



## **BIAZA Ethical Acquisition Policy**

BIAZA and BIAZA members are committed to ensuring all specimen acquisitions are carried out with the highest standards of care, welfare and due diligence. Acquisitions of specimens from wild sources must minimise environmental impacts and avoid negative conservation impacts.

(Note that in the case of confiscated or rescued animals, the exacerbating circumstances mean that some of these points may not apply.)

BIAZA members **MUST**:

- Adhere to the BIAZA Animal Transfer Policy (2014).
- Ensure that all species are acquired through a responsible, high welfare supply chain.
- Undertake due diligence of actual and potential suppliers. This will include, but is not limited to pertaining information relating to;
  - Conformation to regional, national and international laws (e.g. collection permits or certification, TRACES/IPAFFS, CITES, IATA guidelines).
  - Traceability of specimens.
  - Methods of collection or farming/ranching.
  - Transportation methods.
- Ensure that animals which are part of an EAZA ex-situ management programme are sourced in adherence with the programme recommendations.
- Be aware of the species' conservation status. If collection from the wild would result in any negative conservation impact (to species' population, environment or area biodiversity) it must be discontinued, unless it is a direct recommendation from a developing / established conservation programme.
- Ensure that suitable facilities, staff and taxa-specific husbandry knowledge are or will be available to achieve the best standards of care, husbandry and welfare for the taxa once received.
- Where possible, acquire and act on records of the specimen(s) (such as pedigree, behaviour and medical history) prior to acquisition.

BIAZA members **SHOULD**:

- Only carry out acquisitions which fit into their Institutional Collection Plan, and also any relevant EAZA Regional Collection Plans.

August 2019

- Endeavour to ensure that animals acquired are, wherever possible and appropriate, born in captivity. This is best achieved by working with other accredited zoos and aquariums, but does not preclude the receipt of animals resulting from confiscation, private breeders or rescues, if due diligence is carried out (See BIAZA Animal Transfer Policy, 2014).
- When working with a new supplier, the facility should be viewed by a qualified and competent member of staff of the acquiring institution to assess its suitability (i.e. holding, quarantine, health of specimens etc.).
- Where practicable ensure that all transportation is via the least environmentally damaging method and route possible, without compromising animal welfare.
- When species are sourced from the wild, be able to provide suitable justification and evidence of institutional ethical review.
- Have an awareness of any issues of species invasiveness, with due consideration given to necessary levels of biosecurity and any associated pathogens.
- Aim to provide a positive impact on the species through education, research and/or conservation projects.

#### Further Reading:

- BIAZA Animal Transfer Policy, 2014.
- European Association of Zoos and Aquaria - Population Management Manual, 2015:
  - 2.13.8 – Importation of wild-caught EEP species p58.
  - 3.2.1 – Acquisition of animals p68-69.
  - Annex 20 – EAZA statement about imports of birds and eggs from the wild
  - Annex 21 – EAZA Guidelines for decision making when importing EEP animals from the wild.
- European Union of Aquarium Curators (EUAC) Guidelines for Acquisition, 2016.
- Secretary of State's Standards for Modern Zoo Practice (SSSMZP) – Appendix 4, section 4.3, p33.