

## 3.0 Policy – Australasian Species Management Program (ASMP)

The Australasian Species Management Program (ASMP) is the species management arm of the Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia (ZAA). The ASMP reports to the ZAA Board through the Executive Director and is responsible for:

1. Coordinating and facilitating managed programs for priority species; and,
2. Overseeing regional collection planning (facilitated by Collection Planning Online System).

The ASMP is coordinated by staff in the ZAA Executive Office and supported by subject matter experts through the ZAA Committee structure.

ZAA member zoos nominate to host ASMP managed programs and support Species Coordinators to champion program species and to produce key deliverables such as studbooks, annual report and recommendations and captive management plans.

Taxon Advisory Groups (TAGs) provide and facilitate specific taxonomic advice from which ASMP activities are informed and are mostly husbandry-focused. TAG convenors assist in Regional Collection planning process including identifying species roles and providing advice aligned with a Regional Collection Plan.

A significant benefit of ZAA membership is participation in the ASMP, including access to ASMP managed programs, regional collection process and networking over husbandry expertise. The following outlines ZAA member commitments.

### Managed Programs

The ASMP in consultation with membership selects priority species where coordinated management offers benefit. Each program species is assigned an ASMP species role; (Conservation Advocacy, Conservation Recovery or Conservation Science and Research). The species' role clearly identifies the role the species has in the regional collection and specifies the program rationale. ASMP programs are also categorised using the following management levels:

- **Conservation Program** for species where there is a formal link to a recovery effort.
- **Population Management Program** for species that are regionally significant and collection sustainability and coordination helps support the delivery of conservation advocacy messages and biodiversity awareness.
- **Monitored Program** for species that are considered regionally significant and require oversight without high-intensity management.

## ZAA Members commit to the following:

### **Functional TAG representation(s) including endorsing ASMP documents (e.g. *Annual Report and Recommendations*), and communications with species coordinators.**

Nominate TAG representative(s) empowered to fully represent the institution in TAG forums (including listserves and workshops). The TAG representative is responsible for:

- effective communication with ASMP species coordinators including proactive advice regarding pedigree information, births, death, reproductive status and transfers, as well as current and future plans.
- review and provide institutional feedback to TAG requests including TAG documentation such as endorsement of *Annual Report and Recommendations* and *Captive Management Plans*.
- disseminate TAG information within their institution and communicate institutional position back to the TAG.

### **Implement endorsed recommendations only.**

Actively implement transfer and breeding recommendations relative to your institution as documented in endorsed *Annual Report and Recommendations*. All transfers and breeding of species managed by the ASMP must be consistent with those described in the endorsed *Annual Report and Recommendation*.

Support effective coordination of managed programs by attaining ASMP approval for:

- transfers to non-member institutions.
- permanent modification of reproductive potential such as castration, vasectomy, hysterectomy.
- research activities that may impact on the transfer of specimens or the ability to place appropriate animals in a breeding situation.
- acquisition of program species including imports and acquisitions from non-members.

### **Incorporate existing collections into ASMP managed programs.**

No specimens or populations are annexed from ASMP management. On joining the Association, new members commit to incorporating their existing collections into ASMP program in liaison with species coordinators. All transfer and breeding recommendations are developed in consultation with members and are not validated unless endorsed by participating institutions. Organisations with pre-existing transfer and breeding commitments prior to membership must advise the species coordinator and ASMP staff on membership approval so these can be factored into the program.

### **Limited Associate Institutional member involvement in ASMP programs.**

Associate members are afforded partial participation in ASMP programs. Consequently, Associate members may hold non-breeding ASMP program animals for up to five program species of exotic and/or Conservation Program species. On occasion, the species coordinator may make an application to the ASMP for an Associate member to hold breeding animals or exceed the five program limit. This is only considered if there is an over-riding benefit to the program.

### **ASMP animals are returned if membership lapses or terminated.**

In the event ZAA membership lapses or is terminated ASMP program animals must be transferred, if directed by the species coordinator, or the ASMP, back to a member facility and retained by the program. If ASMP program species were maintained prior to membership then the same number of animals may be removed from the program and retained by the institution in consultation with the species coordinator and the ASMP.

## **Regional Collection Planning**

The ASMP develops a regional collection plan which promotes the development of collections that are sustainable and provide conservation value. This is facilitated by the TAG utilising ZAA software - Collection Planning Online System (CPOS).

### **ZAA members commit to the following:**

#### **Supporting ASMP species management roles and aligning these their own collections.**

Members agree to support agreed regional species roles and associated objectives. These are outlined in ASMP documentation such as Captive Management Plans and Annual Reports and Recommendations.

#### **Provision of accurate collection planning data through the software CPOS.**

Members must enter and maintain current data for their entire collection, excluding domestic animals. This includes numbers of male, female and unknown sex animals currently held and planned for the future. An implementation plan and timeframe are also required. The Collection Planning Online System (CPOS) data must be updated at least annually.

## Other Policies and Position Statements

The following ZAA policy and positions statements should be read in conjunction with this document and have relevance to the ASMP:

### **Policies (Policy requires Board approval)**

- ZAA Code of Conduct
- Membership Policy
- Membership Participation in ASMP Policy
- Accreditation Policy
- Animal Transaction Policy and Guidelines on Animals Transport
- Modifying or Annexing Program Specimens Policy

### **Position statements (Position Statement requires Board approval)**

- Animal Welfare Position Statement
- Position Statement on white lions and tigers
- Position Statement on Elephants in Australasian Zoos

### **Guidelines - General**

- Guidelines for Regional Collection Planning
- Guidelines on Animal Record Keeping
- Guidelines on Animal Euthanasia

### **Natives**

- Guidelines for Permanent Identification of Glider Species
- Guidelines for biosecurity requirements of Housing Exotic Amphibians in Australian Zoo
- Guidelines for importing Australian Native Wildlife
- Guidelines for Avian Restraint (Pinioning)

### **Exotics**

- Guidelines for management of herd species (draft)
- Guidelines for Veterinary and Health Management of Lemurs in captivity
- Minimum Intervention Strategy for Social Species
- Guidelines for Dietary Management of Lemurs in Captivity
- Guidelines for the Management of Elephants in Australasian Zoos
- Guidelines for the Veterinary Management of Elephants in Association Zoos
- Guidelines for maintaining the ability of hand reared Sumatran tigers to fully contribute to the Zoo and Aquarium Association Population Management Program

## Proviso

The intent of this policy is to provide a framework for the majority of activities undertaken by Association members/subscribers. Any issue/concern which arises that is not covered by this policy, but falls within the purpose of the policy, will be included and addressed by the

Association Board, or their delegate, in the best interest of the Association and its membership.

## Board Approval

This policy was approved by the Board of the Association on **03/12/2015**.

### Approval and Revision Record

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| Approved / Amended/ Rescinded /<br>Reviewed | Date       | Description |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Approved by ASMP Committee                  | 17/11/2015 |             |
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This document should be reviewed within five years of the date of approval or last review.