 zoo-born vultures of four species were delivered to Green Balkans for reintroduction in Bulgaria.

Many EAZA Members celebrated International Vulture Awareness Day to increase visitors' knowledge of and support for vulture conservation. The TAG also continued work, in collaboration with the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA), on an update of the BPG for Birds of prey and owls in demonstrations.



Humboldt penguins (*Spheniscus humboldti*)
© Vienna Zoo



Northern bald ibises (*Geronticus eremita*)
© Proyecto Eremita



Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*)
© Michal Galik

In the **Galliformes TAG**, progress continued in the recovery project for the Vietnam pheasant (*Lophura edwardsi*) with the selection of 10 pairs from the EEP that will be quarantined at Tierpark Berlin (Germany) and transported to Vietnam. Other ongoing projects for the species help prepare future reintroductions into their native range, including disease risk analysis, personality tests, perching study, dispersal study, and telemetry trials. For instance, in Watatunga Wildlife Reserve (UK), four pairs were released in semi-wild conditions on a 170-ha domain, where they are monitored with camera traps. The TAG also helped create and share educational materials about these birds for the Vietnamazing campaign.

The **Gruiformes TAG** initiated an analysis of the only *ex situ* population of UK-sourced corncrakes (*Crex crex*) held at non-EAZA institution Deepdale Conservation Trust, as it has been providing birds for reintroduction in Norfolk for over 20 years. Results showed low genetic diversity and evidenced the need to import wild individuals from Scotland into the population to help with genetic restoration. This year saw releases of corncrake at a new site in the Lower Derwent Valley, where it is hoped that a free-living population can be set up. The TAG is discussing the possible establishment of an EEP to help manage this conservation breeding programme.

Crane Awareness Day on 25 March was celebrated for the fourth time, this year focusing on crane biology. Neuwied Zoo (Germany) and other EAZA Members showcased the specificities of crane species to the public with various activities and raised awareness of the threats they face.

The **Charadriiformes TAG** is very proud of the Atlantic puffin EEP's long-term collaboration with the Sealife Trust (UK). During the puffling season, the EEP Coordinator and the veterinary team at Copenhagen Zoo (Denmark) travelled to Iceland to help with puffin rescue and rehabilitation. This support led to an increased number of birds returned to the wild, with almost a third more than in previous years. The project is an excellent example of how our *ex situ* expertise and knowledge can directly support *in situ* conservation action and benefit wild populations.

World Parrot Day on 31 May is being increasingly adopted by zoos and aquariums as an opportunity to organise dedicated educational activities. The 2025 edition focused on lovebirds. The **Parrot TAG** provides resources and inspiration for these activities, available all year long, on the website www.parrotttag.org.

The Silent Forest Working Group is the dedicated conservation arm of the **Songbird TAG** and continues to support *in situ* and in-range *ex situ* conservation projects for songbirds. Many projects are still linked to the Asian songbird crisis. The Group was represented at the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP20) in Uzbekistan as a part of the EAZA delegation, and arranged advocacy and education activities to support the conservation of songbirds. This included the funding and execution of a side-event on songbird conservation together with numerous partners as well as two "flash mob" events with birdsong, for which special clearance had to be obtained from United Nations security personnel. Ongoing research, including a MSc thesis by EAZA Deputy Executive Director Danny de Man, contributed to successful CITES Appendix I listing of the great-billed seed-finch (*Sporophila maximiliani*). See Focal Area 3 for more information about the CITES CoP.



Vietnam pheasants (*Lophura edwardsi*) caught on camera trap © Watatunga Wildlife Reserve



Sarus crane (*Antigone antigone*), adult and chicks © Neuwied Zoo



Atlantic puffin (*Fratrercula arctica*) being released after rehabilitation in Iceland © Henrik Futtrup



Black-cheeked lovebird (*Agapornis nigrigenis*) © Bern Animal Park



Great-billed seed-finch (*Sporophila maximiliani*) © Flavio Ubaid

The **Monotreme and Marsupial TAG**, in conjunction with the Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia (ZAA), continued collaborations with the Australian government to ensure that exports of Australian species occur exclusively on a TAG-to-TAG basis. A ZAA-EAZA MoU was signed to support this process. Most koala holders continued supporting koala conservation and research projects in Australia, coordinated by San Diego Zoo (USA), and Stuttgart Zoo (Germany) supported the Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation in Australia in their conservation activities for koalas in the wild. Participants of the Tree Kangaroo Global Species Management Plan (GSMP) supported the work of the Tenkile Conservation Alliance in Papua New Guinea and Port Morsey Nature Reserve's rescue operations from private holders. Members of the Tasmanian devil EEP supported the Devil Ambassador Program in Tasmania. Collaborations between the TAG, the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the IUCN Monotreme and Marsupial SG continued.

The **Prosimian TAG** is committed to advancing *ex* and *in situ* conservation, strengthening professional collaboration and educational impact for the long-term protection of prosimian species. A major milestone was the comprehensive update of the *In Situ Conservation Compendium*, a reference document that presents the priority field conservation initiatives endorsed by the TAG. In parallel, the TAG reinforced communication of collaborative initiatives while promoting best practices thanks to its newsletters, highlighting latest achievements of endorsed projects, research developments, specific management and husbandry cases. Both resources are available on the EAZA Member Area.

On the educational front, progress was made with the development of the *Prosimian Education Handbook*.

In 2025, the **Callitrichid TAG** saw major advances in the field. Proyecto Tití strengthened protection for the cotton-top tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*) by expanding the San Juan Reserve (Columbia) from 480 to 900 ha, restoring over 26 ha with 13,933 native saplings across, surveying the population with ~7,000 individuals found, and increasing community partnerships and conservation agreements. Conservation actions for pied (*S. bicolor bicolor*) and white-footed (*S. leucopus*) tamarins combined rescue, rehabilitations, habitat restoration, outreach, research and improved rescuecentre capacity across key reserves in Brazil and Colombia. The Mountain Marmosets Conservation Program expanded its global *ex situ* population, including *Callithrix flaviceps*, alongside strengthened invasive species and habitat assessments, reintroduction planning and longterm funding. Major breakthroughs were achieved by the golden lion tamarin (*Leontopithecus rosalia*, GLT) programme, with confiscated animals successfully reintroduced by Associação Mico-Leão-Dourado (Brazil), habitat restoration improving forest connectivity, continued strong support from international partnerships with 150 zoos and global awareness initiatives

Several members of the **Afro-Eurasian Monkey TAG** – Artis Zoo (the Netherlands), Barcelona Zoo (Spain), Dublin Zoo (Ireland), Hellabrunn and Hanover Zoos (Germany) – supported a workshop in Kenya to develop the implementation of the Cercopithecus and Mandrillus Action Plan. The three-day workshop was hosted by the Kenyan Institute of Primate Research and attended by primatologists from Canada, UK, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Tanzania and Gabon. Together, they discussed species updates, including new or emerging threats, progress and barriers to implementing the actions, structure for coordination group to monitor and track progress on actions under the plan, roles and responsibilities and key deliverables agreed upon.



Long-nosed potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus*)
© Copenhagen Zoo



Mongoose lemur (*Eulemur mongoz*)
© Caitlyn Pepper



Cotton top tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*)
© Proyecto Tití

The **Great Ape TAG** convened a strategic meeting involving the EEP Coordinators, Conservation Advisors, and external stakeholders including from the Senckenberg Museum (Germany) and the UN Great Apes Survival Partnership, to discuss which criteria should be applied when choosing to support *in situ* conservation projects. By implementing a structured, transparent, and scientifically grounded evaluation framework, the TAG aims to enhance the effectiveness, credibility, and strategic impact of great ape holders' conservation contributions.

The Antwerp Zoo Foundation (Belgium) initiated a bonobo cohabitation project and the establishment of its new framework for biodiversity credits, also called bonobo credits, involving local stakeholders, conservation initiatives and government bodies.

The **Small Mammal TAG** grew its collaboration with the IUCN SSC Small Mammal SG and conservationists from the Iberian Peninsula with regard to conservation strategies for the Iberian desman (*Galemys pyrenaicus*).

In 2025, EEPs within the **Canid and Hyaenid TAG** strengthened links between *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation through research, policy engagement and international collaboration. The Fennec fox EEP developed plans for *in situ* work in Morocco, focusing on natural diet studies, social behaviour and education. The Painted dog EEP explored collaboration with the Institute for Breeding Rare and Endangered African Mammals (UK) on assisted reproduction techniques *in situ*. The Dhole EEP built strong connections with field partners through the IUCN Dhole working group, whose last conference (held in Nepal in 2023) led to the country's first 10-year National Action Plan published in 2025. The Grey wolf EEP engaged with ongoing European debates around protection status and livestock conflict, highlighting positive mitigation initiatives. The Iberian wolf EEP supported the Catalan Government through advisory roles and collaborative population monitoring, involving Barcelona Zoo (Spain). Several EEPs directly supported conservation projects, including Friends of the Maned Wolf (Maned wolf EEP), KwaZuluNatal in South Africa (Spotted hyena EEP), and research partnerships with the Tajikistan Nature Foundation and the Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union (Germany) in Tajikistan (Striped hyena EEP). Interregional cooperation with the AZA Canid and Hyaenid TAG continued to identify priority areas, develop joint husbandry guidelines, e.g. for bat-eared foxes, update the Painted dog International Studbook and organise transfers.

Several **Bear TAG** members, also members of the IUCN SSC Bear SG Human-Bear Conflict Task Force, attended the IUCN World Conservation Congress in October, contributing to global discussions on bear conservation, conflict mitigation, and community engagement. The Brown bear EEP continued to encourage zoos to support the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC), a key Armenian partner in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of wild bears, as well as in habitat restoration and community-based education programmes.

Happy Bears Day continued to grow in popularity in 2025, with nine additional zoos joining the celebrations, many Hungarian schools and pre-schools adopting the day, and an increased demand for new educational materials. The campaign also gained external visibility with Peppermint Narwhal featuring it on their platform. The TAG Education Advisor produced a multilingual Human-Bear Conflict leaflet, available to all on the EAZA Member Area alongside the Bear Educational Guidelines. New activities for preschool-aged children are in preparation.



Diana monkey (*Cercopithecus diana*)
© Artis Zoo



Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) © Antwerp Zoo Foundation



Iberian desman (*Galemys pyrenaicus*)
© Joxerra Aihartza



Maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*)
© Reuben Holland, Leipzig Zoo

In 2025, the **Marine Mammal TAG** continued to strengthen its conservation involvement both *in situ* and *ex situ*. The Aquatic Mammal Emergency Response Group was further developed to improve international coordination in emergency situations involving aquatic mammals, with increasing participation from EAZA Members and external experts. A major conservation focus remained the Lahille's bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops gephyreus*). In 2025, a dedicated project website was finalised to improve communication, visibility, and coordination among partners. Additionally, an international workshop was organised in Buenos Aires (Argentina) bringing together researchers, conservationists, and local stakeholders to define conservation priorities for the species in Argentinian waters and to strengthen collaboration between *in situ* and *ex situ* partners. Several EAZA Members continued to support the conservation of local and regional species, contributing expertise, financial support, and public awareness. Efforts were also made to better integrate conservation projects into zoo communication and education programmes, allowing visitors to better understand the connection between *ex situ* populations and field conservation. New educational initiatives were developed in several institutions to highlight marine mammal conservation, biodiversity loss, and the role of modern zoos in the One Plan Approach.

In the past year, the Conservation Group of the **Elephant TAG** continued working on the objectives defined in their Terms of Reference. Accordingly, all EEP participants were asked which *in situ* conservation partners they would recommend the community to support. Five of these were selected by the TAG and promoted in their newsletter. This aims to strengthen the link between *ex situ* and *in situ* elephant conservation.

The TAG's Education and Communication Group identified three key strategic priorities for the coming year, i) develop a comprehensive Q&A and educational package to provide clear, accessible, and structured information for all holders; ii) launch a targeted survey among holders to better understand what they need and expect from the TAG; and iii) establish a structured and consistent social media communication strategy to strengthen the TAG's visibility, engagement, and outreach. These activities will enhance transparency, improve holder engagement, and ensure more effective communication across all channels. This started with launching the Elephant TAG newsletter, with the first two issues in January and September.

In 2025, the **Equid TAG** supported several major milestones in field conservation, across the entire range of threatened equid species. The translocation of wild kulan (*Equus hemionus kulan*) from Altyn Emel National Park to Altyn Dala State Reserve supported the re-establishment of a population in central Kazakhstan where the species had long been extinct. Conducted under the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative and involving German EAZA Members, with multiple national and international partners, the complex operation marked an important step towards restoring lost ecological functions. In the same area, the Return of the Wild Horses project strengthened the population of Przewalski's horses (*E. przewalskii*) with seven new individuals from Hortobágy National Park (Hungary) and Prague Zoo (Czechia). Preparatory work also advanced toward a new reintroduction site in eastern Mongolia, with infrastructure planning underway at Nomrog Strictly Protected Area. International collaboration expanded further with the establishment of i) a MoU between EAZA and Rewilding Spain to develop a large-scale Przewalski's horse population in central Spain; ii) the creation of the Przewalski's Horse Conservation Alliance to coordinate global expertise; iii) a MoU between Liberec Zoo, Safari Park Dvůr Králové (both Czechia) and the Uganda Wildlife Authority focused on field conservation for the maneless zebra (*E. quagga borensis*); and a MoU between Marwell Wildlife (UK) and the Grevy's Zebra Trust for the survival of the species in Kenya. Efforts for



Lahille's bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops gephyreus*) © YAQU PACHA e.V.



African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in Botswana © Thomas Kölpin



Przewalski's horse (*Equus przewalskii*) released in Hungary © Oliver Le Que, Prague Zoo

Grevy's zebras (*E. grevyi*) also focused on community engagement in Kenya, successfully transforming former hunters into species protectors.

An overview of the current **Rhinoceros TAG** conservation partnerships can be found on the [Eaza Member Area](#). While the efforts to translocate three black rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) females from the UK to Grumeti in Tanzania progressed well and are planned for 2026, the planned transfer of two EEP males to Thaba Tholo Game Farm (South Africa) was abandoned. The TAG is committed to supporting the efforts of other zoo-regions that aim of to establish self-sustaining rhino populations in the long term. For example, the Meso/Latin American region is an expanding region for future cooperation for white (*Ceratotherium simum*) and greater one-horned (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) rhinos. Preparations started to transfer white rhinos to the region to establish the first breeding group there. This is enabled by the demographic stability of the White rhino EEP. The EEP also continued its efforts to send 10 animals (three males and seven females) from the UK to Australia as part of the long-term cooperation with the Australasian Species Management Plan.

The **Tapir and Suiform TAG** works in very close cooperation with all four relevant SGs of the IUCN SSC. In March, the TAG Vice Chair Jan Pluháček (Olomouc Zoo, Czechia), who also co-chairs the Hippopotamus SG, co-organised a workshop in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) to develop an action plan for the conservation of common hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) in Western Africa. The workshop was attended by 49 participants from 13 countries and funded by 18 zoos, including 14 EAZA Members. In addition, Olomouc Zoo is supporting the IUCN Hippo SG by hosting its website.

The **Cattle and Camelid TAG's** collaboration with the IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle SG expanded while preparing an Anoa (*Bubalus spp.*) National Species Action Plan for Indonesia to be produced in 2026. The SG, supported by Givskud Zoo (Denmark) and Re:wild, is also planning for wild buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*) and gaur (*Bos gaurus*) Red List and Green Status for Species assessments. The Tamaraw EEP (*Bubalus mindorensis*), supported by ZSL (UK) and led by the TAG Chair, is providing technical input to the Phase 2 of the Tamaraw Feasibility Study for *ex situ* and translocation assessments, which began in 2025, with more detailed data gathering. Members of the TAG were also involved in a range country meeting to plan future conservation actions for wild camels (*Camelus ferus*).

The TAG's Education Advisor is currently focused on creating games and activities to engage visitors, as this was a high-priority need identified in a recent survey. The games are focused on threats, roles in ecosystems and conservation success stories.

With the **Deer TAG** Chair Noam Werner (Haifa Educational Zoo and Biological Institute, Israel) serving as Co-Chair of the IUCN SSC Deer SG and several TAG members being Deer SG members, collaborative work continued. The IUCN SSC Conservation Translocation SG and respective EEPs have been involved in long-term *in situ* deer conservation projects in range countries, such as for the Visayan spotted deer (*Rusa alfredi*) in the Philippines, forest reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus fennicus*) in Finland, Mesopotamian fallow deer (*Dama mesopotamica*) in Israel, or large antlered muntjac (*Muntiacus vuquangensis*) in Southeast Asia. Two TAG members contributed chapters to the book "Deer of the World: Ecology, Conservation and Management" that was published in 2025.



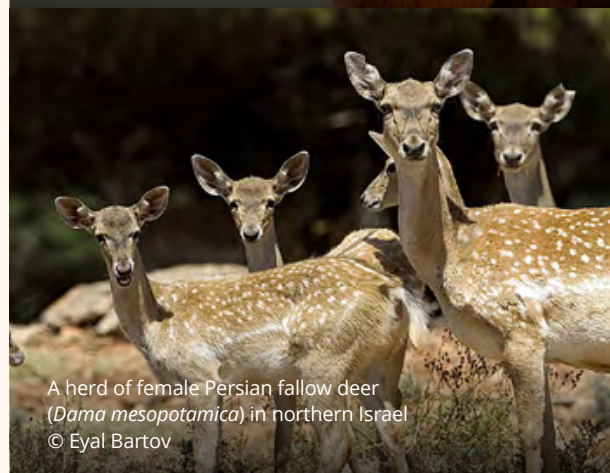
White rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum*)
© BIOPARC Valencia



Participants of the workshop for the conservation of common hippopotamus in Western Africa
© IUCN SSC Hippo Specialist Group



Wild camel (*Camelus ferus*) in Mongolia
© Anna Jemmett, Wild Camel Protection Foundation



A herd of female Persian fallow deer (*Dama mesopotamica*) in northern Israel
© Eyal Bartov

Following their last RSP's priorities, the **Antelope and Giraffid TAG** worked on connecting education actions to endorsed conservation programmes. They defined four education categories with a direct, measurable conservation effect: *In situ* conservation education outreach, Advocacy, Fundraising and Education for environmental action competences. The TAG also launched a structured process for endorsing quality conservation projects. Conservation projects will be approved by the TAG during the mid-year meetings – starting in 2026 – and presented at EAZA Annual Conferences. The TAG maintained good cooperation with the IUCN SSC Antelope SG and IUCN SSC Giraffe and Okapi SG, with their co-Chairs acting as Conservation Advisors for the TAG.

The overall direction of the **Caprinae TAG** in 2025 was characterised by consolidation, cooperation and preparation for the next strategic phase. Emphasis was placed on producing tools and partnerships that will have lasting value for the community and will support both *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation objectives in the years ahead. During the EAZA Annual Conference, the TAG reviewed their priorities, maintained engagement across the community and considered future opportunities for collaboration, including possible *in situ* work in the range states of markhor (*Capra falconeri*) and urial (*Ovis vignei*) in cooperation with the IUCN SSC Caprinae SG.



Slender-horned gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*) at the breeding facility in Sidi Toui National Park, Tunisia © Marwell Wildlife



Markhor (*Capra falconeri*) © Dennis Müller



REPRESENTING THE EAZA COMMUNITY ALONGSIDE APPROPRIATE STAKEHOLDERS AT THE NATIONAL, EU AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS TO INFLUENCE POLICY AND GOOD PRACTICE

EAZA's external representation is one of the ways in which our Members' knowledge, experience and dedication are translated into wider conservation impact. Thanks to successful collaboration among Committees, EAZA's own policy experts, TAGs and individual Members, EAZA continued bringing evidence, technical experience and shared positions to decision-making. At the same time, engagement with our external partners, ranging from small NGOs to big governmental agencies and international fora, showed once again that these partnerships are central to EAZA's vision of Progressive Zoos and Aquariums Saving Species Together with You.

The year's major milestones – including the IUCN World Conservation Congress and CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP20) but also the sustained engagement with the European Commission and country-level advocacy – proved that EAZA's voice is strongest when it connects the practical expertise of our Members with the wider conservation community.

WORKING TOGETHER ON POLICY AND LEGISLATION

The National Associations Committee (NAC) continues playing an important role as EAZA's hub for policy coordination, working closely together with the EAZA policy team. It is chaired by Wineke Schoo (Dutch Zoo Federation, NVD, the Netherlands) who took over from Volker Homes (Association of German-speaking Zoological Gardens,

VdZ, Germany) in April. The Committee brings together 13 national zoo and aquarium associations to exchange intelligence, align positions and support advocacy across the region. We strongly believe that working together on these important topics will result in an even stronger voice for our progressive zoos and aquariums. In 2025, NAC members

Over 20 participants attended the EAZA EU Study Visit in 2025 © EAZA



met twice and remained in close contact online throughout the year, particularly around shared legislative priorities and CITES-related coordination.

We were pleased to welcome Zooschweiz / Zoosuisse as the 13th NAC member in 2025, further strengthening the Committee and bringing an important non-EU perspective into discussions on shared challenges and objectives across the wider European zoo and aquarium community.

The year began with another successful EAZA EU Study Visit to Brussels, well attended by NAC members. The visit helped connect national perspectives with European advocacy, gave participants a clearer understanding of EU decision-making, and encouraged more direct engagement with policymakers. Discussions covered key files for our sector, such as the EU Zoos Directive, invasive alien species, wildlife trafficking and broader debates on the keeping of wild animals. The [EAZA Manifesto](#) proved a valuable practical tool in these discussions.

An encouraging development in recent years has been the growing confidence and competence of EAZA zoo and aquarium staff in the policy sphere. Where such engagement was once limited to a relatively small number of colleagues and associations, stronger capacity is now building across the region. This has been supported by regular exchanges of know-how within the NAC, by the time and guidance invested by EAZA's EU Policy team in Brussels, and by practical tools developed to make advocacy more accessible. For instance, a new edition of the *Guide to EU Decision-making and Legislation for EAZA Members* was developed in 2025, offering even more practical tips and checklists to help individual zoos and aquariums build bridges with the policy world.

With this increased Member involvement, EAZA was even better positioned to liaise with European authorities. In 2025, dialogue with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) focused on invasive alien species policy, including the EU listing of sika deer (*Cervus*

nippon) and its impacts on the managed EEP population. Engagement with DG for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) continued on animal health topics relevant to zoos and aquariums, including avian influenza vaccination, bird identification and preparations for a future EU-UK Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement.

The EU policy team also worked directly with Members and National Associations on priority issues requiring coordinated advocacy. This included continued cooperation with the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) on UK-EU transfers and the developing EU-UK SPS process, as well as disease-specific legislative support related to foot and mouth disease and avian influenza, particularly in Central Europe.

Throughout the year, the NAC exchanged information on these and other legislative files: revision of the EU rules on the welfare of animals in transport, new EU social rules for van drivers, implementation of the EU Zoos Directive, and debates in several countries around positive lists of pets. The NAC also supported the dissemination of guidance, including the *EAZA-EAZWV Handbook on EU Animal Health Law and Confined Establishments*. Thanks to Izabela Krause, Chair of the Polish Zoo Association, the handbook was translated into Polish, further extending its usefulness at national level.

GLOBAL FORUMS: IUCN AND CITES

IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025

From 9 to 15 October, representatives of EAZA as well as over 20 EAZA Members joined the 10,000+ conservation professionals, policymakers, Indigenous leaders, youth and scientists at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Abu Dhabi (UAE). Our engagement in the Motions process continued to deliver strategic value: stronger recognition of *ex situ* conservation and of zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens as conservation partners – creating clearer routes into policy discussions and representation in IUCN governance.



IUCN World Conservation Congress: Danny de Man, EAZA Deputy Executive Director, explaining *ex situ* conservation at the Reverse the Red Pavillion
© EAZA

With WAZA and Species360, EAZA co-hosted the session *Championing ex situ conservation* in the Reverse the Red Species Pavilion, focused on accelerating species recovery and supporting Kunming–Montreal GBF Target 4 (halting extinctions and reversing declines). EAZA Members also shared expertise across sessions on freshwater conservation, genetic diversity, the Green Status of Species, Extinct in the Wild species, youth leadership and human–nature connectedness.

The Members' Assembly adopted 148 resolutions and recommendations, including the 10 Motions co-sponsored by EAZA, and the first IUCN policy addressing synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation. The voted IUCN's leadership for 2025–2029 includes two newly elected Council members from EAZA institutions:

- Ann-Katrine Garn (Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark), Regional Councillor for West Europe
- Ruben Khachatryan (FPWC, Armenia), Regional Councillor for East Europe, North and Central Asia

In-person and online attendance of the EAZA community reinforced a consistent message: zoos and aquariums are essential actors in species conservation.

CITES Conference of the Parties

The CITES CoP20 which took place from 24 November to 5 December in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, was also a major focus for EAZA in 2025. CITES CoPs are the global forum where countries decide how international wildlife trade is regulated, and EAZA engages with the process for two reasons. On the one hand, we bring input from the *ex situ* community to decisions that protect wildlife from trafficking, and on the other hand, we advocate for practical solutions that enable Members to transfer CITES-listed species for legitimate purposes such as EEP cooperation.

Many decisions at CoP20 were relevant both to global conservation outcomes and to the practical framework in which zoos and aquariums operate. The meeting addressed more than 110 agenda items and 50 species listing proposals. Building on Members' expertise and conservation

work, EAZA supported successful measures for several taxa, including songbirds, African hornbills, vultures, okapi and golden-bellied mangabeys. We also contributed to discussions on illegal trade in big cats and great apes, while engaging on technical issues such as CITES purpose codes, live animal transport standards, Legal Acquisition Findings and movements of threatened endemic species.

With songbirds being EAZA's long-term priority in CITES – as a lasting legacy of our Silent Forest campaign, we co-hosted a high-profile side event during the CoP dedicated to the global songbird trade. The event presented new evidence and strengthened collaboration between governments, NGOs and specialist groups. They delivered a joint NGO intervention on behalf of Birdlife, WWF, WCS, IFAW and others, and were encouraged to make the next CoP21 “the CoP of songbirds”. Simon Bruslund (Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark), as Chair of the Conservation Committee and EAZA Silent Forest Group, supported EAZA's mission with tangible conservation activities on songbirds. Together with Jessica Lee (IUCN SSC Asian Songbird Trade SG, Mandai Nature, Singapore), they shared powerful insights on the trade trends that threaten songbirds and define their conservation needs. Partners from other conservation NGOs, governments and academia, expressed support for the current proposal for CITES listing of several species of seed-finches in the genus *Sporophila*.

The unique bioacoustics show “The Price of Beauty: Traded Soundscapes”, developed by the Creative Conservation Lab, filled the CoP halls with voices of more than 70 songbird species – a striking reminder of what is at stake if we fail to act.

While EAZA engaged with CITES CoP20 on the global and EU levels, colleagues in the national zoo and aquarium associations supported these efforts nationally, helping promote shared, science-based objectives in contacts with their authorities. This cooperation once again demonstrated the value of linking European coordination with national advocacy channels.

CITES CoP20: Simon Bruslund speaking at the side event on the global songbird trade © EAZA



EAZA'S PARTNERS

Progress towards our shared vision – Progressive zoos and aquariums saving species together with you – would not be possible without the support of our partner organisations and the trust and engagement of wider society. Our sincere thanks go to them as well.

Our commitment to working together across diverse cultures and at all levels is especially evident through our Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with multiple long-term partners who are regional and global associations. These MoUs highlight shared interests where working together supports our common goals, ensures our global work happens in a collaborative setting, and increases our impact. For example, the MoU between EAZA, Perhimpunan Kebun Binatang Se (PKBSI) Indonesia, IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group and IUCN SSC Wild Pig Specialist Group was renewed for another five-year term to continue our vital collaborative *ex situ* activities to the conservation of anoa, banteng, babirusa, Sumatran tiger and their habitat in Indonesia.

EAZA also has several ongoing species-specific MoUs, including with ReShark for cooperation on the reinforcement, post-release management and conservation research of wild zebra shark populations from the EEP, and Animal Advocacy and Protection supporting the placement of rescued and confiscated Barbary macaques and chimpanzees. A new MoU was signed with the Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism regarding conservation translocation processes, post release management and research of the Eastern black rhinoceros to and within the Tanzania's protected areas,

which complements a similar existing MoU with the Rwanda Development Board and Akagera Management Company.

A new MoU was agreed with the Kenya Wildlife Service and Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC) involving repatriation of male mountain bongos from the EEP to the MKWC in Kenya to play a crucial role in a managed breeding and rewilding programme aimed at restoring the species' population. Closer to home, EAZA also partnered with Rewilding Spain on the conservation of Przewalski's horse and restoration of its population via individuals from the EEP transferring to natural grazing restoration projects in Spain.

The MoUs with the four Biobanking hubs (Antwerp Zoo, Belgium; Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark; Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, IZW, Germany; and RZSS, Scotland) led to achievements detailed on page 44. In addition, EAZA's collaboration is expanded by MoUs with Deutsches Primatenzentrum, the German Primate Centre agreeing transfer of biobanking samples, and Singapore Zoological Gardens (Singapore) on cryopreservation, which bring further research and application opportunities to genetic management and conservation.

EAZA also holds seats on the boards of international organisations such as IUCN CPSG, WAZA and Species360. We remain thankful to Mulhouse Zoo (France) and Prague Zoo (Czechia) for their continued support of EAZA Executive Office staff as part of the EAZA Population Management Centre. Chester Zoo, Wild Planet Trust (both UK) and Copenhagen Zoo also provide valuable opportunities for staff to work outside of the main office hubs in Amsterdam and Brussels.





FACILITATING, GUIDING AND PROMOTING THE VALUES AND SCIENTIFIC WORK OF ACCREDITED ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY

This section brings together two closely connected parts of EAZA's work. On the one hand, EAZA continued to strengthen and promote the scientific basis of its work through the Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research, the Zoo Science Library, nutrition expertise, cryopreservation activities and the many research projects led or supported by TAGs, EEPs, Members and partners. Alongside this, the EAZA Biobank continued to grow as an important resource for population management, research and conservation, reaching well over 30,000 samples from more than 1,100 taxa. The development of the EAZA Cryopreservation Network, EAZA's membership of the Global Genome Biodiversity Network, and the launch of the IUCN SSC Guidelines on Biobanking for Conservation further strengthened the community's contribution to long-term conservation science.

On the other hand, EAZA supported Members in communicating about accreditation, population management, and the contributions of modern zoos and aquariums. With public attention to zoos and aquariums remaining high, it is more important than ever to explain not only what EAZA Members do, but why their work matters for species conservation, animal welfare, education, research and evidence-based decision-making.

Together, these activities help ensure that the EAZA community is both guided by science and able to share that science in ways that build understanding and trust.

FUTURE OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS

In 2025, zoos and aquariums continued to attract significant public attention, both positive and critical. The resulting high volume of media enquiries was coordinated and addressed by the EEO, partly in close collaboration with the Communications Committee (ComCom), chaired by Anete Bilzēna (Riga Zoo, Latvia) who took over from Sanna Hellström (Helsinki Zoo, Finland) in the summer. In this context, it remained essential to consistently emphasise the central role of modern, scientifically managed zoos in species conservation, research, conservation education and animal welfare. The objective was to further position EAZA Members as key contributors to biodiversity protection and to move beyond the perception of zoos and aquariums as purely recreational institutions.

The Committee supported broader trust-building communications by contributing to clear, Member-facing explanations of EAZA standards and processes. In April, the *Communication infopack for EAZA-accredited Members* was published, to help Members communicate more consistently about what EAZA accreditation means in practice, its requirements, benefits, and the responsibilities it entails.



Full house at the Communicators' Network meeting discussing cross-cultural differences in communication © EAZA

A particular focus in 2025 was strengthening Members' confidence and competence to communicate about animal population management. EAZA Ex situ Programmes depend on active, science-based management to maintain healthy populations, support positive animal welfare, and make responsible long-term decisions about breeding, transfers, social groupings and the use of available space. This means that Members need to be able to explain not only why population management matters, but also which strategies are available within EAZA's population management framework and how such decisions are made.

Several publicly discussed cases in European zoos in 2025 brought management euthanasia into wider media and public debate. This also brought the topic into the forefront of EAZA's broader population-management communication work, as one of the recognised strategies that may be considered under defined circumstances when other options are not appropriate. The ComCom therefore worked with other relevant Committees and experts to support clear, evidence-based and culturally aware communication, helping Members explain the scientific rationale, ethical considerations and decision-making context behind population-management choices.

Throughout the year, this work brought together practical guidance, sensitive to different legal, cultural and media environments. It will continue in 2026 through webinars and direct sharing of experience among peers. Such discussions already started, with two meetings of the EAZA Communicators' Network focusing on cross-cultural differences in communicating about animal population management, including management euthanasia. The Network contains over 370 communication professionals representing more than 200 institutions. The Network remained active through a Facebook group and regular online meetings, supporting the exchange of best practices and strengthening alignment with the EAZA Strategy.

Debates about the future of zoos and aquariums expanded in different countries. The National Associations and Communication Committees remained a forum for exchanging experience on political processes, public narratives and emerging legislative or societal trends,

while helping strengthen messages on the role of modern zoos and aquariums. These exchanges ensure that institutions across the EAZA region are well equipped to engage with decision makers and the public.

ZOOQUARIA

Published four times a year, our *Zooquaria* (ZQ) magazine is filled with news reports, feature articles and opinion pieces illustrating the diverse activities and challenges that zoos and aquariums are involved in.

EAZA believes that collaboration is key to achieving bigger and more impactful results. ZQ 125 celebrated 'togetherness' and highlighted the many ways in which EAZA zoos and aquariums collaborate with partners worldwide. ZQ 126 was a conference-summary packed edition emphasising the power of knowledge sharing, at events, during courses or with exhibits. ZQ 127 focused on new people and developments: from our new Chair and proud newly accredited Members to our new population management cycle and new opportunities to support conservation. ZQ 128 highlighted the many ways to become involved in EAZA activities: from being an EEP Coordinator or a Veterinary Advisor, to participating in our conservation campaigns and events.

ZOO AND AQUARIUM RESEARCH

As multidisciplinary institutions, zoos and aquariums are important partners of the global scientific network. Their publications raise the level of knowledge and form basis for evidence-based discussions and decisions. The EAZA Research Committee, chaired by Zjef Pereboom (Antwerp, Belgium) who handed over the position to Kirsten Pullen (Chester, UK) at the end of 2025, aims to support the EAZA community in the development of excellent research and scientific training, as well as the adoption of a scientific approach to zoo management and species conservation. At the same time, the Research Committee aims to establish networks of researchers in zoos, aquariums, universities, museums, and wildlife researchers, and make science-related resources available to EAZA Members.





Scientific publications

EAZA's open access scientific [Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research](https://www.eaza.europa.eu/jzar) (JZAR) provides a forum for publication of novel, peer-reviewed research papers, reviews, technical reports and evidence-based case studies.

Four JZAR issues were published in 2025, covering topics from animal welfare and behaviour (e.g. effects of enrichment, training, enclosure use, etc), alongside husbandry and nutrition (e.g. diet composition, feeding regimes and environmental parameters such as heating and basking systems), to population management, health and reproduction. Some articles also addressed the human dimension of zoos, such as visitor learning, exhibit design, augmented reality, signage effects and guest perceptions.

We are grateful to Zürich Zoo (Switzerland), the Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp (KMDA, Belgium), Chester Zoo and Sparsholt College Hampshire (both UK) for their support as sponsors of JZAR in 2025.

In close collaboration with the Association of German-speaking Zoological Gardens (VdZ, Germany), the Research Committee further expanded the **Zoo Science Library** (www.ZooScienceLibrary.org). This online repository of scientific publications contains over 2,000 articles from the period 2016 to 2024 and grows steadily.

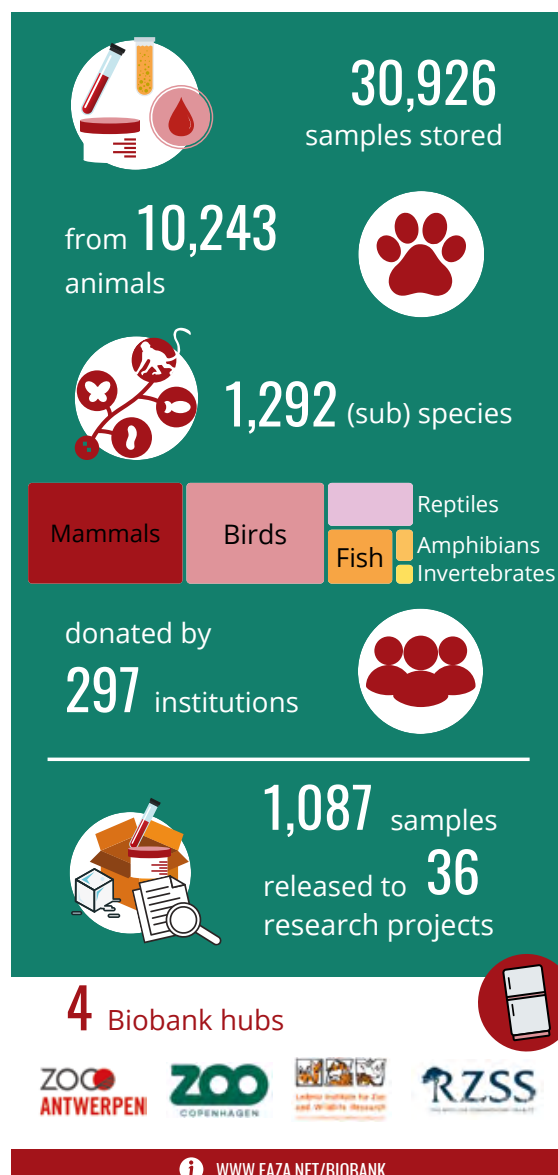
BIOBANKING AND MORE

The EAZA Biobank continued to be a great resource for scientific research contributing to population management and species conservation. Divided into four hubs (Antwerp Zoo, Belgium; Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark; Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, IZW, Germany; RZSS, Scotland), it stores biological samples – blood, tissue, hair – collected from animals in EAZA zoos and aquariums and in the wild. By the end of 2025, more than 30,000 biological samples from 10,243 animals (1,292 species and subspecies) were stored in the Biobank! Moreover, the hubs received historical sample collections from several EAZA Members, totalling thousands of samples, that are gradually being processed and registered in the ZIMS Biobank Module.



**EAZA
BIOBANK**

By the end of 2025



We are very grateful to all the 297 zoos and aquariums that have so far contributed samples to the EAZA Biobank. The EAZA Biobank Working Group, chaired by Christina Hvilsom (Antwerp Zoo, Belgium), released 367 samples to 14 research projects in 2025, most of them supporting improved understanding and management of EEP populations.

The Biobank Working Group and the Cryopreservation Interest Group (CIG) under its remit continued to develop cryopreservation activities within EAZA, and worked on building a Cryopreservation Network of partner institutions offering cryopreservation services for EAZA zoos and aquariums. To further guide the development of cryopreservation activities, and to protect the interests of EAZA Members, the CIG has worked on templates for Material Transfer Agreement and MoU documents.

ZOO NUTRITION

The EAZA Nutrition Group (ENG), chaired by Sarah Byrne (Dublin Zoo, Ireland), seeks to improve communication and coordination among all those engaged in research, education, or application of comparative zoo nutrition, and

those requiring nutrition information, within zoological institutions in Europe. The ENG continued to develop nutrition guidelines and protocols, and to provide support and advice to TAGs and EEPs on nutrition-related topics.

Organised by the ENG, the European Zoo Nutrition Conference was hosted in January by Apeneul (the Netherlands) and brought together 200 international delegates for three days of knowledge exchange and networking. More than 80 participants attended the pre-conference EAZA Academy workshop covering zoo nutrition fundamentals, including nutrient requirement calculations and practical software use. The scientific programme showcased the breadth and importance of nutrition research and practice across taxa, ranging from dolphin, orca and octopus nutrition, to fasting and gorge days in big cats, red panda diet and disease management, amphibian protein use, rhinoceros diets, and vitamin D in primates. Additionally, the behind-the-scenes winter visit to Apeneul offered practical insights into UVB exposure, browse storage, and enrichment design, while interactive elements fostered lively engagement. The conference also celebrated the ENG's 25-year commitment to supporting EAZA Members through nutritional expertise and collaboration.



We thank the many EAZA Corporate Members who continued to sponsor our events in 2025, here the Nutrition Conference © EAZA

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS FROM EAZA TAXON ADVISORY GROUPS

This list presents selected research highlights from the TAGs for 2025. Many more valuable studies were conducted across the EAZA membership, and we extend our thanks and congratulations to all involved. We encourage authors and their host institutions to publish in JZAR and to share their outputs in the Zoo Science Library, to ensure wider visibility and impact. Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to open the Research Annex, a list of papers provided by the TAGs involving their members in 2025.



Among the research conducted by **Terrestrial Invertebrate TAG** members, the Gooty ornamental tarantula EEP in conjunction with Kent University (UK) continues to work on an innovative project to assess relatedness of individuals based on tarantula moults. This project will allow the EEP to ascertain the pedigree of the seized animals as well as develop a non-invasive methodology for genetic analysis of theraphosids.

In the **Marine Teleost TAG**, much research is happening on seahorses. The Seahorse EEPs and Bangor University (India) investigate seahorse otoliths, providing samples to perfect techniques. In collaboration with The Seahorse Trust (UK), they also provided samples to determine growth rings and therefore predict age. With the University of Derby (UK), Chris Brown (Chessington World of Adventures, UK) is utilising four years of wild seahorse survey research to support population and behaviour studies. Part of the *in situ* research is conducted with aquarium teams and methods are frequently tested in the aquariums to improve techniques.

The Eggspection Europe working group links *in situ* marine research developed through the RoffaReefs project with *ex situ* research opportunities in European aquariums. Building on methods first tested at Rotterdam Zoo and further developed in Bonaire (both the Netherlands), the project focuses on collecting and documenting pelagic fish eggs to improve knowledge of early fish life stages. By bringing together field observations and aquarium-based expertise under the umbrella of EAZA and EUAC, the group aims to expand a shared egg database, support Artificial Intelligence-based species identification from eggs and larvae, and improve understanding of marine fish spawning patterns and spawning grounds.

The **Elasmobranch TAG** made significant efforts in the field of genetics to support population management decisions, particularly in guiding animal exchanges between institutions. Work is ongoing for several species, including *Glaucostegus cemiculus*, *Rhina ancylostomus*, *Mustelus mustelus*, *M. asterias*, *Pseudoginglymostoma brevicaudatum*, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, and *Dasyatis pastinaca*, among others. However, research is still facing important limitations. The difficulty in handling certain species and the lack of expertise in some aquariums hinder the collection of biological samples required for DNA analysis. This represents a key barrier to advancing genetic knowledge and improving long-term population management strategies.

The **Amphibian TAG** research activities demonstrated strong progress across disease management, behaviour, husbandry and species discovery. Vienna Zoo (Austria) led major work on amphibian health, screening the microbiome of over 400 fire (*Salamandra salamandra*) and alpine (*S. atra*) salamanders with no chytrid infection detected, advancing probiotic trials to support skin microbiomes, and producing new handouts. Husbandry and welfare research by Allwetterzoo (Germany) showed a clear preference of fire salamanders for naturalistic housing, supporting evidencebased enclosure



Gooty ornamental tarantula (*Poecilotheria metallica*) © Vatsal Vishwakarma



Long-snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*) pregnant male © Chris Brown



Sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*)
© Pedro Pina, Oceanário de Lisboa

design. Barcelona Zoo (Spain) focused on Montseny brook newt (*Calotriton arnoldi*), investigating microbiome composition, long-term sperm storage, habitat selection and population monitoring. Taxonomic and conservation research remained strong, with Cologne (Germany) and ZSL London (UK) Zoos describing several new amphibian species from Vietnam, while ZSL London Zoo also published studies on emerging threats from wildlife photography and developed a new identification method for caecilians using cloacal discs. Zürich Zoo (Switzerland) inaugurated a biosecure public research facility, initiating cognition studies and achieving first successful breedings of several poison frog and tree frog species.

Research is a main focus of the **Reptile TAG**, whose members were involved in many publications issued in 2025 (see Annex document), supervised several student theses, worked in the editorial boards of scientific journals and gave lectures at scientific conferences. Examples of projects include a study investigating the distribution of *Emydomyces testavorans* - a newly discovered fungal pathogen potentially threatening the breeding of turtle - in Europe and potential treatment; the monitoring programme for Parson's chameleon (*Calumma parsonii*) in Madagascar by Paris Zoo (France) in collaboration with the Chameleon Center Conservation; ecological monitoring, social science, and applied *ex situ* studies by the Komodo dragon EEP; assessing the personality of turtles from the Geoemydidae family in Allwetterzoo Münster and Munich University (both Germany); a joint project involving Prague Zoo (Czechia), the Academy of Sciences of the Czechia, the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Agency and other institutions studying the northernmost populations of the Aesculapian snake (*Zamenis longissimus*) to update the national action plan for the conservation of the species, which feeds *ex situ* strategies; and many important studies in cooperation with the IUCN SSC Crocodile SG and several universities improving the understanding of the anatomy, biology, evolution, and behaviour of crocodilian species.

In the **Penguin TAG**, Augsburg Zoo (Germany) continued to support the University of Washington (USA) investigating migratory behaviour of Magellanic penguin (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) with GPS-tracking tags to identify potential conflict zones with fishing, shipping, or pollution. Researchers also used geolocating time-depth recorder tags to monitor 20 penguins' location and diving depth in Punta Tombo (Argentina). In 2025, they published a paper about adaptive growth in chicks and are now looking to compare this with zoo penguins to find out how growth is influenced by the species of fish eaten. Oceanogràfic Valencia (Spain) conducted research on both wild and zoo-housed gentoo penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*), examining differences in their metabolome, sensory abilities such as magnetic field detection and potential stress during incubation using heart rate monitoring. Additional work focused on developing non-invasive attachment protocols for accelerometry sensors to monitor behaviour and animal welfare. The *NeuroGreen* platform is now active, with species-specific algorithms available for several species, including penguins. Following a salmonella outbreak in their penguin facility, Oceanogràfic implemented a specific bacteriophage-based treatment that is showing promising results.

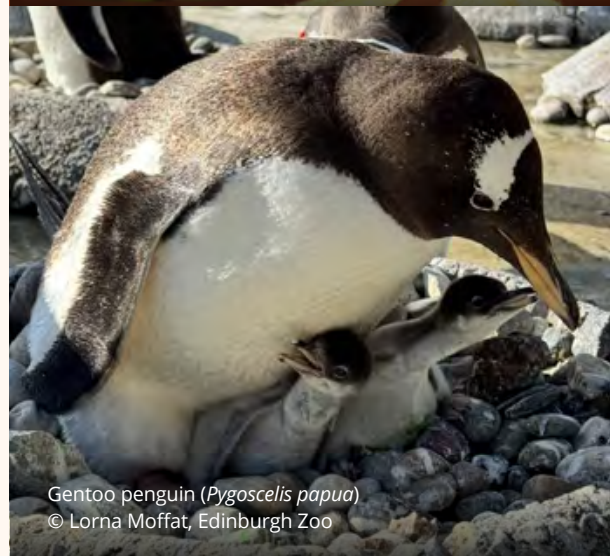
Members of the **Pelecaniformes, Ciconiiformes and Phoenicopteriformes TAG** continued to support research in collaboration with field conservation projects, helping ensure that findings inform population management and conservation decision-making. Artis Zoo (the Netherlands) has been providing expertise in relevant field methodology (e.g. egg collection and transfer) and testing suitability of equipment for Eurasian spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*) for several years. A project carried out in 2025 found that the GPS transmitters under evaluation did not influence the welfare of the spoonbills in the parameters evaluated.



Fringe-limbed treefrog (*Ecnomiohyla valancifer*) © Christian Langner



Sclerophyll bavayia (*Bavayia exsuccida*) © Christian Langner



Gentoo penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*) © Lorna Moffat, Edinburgh Zoo



Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) © Antoine Joris

Preparatory work for the Ibis BPG involved collecting husbandry and health data from holding institutions, which will help identify knowledge gaps and priorities for future applied research.

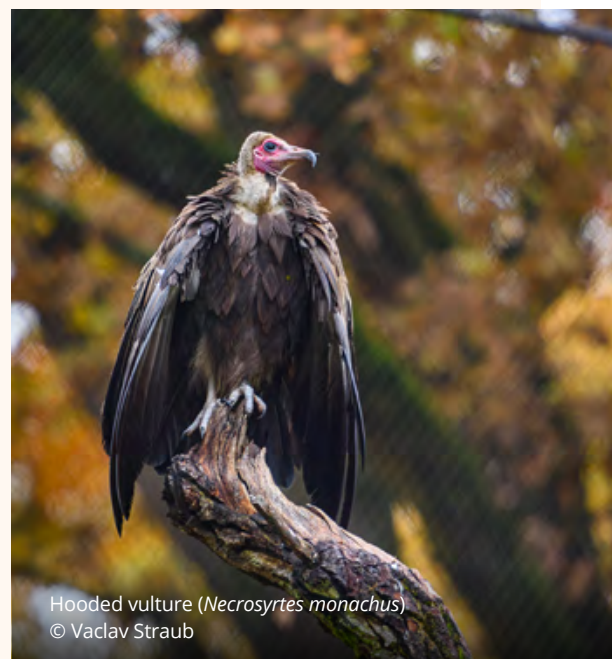
Research activity within the **Raptor TAG** in 2025 included both programme-linked academic work and longer-term scientific coordination. A master's thesis carried out by Senja Verronen (University of Helsinki, Finland) used data from the Snowy owl EEP to investigate the role of temperature and hatch date in chick survival. This work contributes directly to evidence-based management of the programme. The Ural owl EEP also continued important genetic work, with priorities including the expansion of DNA analyses across Europe, harmonisation of databases, consolidation of lineage traceability and the integration of non-EAZA partners into a more coherent European framework. This is particularly important in a programme where *ex situ* and *in situ* management are closely linked and where long-term restoration depends on robust genetic governance. Alice Doyle's (Hartpury University, UK) PhD on the health and welfare of vultures in European zoos continued, aiming to support evidence-based improvements in the management of vulture EEPs. TAG-related research and conservation work were also represented internationally in October during the Global Biodiversity Conservation Conference held in Dava (Philippines), which provided an additional platform for knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary discussion.

In the **Galliformes TAG**, Antwerp Zoo's Centre for Research and Conservation (Belgium) has been conducting genetic research on Vietnam pheasants (*Lophura edwardsi*) and Malay crestless firebacks (*Lophura erythrophthalma*) in the past few years, mapping out the genetic diversity within their populations to help give the best possible breeding recommendations. Agreements with Aviornis International and the World Pheasant Association were made to expand the research into two highly threatened EEP species: Malay peacock pheasant (*Polyplectron malacense*) and Bornean crested fireback (*Lophura ignita*).

Gruiformes TAG Vice Chair Max Birkendorf (Schwerin Zoo, Germany) attended two online meetings of the IUCN SSC Crane SG to exchange information regarding current research topics in the field. These meetings are an ideal opportunity for the TAG to explore new partnerships with organisations working *in situ*.

Research in the **Charadriiformes TAG** focused on genetics and breeding. The Black-winged stilt EEP is investigating the identification of *Himantopus himantopus* and black-necked stilts (*H. mexicanus*) which will help determine the current species composition within the EAZA population. Samples from the Atlantic puffin EEP supported the Puffin Origin Project to investigate subspecies within our population. Results indicated that there were not enough individuals of the different subspecies to sustain separate populations and that the birds in the EEP belong to the same cluster, with low genetic differentiation. The EEP will therefore increase the demographic strength of the population without considering the origin of the birds. Another study, supported by the TAG, is exploring the use of scent detection at puffin nests as a method for identifying bird presence. This approach may prove useful to monitor wild populations. Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) holders are sharing data with Pinola Conservancy (USA) to better understand breeding ecology and to improve *ex situ* breeding success.

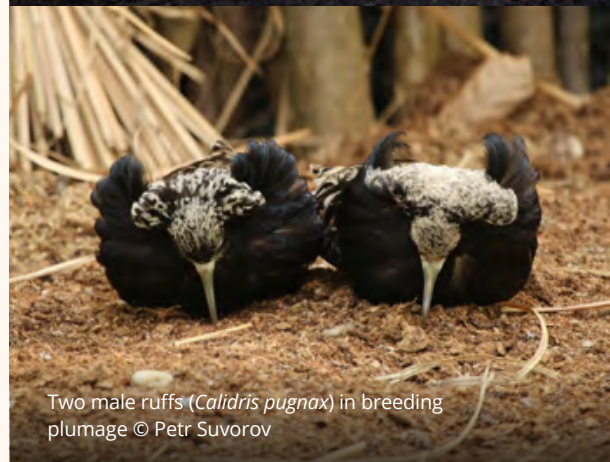
The **Parrot TAG's** current research priorities focus on welfare with efforts centred around the species kept in large numbers, such as budgerigars or *Trichoglossus* spp. lorikeets whose populations in EAZA zoos both total thousands of individuals. For lorikeets, a cooperation was initiated with the



Hooded vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*)
© Vaclav Straub



Malay crestless fireback (*Lophura erythrophthalma*) © Jonathan Beilby



Two male ruffs (*Calidris pugnax*) in breeding plumage © Petr Suvorov



Kees Groot (Copenhagen Zoo) presenting his results on cockatoos at the EAZA Annual Conference © Simon Bruslund

University of Nottingham (UK). Copenhagen Zoo (Denmark) continued a PhD project focused on mate-directed aggression in cockatoos.

Most ongoing research projects within the **Songbird TAG** centre around husbandry, particularly neonatal survival in songbirds, taxonomy and natural phenotype as well as relevant wildlife trade. Many studies were published in 2025 (see Annex document).

The **Monotreme and Marsupial TAG** members continued long-term research activities related to several species. Studies to better understand the Koala Retrovirus continued with partners in Europe and Australia. Cooperation with the University of Melbourne (Australia) focuses on kowari (*Dasyuroides byrnei*) skull morphology. Copenhagen Zoo (Denmark) is investigating toxoplasmosis vaccination among several marsupial species. Aalborg Zoo (Denmark) studies the effects of diet composition on wombats' (*Vombatus ursinus*) vitamin D levels. The Wombat EEP in cooperation with Trowanna Wildlife Park and the University of Adelaide (both Australia) is researching metastatic mineralisation and chronic kidney disease among these animals.

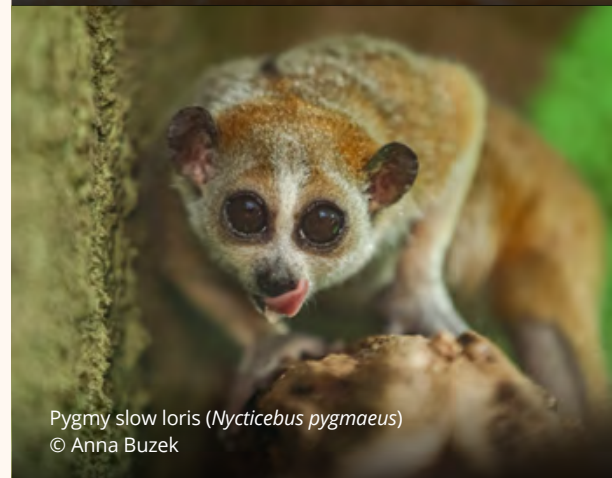
The **Prosimian TAG** started many new research initiatives in 2025, including a study involving different universities sequencing biobank samples of *Eulemur* species to characterise genomic diversity, population structure, and hybridisation in *Eulemur collaris*. Among the studies on lemur husbandry, it is worth mentioning a follow-up study on the diet of pygmy slow lorises (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*), aiming to investigate changes in the dietary habits of the species over the last decade. Another new study uses keepers' data to investigate ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*) personality and welfare.

The research projects within the **Callitrichid TAG** reflect a strong collaborative effort to enhance the health, welfare, and long-term management of these species. For instance, the ongoing Callitrichid Contraception Survey, led by Veronica Cowl (Chester Zoo, UK), Lewis Rowden (Zoological Society of London, UK), and Alex Weiss (Royal Veterinary College, UK), investigates how contraceptive methods influence social dynamics, aggression, and evictions within callitrichid groups. This will support improved breeding management strategies and updated contraceptive guidelines. A parallel initiative led by Amanda Bartlett (University of Portsmouth, UK) examines pathological findings across nine callitrichid species using retrospective post-mortem datasets to identify key health trends within the population. Other projects investigate links between microbiome composition and social status in golden headed lion tamarin (*Leontopithecus chrysomelas*), Marmoset Wasting Syndrome, and a promising vaccine against *Toxoplasma gondii*.

In the **Afro-Eurasian Monkey TAG**, the Gelada baboon EEP has been establishing connections with researchers, universities, students and *in situ* conservationists. They have been supporting research on various topics, including social structure, stress and diet, behaviour, and DNA paternity test. Additionally, the EEP aims to conduct further research on short- and long-term effects of different contraception methods in both males and females; the effects of non-breeding and of removing individuals from a group on the social structure of harem groups; and on the genetic composition of the population (i.e. proportion of genes identified as coming from the wild northern subspecies or southern subspecies).



Kowari (*Dasyuroides byrnei*)
© Richard Viduna, Jihlava Zoo



Pygmy slow loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*)
© Anna Buzek



Golden headed lion tamarin
(*Leontopithecus chrysomelas*)
© Jonas Verhulst, Planckendael Zoo



Gelada baboons (*Theropithecus gelada*)
© Zlín-Lešná Zoo

All the programmes in the **Great Ape TAG** are involved in research. The Western lowland gorilla EEP supported research in Vitamin D status, infant development and behavioural research in bachelor groups and castrated males. The Orangutan EEP started sample sequencing for the ongoing Orangutan Conservation Genetics Project, for which computational analysis is planned to be completed in Summer 2026. The Bonobo EEP used a touchscreen task to show that managed fission-fusion events in bonobos negatively influence their affective state. Additionally, several TAG members contributed to evidencing the importance of an appropriate diet in great apes.

The **Canid and Hyenid TAG** supported a number of research projects over the year including on vaccination and on the link between gut microbiomes and social group in painted dogs (*Lycaon pictus*), as well as on breeding success of dholes (*Cuon alpinus*) at Nehru Zoological Park (India). Additionally, the Striped hyena EEP is working with the IUCN Hyena SG on determining the number of subspecies using samples from zoos and *in situ* partners. The Bush Dog EEP is collaborating with Karen De Matteo's (Washington University, USA) project Got Scat? using conservation detection dogs for surveying bush dogs and other carnivore species in Argentina.

Bear TAG members are involved in many research studies, from Sun bear and Sloth bear EEP participants contributing samples to Sandeep Sharma's (German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research, iDiv) project on highthroughput genotyping; to Marco Roller (Karlsruhe Zoo, Germany) utilising ZIMS data to investigate mortality and morbidity within the *ex situ* population of polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*). European zoos are supporting two major conservation–research projects led by the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC, Armenia) on 'Mitigating human–bear conflict through nature-based solutions' and 'Returning orphaned bear cubs to the wild using modern monitoring technologies'. The research partnership between brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) field projects in Armenia and EAZA zoos is growing with the latter supplying expertise, funding, and technical support for *in situ* bear conservation.

In the **Small Carnivore TAG**, much research focused on European minks investigating population and conservation genetics, behavioural development of reproductive behaviour *ex situ*, monitoring and success of reintroduced populations, as well as husbandry and welfare. It is primarily led by Tallinn Zoo's Species Conservation Research Centre (Estonia) with academic institutions and other EEP participants when relevant. Hormonal monitoring of the European population of Owston's civets (*Chrotogale owstoni*) continued with the EAZA Reproductive Management Group. The second trials of hormonal injections to induce ovulation occurred. Although no successful births were seen, this is still a major milestone for small carnivore reproductive assistance techniques. A PhD at Chester Zoo (UK) investigates reproductive health and female cycling across all three species of smaller Malagasy carnivores. A research review was carried out by the Meerkat EEP Vet Advisor to inform future BPG, around substrate uses, UVB provision, mortality and morbidity, minimum group size and temperature requirements.

In the **Felid TAG**, an important example of long-term research collaboration is the Pallas's Cat International Conservation Alliance led by Nordens Ark (Sweden) and supported by many EAZA Members. It continued to help range country researchers committed to conservation and threat mitigation for the species. Insights were also presented at the CITES Cop20.



Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*)
© Chester Zoo



Striped hyenas (*Hyaena hyaena*)
© Frédéric Houssaye, Cerza



Polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) © José Kok



Owston's civets (*Chrotogale owstoni*)
© Shaldon Wildlife Trust

In 2025, several research activities involving members of the **Marine Mammal TAG** contributed to improving knowledge relevant to husbandry, veterinary care, and conservation. Ongoing studies on the nutrition of manatees continued to provide important data to optimise diets under human care and to better understand species-specific metabolic requirements. Research on respiratory health in cetaceans resulted in a publication describing the use of spirometry as a diagnostic tool to assess lung function in bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops spp.*), demonstrating the potential of this method for health assessment in stranded and managed animals. Further work was conducted on acoustic monitoring and behaviour recognition in dolphins, using sound analysis to identify behavioural states and improve the understanding of communication and welfare indicators. In addition, studies on manatee acoustics continued, including the application of automated sound analysis and artificial intelligence to classify call types and to support population monitoring.

The **Elephant TAG** continued to be involved in research projects on vaccination against the Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV). Six adult Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) from the EEP participated in a safety trial with the experimental subunit EEHV1a vaccine, developed by Utrecht University (the Netherlands). As no significant side effects were observed, an immunisation experiment was done in nine young from European zoos. All elephants included in these trials were identified prior to the experiment as at risk for EEHV-HD with insufficient antibody levels. Antibody titers increased significantly after three vaccinations. Unfortunately, one vaccinated elephant died of EEHV1B three weeks after the third vaccination, sadly confirming again that there is no cross immunity between the different EEHV (sub) species.

Within the **Equid TAG**, a genetic assessment was initiated to compare onagers (*Equus hemionus onager*) in the Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Royal Reserve (Saudi Arabia) with EEP individuals, thanks to samples from the EAZA Biobank. This aims to identify suitable candidates for future reintroduction. The study is carried out by Antelope Conservation in collaboration with the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. Results are expected in 2026. Additionally, researchers from the University of Manchester (UK) assessed the suitability of four potential faecal biomarkers of male reproductive state in three equids: Grevy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*), mountain zebra (*E. zebra*) and Carneddau mountain ponies (*E. ferus caballus*), with samples from Grevy's zebra and Hartmann's zebra EEP participants. Surprisingly, faecal oestrone showed the best discrimination between male reproductive classes in all species.

Much research is conducted in the **Rhinoceros TAG**. The study on Equine herpesvirus (EHV) in the Greater one-horned rhino EEP continued with a new research proposal about the examination of the EEP population for antibodies and antigens of EHV1 and EHV4. In the White rhino EEP, research focuses on rhino reproduction, Artificial Insemination, IVF etc. The Eastern black rhino EEP continued to study how reproductive cycles in females under human care are related to reproductive success. As much progesterone data as possible - collected in faeces and serum of females within the EEP - is needed for this project.



Lung function testing on a bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) using a custom-made ultrasonic spirometer © Oceanogràfic Valencia



Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) group
© WILDLANDS Emmen



Grevy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*) mare in the mixed-species savanna exhibit at Prague Zoo © Petr Hamerník, Prague Zoo



Eastern black rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) calf and mother © Folly Farm

Research related to the African Swine Fever (ASF) remained an important topic for the **Tapir and Suiform TAG** in 2025. A study investigating ASF virus susceptibility across seven genera of peccaries and pigs using peripheral blood mononuclear cells was published in JZAR in January. The collaborative project between the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (Germany), the TAG and its EEPs saw several EAZA zoos provide valuable samples from the animals in their care. The main result showed that none of the peccary species are susceptible to ASF. Therefore, they can be excluded from all measures (ban of transport or culling) in place after ASF outbreaks occur in or close to a zoo.

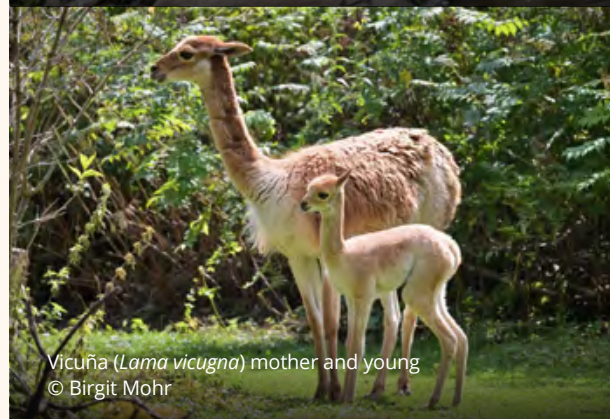
The **Cattle and Camelid TAG** Research Advisor prepared an “ungulate research needs” survey, that will be circulated within EAZA, AZA and IUCN SGs in 2026. The results will inform on research priorities that are important for multiple TAGs to achieve the greatest impact. In collaboration with the EEP for Vicuña (*Lama vicugna*), a survey-based project was launched to investigate potential causes of aggression in males of the species and inform future management of the population. The Action Indonesia Global Species Management Plan (GSMP) partnership, supported by many EAZA Members, is funding a MSc to monitor the banteng (*Bos javanicus*) population in Alas Purwo National Park (Indonesia). Another MSc on anoa welfare assessment by a staff member of the Indonesian Zoo and Aquarium Association (PKBSI) was completed this year with support from Chester Zoo (UK) and other Action Indonesia GSMP donors from EAZA. This tool will be applied across Indonesian zoos in the coming year.

The newly appointed *ex situ* research coordinators of the **Antelope and Giraffid TAG** aim to update TAG members with relevant antelope and giraffid research in zoos, and function as a link between Coordinators, zoos and universities. In 2025, they sent a survey to all EEP Coordinators in the TAG to identify urgent research needs and explore ideas for the future. They will also connect with the TAG's *in situ* research coordinator to discuss research priorities.

Research activity within the **Caprinae TAG** also continued through the Osteo Project, developed in collaboration with Tony Souvignet (Safari de Peaugres, France). The project focuses on the collection of skulls from deceased caprines to support morphometric studies and broader anatomical and evolutionary investigations across the TAG. In parallel, international cooperation on reproductive management and genetic resource exchange using cryopreservation of sperm and assisted reproduction remained active.



Babirusa (*Babyrousa babyrussa*) © Sonja Jehserig, Tierpark Berlin



Vicuña (*Lama vicugna*) mother and young © Birgit Mohr



Yellow-backed duiker (*Cephalophus silvicultor*) © Frankfurt Zoo



MANAGING OPERATIONS TO REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF EAZA AND OUR MEMBERS

In 2025, EAZA maintained efforts to limit the environmental footprint of its activities, including through the conscious use of online or hybrid meeting tools wherever possible. In parallel, EAZA continued supporting Members in making their zoo and aquarium operations more sustainable as well. As the final year of the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan, it was also an opportunity to take stock of progress across the community and reflect on where sustainable practice has become more embedded in day-to-day work. The Member sustainability survey was repeated and results showed encouraging progress across all key areas assessed since 2020. This confirmed that sustainability is increasingly becoming part of how EAZA Members manage their institutions, make purchasing decisions and connect operational choices with wider environmental and social responsibilities. All of which contribute towards positive achievement of this focal area.

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

In 2025, the EAZA *Guidelines to Managing Operations to Reduce your Environmental Footprint* was updated with the latest information and a new section on carbon reduction. These, and other useful guidelines, are available on www.eaza.net/operational-documents.

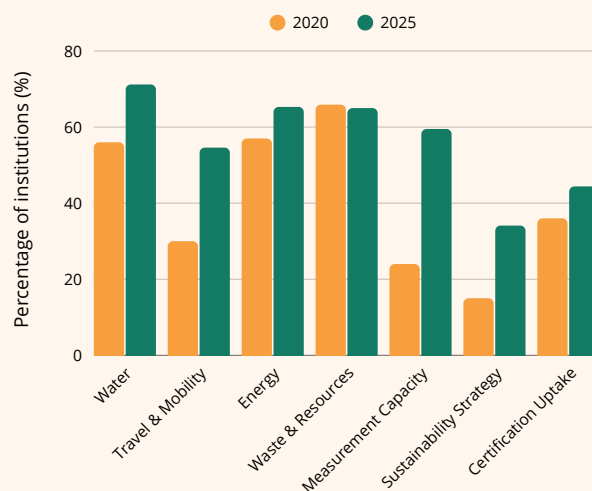
Best Practice case studies were shared in Zooquaria to inspire Members to expand their sustainability initiatives. This included Nuremberg Zoo's (Germany) Climate Forest Trail – offering visitors an in-depth perspective on the present and future impact of climate change on flora and fauna. Aalborg Zoo (Denmark) and Bellewaerde Zoo (Belgium) both shared how they have successfully integrated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations into their practices and communications with visitors.

EAZA continued collaboration with the EU4Ocean Coalition to support our commitment towards SDG 14: Life below water. You can find out more about the ocean literacy courses that were developed on page 20.

The Member sustainability survey was repeated, following the earlier baseline from 2020. The results showed encouraging progress across the three key areas assessed: general operations, public procurement practices and alignment with the SDGs. For example, amongst respondents, water management increased from 56% to 71%, sustainable mobility options from 30% to 55%, and energy management from 57% to 65%. Organisations measuring environmental initiatives rose from 24% to 60% and those with a sustainability strategy in place or in development from 53% to 77% (see graph).

SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY

General operations - Progress 2020 vs 2025





PLANTING TREES TO OFFSET CONFERENCE EMISSIONS

During the EAZA Annual Conference 2024, Jörg Junhold, Director of Leipzig Zoo (Germany), who hosted the event, announced that 1,000 native trees – one tree per delegate – would be planted in Saxony, helping to offset the event's carbon footprint. As part of the "Forest Championship" (Waldmeisterschaft) sustainability campaign, a national effort to restore and enrich native woodlands, native tree species such as copper beeches, pedunculate oaks and sessile oaks were planted in the Wermsdorf forest on 5 and 6 April 2025. In addition to the 1,000 "EAZA trees", 1,025 trees were planted by the Leipzig International Gymnastics Festival. The initiative was implemented under the expert guidance of the Forest for Saxony Foundation (Stiftung Wald für Sachsen), a long-standing partner in regional reforestation and biodiversity conservation.



Page 54: Nuremberg Zoo's Climate Forest Trail leads visitors 450 metres through the woods from the roots to the treetops, highlighting all levels of the forest's ecosystem © Thomas Hahn; above: the Leipzig Zoo team delivering on their promise to plant 1,000 trees to offset the EAZA Annual Conference's carbon footprint © Leipzig Zoo



Directors' Days keynote speaker Grethel Aguilar showcased the strong collaboration between IUCN and EAZA © EAZA

OUR PEOPLE

EAZA's work is made possible by the people and institutions who give their time, expertise and trust to the Association. In 2025, this was visible across the whole community: in the hosts and participants of the EAZA events, in the election of new governance bodies, in the work of Committees, TAGs and Working Groups, and in the many staff members who support EAZA's roles including accreditation, EEPs, conservation, education, research and advocacy.

This section recognises the collaborative structures that keep EAZA strong and the individual colleagues involved. The year brought important moments of renewal, including the election of the 2025–2028 EAZA Council and the appointment of Christoph Schwitzer (Dublin Zoo, Ireland) as EAZA Chair, alongside continued support for Members, Candidates for Membership and institutions working towards accreditation. It also highlighted the commitment of all the dedicated colleagues who help uphold EAZA's standards, share knowledge across borders and ensure that the Association remains a trusted community.

EAZA EVENTS: FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

We thank the dedicated hosts and their teams for the successful EAZA events of 2025 featured in previous sections of this Annual Report: the biennial European Zoo Nutrition Conference (Apenheul, the Netherlands), Conservation Education Conference (Chester Zoo, UK), the annual EAZA Directors' Days (Oceanogràfic València, Spain) and the EAZA Annual Conference (Łódź Zoo, Poland).

EAZA Directors' Days

From 1 to 4 April, EAZA Directors' Days were held at Oceanogràfic València, bringing together 170 delegates from 123 institutions across 32 countries – the largest attendance to date! As one of EAZA's flagship annual events, the meeting provided a platform for leadership exchange, strategic discussion and governance. Key milestones included the election of EAZA's governing bodies for the 2025–2028 term, including the appointment of Christoph Schwitzer, CEO of Dublin Zoo, as the new EAZA Chair, succeeding Endre Papp (Sóstó Zoo, Hungary) after his 2022–2025 term. IUCN

Director General Grethel Aguilar delivered the keynote address, highlighting the strong and growing collaboration between IUCN and EAZA, including involvement in IUCN SGs, Centres for Species Survival, opportunities around the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, and new incentives for EAZA Members to join IUCN. Over two days of sessions and workshops, delegates reviewed progress under the 2021–2025 EAZA Strategy, explored future priorities, and discussed evolving challenges for modern zoos and aquariums. Topics ranged from animal population management and EEPs to communication and accreditation, reinforcing the value of collaboration, shared standards and unified messaging across our community.

EAZA Annual Conference

The EAZA Annual Conference remains our biggest event. Held in September in Łódź Zoo, the 2025 edition brought together 1,008 delegates from 54 countries and 382 institutions sharing expertise, celebrating successes and charting new paths for species conservation. The programme combined strategy, science and inspiration, opening with a focus on collaboration under new EAZA Chair Christoph Schwitzer. Plenary sessions highlighted

achievements across conservation, education and research, including the recent transformation of Łódź Zoo into a modern conservation education leader. Conservation campaigns took centre stage, celebrating the successes of Vietnamazing and launching momentum for the upcoming Wetlands for Life campaign (see p 27). Rewilding and species reintroduction showcased the critical role of EAZA institutions in restoring ecosystems worldwide. Exhibit design sessions demonstrated how innovative habitats can bridge science and public engagement. The conference concluded by honouring four Lifetime Achievement Award recipients - Paul Pearce-Kelly (ZSL, UK), Ryszard Topola (Łódź Zoo), Eric Bairrão Ruivo (Beauval Zoo, France) and Mark Pilgrim (Werribee Open Range Zoo, Australia) - for their invaluable involvement in EAZA and commitment to species conservation. Throughout the conference, the phrase 'Stronger together' kept reappearing, and it served as a fitting summary of EAZA's philosophy. Whether through our cooperative *ex situ* programmes, coordinated campaigns or shared training, EAZA thrives on the collective strength and together our community holds tremendous power to save species.



Christoph Schwitzer opening our Annual Conference © EAZA



Michał Gołędowski introducing Łódź Zoo's recent transformation and future plans © EAZA



Over 1,000 delegates attended our Annual Conference in 2025 © EAZA

EAZA MEMBERS

In parallel to implementing the new accreditation cycle, 2025 saw the Membership and Ethics (M&E) Committee, chaired by Thomas Kölpin (Wilhelma Zoo, Germany), engage with complex membership cases requiring careful ethical consideration, including facilities facing long-term infrastructure challenges, financial pressures, or competing welfare and management considerations. Balancing these challenges is a common thread across EAZA activities and leads into Strategic discussions around growth of membership while maintaining high standards.

Following earlier decisions made by Council regarding the future professional relationship between EAZA and Russian zoos through a partnership with EARA, it was decided that the EAZA membership of the Russian Members were to be discontinued as of 1 January 2025, leading to re-assignment of some EEPs' coordination.

Responding to the increasing breadth of safety-related conditions identified through accreditation and complaints processes, the M&E Committee established a dedicated Safety Working Group, chaired by Matthew Webb (ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, UK). This group was tasked with developing clearer guidance and best practice across areas such as emergency preparedness, staff training and the management of high-risk species, to provide guidance to Members on this vital topic in accreditation and zoo management. Matthew is at work drawing from experts across the community to join the Working Group.

Across all its work in 2025, the Membership and Ethics Committee continued to rely on the expertise, commitment and integrity of EAZA Members and especially its volunteer screeners. Members' openness and participation in the screenings and the commitment of the screeners and their supporting institutions to share their time and knowledge with the whole community remains fundamental to maintaining EAZA's role as a respected accrediting body and standardsetting association.

The Committee looks ahead to the next phase of the accreditation cycle with confidence, committed to continuous improvement, ethical clarity and consistent application of EAZA's standards to support progressive zoos and aquariums in delivering excellence in animal welfare, safety and all levels of zoo and aquarium management.

For a full overview, see the membership infographics and Member list on pages 60-64.



Membership

on 31 December 2025

400+ MEMBERS



IN 47 COUNTRIES IN EUROPE AND BEYOND



Full Members

- accredited zoos/aquariums meeting EAZA Standards, in Europe or Western Asia



311
+7



Associate Members

- zoos/aquariums meeting EAZA Standards, outside Europe/Western Asia
- AND national zoo associations and other organisations related to education, conservation or zoo staff



39
+2



Temporary Members

- zoos/aquariums that do not currently meet EAZA Standards
- AND zoos/aquariums under construction



25
+2



Candidates for Membership

- zoos/aquariums working towards meeting EAZA Standards, assisted by a mentor & supervised by EAZA Technical Assistance Committee

17
-4



Corporate Members

- companies supplying goods and services to zoos and aquariums

67
+12



Honorary Members

- individuals whose activities have greatly benefited EAZA

8
=

Numbers of Members on 31 December and differences compared to 1 January 2025

MENTORSHIP AND CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMME

In 2025, the Technical Assistance (TA) Committee, chaired by André Stadler (Alpenzoo Innsbruck, Austria), continued its mission to support and guide institutions on their pathway to EAZA membership and accreditation, addressing both ongoing cases and new developments across the region. Priorities on the short-term included resolving long-standing Candidates for Membership (CfM) cases and facilitating screenings for candidates ready for assessment.

During the year, Kaunas Zoo (Lithuania) and Palić Zoo (Serbia) were screened, with final membership decisions expected in April 2026. Almaty Zoo (Kazakhstan) was approved as a Temporary Member. Following Committee review, Sarajevo Zoo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) was not renewed as a CfM, although technical guidance will continue to be provided. The TA Committee supported a new CfM applicant, Zoo Leśne Zaczysze (Poland), for which a pre-screening visit was completed, and a formal recommendation is expected in April 2026.

The Committee reviewed progress across CfMs in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and conflict-affected regions, including Ukraine and Israel/Palestine, acknowledging logistical and welfare-assessment challenges while commending mentors for maintaining regular communication under difficult circumstances. Remote mentoring continued for institutions where travel remained restricted. Particular attention was given to institutions with contracts approaching renewal and to improving coordination with other EAZA bodies, including the National Associations Committee. NAC members worked with institutions in their own countries to help mobilise solidarity and practical support for the conflict-affected countries. Moreover, EAZA Director of Advocacy and Communication delivered an online talk about zoo diplomacy to a group of Ukrainian zoo and aquarium directors in the Association of Zoos of Ukraine.

Mentorship capacity was strengthened through new appointments for CfMs Miskolc Zoo (Hungary), Shymkent Zoo (Kazakhstan), Baku Zoo (Azerbaijan), and Chemnitz Zoo (Germany), currently a Temporary Member. A training and discussion session was delivered to mentors to support the implementation of the updated EAZA Accreditation Standards and policies within mentoring and follow-up procedures. The Committee also discussed the implications of the new standards for CfMs, particularly regarding welfare documentation and outcome-based assessments.

Looking ahead, the Committee identified strategic priorities including screening of candidates considered ready, revision of The Modern Zoo Manual, and strengthening coordination with other Committees to support institutions progressing toward accreditation.



Pelican pond at CfM Kyiv Zoo (Ukraine) during their mentor's visit in 2025 © Marc Damen



Kyiv Zoo's team talking about welfare and animal training with their mentor © Marc Damen

MEMBER LIST

Legend:

Associate Member

Candidate for Membership (CfM)

Corporate Member

Full Member

Temporary Member

Temporary Member Under Construction

ARMENIA

Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC)

Yerevan Zoo

AUSTRIA

Alpenzoo Innsbruck

Haus des Meeres - Aqua Terra Zoo

Herberstein Zoo

Salzburg Zoo

Schmiding Zoo

Vienna Zoo

AZERBAIJAN

Baku Zoo

BELGIUM

Antwerp Zoo

Bellewaerde

Han-sur-Lesse Wildlife Park

Monde Sauvage Safari

Pairi Daiza

Parc Animalier de Bouillon

Planckendael Zoo

Tournai Vivarium

BRAZIL

São Paulo Zoo

BULGARIA

Sofia Zoo

CHILE

Latin American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (ALPZA)

CROATIA

Osijek Zoo

PIXBOX

Zagreb Zoo

CZECHIA

Antelope Conservation

Brno Zoo

Chomutov Zoo

Děčín Zoo

Hluboká Zoo

Hodonín Zoo

Jihlava Zoo

Liberec Zoo

Olomouc Zoo

Ostrava Zoo

Plzeň Zoo

Prague Zoo

Safari Park Dvůr Králové

Union of Czech and Slovak Zoological Gardens (UCSZOO)

Ústí nad Labem Zoo

Zlín-Lešná Zoo

DENMARK

Aalborg Zoo

Bio/Zoo Information

Brogaarden ApS

Copenhagen Zoo

Danish Association of Zoos and Aquaria (DAZA)

Den Blå Planet

Givskud Zoo - ZOOTOPIA

Hansenberg School

HMJ Design

Jesperhus Jungle Zoo

Kattegatcentret

Knuthenborg Safaripark

Nordsøen Oceanarium

Ny Vraa

Odense Zoo

Petjes World

Randers Rainforest

Ree Park Safari

Terrariet Reptile Zoo

ESTONIA

Tallinn Zoo

FINLAND

Ähtäri Zoo

Korkeasaari Zoo

Ranua Wildlife Park

FRANCE

African Safari Plaisance-Touch

Amiens Zoo

Amnéville Zoo

Animals Concept

Association of French Zoological Parks (AFdPZ)

Auxois Park

Beauval Zoo

Besançon Zoo

Bioparc de Doué-la-Fontaine

BIO-TOPIA

Biotropica

Bureau d'étude AKONGO

Bureau d'études Bioparc

Calviac Zoo

Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche Zoologiques Augeron - CERZA

Champrépus Zoo

EcoZonia

Evasion-Jeux

Fox Consulting

Jurques Zoo

La Barben Zoo

La Bourbansais Zoo

La Vallée des Singes

Le Parc de Clères

Le Parc des Félines

Les Terres de Nataé

Lille Zoo

Lyon Zoo

Martinique Zoo

Maubeuge Zoo

Ménagerie du Jardin des Plantes

Montpellier Zoo

Mulhouse Zoo

Natur'Zoo Mervent

Nausicaá

Océanopolis Brest

Parc Animalier d'Auvergne

Parc Animalier de Branféré

Parc Animalier des Pyrénées

Parc des Mamelles Guadeloupe

Parc des Oiseaux Villars-Dombes

Parc d'Isle

Paris Zoo

Parrot World

Réserve de la Haute-Touche

Reynou Zoo

Safari de Peaugres

Saint Laurent S.A.

Sainte-Croix Zoo

Saint-Malo Aquarium

Seafoodia

Siane

Sigean African Reserve

Thoiry Zoo

Touroparc Zoo

Trégomeur Zoo

Triotech

Wild Immersion

Zoo Bassin d'Arcachon

Zoo Boissière-du-Doré

Zoo de Guyane

Zoo de La Flèche

Zoo de la Palmyre

Zoo des Sables d'Olonne

Zoo Le PAL

Zoo Saint-Martin-la-Plaine

Zoodyssée

Zoopoli France

GEORGIA

Tbilisi Zoo

Tbilisi Zoo (new site)

GERMANY

Aachen Zoo

AB Aqua Medic

Aqua-Sander

Aquazoo Düsseldorf

Association of German-speaking Zoo Educators (VZP)

Association of German-speaking Zoological Gardens (VdZ)

Augsburg Zoo

Berlin Tierpark

Berlin Zoo

Bochum Zoo

Bremerhaven Zoo

Carl Stahl ARC Design&Build

Chemnitz Zoo

Cologne Zoo

Darmstadt Vivarium

Dortmund Zoo

Dresden Zoo

Duisburg Zoo

Eberswalde Zoo

Erfurt Zoo

Frankfurt Zoo

Goethe University Frankfurt - Zoo Biology

Görlitz Zoo

Hagenbeck Zoo

Halle Zoo

Hannover Zoo

Heidelberg Zoo

Hoyerswerda Zoo

Intipa

KaGo & Hammerschmidt GmbH

Karlsruhe Zoo

Krefeld Zoo

Landau Zoo

Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW)

Leipzig Zoo

Magdeburg Zoo

Magic Memories

Marlow Birdpark

Munich Zoo

Münster Zoo

NaturZoo Rheine

Neumünster Zoo

Neunkirchen Zoo

Neuwied Zoo

Nordhorn Zoo

Nuremberg Zoo

Opel-Zoo

Osnabrück Zoo

Rasbach Architects

Rostock Zoo

Saarbrücken Zoo

Schwerin Zoo

Serengeti-Park Hodenhagen

Stiftung Artenschutz

Straubing Zoo

Ueckermünde Zoo

ungestalt

Walsrode Birdpark

Wilhelma Zoo

Wuppertal Zoo

Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP)

Zoom Erlebniswelt Gelsenkirchen

Zooprofis

GREECE

Attica Zoological Park

Pelargos NATURA**HUNGARY****Association of Hungarian Zoos (Magyar Allatkertek Szovetsege)**

Budapest Zoo & Botanical Garden

Debrecen Zoo

Győr Zoo

Jászberény Zoo

Miskolc Zoo

Pécs Zoo

Sóstó Zoo

Szeged Zoo

Veszprem Zoo

IRELAND

Dingle Oceanworld Aquarium

Dublin Zoo (The Zoological Society of Ireland)

Emerald Park

Fota Wildlife Park (The Zoological Society of Ireland)

Galway Atlantaquaria

ISRAEL**Gan-Garoo Australian Park**

Hai Park

Haifa Educational Zoo and Biological Institute

Jerusalem Zoo

Midbarium (Negev Zoo)

Zoological Center Ramat Gan

ITALY

Africa Style

Bioparco Rome

Falconara Zoo

Genoa Aquarium

La Torbiera Zoo

Le Cornelle Zoo

Parco Natura Viva

Pistoia Zoo

Punta Verde Zoo

Union of Italian Zoos and Aquaria (UIZA)

Valcorba Zoo

Zoo delle Maitine

Zoom Torino

Zoomarine Italy

KAZAKHSTAN

Almaty Zoo

Shymkent State Zoo

KUWAIT

The Scientific Centre

LATVIA

Riga Zoo

LITHUANIA

Kaunas Zoo

LUXEMBOURG

Parc Merveilleux

MEXICO

Dinosauriosmexico

NETHERLANDS

Amersfoort Zoo

Apenheul

AquaZoo Leeuwarden

Arie Blok Animal Nutrition/Kasper Faunafood

Artis Zoo

Avifauna Birdpark

Bears in Mind

Burgers' Zoo

China Light Festival

Convius

Crossborder Animal Services BV

Dorset Identification b.v.

Dutch Zoo Federation (NVD)

Eindhoven Zoo

EKIPA

Fachjan Project Plants

GaiaZOO

Hof van Eckberge

Kiezebrink International

Nieuwkoop Europe

Ouwehands Zoo

Overloon Zoo

Rotterdam Zoo

Safaripark Beekse Bergen

Van Hall Larenstein

WILDLANDS Adventure Zoo Emmen

Zie-ZOO

Zoologistics

NEW ZEALAND**Auckland Zoo****NORWAY**

Aalesund Atlantic Park

Bergen Aquarium

Kristiansand Zoo

PALESTINE

Qalqilia Zoo

POLAND

ArtSystemDeco

Association of Polish Zoological Gardens and Aquariums

Chorzow Zoo

Gdańsk Zoo

Granum Animal Nutrition

Kraków Zoo

Łódź Zoo

Opole Zoo

Płock Zoo

Poznań Zoo

Toruń Zoo

Warsaw Zoo

Wrocław Zoo

Zamość Zoo

PORTUGAL**Association of Portuguese Zoos and Aquaria (APZA)**

Lagos Zoo

Lisbon Zoo

Lourosa Bird Park

Oceanário de Lisboa

Santo Inácio Zoo

Zoomarine

ROMANIA

Braşov Zoo

Sanero Kunstfelsen Srl

Sibiu Zoo

Târgu Mureş Zoo

SAUDI ARABIA

The Arabian Leopard Conservation Breeding Centre

SERBIA

Belgrade Zoo

Zoo Palić

SINGAPORE

Mandai Wildlife Reserve

SLOVAKIA

Bojnice Zoo

Bratislava Zoo

Košice Zoo

SLOVENIA

Ljubljana Zoo

SPAIN

Barcelona Zoo

Bioparc Fuengirola

Bioparc Valencia

Conservation Centre of Córdoba Zoo

European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians

Experimental Station of Arid Zones (EEZA) - CSIC

Faunia

Gijón Aquarium

Iberian Association of Zoos and Aquaria (AIZA)

Jerez Zoo

Komodo Zoo Services

Loro Parque

Madrid Zoo Aquarium

Oasis Wildlife Fuerteventura

Oceanogràfic Valencia

Parque de Cabárceno

Ralf Nature

Río Safari Elche

Santillana Zoo

Selwo Aventura

Selwo Marina

Sendaviva

Tabernas Oasys Park

Terra Natura Benidorm

Terra Natura Murcia

Zoological Adviser

SWEDEN

Borås Zoo

Eskilstuna Zoo

Furuviksparken

Helsingborg Zoo

Kolmården Wildlife Park

Lycksele Zoo

Malmö Museum

Myskoxcentrum

Nordens Ark

Ölands Zoo

Skånes Zoo

Skansen Aquarium

Skansen Zoo

Slottsskogen Zoo

Swedish Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (SAZA)

Tropicarium Kolmården

Universeum

Vildriket (Järvzoo)

Visit Group International

Ystad Zoo

SWITZERLAND

ABC Rides

AQUATIS Aquarium-Vivarium

Basel Zoo

Bern Animal Park

Goldau Zoo

Granovit AG

Jakob Rope Systems

La Garenne

Papiliorama Foundation

Walter Zoo

Wildnispark Zürich

Zoo de Servion

Zooschweiz

Zürich Zoo

TAIWAN

Taipei Zoo

TURKEY

Bursa Zoo

Eskişehir Zoo

Faruk Yalçın Zoo

Istanbul Aquarium

Izmir Wildlife Park

MAT Filtration Techniques

UKRAINE

Kharkiv Zoo

Kyiv Zoo

Nikolaev Zoo

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Arabia's Wildlife Centre

Dubai Safari Park

The Green Planet

Worldwide Zoo Consultants

UNITED KINGDOM

Accesso

Africa Alive! (Zoological Society of East Anglia)

Amazon World Zoo Park

Attractions.io

Banham Zoo (Zoological Society of East Anglia)

Belfast Zoo

Birdland Park

Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park

Blackpool Zoo

Blair Drummond Safari & Adventure Park

Bristol Zoo Project

British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA)

Camperdown Wildlife Centre

Chessington World of Adventures

Chester Zoo (North of England Zoological Society)

Colchester Zoo

Cotswold Wildlife Park

Crocodiles of the World

Curragh's Wildlife Park

DigiTickets

Drayton Manor Park

Drusillas Park

Dudley Zoo (West Midlands Zoological Society)

Edinburgh Zoo (Royal Zoological Society of Scotland)

Exmoor Zoological Park

Fife Zoo

Flamingo Land

Folly Farm

Hawk Conservancy Trust

Hertfordshire Zoo

Highland Wildlife Park (Royal Zoological Society of Scotland)

Howletts Wild Animal Park

Instone Air Services Ltd.

Intradco Global

Jersey Zoo

Jimmy's Farm & Wildlife Park

Knowsley Safari Park

Lakeland Wildlife Oasis

Longleat Safari Park

Manor Wildlife Park

Marine Nutrition

Marwell Wildlife

Newquay Zoo (Wild Planet Trust)

n-gage.io

Northumberland Zoo

Nottingham Trent University (NTU)

Paignton Zoo (Wild Planet Trust)

Paradise Park

Peak Wildlife Park

Port Lympne Wild Animal Park

Ravensden Plc

Shaldon Wildlife Trust

Shepreth Wildlife Park

The Big Cat Sanctuary

The World Pheasant Association (WPA)

Thirby Hall Wildlife Gardens

Twycross Zoo

Waddesdon Manor Aviary

Welsh Mountain Zoo

West Midlands Safari Park

Wild Acres

Wingham Wildlife Park

Woburn Safari Park

Woodside Wildlife Park

Yorkshire Wildlife Park

ZSL London Zoo

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo

UNITED STATES

Billings Productions, Inc

Dino Don

Fahlo

Immersive Productions

Immotion

Mazuri Exotic Animal Nutrition

Panthera

Rewild Safaris

Reynolds Polymer Technology

Snow Leopard Trust

Species360

Wild Republic

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Chair:
Christoph Schwitzer



Vice Chair:
Rebecca Biddle



Secretary:
Xavier Vaillant



Treasurer:
Jörg Junhold

and *ex officio* Council Members Sanna Hellström and Ilona Pšenková to ensure regional representation, as well as the Chairs of the EEP, Membership and Ethics, Communications, National Associations Committees and Aquarium Representative Max Janse

EAZA FULL MEMBERS

(Please see the list of EAZA Members on pages 60–64)

EAZA COUNCIL

(Please see the list of Council Members on page 66)

STANDING COMMITTEES

SPECIALIST COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS

Sanna Hellström / Anete Bilzēna*

CONSERVATION

Simon Bruslund

EEP

Brian Zimmerman

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Antonieta Costa

MEMBERSHIP AND ETHICS

Thomas Kölpin

RESEARCH

Zjef Pereboom / Kirsten Pullen*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Wineke Schoo

VETERINARY

Mads Frost Bertelsen

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

André Stadler

* From September 2025. See affiliations and countries on the next page



EAZA Council elected at Directors' Days 2025 © EAZA

EAZA COUNCIL

Country	Name	Institution
Austria	Andreas Artmann	Schmiding Zoo
Belgium	Linda Van Elsacker	Antwerp Zoo
Croatia	Davorka Maljković	Zagreb Zoo
Czechia	Miroslav Bobek	Prague Zoo
	Ilona Pšenková	Ústí nad Labem Zoo
Denmark	Rasmus Nielsen	Givskud Zoo
	Henrik Johansen	Aalborg Zoo
Estonia	Kaupo Heinma	Tallinn Zoo
Finland	Sanna Hellström	Helsinki Zoo
France	Eric Bairrão Ruivo	Beauval Zoo
	Emmanuel Mouton	Calviac Zoo
	Xavier Vaillant	Amiens Zoo
	Angélique Chaulet	Zoo de Guyane
	Sébastien Laurent	Zoo Boissière du Doré
	Pierre-Yves Bureau	Paris Zoo
Germany	Andreas Knieriem	Berlin Zoo/Tierpark
	Christina Geiger	Frankfurt Zoo
	Dennis Müller	Halle Zoo
	Jörg Junhold	Leipzig Zoo
	Thomas Kölpin	Wilhelma Zoo
Greece	Jean-Jacques Lesueur	Attica Zoological Park
Hungary	Endre Papp	Sóstó Zoo
Ireland	Christoph Schwitzer	Dublin Zoo
Israel	Nili Avni-Magen	Jerusalem Zoo
Italy	Gloria Svampa	La Torbiera Zoo
	Cesare Avesani Zaborra	Parco Natura Viva

Country	Name	Institution
Kuwait	Hussain A. Al Sayegh	The Scientific Centre
Latvia	Anete Bilzēna	Riga Zoo
Luxembourg	Guy Willems	Parc Merveilleux
Netherlands	Rembrandt Sutorius	Artis Zoo
	Erik Zevenbergen	Rotterdam Zoo
Norway	Kjetil Aarseth	Ålesund Atlantic Park
Poland	Izabela Krause	Gdańsk Zoo
Portugal	Teresa Guedes	Santo Inácio Zoo
Russia	Svetlana Akulova	Moscow Zoo
Slovakia	Erich Kočner	Košice Zoo
Slovenia	Barbara Mihelič	Ljubljana Zoo
Spain	Daniel Pons	Bioparc Valencia
	Eduardo Nogués	Oceanogràfic Valencia
Sweden	Jeanette Lindström	Borås Zoo
	Daniel Roth	Universeum
Switzerland	Severin Dressen	Zürich Zoo
Turkey	Nurben Koptekin	Eskişehir Zoo
United Arab Emirates	Johannes Els	Arabia's Wildlife Centre
United Kingdom	Rebecca Biddle	Twycross Zoo
	David Field	RZSS
	Malcom Fitzpatrick	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
	Scott Binskin	Wingham Wildlife Park
	Reggie Heyworth	Cotswold Wildlife Park

Co-opted Committee Chairs (where not also Country representative)

Aquarium Representative	Max Janse	Burgers' Zoo, Netherlands
Conservation Committee	Simon Bruslund	Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark
Conservation Education Committee	Antonieta Costa	Lisbon Zoo, Portugal
EEP Committee	Brian Zimmerman	Bristol Zoo Project, UK
National Associations Committee	Wineke Schoo	Dutch Zoo Federation (NVD), Netherlands
Research Committee	Zjef Pereboom / Kirsten Pullen*	KMDA Antwerp Zoo, Belgium / Chester Zoo, UK
Technical Assistance Committee	André Stadler^	Alpenzoo Innsbruck, Austria
Veterinary Committee	Mads Frost Bertelsen	Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark

* From September 2025; ^ Observer status

SPECIAL THANKS

We are grateful to everyone volunteering their time and expertise in 2025 for the work of our Committees, TAGs and Working Groups, which benefit the whole EAZA community. Committee Chairs are mentioned throughout this report. TAG Chairs and Vice Chairs are mentioned below, while the long list of EEP Coordinators is available on our website (www.eaza.net/EEP-pages). Thank you all!

- **Terrestrial Invertebrate:** Zak Showell (Shaldon Wildlife Trust); Tamás Papp (Chester Zoo), Katharina Hagen (Walter Zoo), Signe Ellegaard (Copenhagen Zoo)
- **Freshwater Teleost:** Brian Zimmerman (Bristol Zoo Project), Markéta Rejlková (Ostrava Zoo); Anton Weissenbacher (Vienna Zoo)
- **Marine Teleost:** Attila Varga (Sóstó Zoo); Dominique Barthelemy (Océanopolis Brest)
- **Elasmobranch:** Mark de Boer (Rotterdam Zoo)
- **Jellyfish:** Hugo Batista (Oceanário de Lisboa)
- **Amphibian:** Gerardo Garcia (Chester Zoo); Olivier Marquis (Paris Zoo), Benjamin Tapley (ZSL London Zoo and Whipsnade Zoo)
- **Reptile:** Ivan Rehák (Prague Zoo); Ivan Cizelj (Zagreb Zoo), Matt Goetz (Jersey Zoo), Fabian Schmidt (Basel Zoo), Guido Westhoff (Hagenbeck Zoo)
- **Ratite:** Joost Lammers (Avifauna Birdpark); Zoe Sweetman (Chester Zoo)
- **Penguin:** Pierre de Wit (Wildlands Emmen); Craig Allum (Selwo Marina), Lorna Moffat (Edinburgh Zoo)
- **Pelecaniformes, Ciconiiformes and Phoenicopteriformes:** Cathy King (Lagos Zoo); Andrea Bračko (Zagreb Zoo)
- **Raptor:** Jan Hanel (Liberec Zoo); Dominik Fischer (Wuppertal Zoo)
- **Galliformes:** Jan Dams (Antwerp Zoo); Ludo Pinceel (World Pheasant Association), Veronika Zahradníčková (Prague Zoo)
- **Gruiformes:** Gary Ward (ZSL London Zoo); Maximilian Birkendorf (Neuwied Zoo), Ryan Berry (Longleat Safari Park)
- **Charadriiformes:** Simon Matthews (Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust); Petr Suvorov (Brno Zoo)
- **Pigeon and Dove:** Nigel Simpson (Bristol Zoo Project); Gary Ward (ZSL London Zoo)
- **Parrot:** Simon Bruslund (Copenhagen Zoo); Laure Pelletier (Beauval Zoo), Borbála Kocsis (Budapest Zoo)
- **Toucan and Turaco:** Koen Brouwer (Attica Zoo); Joost Lammers (Avifauna Birdpark)
- **Hornbill:** Koen Brouwer (Attica Zoo); Joost Lammers (Avifauna Birdpark)
- **Songbird:** David Jeggo (Cologne Zoo); Harriet Whitford (Jersey Zoo), Simon Bruslund (Copenhagen Zoo), Jessica Borer (Basel Zoo)
- **Monotreme and Marsupial:** Flemming Nielsen (Copenhagen Zoo); Achim Winkler (Copenhagen Zoo), Matthias Papies (Tierpark Berlin)
- **Prosimian:** Katharina Herrmann (Berlin Zoo); Delphine Roulet (Cotswold Wildlife Park), Andreas Pauly (Tierpark Berlin), Florence Perroux (Zoo de la Palmyre)
- **Callitrichid:** Greg Clifton (Yorkshire Wildlife Park); Miranda Stevenson (Bristol Zoo Project), Bryan Carroll (Bristol Zoo Project)
- **Larger New World Monkey:** Adrian Baumeyster (Basel Zoo); Warner Jens (Apenheul), Steven van den Heuvel (Overloon Zoo)
- **Afro-Eurasian Monkey:** Tjerk ter Meulen (Artis Zoo); Andrea Dempsey (Heidelberg Zoo)
- **Gibbon:** Karoline Albig (Halle Zoo)
- **Great Ape:** Severin Dressen (Zürich Zoo); Claudia Rudolf von Rohr (Zürich Zoo), Sandra Reichler (Heidelberg Zoo)
- **Small Mammal:** Richard Viduna (Jihlava Zoo); Stewart Muir (Shaldon Wildlife Trust), Dijana Beneta (Zagreb Zoo), Dorota Gremlicová (Liberec Zoo), David White (Chester Zoo)
- **Canid and Hyaenid:** Sarah Forsyth (ZSL London Zoo); Matthew Webb (ZSL Whipsnade Zoo)
- **Bear:** José Kok (Ouwehands Zoo); Will Walker (Marwell Wildlife)
- **Small Carnivore:** Aude Haelewyn-Desmoulins (Parrot World); Peggy Rüegg-van den Broek (Papillorama), Janno Weerman (Rotterdam Zoo)
- **Felid:** Alexander Sliwa (Cologne Zoo); David Barclay (Highland Wildlife Park), André Stadler (Alpenzoo Innsbruck)
- **Marine Mammal:** Lorenzo von Fersen (Nuremberg Zoo); Agustín López Goya (Madrid Zoo Aquarium), Kerstin Ternes (Duisburg Zoo)
- **Elephant:** Thomas Kölpin (Wilhelma Zoo); Cordula Galeffi (Wilhelma Zoo), Jana Pluháčková (Ostrava Zoo)
- **Equid:** Ulrike Rademacher (Wilhelma Zoo); Jaroslav Šimek (Prague Zoo), Tanya Langenhorst (Marwell Wildlife)
- **Rhinoceros:** Lars Versteeg (Beekse Bergen); Katharina Herrmann (Berlin Zoo)
- **Tapir and Suiform:** Jörg Beckmann (Nuremberg Zoo); Jan Pluháček (Olomouc Zoo)
- **Cattle and Camelid:** James Burton (Chester Zoo); Marcel Alaze (Münster Zoo)
- **Deer:** Noam Werner (Haifa Educational Zoo); Marco Penello (La Torbiera Zoo)
- **Antelope and Giraffid:** Sander Hofman (Antwerp Zoo and Planckendael Zoo); Kim Skalborg Simonsen (Givskud Zoo), Sabrina Linn (Frankfurt Zoo)
- **Caprinae:** Dennis Müller (Halle Zoo); Marco Penello (La Torbiera Zoo)

EAAZ EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Administration

**Myfanwy Griffith**
Executive Director**Office and Finance Manager**
Fleur Kist**Office and HR Coordinator**
Delilah Messiah

Species Conservation

**Danny de Man**
Deputy Executive Director**Biobank Coordinator**
Anna Mekarska**Reproductive Biologist ***
Veronica Cowl**Reproductive Biology Support Officer #**
Christopher Rettig**Science Manager #**
Ania Brown**Field Conservation Coordinator**
Merel Zimmermann**Conservation Biologist**
Kristin Leus**Raymond van der Meer**
Director of CPM**Lead Population Biologist**
María Paula Balcázar-Vargas**Population Biologist**
Iva Martincová**Population Biologist**
Nora HausenConservation and
Population Management (CPM)**Manager Population Management Centre**
Elmar Fienieg**Population Biologist**
Marie Corlay**Population Biologist**
Charlotte Desbois**Associate Population Biologist**
Nadja Froitzheim**Manager Animal Programmes and Conservation (APC)**
William van Lint**APC Coordinator**
Katie Malone**APC Coordinator**
Mirka Friedman**APC Coordinator**
Diogo Laneiro**APC Coordinator**
David Aparici Plaza**APC Coordinator**
Lauren Florisson

Member Development

**April Adams**
Director of Member Development**Accreditation Coordinator**
Carolina Collinge**Accreditation Coordinator**
Vera Ketelaar**Accreditation Coordinator**
Borja Reh**Event and Corporate Member Coordinator**
Mirko Marseille**EAAZ Academy Manager ****
Sally Binding

Advocacy and Communications

**Tomasz Rusek**
Director of Advocacy and Communication**EU Policy Coordinator**
Alice Albertini**EU Policy Coordinator**
Catarina Santiago**Communications Coordinator**
Sandrine Camus**Funding Coordinator**
Diana Trejos

Volunteer

**Animal Welfare Volunteer**
Ellen Williams

Members of the staff are based in Belgium, Czechia, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom

* until June; ** until August; # from October

FINANCES

STANDING WITH UKRAINE: CONTINUED SUPPORT THROUGH THE EMERGENCY FUND

The EAZA Emergency Fund for Ukraine's Zoos remained in place in 2025. Small donations from individuals continued to be received every month, and there were a few larger donations across the year. EAZA specifically called for renewed support in March, August and December 2025. Individuals across the world have made over 12,000 donations since the start of the war, with many making multiple donations. Individuals are acknowledged by name on our website (www.eaza.net/emergency-fund). Over 220 EAZA Members and other organisations worldwide have made donations, again sometimes multiple ones. EAZA thanks all the donors for their generosity.

We continue to monitor the situation via connections with the National Associations Committee, Technical Assistance Committee and Executive Office. Many individual Members also maintain regular communication with Ukraine's three Candidates for EAZA Membership as well as with the Association of Zoos of Ukraine. Efforts in 2025 focused on sourcing dry food and coordinating transport for delivery. The full financial summary and detailed overview of the fund for 2025 is available the webpage mentioned above.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This report covers a period of 12 months from 1 January to 31 December 2025. Careful management throughout 2025 has enabled EAZA to return a positive operating result. This is a welcome situation compared to the explained deficits of the past few years. Continued action will need to be taken to manage future costs and build back reserves. Strategic planning and prioritisation activities in 2026 and beyond will include a focus on ways to balance the ambitions and finances of EAZA so that it can continue with a strong financial position.

In accordance with Dutch RJ 640 reporting requirements, Campaign funds are also required to be part of the statement of income and expenses. These Campaign funds are managed separately to the core operating budget and so are represented as separate lines in the presentation of the accounts. Unless specifically stated, comments in the following text relate to the operating budget and not the overall accounts where operating budget and campaign funds are combined.

It should be noted that EAZA became a VAT entity in the Netherlands in 2025. This had various implications on the accounts and management of membership fees, sales, conferences and courses. Consequently, the values presented in the 2025 accounts have VAT excluded where allowed.

Total income relating to the operating budget for the 12-month period was €2,664,493. This was €167,081 more

than predicted and largely due to more membership fee income than predicted (both from more new Members joining and some Members having high visitation and moving to higher fee categories). Membership related fees account for 93% of the income, with the remaining amount largely relating to sources such as successful EAZA Academy courses and exhibition income from Annual Conference. EAZA also partnered on a multi-year EU funded project 'EU4Oceans' which provided €18,000 of external funding in 2025, completing the payments related to this activity.

Operational expenses were €2,427,107 (2.9% less than budget). As usual for many organisations, staffing costs represent the highest proportion of expenses. It should also be noted that EU staff and associated costs are included in the 'Communications and representation' line. A hiring freeze and a restructure process during the year were the main causes for the final result being less than predicted. High legal costs that had a major impact in previous years were much reduced. This was due to the opposing side requesting withdrawal of the case, and reaching a joint agreement that it will be deemed to have been finally struck off.

The final operating result for 2025 was €237,386 compared to the AGM approved value of -€2,427. Financial income and expense of €20,510 further supports this welcome positive overall result and helps replenish the reserves.

The EAZA Development Fund was utilised to support the Reverse the Red Pavilion at the IUCN WCC, and a side event on hornbills at the CITES CoP. It also contributed towards development of the next EAZA Strategy. As of 31 December 2025, a total of €113,974 remains in this valuable fund.

During this reporting period a total of €260,810 was received in Campaign donations and €58,537 was given out in grants. Most donations related to the Vietnamizing Campaign 2024-2025 (€154,841). Silent Forest Campaign 2018-2019 related projects were the largest recipients of grants. Donations to the Ukraine Zoos Emergency Fund show a declining trend (€32,389 in 2025 compared to €64,561 in 2024); a [separate report](#) on this Fund is available from the EAZA website. The total amount of funds remaining across all Campaign accounts equals €677,467.

When the Campaign funds and Operating budgets are combined, the net result for 2025 was €460,169. EAZA has increased its working capital to €1,764,966, and the total assets on 31 December 2025 were €2,723,861.

We gratefully acknowledge the work of Phidra Accountants & Adviseurs in the compilation of the annual accounts, Londen & Van Holland in carrying out the external audit, and representatives from Cologne Zoo (Germany) and Chester Zoo (UK) in carrying out the internal audit of EAZA.

I have no hesitation in commending the accounts to Members.

FINANCIAL REPORT

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT 2025

OPERATING BUDGET	€
Revenue	2,664,493
Expenses	
Wages and salaries	1,073,851
Social security premiums and pension costs	321,655
Depreciation of intangible and tangible assets	14,559
Other staff expenses	240,965
Accommodation expenses	60,348
Communications and representation expenses	422,798
Office expenses	68,998
General expenses	224,203
Total operating expenses	2,427,107
Operating result	237,386
Financial income and expense	20,510
Net operating result	257,896
CAMPAIGN FUNDS	
Campaign donations	260,810
Campaign grants	-58,537
Campaign funds result	202,273
OVERALL TOTAL NET RESULT	
Result Operating budget	257,896
Result Campaign funds	202,273
Total net result	460,169

FINANCIAL POSITION

A summary of the overall financial position as of 31 December 2025 in comparison with prior years is as follows:

	2025	2024	2023
	€	€	€
Equity			
Capital	120,001	120,001	120,001
Other Reserves	1,046,492	788,596	1,015,696
Campaign funds	677,467	475,195	303,387
Total Equity	1,843,960	1,383,792	1,439,084
Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	56,098	60,262	60,366
Financial fixed assets	22,896	22,896	22,896
Receivables	271,098	124,146	201,096
Cash at bank and in hand	2,373,769	1,972,924	1,873,819
Total Assets	2,723,861	2,180,228	2,158,177
Short-term liabilities	-879,901	-796,436	-719,093
Working capital result	1,764,966	1,300,634	1,355,822

A copy of the complete audited EAZA accounts for 2025 is available to EAZA Members in the Annual General Meeting folder on the Member Area.



Annual Report 2025

© EAZA 2026 - www.eaza.net

Follow us on social media:



Send your questions to
info@eaza.net