

EAZA Guidelines on the definition of a direct contribution to conservation



Approved by EAZA Council

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In order to achieve more clarity and full transparency when using the term “EAZA contribution to conservation” the association needs to specify what it means by that term. This will enable all stakeholders to measure conservation input consistently across the EAZA membership.

The term “EAZA contribution to conservation” requires a clear definition of two main concepts: “conservation” and “contribution”.

Usable definition for Conservation

“Securing of long-term populations of species in natural ecosystems and habitats wherever possible.” World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy (WZACS 2005)

Usable definition for Contribution

1. Donating time, personnel, monies, knowledge or materials to invest in a specific cause.
2. Providing resources to a third party to invest in a specific cause.

Definition for EAZA Conservation Contribution

An EAZA Contribution to Conservation may be a donation of time, expertise, monies, materials and/or in-kind support from an EAZA member institution that is aiming to secure long-term populations of species in natural ecosystems and habitats.

Glossary of terms used:

“Species” in this document refers to a defined taxonomical unit including species, subspecies or other evolutionary significant units (any population of organisms which is considered distinct for the purpose of conservation).

“Threatened” in this document refers to locally, regional or globally threatened species that are defined as such by a recognised authority such as national or local government, IUCN or Birdlife International.

Methods of contributing

Conservation activities of EAZA member institutions are considered to contribute directly to the long-term survival of species in natural ecosystems and habitats in the following cases:

1. Habitats

- a. Direct costs¹ of field work aimed at maintaining, restoring or creating habitats with the intent to create or sustain conservation benefits for threatened species and/or habitats including: research, community-based programs, park management and securing of additional park space.

2. Species and Populations

- a. Direct costs of species- or population management in the field such as conservation translocations, observations, surveys, protection, etc.;
- b. Direct costs of the rehabilitation of threatened species that are scheduled to be reintroduced into the wild;
- c. Direct costs of a wildlife rescue operation of threatened species that are being reintroduced back into the wild or that remain in the collection and meet the criteria under item d below.
- d. Direct costs of food, housing, health management, transport and husbandry of species held in the collection of the EAZA institution (on site or off site / on display or off display) that:
 - i. Are extinct in the wild.
 - ii. and/or for which ex situ management brings conservation benefit to a species or habitat through*
 - a. Addressing the causes of primary threats
 - b. Offsetting the effects of primary and stochastic threats
 - c. Buying time
 - d. Restoring wild populations*

whereby the project is in accordance with the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations and the IUCN Guidelines on the Use of Ex situ management for Species Conservation (currently under review and with this policy recognising the existing guidelines until their replacement), and the ex situ activities are part of a locally or globally recommended (by a recognised authority e.g. IUCN, Birdlife, National or Regional governments, etc.) conservation action.

- e. *Ex situ* management includes direct costs related to gamete banking actions that are part of recommended conservation strategies as described under item d above.
- f. Direct costs related to the intensive management of populations
 - i. Direct costs related to the coordination of an *ex situ* population management programme for species included in item d.
 - ii. Direct costs related to the coordination of a meta-population management programme for species included in item d.
- g. Veterinary Care
 - i. Direct costs of veterinary care for wildlife disease issues and animal health issues for animals found in the institution's collection that fall under the definition in item 2d above.

* For definitions and clarification see the IUCN Guidelines on the Use of Ex situ Management for Species Conservation and the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and other Conservation Translocations.

- ii. Direct costs of veterinary care for wildlife disease issues and animal health issues for animals not found in the institution's collection if it directly impacts the conservation of species in the wild.

3. Research

- a. Direct costs of research that takes place outside of the institution and is specifically intended to contribute to the conservation of species or ecosystems *in situ*.
- b. Direct costs of research that takes place inside the institution and is specifically intended to contribute to the conservation of species or ecosystems *in situ*.
- c. Research into captive breeding, husbandry and welfare for animals found in the institution's collection that fall under the definition in item 2d above.

4. Conservation Education and Capacity building

- a. Direct costs aimed at engaging people (e.g. general public, communities, and schools) specifically to raise awareness about conservation issues and ultimately help to bring about an attitude and behaviour change to benefit nature conservation. Production of educational materials by an institution for themselves or a third party is considered to be part of this.
- b. Direct costs of conservation education programmes that take place outside of the institution and target an audience whose activities or presence directly impact the species or habitat of concern. This also includes the direct costs of an in-zoo/aquarium programme to maintain, restore or create habitats with specific conservation for **local** species or habitats. Ideally, programmes should demonstrate that they have improved wild animal numbers or survival.
- c. Direct costs of training field conservation staff or volunteers not employed by the institution. This may include providing scholarships or sponsoring participation in workshops or conferences and supporting local citizens financially to take part in conservation and research.
- d. Direct costs aimed at enabling colleagues (internal or external, staff, non-staff) to attain the required level of knowledge and skills to carry out activities that lead to conservation benefits for threatened species or habitats (e.g. assisting with customs seizures, transports or sharing husbandry techniques, field conservation techniques).

5. Advocacy

- a. Direct costs related to a process that brings about legislative change to benefit conservation and/or the development of ideas that help define a position and assist in the development of thinking that ultimately benefits conservation. This includes combating wildlife trade, legal advice, and lobbying to generate support for conservation other than for direct support for the institution.

6. Fundraising/Direct Grants

- a. Cash grants made to other conservation organisations² or persons to support field work that meets the above definitions.³
- b. The value of any goods, equipment or supplies (including educational supplies) donated to field conservation projects as defined above.
- c. In-kind personnel support if an employee of the institution is doing the work that would normally be done by an employee of another conservation organisation. This would be direct

costs only, not administrative overhead. This may include salary and benefit costs of person(s) managing field conservation grants, reflecting percentage of time spent doing so.

Notes

1. Direct costs in this document may include
 - Salary and benefits of employees who contribute to conservation work as defined above, reflecting the percentage of time spent doing so.
 - Direct financial grants with or without a specific label, scholarships, received grants
 - Materials and equipment.
 - In-kind costs: staff time, office space or facilities, make available materials already in possession of the institution, knowledge.
 - Time and travel costs spent on conservation meetings.
 - Membership fees when related to conservation organisations (100%).

2. Sanctuary support may be included as field conservation expenditure if the sanctuary:
 - Is in range-country;
 - Has an active conservation education program;
 - Works with law enforcement to assist authorities with confiscations; and/or
 - Participates in field conservation activities as defined above (would include reintroduction, research, assurance populations, etc.)

3. Including funds from external bodies but excluding funds coming from other EAZA institutions.

The EAZA Conservation Committee recognises the importance and relevance of including sustainability activities in these guidelines and has the intention to incorporate these in the future.

Contributions excluded:

- Actions tailored to the reduction of the ecological footprint and sustainable operation of the EAZA institution.
- Restaurants and shops
- Ticket sales
- Security in zoos
- Cleaning
- IT except for activities included in the definition above
- Social services
- Zoo maintenance
- Amusement installations
- Marketing not directly related to supporting conservation activities listed above.
- Gardening
- Administration time in general
- Breeding and display of species not included in the definition stated above
- Research not directly linked with conservation programmes
- Legal advice in general (see exceptions above)
- PR