

warming and ocean acidification. As WAZA President I was happy to formally endorse the Technical Working Group Statement produced by Prof Veron and colleagues. The WAZA Aquarium Committee will now look to engage with public aquariums to advance the coral conservation programme in all its various aspects.

### **Global Aquarium Strategy**

A WAZA publication entitled *'Turning the Tide: A Global Aquarium Strategy for Conservation and Sustainability'* has now been finalized and will be launched at this year's WAZA Congress in Saint Louis. The production of this important new strategy document has been led by Dr Mark Penning, current

Chair of the WAZA Aquarium Committee. There are key contributions to this document from eminent aquatic biologists and conservationists. As well as being keenly anticipated in the zoo and aquarium world, this publication is being welcomed by leading global conservation NGOs including the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Conservation International, Wetlands International and RAMSAR. They have all agreed to officially endorse the document. We are also pleased to have the support of the International Aquarium Forum (IAF) and the European Union of Aquarium Curators (EUAC), among other stakeholders.

*Respectfully, Gordon Reid, WAZA President*

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## **Relationship between Zoo Outreach Organisation and South Asian Zoo Association with World Association of Zoos and Aquariums**

Zoo Outreach Organisation is closely related to the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums WAZA through our Affiliate Membership in WAZA.

Zoo Outreach Organisation supports the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation SAZARC, a zoo association with Associate Membership in WAZA.

Zoo Outreach Organisation hosts and supports the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, the IUCN Specialist Group which was originally founded to liaise with zoos and guide them in their efforts to support wildlife conservation with captive breeding.

Zoo Outreach Organisation ZOO and Wildlife Information Liaison Development WILD are the only two registered entities in ZOO's. ZOO and WILD are both registered Societies under the Tamil Nadu Registration Act. ZOO has converted to a Trust. The taxon based networks of ZOO and WILD could be considered as sustained and endless Projects.

SAZARC is a bit different. SAZARC has rules and objectives sufficient to qualify for Associate Membership in WAZA. Its status is a Special Project of Zoo Outreach Organisation, meaning that when it becomes mature and financially secure enough, it may become an organisation on its own.

ZOO plans and conducts an Annual Conference of SAZARC, in the same manner that other Associations have conferences. However, in case of SAZARC, the administrative, economic, psychological and political peculiarities and rules, it seems impossible for zoo personnel to obtain funding to attend SAZARC. Only Sri Lankan government has sent their officers at the expense of the concerned Ministry. So ZOO has to raise the entire amount of the conference and does so by submitting requests and grant proposals to the international zoo community and international NGO's. Whatever is raised is spent on the travel, accommodation, resource persons, and other costs of the conference. If there are funds left over, the funds are carried over to next year's conference, and occasionally used to

send zoo personnel in the region to trainings and meetings when indicated. ZOO doesn't take a percentage or use any of the funds to pay salaries or other administrative costs, so ZOO is also a sponsor of the SAZARC conference and any other thing done in its name.

During Dr. Brij Sharma's term as CZA Member Secretary, he requested that CBSG make all directors of Large and Medium zoos members of CBSG. This was not possible for all due to the size limitations of Specialist Groups, so Chair, CBSG requested that the others become members of CBSG, South Asia. CBSG, South Asia as well as Reintroduction Specialist Group, South Asia sent an invitation to all of the Indian zoo directors, but few responded. Dr. Sharma also encouraged the Large zoos to become members of WAZA. For an individual zoo to become a WAZA member they have to belong to a Regional Association. SAZARC declared all South Asian Zoos as members long ago but agreed to send a formal certification of association membership if a zoo wanted to become a member of WAZA. Brij Sharma also managed to get over 50 LMS zoos signed up to ISIS. This is the largest single contribution that anyone has ever made to giving a genuine future in effective conservation to Indian zoos. Being members of ISIS will propel the Indian and South Asian zoo community into 21st Century zoo management after decades of lagging behind. Our hat is off to Dr. Sharma for this and many other achievements.

ZOO is aware of the discussions which have taken place in Indian zoo meetings about ZOO and SAZARC. Despite such, ZOO stands behind its promise to assist in any way possible if a zoo wants to apply for membership in WAZA. ZOO has always acted on principles of positive and constructive action, non-duplication of effort and trying (unlike in the old South Asian folk story of the crabs) to help the crabs get out of the bucket instead of pulling them back !

**Sally Walker, Sanjay Molur & Zoo Crew**