

About WAZA

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) is the global alliance of regional associations, national federations, zoos and aquariums, dedicated to the care and conservation of animals and their habitats around the world.

WAZA's vision is to be a globally recognized and trusted leader advancing conservation and animal welfare.

The WAZA 2023 Animal Welfare Goal

1.1. Background

In its 2015 World Zoo and Aquarium Animal Welfare Strategy, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), highlighted the importance of making welfare-based accreditation a priority. In 2016, representatives from WAZA-member national and regional associations met in Singapore to discuss a pathway to implement this within the WAZA community; and in 2019 another meeting was held in Barcelona, which ironed out additional details to implement what would be known as the WAZA 2023 Animal Welfare Goal, a global Goal aimed at establishing a global benchmark for regional and national animal welfare evaluation processes.

1.2. The WAZA 2023 Animal Welfare Goal

After consultation with WAZA regional and national zoo and aquarium association members (through meetings in August 2016 and June 2019), WAZA Council in July 2019, approved the goal that by 31 December 2023:

1. WAZA National and Regional Associations must have an animal welfare evaluation process in place and such a process must include specific elements approved by WAZA.
2. All WAZA institutional members must be compliant with this process.

1.3. What the WAZA 2023 Animal Welfare Goal is NOT:

The WAZA 2023 Animal Welfare Goal is **not a certification, accreditation or a standard**. WAZA is not an accrediting body and therefore does not set standards nor engages in any accreditation scheme or homologous processes for individual zoological institutions. Instead, WAZA works closely with national and regional associations to meet and develop joint priorities to establish global benchmarks.

1.4. What the WAZA 2023 Animal Welfare Goal IS:

The WAZA 2023 Animal Welfare Goal aims at confirming that the Animal Welfare Evaluation Processes utilised by the **WAZA member national and regional associations**, include specific high-level principles of animal welfare, and thus, to see these principles consistently across the world.

The WAZA 2023 Animal Welfare Goal intends to ensure that all regions represented within WAZA, adopt a holistic and compelling approach to animal welfare through their animal welfare evaluation processes.

Going forward, meeting this Goal will be a prerequisite for all WAZA members.

PAAZA meets the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Animal Welfare Goal, a global benchmark for Animal Welfare Evaluation Processes

PAAZA is proud to have completed the review process mandated by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) through the WAZA 2023 Animal Welfare Goal. The WAZA 2023 Animal Welfare Goal is a Goal aimed at establishing a global benchmark for regional and national animal welfare evaluation processes.

The review of PAAZA's animal welfare evaluation process, has involved a peer-review and involvement from several experts around the world. The result of this process has confirmed that PAAZA meets the requirements towards achieving the WAZA 2023 Animal Welfare Goal.

The requirements set by the global association set the stage and fundamentals for holistic animal welfare evaluation processes worldwide, including several animal welfare elements with a positive impact on the welfare of the animals under human care.

The below was proudly received by PAAZA at the WAZA 2023 Conference:

