

## About WAZA

WAZA's mission is to guide, encourage and support the zoos, aquariums, and like-minded organisations of the world in animal care and welfare, environmental education and global conservation

### The Organisation

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums is the "umbrella" organisation for the world zoo and aquarium community. Its members include leading zoos and aquariums, and regional and national Associations of Zoos and Aquariums, from all around the world.

Together they are 'United for Conservation'.

Der 'Zoologische Garten' is the official Journal of IUDZG and WAZA.

### History

WAZA was originally founded in Rotterdam in 1946 as the International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens (IUDZG). In 2000 it was renamed as WAZA to reflect a more modern institution working together at a global level to build cooperative approaches to common needs, to tackle common issues, to share information and knowledge, and represent this community in other international bodies such as the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Since the beginning, International Studbooks for rare and endangered species were kept under the auspices of WAZA.

Since 1950 WAZA has been an international organisation member of IUCN - The World Conservation Union.

In 1993, the "World Conservation Strategy" was published.

In 1999, a Code of Ethics was adopted.

A permanent Executive Office with a fulltime director was established in 2001.

In 2002, a Code of Animal Welfare was adopted.

### The WAZA Council

Function Name City Country

President Ed McAlister Adelaide Australia

President elect Karen Sausman Palm Desert USA

Past President Alex Rübél Zürich Switzerland

Member Bill Dennler Toledo USA

Member Gordon McGregor Reid Chester United Kingdom

Member Mark C. Reed Wichita USA

Member Laura Mumaw Melbourne-Parkville Australia

Member Henning Julin Aalborg Denmark

Member Yolanda Matamoros San José Costa Rica

Member Esteve Tomàs Barcelona Spain

### WAZA Committees

Committee Name City Country

Membership Committee Bill Dennler Toledo USA

Nominating Committee Alex Rübél Zürich Switzerland

Marketing Committee Mark Reed Wichita USA

Conservation Committee Jo Gipps Bristol United Kingdom

Welfare & Ethics Committee Ed McAlister Adelaide Australia

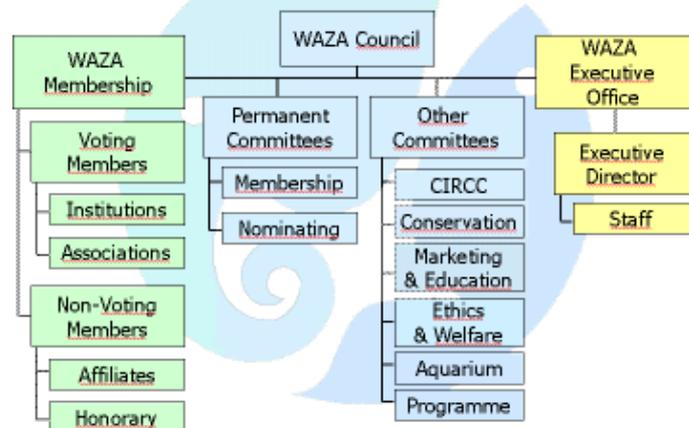
CIRCC (Committee on Inter-regional Conservation Cooperation Jonathan Wilcken Mosman Australia

Aquarium Committee Gordon McGregor Reid Chester United Kingdom

Programme Committee Karen Sausman Palm Desert USA

Education Committee Henning Julin Aalborg Denmark

### The structure of WAZA



## WAZA membership

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, unites, at a global level, zoological gardens, aquaria, national and regional associations and zoo-related or like-minded organisations and individuals willing to abide by its Bylaws and all other rules and regulations set by the Association, including its Code of Ethics.

As of October 2003 WAZA counts 216 Members all over the World. The zoos and aquariums affiliated with WAZA receive annually at least 600 million visitors, more than any other group of public conservation-oriented institutions.

### Who may become a member of WAZA

Members of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums shall be zoological gardens, aquariums, national and regional associations and zoo-related organisations willing to abide by the Bylaws and all other rules and regulations of the Association. Failure to satisfy or adhere to the Bylaws, Code of Ethics and all other rules and regulations shall be sufficient cause for suspension or denial of membership. There is also a reasonable expectation that voting member representatives will have the ability to attend Annual Meetings. Zoos and Aquariums who consider to become a member of WAZA must be already belong to a regional or national association. For more information about the different categories of WAZA Membership & its conditions.

### Which member categories exist?

**Institution members** shall be zoological gardens, aquariums or similar zoological institutions established and managed primarily for cultural, educational, scientific, and conservation purposes. Institution members must also be open to the public on a regular and predictable basis. Only the respective full time, paid chief executive of the institution may serve as its official representative.

**Association members** shall be organisations, both national and regional, whose primary members are zoological gardens, aquariums or similar zoological institutions. The purpose of these organisations is to support the vision, mission, and interests of their members and to establish standards and levels of cooperation between them. Association members may officially be represented by either an elected officer, or by a full time, paid executive.

**Affiliate members** shall be organisations that support the vision, mission and interests of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The official representative of an Affiliate member may attend the Annual Meeting and participate in discussions. Affiliate members may not be represented on Council or standing committees, but may be on other committees and subcommittees. They are not entitled to a vote and shall not be considered when determining a quorum.

**Honorary members** shall be those who have retired as full time paid executives of an Institution or Association Member, and who have served in that capacity at one or more Member institutions for a period of no less than ten years consecutively. They may also be non-members deemed worthy of such recognition as exemplified by their active support of the Association's objectives.

### How to join WAZA?

In order to start the membership process, you have to find two Sponsors who sign your Nomination Form. They must be current voting members of WAZA who are preferably from your country or region, but do not serve on the Membership Committee.

The WAZA Membership implies that your institution will endeavour to keep a high standard of:

- husbandary and veterinary care:
- participation in coordinated species management programs:
- contribution on relevant scientific studies:
- compliance with national and international legislation:
- maintenance of animal record systems:
- environmental education programs:
- conservation activities:
- ethical guidelines:
- support of regional and national associations

A list of possible sponsors for membership applications can be found at "Zoos and Aquariums of the World" and in the Membership folder of the section "About WAZA"

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A list of possible sponsors for membership applications can be found at "Zoos and Aquariums of the World" and in the Membership folder of the section "About WAZA" (these are available from SAZARC Adm Office at ZOO in India as well as the WAZA office).

More questions about WAZA membership ?

For more information about WAZA membership please contact the executive office. <[waza.director@bluewin.ch](mailto:waza.director@bluewin.ch)>  
The nomination for you need to initiate the membership process is available in our member area for all current WAZA members. [secretariat@waza.org](mailto:secretariat@waza.org)



## Of particular interest in light of WAZA reference -- Cruel and Unusual ... Egypt Today from <http://www.egypttoday.com/arttemplate.asp>

**Media and public outcry over dire conditions at the Giza Zoo get us kicked out of the World Association for Zoos and Aquariums**, Manal el-Jesri

MOM, LOOK AT MY zebra drawing," my daughter tells me. "Look, I did the hooves just right. They are big and curvy," she says. It was then that I realized what a mistake I had made taking my children to the zoo. I tried to explain that a zebra's hooves should not be big and "curvy," but was met with a stubborn: "But I saw them." Dr. Mostafa Saleh, professor of zoology at Al-Azhar University, explains why Giza Zoo's zebras do indeed have curvy hooves: "The hooves of animals living in rocky areas grow very fast to make up for the erosion of the hooves. So if left to live on soft ground, their hooves grow and curve. They need to be brought in by the zoo vets, and then they need to be anesthetized for the hoof to be trimmed."

Saleh also remembers how as a child, he thought jackals had bowed legs. It was only when he became a zoologist that he realized that jackals at the Giza Zoo had bowed legs because of rickets. "They are kept in dark cells, they rarely see the light," he says. For years, the Giza Zoological Gardens has been systematically failing to educate the public on issues of biodiversity and animal conservation. And things have been going from bad to worse, says Saleh.

**It comes as little surprise then that Egypt's membership to the World Association for Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) was suspended last month. Saleh, a member of the board of trustees of the zoo, sees this as a clear message to shape up. "We cannot go on burying our heads in the sand. [Turning the zoo around] will be difficult but not impossible. But we have to work on the basis that zoos are not for entertainment, but for education and conservation." "Why were we taken off WAZA's list?" I ask General Mostafa Awad, director of the zoo. "Some people at the ministry thought it too expensive to maintain the membership. I cannot badmouth my ministry," he claims. I was invited to visit him officially so he could explain his allegations.**

The very next day I received a call from Magdy Ghoneim, the science editor of the Nile News channel, and a member of the board of trustees at the zoo. Ghoneim explained he was speaking on Awad's behalf. "You can use what I tell you in my name, or in Mr. Awad's name. He is a man of discipline and not of words. He has done a lot of good for the zoo," Ghoneim claims. **Ghoneim starts by explaining that belonging to the WAZA may be good, but it is only one of many associations of which the zoo is a member. "I'm not saying it's good to be taken off their list. But it was something we expected would happen after we stopped paying the subscription fees. We were not getting anything in return for the subscription we paid in hard currency."**

**But this statement sent to Egypt Today by Peter Dollinger, Executive Director of the Switzerland-based WAZA, claims otherwise: It is correct that WAZA has terminated the membership of GIZA Zoo recently. There were several reasons for our action, including complaints from the public and the media about the animal welfare situation in the zoo. The decision was taken after we had sent a team of two experts to review the situation, who confirmed that there are serious deficiencies."**

Yet Ghoneim does not deny that things at the zoo are bad. "I like to say that when Awad took over, things were very, very, very, very bad. Underline the four verys. Now they are just very bad. Awad brought discipline to a place where it was not unusual to find human heads in the water canals. A butcher once went into the zoo at night, slaughtered a gazelle, skinned it, took away the carcass and horns, leaving only the skin behind. You don't see that anymore. It is cleaner now, some animals have started breeding, and two state-of-the-art facilities have been opened; a pathology lab and a breeding center," he explains. Despite the cleanup, Ghoneim states that management policy on animal welfare still leaves much to be desired. "People do not like to see animals behind bars anymore. I've spoken about the role of the zoo in captive breeding at board meetings, but ex-minister of agriculture Youssef Wali and Awad did not seem to be prepared to do anything, so I stopped attending meetings. Awad has started some nice things, like the pathology lab. But the breeding center is very poorly managed. All they do is incubate ostrich and duck eggs."

According to Saleh, Ghoneim, whose idea it was to start the board of trustees, is genuinely concerned about the zoo. "But he thinks the current management can be helped to change things," Saleh says. Ghoneim, on the other hand, explains that although good intentions may exist on the side of the management, it is the lack of funding that keeps the zoo from progressing. "Can you imagine what it must be like for the poor to find a garden they can go to for only 25 pt? Great, of course, so they go in hordes, which is the main reason nothing can be done to change things. It is hard enough trying to control and clean up after the visits of these hordes," Ghoneim claims. And Ghoneim's solution? "Entrance tickets should be LE 20, which is only one tenth of the price of zoo tickets worldwide. I also suggested that they close it on weekends and holidays, to keep people from destroying it. How else can things get any better?" But Ghoneim's suggestions were promptly turned down by Wali. "They see it as a political decision. The masses can't be denied of the only green area in Cairo," Saleh explains.

Amina Abaza, chair and founder of the Society for the Protection of Animal Rights in Egypt (SPARE), has been concerned about the zoo for years. "I even went to meet Mr. Awad, suggesting that SPARE raise funds to help lift some of the misery of the animals if money is what they needed. He told me: 'Money is no issue.' He thought I'd ... get off his back," she alleges. **Although SPARE mainly works with street animals, Abaza spends much of her time collecting material on conditions at the zoo, and is very concerned about the WAZA issue. "Can you imagine what it will be like, with even less control coming from a society like WAZA?"**

Things will get worse — if that's possible." He believes it is too optimistic to think about fulfilling the breeding part of the function of a modern zoo. "So let's concentrate on education. What can you see if you look at a lion? Everyone has seen millions of pictures of lions. You have to be told what to look at. If children see an Egyptian gazelle, it is important to let them know that it is a native animal, and that it is killed by hunters, and that it is disappearing fast," he says. Saleh also suggests that captive breeding could be attempted with animals native to the area. Saleh still has hope that the zoo can one day become a major tourist attraction. "We have the infrastructure for a very good zoo, we just need some extra help. Many of the cages must be disposed of. I am not aware of any training programs for the [zoo's] vets. They should travel and see how zoos abroad are run. They should be offered material to read," he suggests.