

OVERVIEW OF EAZA GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

July 2021

EAZA Executive Office



INTRODUCTION

This set of slides provides an overview of the variety of governing documents of EAZA, all of which are available at <http://www.eaza.net/about-us/eazadocuments/>

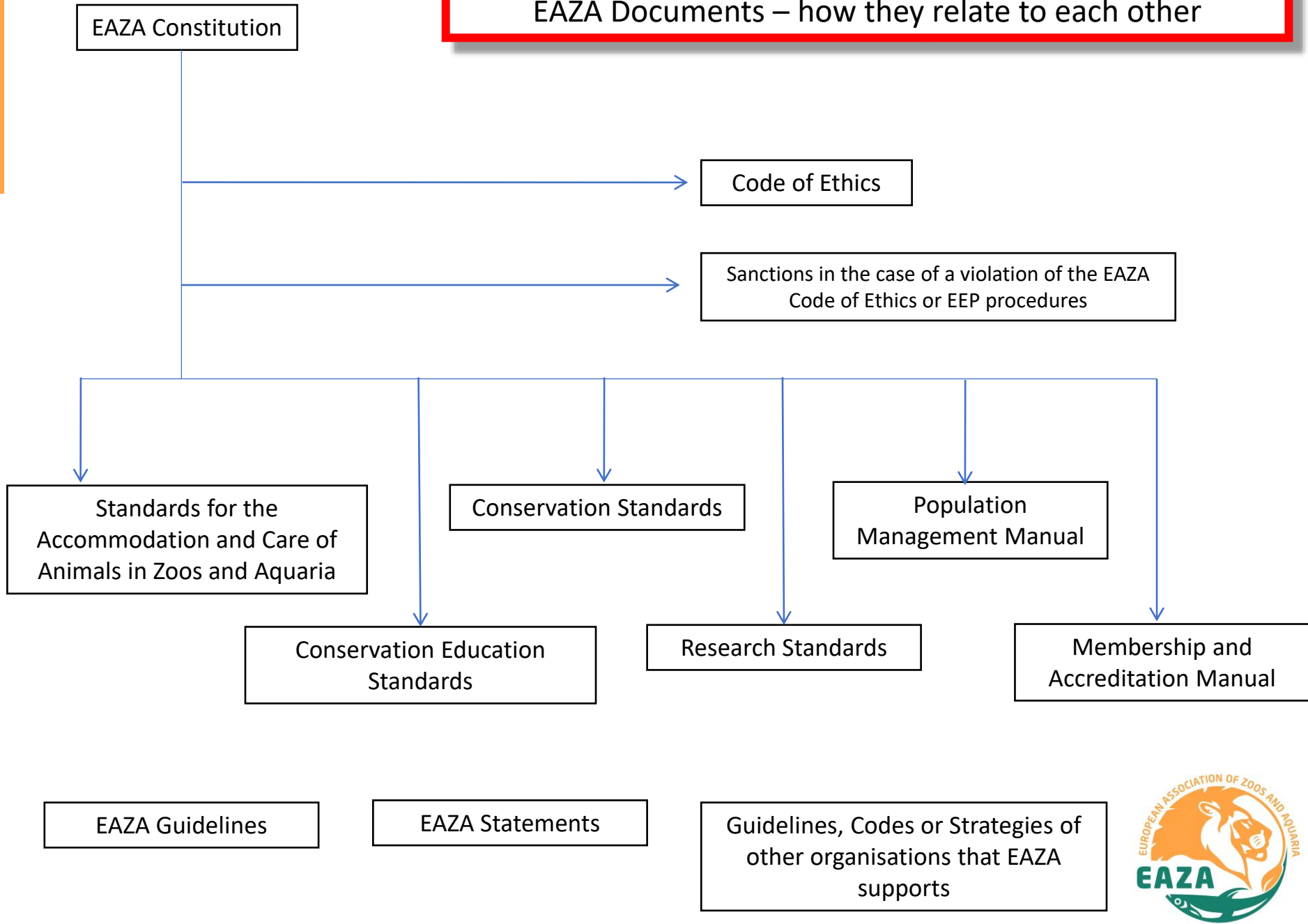
It presents a simple structure for how these documents relate to each other and the scope of each type of document.

EAZA strives to agree on the terminology used for different categories of documents:

- **Codes and Standards** (mandatory except where otherwise clearly indicated within them)
- **Guidelines** (EAZA strongly recommends Members to follow)
- **Statements** (EAZA's view on a topic. Members should support this position but might not be able to implement it in their institution due to legislative and/or cultural differences)



EAZA Documents – how they relate to each other



EAZA Constitution

The Constitution is EAZA's main governing document, setting out the basis on which EAZA is established and runs.

Sanctions in the case of a violation of the EAZA Code of Ethics or EEP procedures

Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos and Aquaria

Conservation Standards

Population Management Manual

Conservation Education Standards

Research Standards

Membership and Accreditation Manual

EAZA Guidelines

EAZA Statements

Guidelines, Codes or Strategies of other organisations that EAZA supports



EAZA Constitution

The Constitution states: Council shall define further rules of conduct in the form of the EAZA Codes to which the members are bound both among themselves and vis-à-vis third parties.

The Code of Ethics outlines what EAZA members must do and how they must behave.

Code of Ethics

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Accommodation of Animals in Zoo

EAZA Code of Ethics (Preamble, obligations and behaviour)

Approved by EAZA Council
18 September 2015
(updated 21 April 2016 to include newly approved documents in the list at the end)

Preamble

Zoos and aquariums are important contributors to biodiversity conservation, conservation research, environmental education, and as cultural or social institutions in their local communities. In order to fulfil their environmental and social responsibilities EAZA members must uphold ethical values congruent with the above mission areas, and best practice in all areas must be predicated on these accepted ethical values. As such, acceptance of the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy is implicit in membership of the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA).

The following Code of Ethics is the cornerstone of EAZA and underpins all member institutions' involvement in EAZA. The Code of Ethics is a holistic document which covers animal management and transactions, education, environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, research, and social responsibility to staff, visitors, colleagues in other zoos and aquariums and the larger community. The Code of Ethics sets out the values which must be maintained and the Code of Behaviour, embedded in this document, sets out the manner in which these values must be practised.

All members of EAZA must:

- Act in accordance with the EAZA Standards, Procedures, Statements, Guideline and Best Practice Documents (available from the EAZA website www.eaza.net).
- Assist in achieving the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of the planet's resources. Any actions taken in relation to an individual animal must be undertaken with this higher ideal of biodiversity conservation in mind.
- Implement the current World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy (2005) and the World Zoo and Aquarium Animal Welfare Strategy to the best of their abilities.
- Promote the interests of wildlife conservation, biodiversity and animal welfare to colleagues and to their society as a whole.
- Assist the wider conservation community including wildlife agencies, conservation organisations, governments and research institutions in maintaining global biodiversity.
- Ensure that any activities they carry out do not threaten in any way the short or long-term survival of threatened species in the wild.
- Cooperate with governments and other appropriate bodies to improve standards of animal welfare.
- Encourage research into, and dissemination of, achievements in all aspects of zoo and wild animal research. Research undertaken must adhere to all relevant legal frameworks and this Code of Ethics.



EAZA Guidelines

Education

Statements



EAZA Constitution

The Code of Ethics also references documents from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

EAZA Members should follow the IUCN Guidelines on the Use of Ex situ Management for Species Conservation (2014) and Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations (2013).

The Code of Ethics references the WAZA Conservation Strategy and Animal Welfare Strategy, stating that “all members will implement [them] to the best of their abilities”.

Standards
Accommodation
Animals in Zoo

Standards

Accommodation
Annual

EAZA Guidelines

EAZA Standards

Guidelines, Codes or Strategies of
other organisations that EAZA
supports



EAZA Constitution

The “Sanctions...” document sets out the sanctions that can be imposed if the other Codes, Standards, and governing documents are violated. It is a supporting document to the Constitution.

Code of Ethics

Sanctions in the case of a violation of the EAZA Code of Ethics or EEP procedures

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EAZA Constitution

The four Standards documents outline what EAZA Members are expected to do. These expectations are mandatory except where otherwise clearly indicated within such documents.

The Standards are regularly reviewed and updated.

Case of a violation of the EAZA Standards or EEP procedures

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EAZA Constitution

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The Population Management Manual provides a thorough overview on EAZA procedures related to the population management structures and processes.

The manual is aimed at all EAZA Members, with particular guidance for TAG chairs and those managing EAZA Ex situ Programmes (EEPs).

This manual is a living document and regularly updated. Procedures in the manual are mandatory except where otherwise clearly indicated.

... in the case of a violation of the EAZA Code of Ethics or EEP procedures

Population Management Manual

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Standards
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The Membership and Accreditation Manual serves as a guide for anyone interested or involved in the EAZA Membership and Accreditation procedure.

It outlines different membership types and conditions, as well as the various steps and requirements of the EAZA Accreditation Programme whereby Members are cyclically checked to see if they are meeting the Standards.

It also contains details of the complaints and appeals processes.

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Membership and
Accreditation Manual

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EAZA Constitution

EAZA produces Guidelines documents that members are strongly encouraged to follow. In some cases it is likely that guidelines will be incorporated into Standards in the future.

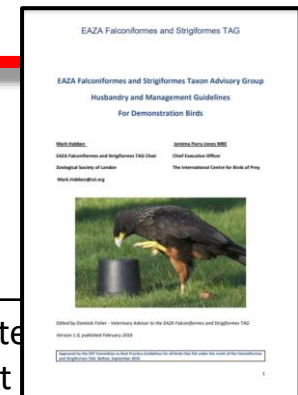
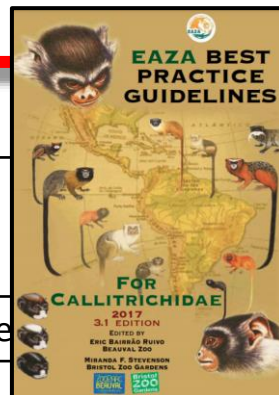
For example, there are:

- EAZA Guidelines on the definition of a direct contribution to conservation (2015)
- A variety of EAZA Best Practice Guidelines that support the Standards for Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos and Aquaria with species specific information

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EAZA Statements detail EAZAs view on a topic. Members should support this position but might not be able to implement it in their institution due to legislative and/or cultural differences.

Examples of such statements are:

- EAZA Response to the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (June 2020)
- EAZA Elephant Taxon Advisory Group Position Statement on management systems (July 2019)
- EAZA Position Statement on the European commercial trade in tigers and tiger parts (November 2018)
- The application of a considered culling policy (EAZA Culling Statement, 2015)

EAZA Guidelines

EAZA Statements

Guidelines, Codes or Strategies of other organisations that EAZA supports



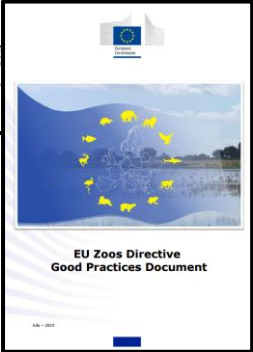
EAZA Constitution

Code of Ethics

Sanctions in the case of a violation of the EAZA Code of Ethics or EEP procedures

EAZA has been involved in the development of, and strongly encourages all Members to follow, Guidelines, Codes and Strategies of other organisations such as:

- European Code of Conduct on Zoological Gardens and Aquaria and Invasive Alien Species (October 2012)
- EU Zoos Directive Good Practice Guidelines (available in multiple languages)



Guidelines

EAZA Statements

Guidelines, Codes or Strategies of other organisations that EAZA supports

