



## **BIAZA Sustainability Policy**

### **Purpose and Scope**

BIAZA is the professional organisation representing its members and promoting the values of good zoos and aquariums. BIAZA and BIAZA members believe that the natural world is intrinsically precious, and the biodiversity of animals, plants, habitats and people must be sustained and protected. Climate change and the over-consumption of natural resources threaten both wildlife and humanity. Living within our planetary boundaries is one of the key challenges that must be addressed to ensure a thriving and healthy world for people and wildlife.

Acting sustainably means meeting society's needs today without compromising the ability of future populations to meet their own needs. Zoos and aquariums recognise their activities can have a significant impact on local and global environments. They have a unique responsibility and opportunity to both lead by example and to engage the public in a vital and timely dialogue. BIAZA member zoos and aquariums are well placed to test and employ sustainable processes, techniques and equipment within their operations, and also to engage visitors and the wider community on the broader challenges of achieving a more sustainable society.

### **Sustainability Statement**

BIAZA and BIAZA members aim to:

- Lead by example and actively take steps to reduce (and mitigate) greenhouse gas emissions and negative ecological impacts, in all aspects of our operations;
- Disseminate information on unsustainable practices and threats to biodiversity, including wildlife and habitats;
- Promote sustainable living and positive behavioural change to staff, visitors, partners and suppliers;
- Engage the public in a vital and timely dialogue that is sensitive to diversity and inclusive for underrepresented communities;
- Support the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **Guiding Principles**

BIAZA and BIAZA Members (excluding Professional and Basic Associates) must:

- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and associated guidance;
- Have a site-specific Environmental/Sustainability Policy, which should be made publicly available and be annually reviewed;
- Have developed clearly defined objectives or targets with associated achievement dates for minimising the negative impacts of your organisation : (this may include the

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following categories: energy/carbon, waste, water, food, procurement and travel);

- Follow the precautionary principle to prevent environmental pollution, and strive to continually evaluate and improve environmental performance;
- Work to minimise the use of non-renewable resources, recognising the limits of the natural environment;
- Be a positive influence by communicating and sharing sustainability values with fellow members, stakeholders and the wider community through evidenced promotion, education and facilitation.

BIAZA and BIAZA members should seek to:

- Balance environmental, ethical, social and economic considerations and prioritise the long-term needs of resilient ecosystems alongside social-ecological systems;
- Implement circular models of resource use by maximising reuse and recycling and minimising waste;
- Ensure any new developments don't reduce their ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Agreement\*, are resilient to future climate change and do not compromise their environmental goals;
- Promote open and inclusive decision-making to achieve sustainability targets;
- Promote compliance with ethical sourcing in procurement and throughout supply chains;
- Find innovative solutions to improve our ongoing operations and activities;
- Support other members where possible to improve the environmental sustainability of their operations;
- Evaluate whole-life impact of projects and future-proof estate and collection plans for climate change;
- Investigate feasibility of retrofitting buildings and landscapes with lower impact solutions;
- Encourage and develop partnerships that link knowledge to action;
- Ensure sustainability is included in wider organizational business plans and mission statements;
- Develop a comprehensive Environmental Management System which may include pursuing certification to a recognised sustainability standard (e.g. ISO14001, Green Tourism).

### **Further Reading/Resources**

(All available here on the Members' area of the BIAZA Website:

<https://biaza.org.uk/resources/sustainability>)

- BIAZA Sustainability Guidelines
- BIAZA Quick Guide to Sustainability Policies
- Sustainable Development Goals – Guide for BIAZA Members
- Carbon Footprinting – Guide for BIAZA Members
- BIAZA Palm Oil Statement and Guidelines

\*Information on the Paris Agreement: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/paris-agreement>