

# World Association of Zoos and Aquariums Promulgates Guidelines on CIRCC and Studbooks



The Committee on Inter-Regional Conservation Co-operation or CIRCC was born in a different form with a different name (e.g. the Conservation Coordinators I think) in about 1990. Dr. Tom Foose, then Programme Officer of the then Captive Breeding Specialist Group organised it to take place in meetings of CBSG. I attended my first one in 1990. I was always more interested in this meeting or working group than in anything else in the CBSG meetings, although there was no dearth of exciting topics. The concept of a committee which would oversee interactions between western zoos and zoos from the developing world was very dear to my heart because in my then 8 years in Indian zoos, I had noted many anomalies which needed addressing. Zoos from both sides did not do exactly right by the other and when I visited zoos from both parts of the world, zoo personnel used to complain to me. I thought then that it was a matter of improving communication and I still do, but in the years that have passed, the zoo world as well as the rest of the world has changed so much that the problems we had then have been replaced with other - and often more complex - problems. The zoos of the developing countries of the world are even more different from one another today than in 1990 ! I think it is very difficult for zoos in our region, that is, the Asian region to catch up with some aspects. Still it is good to attend these meetings and -- without question -- the western zoo community wants to help any struggling zoos in low currency or less developed countries.

By attending these meetings it is possible to spot windows for assistance and to fill gaps in understanding. Today this group is called CIRCC or Committee on Inter-Regional Conservation Co-operation and is under the auspices of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. CBSG is a permanent member of the group and provides an objective, expert and useful presence. Every continental region that has a zoo association is represented in CIRCC in almost every region. Some of the very big or significant national associations such as the American Zoo Association also attend and all legitimate zoo associations are included as part of CIRCC. CIRCC meets twice a year, one in Berne in the Spring and once in the fall, wherever the WAZA and CBSG meetings are held.

Theoretically, anything could be discussed in the CIRCC meeting but the Agenda items tend to be technical or semi-technical... studbook issues, in situ conservation funding issues, in situ cooperation issues, capturing wild animals, training, etc. CIRCC coordinates a grant programme for conducting training in most any aspect of zoo management by zoo associations or zoos.

Last issue of ZOOS' PRINT we published WAZA Guidelines on the Acceptance of Confiscated Animals (by zoos). This issue we are circulating CIRCC / WAZA Procedures and Responsibilities for Inter-Regional ex situ-Management Programmes and several documents on international studbook management.



Small Indian Mongoose  
artwork by Arnab Roy

*The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) was founded in 1946 in Rotterdam as International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens. It promotes effective stewardship of the natural world by encouraging its members to bring people close to living animals, applying and advancing in situ and ex situ conservation, science and education, and setting standards of excellence in animal welfare and environmental responsibilities. WAZA unifies more than 200 major zoos and aquariums (institutional members) and 18 regional or national federations representing another 1000 zoos and aquariums. The headquarters of the organisation are located at Berne, Switzerland.*

*For more information contact : Peter Dollinger, Executive Director, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums,  
Tel: ++41-31-300 20 30, Fax ++41-31-300 20 31, Email: [director@waza.org](mailto:director@waza.org)*

# World Association of Zoos and Aquariums Promulgates Guidelines on CIRCC and Studbooks



## (CIRCC) Committee on Inter-Regional Conservation Co-operation Procedures and Responsibilities for Inter-Regional *ex situ*-Management Programmes *This Document (Doc. 58.19.5) was unanimously adopted by the Plenary of WAZA in Costa Rica, 2003*

### Introduction

Inter-Regional *ex situ*-management programmes are those programmes that:

- aim to manage an *ex situ*-population across two or more regions with institutions holding the species, and that are represented by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA);
- are recognised and endorsed by WAZA.

Such programmes are overseen by the WAZA's Committee for Inter-regional Conservation Cooperation (CIRCC). Inter-Regional *ex situ*-management programmes are established to:

1. encourage effective collaboration at a multi-regional level in the management of *ex situ* populations of Inter-Regional priority
2. ensure appropriate consultation with relevant bodies in range states
3. regularly generate and distribute recommendations for the management of the taxon in zoos and aquariums
4. maximise zoo and aquarium contributions to the conservation of those species and their habitats

The structure of an Inter-Regional *ex situ*-management programme is designed to:

1. ensure agreement on the goals of the programme, and the strategy by which these are pursued;
2. facilitate peer review of programme recommendations;
3. ensure that each participating regional association is able to promote and support the recommendations of the Inter-Regional programme to their members;
4. provide an avenue for conflict resolution.

### Structure of an Inter-Regional *ex situ* Programme

#### Management Committee

An Inter-Regional *ex situ* management programme is run by a management committee that has been authorised by CIRCC. The programme management committee is made up of all regionally appointed *ex situ*-population managers of WAZA member associations (all relevant regional species coordinators and/or studbook keepers) as well as the International Studbook Keeper if one exists. A programme coordinator is elected by the management committee from amongst its members, and serves for a two-year term. An incumbent Inter-Regional programme coordinator may stand for re-election.

#### Programme advisors

The management committee can involve in its discussions other programme advisors as invited by the Programme

Coordinator on behalf of the committee. These might include, for example, representatives of appropriate discipline-based specialist groups or of appropriate conservation agencies (or an appointed wildlife agency liaison). Programme advisers can contribute to the programme in any way the management committee sees fit but do not hold decision-making (i.e. voting) positions on the committee.

#### Programme participants

Participants in an Inter-Regional *ex situ*-Management Programme may include

1. participants in Regional *ex situ*-Management Programmes;
2. in regions where no Regional *ex situ*-Management Programme for the species concerned exists: institutions being either WAZA institution members or institutions affiliated with a WAZA association member. This will ensure that these institutions have to comply with the WAZA Code of Ethics.

#### Administering Inter-Regional *ex situ* Programmes

##### *Responsibilities of the management committee*

The *management committee* is charged with:

1. developing an Inter-Regional *ex situ*-management plan which documents explicit programme goals, and develops a strategy for long-term management of the Inter-Regional *ex situ*-population;



Yellow-throated martin  
artwork by Arnab Roy

2. developing and circulating regular management recommendations;
3. assessing the potential contribution of the Inter-Regional *ex situ* population to broad-based conservation goals (research, conservation awareness, fundraising, reintroduction/ supplementation, other *in situ* support);
4. assessing the potential for zoos and aquariums to contribute to the conservation of the relevant species or habitat through means other than the *ex situ* population.

*Regional representatives* should act as the key point of contact between the management committee and institutions within the relevant region. Regional representatives are responsible for:

1. In the first instance, contacting all institutions within the relevant region that are members of regional associations, and which currently hold the taxon, and informing each that a WAZA-endorsed Inter-Regional programme has been established;
2. Ensuring that the region's institutions are included in the program's consultation process, and that their needs are taken account of in the programme strategy;
3. Ensuring that the region's institutions are kept informed of developments in the program, and of their responsibilities towards the programme.

**The Inter-Regional Programme Coordinator is responsible for:**

1. overseeing the proceedings and deliberations of the management committee;
2. coordinating the production of a Inter-Regional *ex situ* management plan (including ensuring such a document represents the consensus of the management committee);
3. coordinating the production of regular management recommendations for participating institutions (including ensuring such recommendations represents the consensus of the management committee);
4. informing the CIRCC chair of any changes to the membership of the management committee;
5. submitting an annual programme report to the CIRCC chair.

**Responsibilities of WAZA – CIRCC**

**Through the CIRCC, WAZA is responsible for:**

1. reviewing petitions for establishing Inter-Regional *ex situ* Management Programmes;
2. informing all regional associations when any new Inter-Regional *ex situ* Management Programme has been established, and providing details of the management committee;
3. circulating an annual progress report on Inter-Regional *ex situ* management programmes, as compiled by the CIRCC chair;
4. resolving problems in the administration of programmes, as reported by the CIRCC chair;
5. Reviewing the progress of Inter-Regional programmes and their on-going appropriateness on an annual basis.

**The CIRCC chair (or delegated person) is responsible for:**

1. overseeing the process of nomination and endorsement of new applications;



Asiatic Black Bear  
artwork by Arnab Roy

2. producing an annual report on the status of all Inter-Regional *ex situ* Management Programmes, including a compilation of progress reports from programme coordinators;
3. reporting to CIRCC any outstanding issues which may be holding up progress in any programme;
4. keeping the relevant World Conservation Union/ Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC) taxon specialist groups, and the IUCN/SSC/Conservation Breeding Specialist Group informed of the existence and progress of Inter-Regional *ex situ* Programmes.

**Establishing an Inter-Regional *ex situ* Management Programme**

1. Proposals for new Inter-Regional *ex situ* Management Programmes should be submitted in writing to the CIRCC chair (according to a format to be determined by CIRCC)
2. CIRCC chair seeks comment from members of CIRCC (i.e. all regional associations).
3. If all regional associations support the proposal, it is presented for endorsement by the WAZA Council. Once full endorsement is obtained, the CIRCC chair informs the petitioners that the programme has official recognition. The CIRCC chair will also inform the relevant World Conservation Union/Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC) taxon specialist group, and the IUCN/SSC/CBSG (Conservation Breeding Specialist Group).

**Reporting**

1. Membership of the management committee is reported to the CIRCC chair (or delegated person), as it is first established and as any subsequent changes are made.
2. At the outset of the program, the management committee will produce a Inter-Regional *ex situ* management plan outlining the goals of the programme and long-term strategies for achieving those goals. (This document is to include a statement of how often the management committee plans to update management recommendations, and to review programme goals and strategies.)
3. Annual progress reports to be forwarded to the CIRCC chair (or delegated person).
4. Regular recommendations to institutions to be circulated at a frequency described in the Inter-Regional *ex situ* Management Plan.

# Committee for Inter-Regional Conservation Cooperation – CIRCC

## Responsibilities for the International Studbooks



*This Document (Doc.58.19.2) was adopted by CIRCC on 11 November 2003 and noted by Council and Plenary*

A. International studbooks are those officially recognised and endorsed by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and by the World Conservation Union/Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC).

B. The International Studbook Programme is coordinated by the International Studbook Coordinator, who has the following responsibilities:

1. to oversee the process of nomination and endorsement of new studbook and new studbook keepers: copies of the proposal form, and guarantee and support form, are attached
2. to inform the applicant and other relevant bodies of the endorsement of new studbooks
3. to produce an annual report for CIRCC and WAZA. This report records changes which have taken place since the last report, including contact details of new studbooks, and changes in the status of individual studbooks and studbook keepers. The report also highlights matters which need to be discussed by CIRCC and WAZA.
4. where studbook data has become more than three years out of date the co-ordinator will ask for an explanation and will take action if necessary.
5. to ensure that any change of studbook keeper or supporting institution has the approval of the relevant regional association and CIRCC
6. to report to CIRCC the details of any complaint registered by a regional association regarding an international studbook keeper
7. to maintain a data base and all relevant archival material relating to international studbooks
8. to maintain a library of all published international studbooks
9. to deal with all correspondence relating to the initiation, up-keep, quality, publication and availability of international studbooks
10. to liaise and cooperate with the production of the annual ISIS-WAZA Studbook CD-ROM
11. to oversee the production of the summary annual report of all international studbooks which is published in the International Zoo Yearbook. Each entry contains the common and scientific name of the species or subspecies, the name and contact address of the studbook keeper, the total number of individuals registered in the studbook, the latest annual figures for births, deaths and if any, imports from the wild, and the title and date of the last published studbook.

C. The Committee for Inter-Regional Conservation Cooperation (CIRCC) is the standing committee charged by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums with reviewing applications for establishing a new International Studbook. The Committee has the overall responsibility for overseeing all international studbooks, and the International Studbook Coordinator reports to CIRCC.

D. The 'Rules and procedures for international studbooks' are issued and regularly amended by CIRCC, and are sent to all studbook keepers and to all new applicants.

### Committee for Inter-Regional Conservation Cooperation - CIRCC

#### International Studbooks and the International Coordinator This Document (Doc. 58.19.4) was noted by Council on 16 November 2003

##### History

The first studbook for a wild animal in captivity was for the European bison (wisent) and was published in 1932. Volume 5 of the International Zoo Yearbook gave prominence to an official statement from the 1964 Symposium on Zoos and Conservation, sponsored by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN, now the World Conservation Union) and the International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens and Aquariums (IUDZG, now WAZA), and the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP, now Birdlife International, that studbooks should be started for certain rare species in captivity. Studbooks were officially established in 1966 by IUCN/SSC, and the first list of studbooks was published in volume 6 of the Yearbook. The Zoo Liaison Committee/IUCN became the central organizing body and was responsible for the production and publication of the first rules and procedures for the establishment and maintenance of international studbooks. In October 1970 the Council of the Zoological Society of London agreed to a proposal from IUCN/SC that the Society be responsible for the coordination of international studbooks and that the editor of the International Zoo Yearbook should undertake this task. By the early 1970s the work of the Zoo Liaison Committee, including its studbook over-seeing role, had been superseded by the recently initiated Captive Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG, now Conservation Breeding Specialist Group) of IUCN/SSC. The Editor of the IZY continued to act as international coordinator and thus reported annually to CBSG, and in 1980 published in the IZY the first major amendment of the rules and procedures. In 1994 the newly formed CIRCC, which reports to WAZA, accepted the overall responsibility of international studbooks. In 1996, 1997, 1999 and 2000 the rules were again reviewed and up-dated.

In 1975 when I was Curator of Birds, I also took on the editorship of the IZY and in that capacity inherited the role of international coordinator. That role has gradually evolved, by almost imperceptible accretion, expanding in scope and use of time. There has been a considerable increase in the number of studbooks and in quality and quantity of studbook data; in 1975 there were 37 officially recognised studbooks and in September 2003 there are 174. In November 2003 I will retire from the position of international coordinator and Chris West, Zoological Director of the Zoological Society of London, will take over. The IZY will continue to give their valuable and necessary support.

Peter J. S. Olney  
September 2003



# Committee for Inter-Regional Conservation Cooperation - CIRCC

## Criteria for Establishing an International Studbook

*This Document (Doc. 58.19.3) was adopted by Council on 16 November 2003 and noted by Plenary*



The Committee for Inter-Regional Conservation Cooperation (CIRCC) is the standing committee charged by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums with reviewing applications for establishing a new International Studbook.

CIRCC has determined that an International Studbook may be justified on the basis of the following.

### 1. Need for coordinated *ex situ* management in two or more regions

Where there is a recognised need for coordinating the management of *ex situ* populations amongst several regions, an international studbook would represent a key resource. Some coordination in the management of *ex situ* populations among regions may be required in the following instances.

#### 1.1. Conservation

Where clear conservation goals have been identified for the *ex situ* population, and these goals require some coordinated management of the *ex situ* population across two or more regions. This might occur:

Where a taxon is listed as threatened<sup>1</sup> or extinct in the wild by the IUCN

AND

Where a proposal has been developed identifying conservation goals which require managing an *ex situ* population (note: this may include managing a long term insurance population)

AND

Where the taxon is not held in sufficient numbers, or with a sufficient founder base, to allow for the retention, in the *ex situ* population, of at least 90% of wild gene diversity over the period of the programme in any one region

OR

Where the goal of retaining, in the *ex situ* population, at least 90% of wild gene diversity over the period of the programme would be substantially easier under coordinated management across two or more regions.

#### 1.2. Sustainability

Where the wild status of the taxon does not necessitate management for conservation reasons, but the *ex situ* population represents a limited resource that would benefit from coordinated management across two or more regions. This might be valuable:

Where a taxon is rare in zoos and aquariums and acquiring additional animals from the wild is considered difficult, either for ethical or logistical reasons.

OR

Where an *ex situ* population is both small and fragmented across different regions to the detriment of long-term sustainability and this may be ameliorated by coordinating management across two or more regions.

### 2. Legal Reasons

In certain instances, an international studbook may provide the most convenient means of recording data required by permitting agencies. This may occur where a taxon held in zoos is of concern to government wildlife protection agencies, and some level of tracking and management is either required by, or would be useful to, these agencies. These may include taxa listed on CITES and taxa given special status for cultural reasons by national governments (e.g. Australian 'Ambassador Species').

#### (Footnotes)

1

Species are considered threatened by the IUCN if listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable.



Long-tailed marmot  
artwork by Arnab Roy

## Proposal for an International Studbook



Proposals for new studbooks should be submitted to the International Studbook Coordinator c/o International Zoo Yearbook, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RY, UK.

Proposals submitted should include:

- 1) The reasons why an international studbook is thought to be necessary (no more than 1-23 pages). These should include:
  - data on the status in the wild and in captivity, with, where possible, references
  - threat categories, e.g. IUCN Red List, CITES
  - summary of reproductive history ex situ
  - husbandry problems and success
  - a statement that the studbook is, or will become, part of a global and/or regional undertaking to manage the ex situ programme
- 2) Credentials of the petitioner(s), to include professional experience, academic qualifications, experience of computerised formats for compiling and analysing data e.g. SPARKS, and any other appropriate information.
- 3) A signed statement of commitment and guarantee by the petitioner and by an official of the petitioner's institution.
- 4) The written approval for the studbook application from the regional zoo association.

Note: It is recommended that if the proposed studbook keeper and institution are not from within the geographical range of the species then, if possible, a co-studbook keeper should be found from within the range of the species.

Proposals submitted to the coordinator will be circulated by the coordinator to WAZA/CIRCC (Committee for Inter-regional Conservation Coordination) and to IUCN/SSC for comment and endorsement. The coordinator will inform the petitioner once the studbook has official recognition.

Studbook keepers are expected to follow the 'Rules and Procedures for International Studbooks'; copies obtainable from the International Studbook Coordinator, c/o International Zoo Yearbook.

International Studbook Coordinator  
Tel: (020) 7449 6282. (020) 7449 6411.  
Email: yearbook@zsl.org

International Studbook Proposal - Statement of commitment and guarantee

Studbook keeper

As studbook keeper, I am willing and able to devote the necessary time to create and maintain an international studbook during my employment at this Institution  
Name of Applicant (Please print)

Signature of Applicant

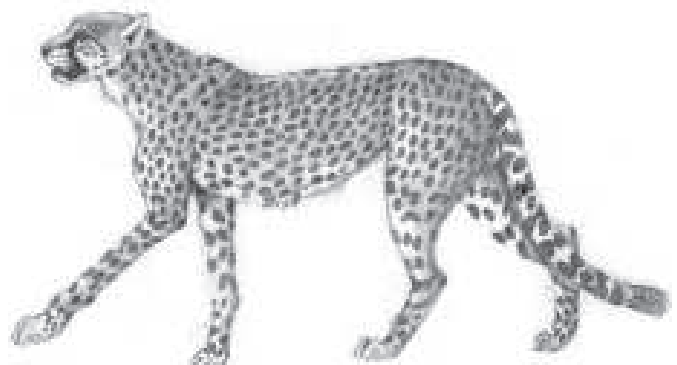
Institution

The \_\_\_\_\_ commits itself to providing adequate time, resources and financial support for the establishment, maintenance and publication of the \_\_\_\_\_ international studbook. This Institution also assures the continuation of support or responsible transfer to another qualified institution in the event that the proposed studbook keeper can no longer continue with his/her studbook duties.

Name of Director or Governing official (Please print name and title)

Signature of Director or Governing official

Completed forms should be returned to the International Studbook Coordinator c/o International Zoo Yearbook, The Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RY, UK.



Asian cheetah  
artwork by Arnab Roy