



BIAZA Conservation Policy

Preamble

BIAZA and BIAZA members are committed to conserving the natural world and to educating and inspiring their visitors to do the same. The BIAZA Field Conservation Committee (FCC) supports the following conservation definition:

Conservation is an action leading to healthy and resilient wildlife populations and natural ecosystems. These outcomes underpin the sustainability of the global environment and human societies and are achieved through direct interventions to manage populations, habitats and landscapes; promoting behaviour change at all levels of society through engagement and advocacy; and research and knowledge sharing to build conservation capacity.

Introduction

The contribution of each BIAZA member to conservation is varied and can include activities such as participating in the population management of threatened species, conservation research, conservation education and capacity building, managing habitats or promoting public awareness, behaviour change and engagement in sustainability issues.

Each BIAZA member institution will determine their own conservation activities, and each member must decide for itself how it can best contribute to conservation. The BIAZA Field Conservation Guidelines, Sustainability Guidelines, Conservation Education Guidelines and Research Handbook are available to help with planning, implementing and evaluating these activities.

This policy outlines the minimum requirements for conservation by all BIAZA members, and it should be viewed in conjunction with other relevant BIAZA policies (e.g. Conservation Translocations, Ethical Acquisitions, Surplus Animals, etc.), BIAZA guidelines (e.g. Field Conservation and Conservation Education Guidelines) and other internationally accepted guidelines (e.g. IUCN guidelines).

In this policy, the term 'zoo' refers to all BIAZA institutions and as defined in the Secretary of State's Standards for Modern Zoo Practice (SSSMZP): zoological collections, aquariums, bird parks, farms, safari parks and reptile houses.

Members are required to abide by all existing BIAZA policies and, in meeting their commitment to conservation, BIAZA members **MUST**:

1. Have a written conservation policy or strategy which is visible/available to the public;
2. Record and evaluate all conservation activities and how they contribute to the member's conservation policy or strategy (see BIAZA Field Conservation Guidelines for guidance);

3. Be actively involved in the management and/or protection of wild animals in their natural habitat and/or habitats (this can be on site at the zoo);
4. Contribute part of the zoo's staff time and/or financial resources to support conservation projects situated off the grounds of the zoo;
5. Participate in conservation breeding programmes for relevant species held in the BIAZA member's collection, including initiatives not coordinated by regional zoo associations, but which are approved by the relevant conservation authorities;
6. Participate in activities coordinated by relevant BIAZA Working Groups or Taxon Working Groups;
7. Make information and interpretation about conservation projects with which the zoo is involved available to zoo visitors, this can include projects that are given only financial support;
8. Display educational material visible to all visitors which conveys the zoo's conservation outlook or mission in line with other BIAZA policies or guidelines;
9. Promote public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity;
10. Encourage environmentally responsible behaviour by visitors (see BIAZA Sustainability Policy).

Further Reading/References

- Zoo Licensing Act (1981): <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/37>
- Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice (Defra, 2012): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/secretary-of-state-s-standards-of-modern-zoo-practice>
- BIAZA Policy Documents, all available here: <https://biaza.org.uk/policies-guidelines>
 - o BIAZA Animal Transfer Policy
 - o BIAZA Ethical Acquisitions Policy
 - o BIAZA Sustainability Policy
 - o BIAZA Conservation Translocations Policy
- BIAZA Guidance Documents (available on the BIAZA Members' area of the website, requires login):
 - o BIAZA Field Conservation Guidelines: <https://biaza.org.uk/resources/conservation-resources>
 - o BIAZA Conservation Education Guidelines: <https://biaza.org.uk/resources/education-resources>
 - o BIAZA Sustainability Guidelines: <https://biaza.org.uk/resources/sustainability>
 - o BIAZA Research Handbook: <https://biaza.org.uk/resources/research-resources>
 - o BIAZA Guidance on Institutional Collection planning: <https://biaza.org.uk/resources/animal-husbandry>
- WAZA Conservation Strategy and Aquarium Conservation Strategies: <https://www.waza.org/priorities/conservation/conservation-strategies/>