

EAZA: EXPERIENCES FROM 20 YEARS OF ZOO AND AQUARIUM ACCREDITATION

Myfanwy Griffith
EAZA Executive Director



Why bother with Accreditation when there is licencing?



Moral remit of operations
VS
Legal remit to operate



ACCREDITATION VS LICENCING

Different terms for similar things:

- Checking against agreed standards
- Setting of recommendations and/or conditions
- Leading on improvements
- Cyclical
- Cost involved

Moral remit of operations

VS

Legal remit to operate



WHO IS EAZA?



422 Members in 48 countries

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria



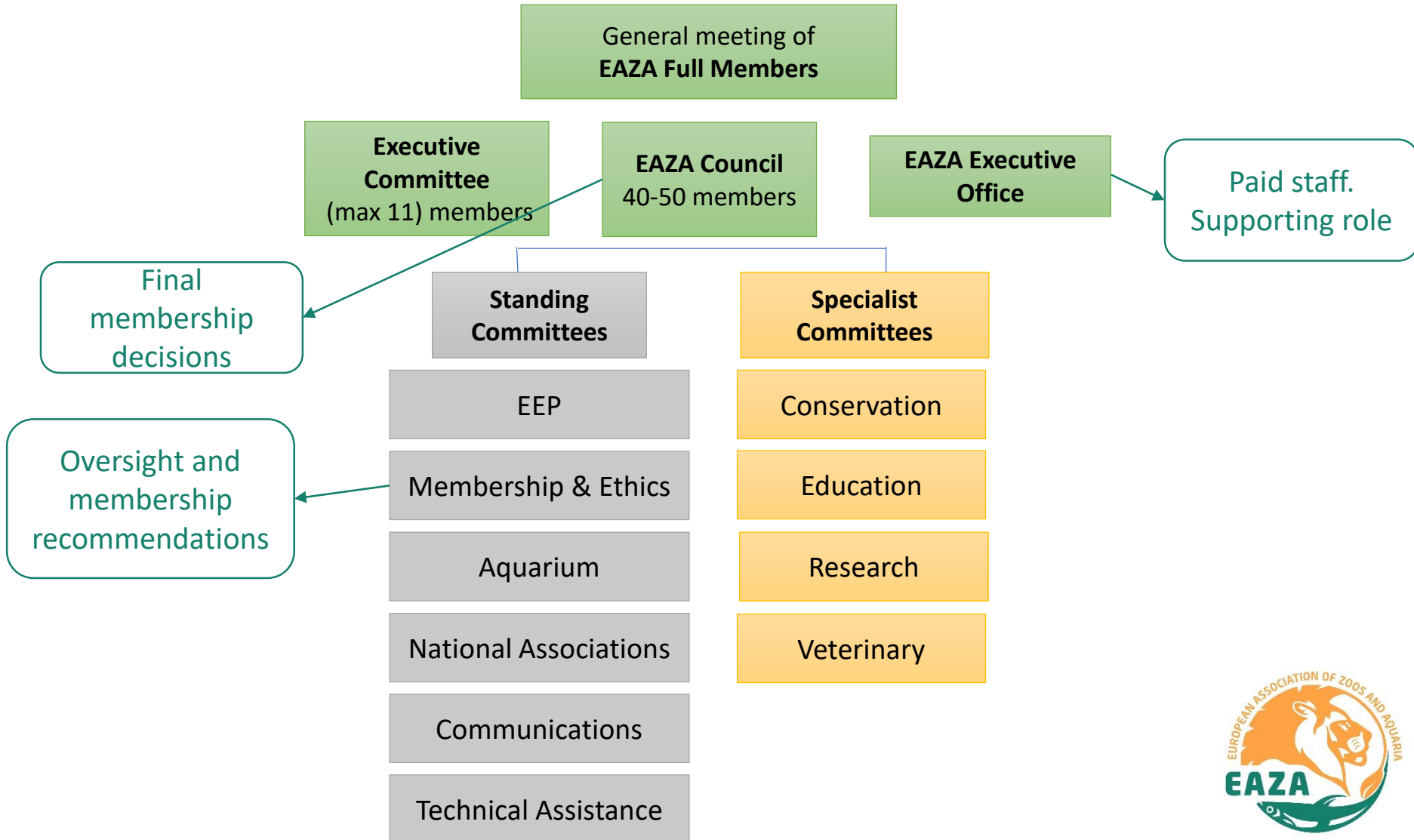
WHO IS EAZA?



265 Zoo/Aquarium Members in
25 EU Member States

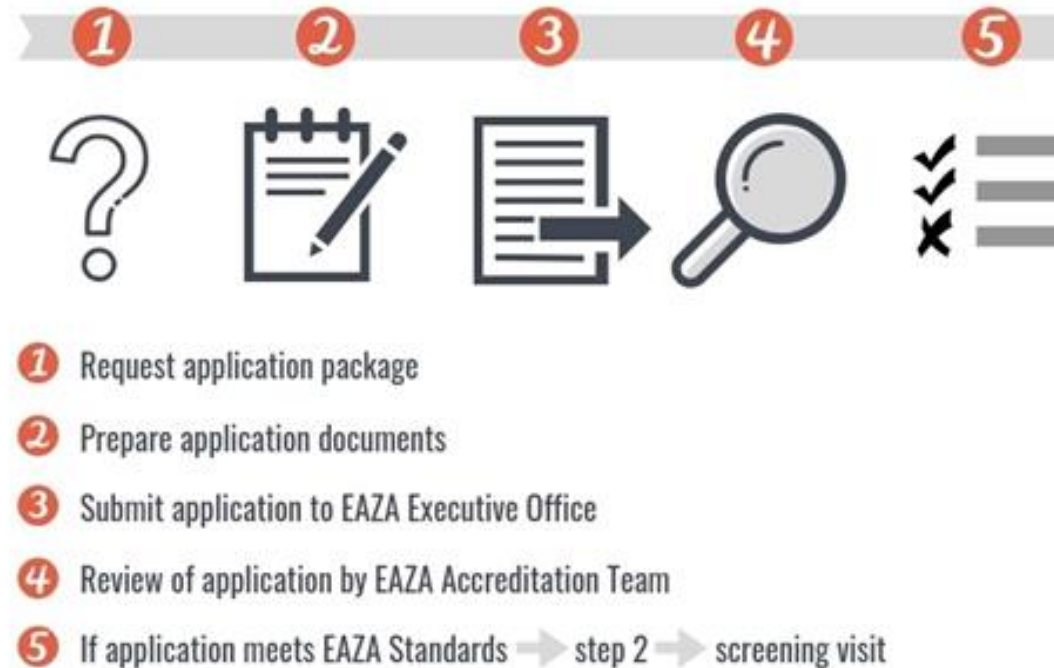


WHO IS EAZA? ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



COORDINATION OF THE ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

- Managed by the EAZA Executive Office
- Various guidance documents available from:
<https://www.eaza.net/members/accreditation/>
- New vs Existing Members
- Must hold a valid zoo licence (in countries where this exists)
- Requested to share latest licence report



EFFECTIVE LICENCING SYSTEMS

Should:

- Be objective and scrutinized to enable consistency
- Take into account complimentary information/ legislation
- Be comparable across institutions/countries but adaptable to local conditions
- Be transparent in process and result
- Balance the burden for implementers and zoo/aquariums
- Have conditions and sanctions – teeth to the system
- Have resources available to implement them
- Lead to improvements



WHAT COULD EAZA CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING EXISTING LICENCING SYSTEMS

- Opportunities for recognition by EU Member States that EAZA Accreditation is an indicator that these institutions are meeting the requirements of the EU Zoos Directive
 - Balance the burden
 - Resources available to implement
- Continue to freely share best practice and industry developments
 - Lead to improvements
- Conditions and sanctions
 - see later slide



SCREENING MISSIONS - INSPECTION

Screening Teams

- National Screener
- International Screener
- EAZA Office Rapporteur

- Screener requirements
- Member has right to decline a screener



SCREENING MISSIONS

- ~Two-day visit
- Check against Screening Questionnaire
- Based on Zoos Directive and EAZA Standards for:
 - Accommodation and Care
 - Conservation
 - Conservation Education
 - Research
 - Population Management Manual

<https://www.eaza.net/about-us/eazadocuments/>

- Animal enclosures -		Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
51	Are the animal enclosures clean and well maintained?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
52	Are the animal enclosures of appropriate size for the species exhibited?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
53	Is it apparent that the (temporary) enclosures are of sufficient size and that the animals are managed in such way that: (1) Undue dominance by individual animals is avoided? (2) Persistent and unresolved animal conflict is avoided? (3) The physical carrying capacity of the enclosures is not overburdened? (4) An uncontrolled build-up of parasites and other pathogens is prevented? (5) All animals which are in visibly adjoining enclosures appear to be those which do not interact in an excessively stressful way?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
54	Is separate accommodation provided, where appropriate, for pregnant animals and animals with young, in the interest to avoid stress?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
55	Are animals kept in temporary accommodation? -If yes, is their situation regularly assessed and evaluated?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
56	Do enclosures provide for the well-being of the animals throughout the year?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
57	Do trees within or near animal enclosures appear to be in a safe condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>



SCREENING MISSIONS

System

Implementation

Evidence

Does the zoo/aquarium have all expected and required documents in place?

Are the actions outlined in the policies being carried out?

What is the evidence that they are meeting the Standards?

If not, what have they done / will do to improve?

SCREENING MISSIONS

System

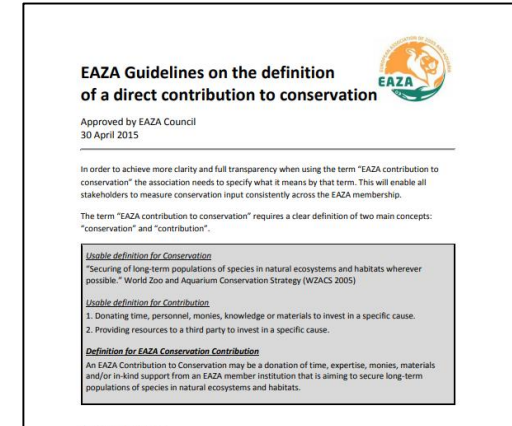
What is your system?

Partula Snail Case Study

- In situ conservation plan
 - End goal: reversing extinction
 - Breeding targets over 5 years
 - Partner zoos
 - Range country organizations
 - IUCN guidelines for reintroduction

Written documents

Does the zoo/aquarium have all expected and required documents in place?



SCREENING MISSIONS

Implementation

How is the system implemented?

Partula Snail Case Study

- 7 partner zoos, all breeding 300 individuals per year per species
- Gathering of individuals at the zoo for pre-release quarantine
- CITES documentation completed by French Polynesian Government ready for import
- Breeding station set up by Tahiti University



Written documents → in action

Are the actions outlined in the policies being carried out?



SCREENING MISSIONS

Evidence

How can we know it is successful?

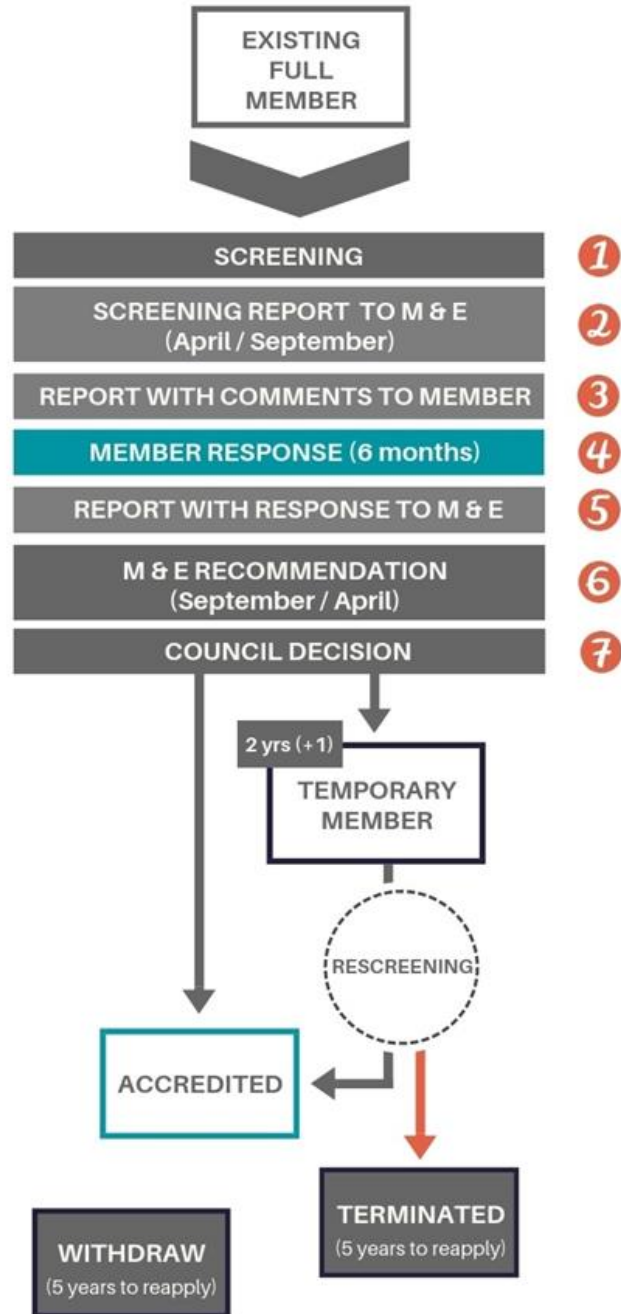
Partula Snail Case Study

- 500 individuals held in pre-release site for 6 months quarantine, no health concerns detected
- 500 individuals released to predator free reserve
 - 6 month count indicated 60% survival rate
 - **Egg laying observed**
- IUCN French Polynesia provided funding for 1 year continuation of project
- All partner institutions re-signed contract for 5 years

Written documents → in action → Evaluation and documentation



REPORTING



REPORTING

Confidentiality, trust, standardisation

Screening report is only seen by:

- Screeners
- Membership and Ethics Committee
- Member Director/CEO (who may choose to share further)

Currently working on improved pathways of participation and communication between EAZA and National Associations



EFFECTIVE INSPECTORATES

- Resources available to implement
- Industry competence and breadth of expertise
 - Training and updating
 - Institutional memory
 - Standardization of reporting and rapporteurs
- Supportive during all phases especially in follow-up

Both parties have the same view that the inspection is there to strengthen conservation performance



HOW COULD EAZA CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING EXISTING LICENCING SYSTEMS

- Serve as inspectors and/or be part of expert panels/advisory committees
- Share Best Practice and latest advances
- Collaboration opportunities e.g. in delivering training, supporting follow-up etc.



SUPPORT IS KEY

- Various guidance documents for institutions and screeners
- Interim screening reports for the institution with clear areas to address
- Suggest specific community connections
- Mentoring
- Candidate for Membership
- Training



NON-COMPLIANT ZOOS

Reasons why Member States might have difficulty implementing the Zoos Directive:

- Lack of capacity to deal with substandard zoos
 - poor animal welfare vs health and safety vs conservation
- Lack of holistic approach to zoos being defined as conservation actors
- Not aware of/utilising available resources



NON-COMPLIANT ZOOS

Reasons why zoos and aquariums might not meet the Zoos Directive

- First desire is to survive as a zoo
- Conservation is a secondary consideration
 - nice to do vs must do



SANCTIONING AND CLOSURES

Components of effective sanctions and closures

- Early intervention and identification of issues
- Time-bound improvements
- Support to improve as a priority before closure
- Mentoring
- Teeth



Main problems for authorities to close non-compliant zoos

- Lack of animal-centric thinking about closures
- Political risk associated with alternatives to rehoming
- Lack of clarity on mechanisms for rehoming animals
 - EAZA and National Associations are available to assist authorities if closure is recommended





THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

info@eaza.net

