Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London

BIAZA
BRITISH & IRISH ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS
REGENT'S PARK
LONDON NW1 4RY

30 January 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

We, the undersigned, are writing to call on the Government to work together with the European Commission in the name of species conservation. As Great Britain's members of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA), we are at the heart of GB's efforts to save species and restore biodiversity. But this is under threat. We urge you to clear red tape by advocating for a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement to allow the essential movement of zoo and aquarium animals between Britain and EU member states.

Be under no doubt, 3 years since Britain's exit from the EU, red tape still threatens the conservation work of the countries' world-class zoos and aquariums.

International breeding programmes are a vital part of modern conservation and crucial to the very survival of species. These programmes operate on a European and global scale and therefore it is essential that animals in the care of British zoos and aquariums are able to cross international borders smoothly and be a part of these programmes.

It is clear that despite the work of many dedicated individuals over the last two years the mountain of red tape is effectively an unscalable barrier to British participation in these essential programmes. In 2022 just 211 transfers of zoo and aquarium animals took place compared to our previous normal yearly levels of 1,400.

The future viability of many species is dependent on international breeding programmes including the critically endangered black rhino, European bison and Asian elephant. Species that no longer exist in the wild such as Socorro doves and killifish are completely dependent on zoos and aquariums for survival. Red tape is undermining conservation efforts.

We urge the Government to open negotiations with the European Commission in order to secure an SPS agreement that would allow animal transfers to more easily go ahead. *Ex situ* conservation such as breeding programmes, in which GB zoos and aquariums play a leading role globally, is essential to the fight against biodiversity loss and halting the extinction crisis as acknowledged in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. We ask that you help us to play our part in facing these challenges by resolving this critical issue.

Yours sincerely, the undersigned BIAZA zoos and aquariums of Great Britain

BIAZA
BRITISH & IRISH ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

Dr Jo Judge
CEO, BIAZA

AWCP
Alameda Wildlife Conservation Park

Jess Leaper
Manager, Alameda Wildlife Conservation Park

all things wild

Victoria Faller
Project Development Manager, All Thing's Wild

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Roger Heap
Managing Partner, Battersea Park Children's Zoo

Paul Betchley
Head of Zoological and Park Operations, Beale Park

James Robson
General Manager, Birdworld

Darren Webster
Director, Blackpool Zoo

Hector Muir
Director, Blair Drummond Safari Park

Dave O'Hare
Curator, Blue Planet Aquarium

Dr Justin Morris,
Chief Executive, Bristol Zoological Society

Sam Whitbread
Zoo Collections Manager, Chessington World of Adventures Resort Ltd.

Mike Jordan
Animal and Plant Director, Chester Zoo

Rebecca Moore
Director, Colchester Zoo

Dawn Gilbert
Director, Combe Martin Wildlife and Dinosaur Park

Shaun Foggett
Zoo Director, Crocodiles of the World

Kathleen Graham
General Manager, Curraghs Wildlife Park

Coral Jones
Chief Operating Officer, Dartmoor Zoological Society

Chris Mitchell
Head of Zoo Operations, Drayton Manor Resort

Oliver Smith
Managing Director, Drusillas Park

Derek Grove
Zoo Director, Dudley Zoo & Castle

Dr Lesley Dickie
Chief Executive Officer, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust / Jersey Zoo

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Danny Reynolds
Co-partner & Trustee, Exmoor Zoo

Connor Gordon
Head Keeper, Fenn Bell Conservation Project

Ross Snip
Zoo Manager, Flamingo Land

Chris Ebsworth
Managing Director, Folly Farm

Joe Cooke
Animal Care Unit Manager, Halesowen College

Jim Gregory
Zoo Manager, Hanwell Zoo

Penny Smout
Chief Executive Officer, Hawk Conservancy Trust

Tina Hughes
Animal Curator, Hobbledown & Hobbledown Heath

Stevie Sheppard
Park Director, Jimmy's Farm and Wildlife Park

Kirsten Warren
Director, Knowsley Safari Park

Richard Robinson
Park Manager, Lake District Wildlife Park

Kim Simmons
Zoo Director/Partner, Linton Zoo Conservation Park

Karl Hansen
Executive Director, the Living Rainforest

Darren Beasley
Head of animal operations, Longleat Safari

Dr James Cretney
Chief Executive, Marwell Wildlife

Marcus Williams
Curator, National Marine Aquarium

Carol Heap
Partner, New Forest Wildlife Park

Larry Bush
Director, Noah's Ark Zoo Farm

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Steven Sykes
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Lynn Whitnall
CEO, Paradise Wildlife Park

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Amy Armitage
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Ponderosa Zoo

David Field
Chief Executive Officer, RZSS

Simon Louden,
Zoo Curator, The Scottish Deer Centre

Catherine Pritchard
General Manager, Sealife London

Zak Showell
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Rebecca Willers
Director, Shepreth Wildlife Park

John Mace
St Andrews Aquarium

Tyler Whitnall
Trustee, The Big Cat Sanctuary

Katy Duke
CEO, The Deep

Scott Bird
Zoological Director,
Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens

Matt Lovatt
Park Director,
Monkey Forest Trentham

Kim Bellis
Director, Tropical Butterfly House

Dr Rebecca Biddle
Director of Conservation,
Twycross Zoo

Kim Wood
Director of Living Collections, Welsh Mountain Zoo

Angela Potter
Head of Wildlife, West Midlands Safari Park

Kico Iraola
Displays Curator,

Neil Trickett
Zoo Director, Wild Discovery

Lawrence Bates

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Dennis Flynn OBE
Chief Executive Officer, Wild Planet Trust

Mark Habben
Director of Zoo Operations, Wildwood Trust

Markus Wilder
Wingham Wildlife Park

Drew Mullin
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Hannah Slaney
Living Collections Manager, WWT Martin Mere

Niki Pearce
Registrar and Administrator, WWT Slimbridge

Dr Charlotte Macdonald
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Claudia Roberts
CEO, Zoological Society of East Anglia

Matthew Gould
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Malcolm Fitzpatrick
Chief Zoological Officer,

Kathryn England
Chief Operating Officer, ZSL London Zoo

Owen Craft
Chief Operating Officer, ZSL Whipsnade Zoo

Additional supporters:

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