



Opening Plenary

Wednesday 24 September 2014

08.30 – 10.30

- **National Parks along the river Danube** (Slideshow presentation by Budapest Zoo)
- **Introduction to Conference and Chairman's thoughts of the past year** by Dr Simon Tonge, Chairman of EAZA
- **Welcome to Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden** by Prof. Dr. Miklós Persányi, General Director of Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden
- **Welcome to the City of Budapest** by Mr István Tarlós, Mayor of Budapest
- **An Update on EAZA Activities** by Dr Lesley Dickie, Executive Director of EAZA
- **Strategic Cooperation in Biodiversity Engagement:** Key-note Speaker Dr. Anna Omedes¹, Director of the Natural Sciences Museum of Barcelona, Ecsite Nature Group Steering Committee

EAZA has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ecsite, the European network of science centres and museums, and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). Dr. Omedes will outline how our institutions have evolved similarly in their missions, along with the synergies that make cooperation not only possible but highly beneficial. With partner values and missions that overlap in many areas, the MoU represents a shared vision of local scientific centres of excellence. Together, we can grasp a future that not only raises awareness of biodiversity and its importance, but which also provides the opportunities for the public to play a central role in the conservation of nature both locally and globally. Through joint campaigns and other initiatives, the MoU partners aim to put biodiversity at the heart of everyone's agenda – from government leaders to local communities.



- **Closing** by Dr Simon Tonge

¹**Dr Anna Omedes** is a biologist (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) and has a PhD in Animal Behaviour (University College of Wales, UK, 1981). Director of the Zoology Museum of Barcelona since 1997 and of the Natural Sciences Museum of Barcelona since 1999 and author of its Museological project. Project manager of the new site, the "Museu Blau", and co-curator and coordinator of the 3,000 sqm Permanent Exhibition "Planet Life" (2011). Member of the Steering Committee of the Ecsite Nature Group, of the Board of Icom NatHist and of the Executive Council of ICOM Spain between 2004 and 2010. Author and editor of articles and books on Museology, museography and Bioacoustics.



Conservation Plenary

Wednesday 24 September 2014

16.30 – 18.30

16.30-17.15 Conservation success stories from the field

Plenary chair: Dr. Bryan Carroll, Chair EAZA Conservation Committee

- **Opening** by Dr. Bryan Carroll, Chair EAZA Conservation Committee
- **Ape project: Protection and Restoration of Critical Ape Habitat in Southern Borneo, Indonesia** by Gonzalo Fernández-Hoyo, Fundación Bioparc

The Sabangau peat-swamp forest in southern Borneo is home to the world's largest remaining orang utan population and the largest known population of the southern Bornean gibbon. The forest and these globally important primate populations are threatened, however, by ongoing swamp drainage and subsequent fire, plus illegal wildlife hunting and small-scale illegal logging. Together with our local partners and the local community, we have been working to counter these threats by carrying out forest patrols, extinguishing forest fires, damming drainage channels, replanting burnt and cleared areas, and monitoring the success of these efforts by assessing their impact on the area's orang utans and gibbons. These efforts have resulted in increased protection for the area's flagship ape species populations, but an on-going commitment is required to secure their continued long-term protection.

- **Southeast Asia project: Wrong time, wrong place: wildlife conservation challenges in Karen State, Burma** by Dr Ross McEwing, SE Asia Programme Manager, The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

Karen State, like other regions in Myanmar, is a biodiversity hotspot. It is one of the few remaining regions where top predators seem to be at high densities. The Karen Wildlife Conservation Initiative was established in 2012 to help survey the area and delineate areas for community forest and wildlife sanctuaries. However, despite its high value conservation status, funding for conservation support has been almost impossible to acquire, as donors are increasingly risk averse. The EAZA / IUCN SSC South East Asia Conservation Fund have just provided support for tiger surveying and protection in Karen State, demonstrating that the EAZA community has a recognisable and pragmatic role to play in in situ as well as ex situ wildlife conservation.



Conservation Plenary

Wednesday 24 September 2014

16.30 – 18.30

17:05-18:30 Pole to Pole Campaign

- **Global initiatives against climate change: measures we can take to reduce warming, and how EAZA's campaigns can help** by Jamie Carr, IUCN Climate Change Unit

As the world's largest network of conservation organisations, IUCN is influential in helping put climate change and its impact at the centre of the global political agenda. Mr. Carr will outline the latest initiatives being proposed and supported by IUCN's Climate Change specialists at governmental level, and how EAZA's Pole to Pole Campaign can help bring pressure to bear on the passing of specific measures designed to mitigate climate change through petitioning and other lobbying activities.

- **Making politicians take notice: How an EAZA petition could be most effective, and why young people are the key** by Michael Sani, Bite the ballot

Climate change is only just beginning to be noticed – but for future generations, it will be a central part of the political agenda. Mr. Sani, an expert in youth political engagement will introduce some of the techniques which have helped encourage UK legislators to take seriously the concerns of young voters, and for the first time in years include those concerns in their policies. EAZA's Pole to Pole campaign can help make young people more aware of the effect climate change will have on their lives, and encourage today's politicians to think harder about the need for action on emissions.

- **Pole to Pole Campaign update with a special focus on the second campaign year** by José Kok, Pole to Pole Campaign Chair

- **The psychology behind pro-environmental behaviour** by Ellen van der Werff, Groningen University, the Netherlands

Many people believe that the environment is important and that we should try to act sustainably and environmentally, for example by reducing our energy use. However, people often fail to carry through their good intentions, but choose instead the easy or cheap environmentally-unfriendly option. Why is this the case, and how can pro-environmental behaviour be promoted? Ms Verhoef's research at Ouwehands zoo in the Netherlands tested how zoo visitors can be motivated to unplug their electronic devices at home. The results and implications of the study will be discussed.



Conservation Plenary

Wednesday 24 September 2014

16.30 – 18.30

- **Swedish zoos joining forces to raise awareness about climate change** by Eva Anderson, Nordens Ark

This summer members of the Swedish Associations of Zoos and Aquariums organized national campaign days to highlight the Pole to Pole campaign. The aim was to raise awareness about the threats of climate change and to show that zoos in Sweden and around Europe together are fighting for the climate. The participants sent out a joint press release to get as much media coverage as possible, then each park created their own activities for the days. This included recycling contests, guided tours focusing on polar species and distribution of tips and tricks on how you can make a difference in your everyday life. Some parks also minimized their own CO2 emission for the day by driving their vehicles as little as possible and serving vegetarian food in the restaurant at a reduced price.

- **Closing** by Dr. Bryan Carroll