



Zoos in the 21st Century: Catalysts for Conservation? (Conservation Biology)

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Modern zoos and aquaria are playing an increasingly active and important role in protecting and managing global biodiversity. Many zoos include wildlife conservation in their mission and have started changing the focus of their institutions in order to increase even further the benefits of their activities for in situ wildlife conservation. With these developments, the following searching questions are now being asked: What is the true role of zoos in conservation? How can they contribute more significantly to global conservation efforts? What are the unique attributes of zoos that can be applied in the conservation landscape? And should zoos be doing more? In parallel with this voluntary movement, legal requirements for zoos to support conservation in the wild are also becoming more stringent. This 2007 book defines a conservation vision for zoos and aquaria that will be of interest to those working in zoos, alongside practitioners and researchers in conservation.

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Editorial Review

Review

'This book defines a new conservation vision for zoos and aquaria that will be of interest to those working in zoos, alongside practitioners and researchers in conservation.' EAZA News

'... this is a comprehensive book that presents and discusses many of the challenges that zoo-related conservation science is faced with nowadays. It has the merit of inserting zoos and aquaria into today's reality, linking this to a variety of conservation approaches, thereby broadening the framework of mainstream conservation textbooks. It not only describes the current situation, but proposes applied strategies to face such challenges, whilst considering the wide diversity of 'zoo sizes', as well as acknowledging the different roles zoos in developed and developing countries can play.' Animal Welfare 2008

About the Author

Alexandra Zimmermann is Manager of Chester Zoo's Conservation Department (UK) and DPhil student at Oxford University. Her main research interest is in human-wildlife conflicts and she has founded and managed community-based conflict management programmes for jaguars in Brazil (with WCS) and Asian elephants in Assam, India.

Matthew Hatchwell has worked for the Wildlife Conservation Society since 1986, in New York, the Republic of Congo, Madagascar, and now in the United Kingdom as the WCS European Coordinator. In Madagascar, he was instrumental in the creation of Masoala National Park and in developing the relationship between the national park and Zoo Zürich.

Lesley Dickie is the Zoo Conservation Officer of the Zoological Society of London and is developing new auditing processes to fully collate the conservation activities of the Living Collections with respect to the mission of the ZSL. Her main research and conservation interests are in the biodiversity of Madagascar, with particular regard to the conservation role of European zoos on the island.

Chris West is CEO of the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia and Professor of Zoology, Adelaide University. Previously Zoological Director at ZSL, his interests range from good management practice for the conservation impact of zoos, sound ethical frameworks and welfare standards, as well as conservation medicine, and political leadership to link conservation with human and sustainable environmental development, the last being explored locally in Australia.

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