



Certification process for conservation projects of  
the Latin American Association of Zoos and  
Aquariums

## **INDEX**

CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS (ALPZA).....	3
GUIDELINES .....	4
RESPONSIBILITIES .....	6
RECOMMENDATIONS .....	6
APPLICATION .....	6
FILES TO SUBMIT .....	7
GLOSSARY .....	7
REFERENCIAS .....	8

## CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS (ALPZA)

ALPZA members carry out permanent activities for the conservation of biodiversity. In this sense, it is important that they have clear guidelines to direct and organize their efforts, and as long as they comply with these guidelines, they can be recognized and certified as **ALPZA CONSERVATION PROJECTS**.

The ALPZA conservation project certification process emerged in 2010 as an initiative of the Conservation Committee and is open to all ALPZA members.

Within the framework of this process, a CONSERVATION PROJECT is defined as one or a set of sustainable initiatives over time that seek the long-term survival of populations of species in their natural habitats.

Below we present the guidelines and describe the process to apply to the ALPZA conservation project certification process.

## GUIDELINES

1. THE PROJECT recognizes direct and indirect environmental problems and specific threats that may affect one or more species, their populations or habitats, and develops clear strategies and proposals for their solution.
2. THE PROJECT determines goals and objectives as well as the impact indicators to measure them.
3. THE PROJECT has qualified professional staff, linked to the institution and dedicated to the development of these efforts.
4. Resources are allocated to the PROJECT (including equipment, infrastructure, materials).
5. THE PROJECT has a minimum annual budget secured.
6. THE PROJECT presents evidence that the proposed goals and objectives are achieved.
7. Considering that natural processes involve long-term actions, the PROJECT has been sustained over time (at least 2 years), or is part of a plan or program with continuity, which allows demonstrating and guaranteeing commitment in the achievement of results.
8. THE PROJECT facilitates inter-institutional cooperation, joining its efforts with national, international, governmental and / or non-governmental organizations associated with wildlife conservation.
9. THE PROJECT develops management actions for the conservation of biodiversity, scientific research and / or education programs.
10. The results of the PROJECT are presented both in academic fields and in social media.
11. THE PROJECT considers the local community where it has influence and integrates it into its work strategy.
  - 1.1. The community is informed about the PROJECT, its scope and results.
  - 1.2. When actions can have an impact on the communities and areas where they live, community members are involved in decision making.
12. THE PROJECT guarantees in all cases adequate animal welfare and use of natural resources, complying with national and international legislations that regulate wildlife management, and is in line with the ALPZA Code of Ethics.
13. When THE PROJECT involves the translocation of specimens to the wild:
  - 13.1. A health protocol is defined and implemented in order to avoid the introduction of diseases in the wild population.

- 13.2. A behavioral evaluation is carried out in order to determine the animal's ability to adapt to wildlife.
- 13.3. The geographical and / or genetic origin of the specimens to be translocated is considered to avoid adverse impacts on the ecosystem.
- 13.4. There is an identification system for each individual.
- 13.5. A post-release monitoring system is determined to check the adaptation of translocated specimens.
- 13.6 The results of the translocation are evaluated with the goal of identifying possible benefits or negative impacts, and solutions for their mitigation are proposed.
14. When THE PROJECT involves rescue and rehabilitation actions:
- 14.1. The entry and exit of animals to the institution or rescue center is controlled by the governmental environmental authority.
- 14.2 There are isolated spaces, quarantine areas and work protocols that provide biosecurity for the staff and establish the correct handling of the specimens.
- 14.3 There is an identification and tracking system for each individual.
- 14.4 The rehabilitated specimens are integrated into translocation programs in natural habitats or ex situ conservation programs for the species. In case of translocation to the wild, points 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 must be complied with, and when feasible 13.5
15. When THE PROJECT involves the conservation of natural areas:
- 15.1 The conservation area is clearly defined and delimited, geographically and legally.
- 15.2 The area has a management plan.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Once the certification of the PROJECT is officially communicated by email, the Member agrees to comply with the following points. Failure to meet any of these points for a period of two consecutive years will result in loss of certification.

- Send annual reports of the activities developed in the period between January and December of the previous year, with their progress and results, and on the date indicated by the Conservation Committee.
- Send photographic evidence, video and / or news of the progress and results, associated with the respective annual report.
- When these guidelines are updated, present evidence of compliance in the immediate annual report.
- Register the PROJECT in the ALPZA Conservation Database, in a span no longer than three (3) months.
- Communicate to the Conservation Committee and ALPZA's Executive Director any novelties related to changes in the administration of the PROJECT, such as responsible person and institutional affiliation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is advised the PROJECT develop in situ and ex situ management strategies and conservation actions in line with the One Plan Approach, integrating the efforts of all the actors responsible and involved in the conservation of biodiversity.

The PROJECT should facilitate capacity building and conservation training.

It is recommended that THE PROJECT involve and integrate more than one member of ALPZA.

When THE PROJECT involves translocation of specimens to wildlife the Guidelines for reintroduction and other translocations for IUCN conservation purposes (IUCN / SSC 2013) should be followed.

In the event that THE PROJECT involves the conservation of natural areas, it is recommended that the area be registered in a public or private protected areas system.

## APPLICATION

If you are a member of ALPZA and wish to submit a Project to be evaluated under these guidelines, please complete the Application form, and send it together with the indicated files to the Executive Director of ALPZA ([direccion@alpza.com](mailto:direccion@alpza.com)).

## FILES TO SUBMIT

- a. [Application form](#) filled out
- b. Letter of presentation of the PROJECT signed by the Director or Representative of the Institution.
- c. File including evidence of compliance with the guidelines (example: publications and associated news, promotional and educational material, etc.).
- d. Photographs associated with the development of the project: minimum 10.

The files of points a, b and c must be sent in pdf format.

## GLOSSARY

**Conservation action:** It is a specific activity or effort developed to contribute to the protection of a species, its habitat or an ecosystem in response to the identified threats. Conservation actions can be part of conservation plans and strategies for species or be part of conservation projects that seek to ensure the survival of that species (s) in the long term. Conservation actions can also respond to emerging situations.

**Conservation area:** It is an area that constitutes an effective conservation unit for the maintenance of the ecological processes that characterize it.

**Conservation management:** Refers to the actions required to regulate human activities to minimize direct and indirect negative impacts on valuable sites and / or valuable species, with the objective of maintaining the existence of specific species or biodiversity in general. In any case, the activities managed include those that could have direct negative impacts on the objective, and those that only have indirect effects, and may have these effects at a considerable distance from the place where the activity takes place.

**Environmental problem:** These are situations caused by human, economic, social, cultural and political activities, processes or behaviors, among others; that affect the environment and cause negative impacts on the environment, the economy and society.

**Ex situ conservation:** The conservation of components of biological diversity outside their natural habitats.

**Goal:** These are practical and concrete steps that contribute directly to the scope of the Project's conservation vision.

**Identification:** Refers to the way in which a specimen or specimen is recognized individually. The forms of identification can be electronic (chip), physical (band or ring, cuts, photography) or logical (registration number, house name).

**Impact indicator:** A measure of achievement; or a description of the conditions that would show that a particular action would have been implemented successfully. Good indicators are measurable, accurate, consistent, and sensitive.

**In situ conservation:** The conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural environments and, in the case of domesticated and cultivated species, in the environments in which they have developed their properties specific.

**Objective:** It is a positive affirmation of what needs to be done to contribute to achieving a Goal.

**Protected area:** A geographically defined area that has been designated or regulated and managed in order to achieve specific conservation objectives.

**Rehabilitation:** It is the action of recovering a wild animal that suffered some pathology or was removed from its habitat, sanitary, physical, psychic and / or behaviorally.

**Rescue:** It is the act of responding and acting to save a disabled animal or an animal that is in imminent threat of danger, provide its immediate needs when necessary and deliver it to a center where it receives definitive care so that it can recover and finally be returned to nature.

**Threat:** It is any factor that causes a detrimental impact on the abundance of the population of a species.

**Translocation:** It is the movement of a living organism from one area to another, facilitated by the human being, either from ex situ conditions or from another natural area.

## REFERENCIAS

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