



World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)

UNITED FOR CONSERVATION

Report on WAZA – The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Development of WAZA from October 2006 to October 2007

Within the past year, the number of institution members (aquariums and zoos) grew by 13 from 224 to 237 in 47 different countries, the number of association members (national or regional zoo and aquarium associations) increased by 2 (the Mexican Zoo and Aquarium Association and the Association of Smaller Animal Parks in Germany) from 22 to 24, and the number of affiliates by 1 from 12 to 13. The WAZA Network comprises now more than 1300 zoos and aquariums.

The By-Laws were revised and a new Council was elected. President for the next biennium is Prof. Gordon McGregor Reid, the CEO of Chester Zoo.

The Annual Conference took place in August in Budapest and was attended by 207 participants and about 40 accompanying persons. At the Conference, the Year of the Frog was launched, which will be a major awareness campaign of the zoo world. An Amphibian training course for German-speaking zoos and our affiliate member DGHT was organised by the WAZA Executive Office in June at Chemnitz. The 6th International Zoo Marketing Conference was held in October at Kwalata Game Ranch, South Africa. It was jointly organised by WAZA and our European and African regional association members. 107 *in-situ* conservation projects implemented or supported by the WAZA Constituency have received the WAZA brand since summer 2004. The WAZA website www.waza.org was permanently enlarged and improved and becomes increasingly popular.

Collaboration with CMS

Following the signing of the Partnership Agreement on September 27, 2006, the relationship between the WAZA Executive Office and the CMS Secretariat (Executive Secretary: Rob Hepworth, Interagency Liaison Officer: Paola Deda), including the Secretariat of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA, Executive Secretary: Bert Lenten) and the Secretariat of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Lyle Glowka), were intensified.

The CMS Scientific Council held its 14th Meeting in March 2007. WAZA was represented by Thomas Althaus who participated in the Working Group on Sustainable Use, dealing with issues such as the Addis Ababa Principles, hunting, wildlife watching and tourism, and in the Taxonomic Working Group on Terrestrial Mammals. Thomas Althaus represented WAZA also at the Paris Meeting on Primates and their habitats.

WAZA COUNCIL

The WAZA Executive Director, who is a founder member of the NGO "Friends of CMS", attended the annual meeting of that organisation on 11 October 2007, at Bonn (Germany).

Following discussions with the Federal Environment Office of Switzerland it was agreed that the Swiss Confederation and WAZA would jointly host 7th Meeting of the Technical Committee of the African-European Waterfowl Agreement. The Meeting took place from 27 October to 1 November 2006 in Berne. The major part of the costs was borne by the Swiss Government, while the Executive Office accommodated the CMS Secretariat, rented the meeting room, and was responsible for the logistics.

In autumn 2006, the Year of the Dolphin was proclaimed, and Governments and NGOs were invited to participate. WAZA submitted an application containing five action points:

- Dissemination of information on dolphins to the public at large by including into WAZA's Virtual Zoo species fact sheets
- Creation of awareness about threats to dolphins and their environments in cooperation with WAZA Member Institutions and NGOs
- Support to specific conservation projects (WAZA-Branding)
- Supporting TUI in the assessment of dolphinarium
- Developing Global Standards for the keeping of dolphins

This application needed to be approved by the five founding partners of the Year of the Dolphins. Regrettably two of them opposed WAZA's participation, as they are in principle against the keeping of dolphins in dolphinarium. The compromise found by the Executive Secretary of CMS was that WAZA could participate but only with activities not connected to the keeping of dolphins in captivity. In practical terms this meant that only the WAZA Branding was an activity under the Year of the Dolphin. Under this point, *WAZA Project 05024 - The Humpback Dolphin Project* operated by the Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Marine and Coastal Conservation Group with support from the uShaka Marine World, Durban, and *WAZA Project 07003 - The Chiloé Small Cetacean Project* have received the WAZA Brand. Both projects are presented in the conservation section of our website. In both cases the YoD Logo is displayed, and both projects have received small grants from WAZA in 2007. In addition, an article on the Chiloé Project will appear in issue nr. 9 of the WAZA Magazine, and an update on the Humpback Dolphin Project is anticipated for publication in the WAZA News. It is intended to refer to the YoD also in the case of these print publications.

CMS obviously felt not so comfortable about this situation and proposed to use a combined logo "WAZA and CMS – United for the conservation of migratory species" in the Virtual Zoo. This was done, covering a.o. Sahelo-Saharan antelopes and bird species falling under AEWA.

Although it was not possible to flag the Year of the Dolphin, WAZA pursued also the other planned activities. This included namely

- **Dissemination of information** on dolphins to the public at large by including into WAZA's Virtual Zoo species fact sheets on all cetacean species kept by institutions of the WAZA Network currently or in the recent past. Six dolphin species are on-line since spring 2007. As we intend to inform more broadly about marine issues, we have also added two penguin species and seven species of pinnipeds to the WAZA Virtual Zoo, bringing the total of penguin species to four and of seal species to 10. In addition, there are now also two shark species, 4 seahorses, 17 coral reef fish and 3 marine invertebrates in the Virtual Zoo, and additional fact sheets are under preparation.
- **Creation of awareness** about threats to dolphins and their river, coastal, and marine environment in cooperation with WAZA Member Institutions and appropriate NGOs.

This was pursued in collaboration with the NGO YaquPacha. Dolphins are used as flagship species, but the awareness campaign focuses on a wide range of threats to marine life, including unsustainable fisheries, by-catch, pollution, coral bleaching etc. At least four of our members in Germany, probably more, will participate in the campaign, which will be extended to other countries with South Africa being in the fore front.

In 2006/07, WAZA financially contributed to the following activities of CMS:

• Saiga Antelope Meeting, Almaty (2006):	3'742.00 CHF	(3000 USD)
• AEWA TEC7 (2006):	1'831.75 CHF	
• AEWA MOP 4 (2007)	3'369.25 CHF	(2000 EURO)
• Paris Meeting on Primates and their habitats (2007)	5'029.00 CHF	(3000 EURO)
• Friends of CMS	162.40 CHF	(100 EURO)
Total	13'864.40 CHF	(ca 8454 EURO)

October 25, 2007

**WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS**

The Executive Director

Peter Dollinger