



## EAZA joins European Commission's Global Coalition for Biodiversity

**Amsterdam 18 May 2020:** The [European Association of Zoos and Aquaria \(EAZA\)](#) has announced that it will join the European Commission's Global Coalition for biodiversity. The announcement, which comes on the first day of World Biodiversity Week and ahead of the launch of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, is a further commitment from the Association to promoting public understanding of the extraordinary scope of life on Earth and the threats facing species everywhere. This aim has been at the heart of EAZA's mission since its inception nearly three decades ago.

2020 has shown clearly the need for better human understanding of the natural world and the effects of biodiversity loss. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, this year was intended as the start of a new phase in governmental and non-governmental action on species and habitat loss, with new strategies for protection being devised during several major meetings, all of which have been postponed until 2021. By signing up to the Global [Coalition's pledge](#), EAZA is sending a clear signal that we believe that public awareness of biodiversity and the threats it faces are more important than ever – and that the momentum building around the “super year for biodiversity” should not be lost.

The pledge unites a coalition of zoos, aquariums, natural history museums, botanic gardens and other science and nature engagement institutions [to work to make public understanding of biodiversity globally pervasive](#), a goal that is intended to lead to greater community involvement in species and habitat protection and pressure governments to accept the need for far-reaching action. EAZA Members alone account for over 140million visits annually, and we believe that the Global Coalition provides an opportunity to reach many more. With the current crisis showing clearly how biodiversity loss can affect human society, EAZA believes that the public is ready to support such measures and to call on their legislators to do the same. There must be no return to “business as usual” when it comes to the protection of nature – which would lead to [continued widespread species loss](#); we must all stand up and demand action to promote the web of life and the extraordinary effects species have on the health of our planet.

EAZA calls on its Members to sign up to the pledge and calls on legislators across the EU and indeed the world to take significant action to protect planet Earth, our only home.

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