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1) Using the SSP Sustainability Report Search Portal

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Summary: The Sustainability Database was developed to collect population and species care
information from Program Leaders for every AZA Species Survival Plan® (SSP). The Sustainability
Search Portal is designed not only to connect Program Leaders with their SSP Sustainability Reports,
but also to facilitate collection planning searches for institution directors, curators, and others in a
collection planning team. The project was IMLS-funded, and represents the community-wide effort to
enhance collection sustainability of our managed populations.
1) **Using the SSP Sustainability Report Search Portal**
   a. **Accessing the SSP Sustainability Search Portal**
      1) Log into My AZA by selecting “Log In” at the top of the AZA website (www.aza.org).

2) After logging in, use the navigation pane on the left to select “SSP Sustainability Reports,” which leads directly to the Search Portal.
To log in, use your primary email address as your username. Your password is your individual AZA membership ID number or a personalized password if you have re-set it.

For log-in help, please contact our Membership Services Department for assistance logging in.

For Internet Explorer users, the Search Portal text can become compressed depending on your settings. Go to Frequently Asked Questions for instructions to remedy this display.

b. **Tips for Different Types of Users**

i. **Program Leaders, Institutional Representatives, and Institutional Liaisons**

   - As a Program Leader (PL) or Institutional Representative (IR), you probably already know the specific SSP Report(s) you would like to view. The Program Name and Associated TAG fields will be most useful to you.

   - For specific SSP(s), it is recommended that you enter one word into Program Name and press Go. For example, entering “antelope” will return all antelope SSPs. Entering two words, such as “sable antelope” will not return any results. See FAQ for more information.

   - Alternatively, if you would like to review multiple reports within a TAG, you may choose to use the Associated TAG field. Select the TAG of interest and press Go. All SSP Sustainability Reports within that TAG will be returned.

   - An important note to Program Leaders: One of the goals of this database is to encourage collection planners to incorporate your SSP species into their collection. To increase the likelihood that your SSP Sustainability Report is recommended to collection planners, read the tips (below) for Collection Planners. It will offer insight into how various fields will be used. For example, if your species can be held with a giant anteater but that species was not listed in your original submission, then that data point was not entered. As a result, your SSP Sustainability Report will not be returned in a search for cohabitants with a giant anteater, and other SSPs will be considered instead of yours. The same may be true for other search criteria, such as “Warm weather tolerant” in Species Appeal, or a search for SSP species that can substitute a non-managed species (using the dropdown species list).

ii. **Collection Planners**

   - Collection planning users will likely use search fields in more complex ways, so watching the tutorials posted to the Online Training Modules page is advised. The following user tips highlight the most commonly used fields for collection planning purposes, but every user is encouraged to explore any fields that seem relevant. Please note, the more selections you make in the Search Portal, the more narrow the results become. For example, selecting “Mammal” in the Taxon field and “Asia” in the Continent field returns around 50 reports, while selecting “Mammal” and “Asia” from those fields as well as “Yes” for Multi-Species Exhibit Potential (i.e., the species can live with other species) and “Deforestation” from Messaging Opportunities (i.e., the species is affected by in situ deforestation activities) returns only a few reports.

An important note to Institutional Representatives: Please review the “Challenges to SSP Population Sustainability” table, usually found on page 4 of the SSP Sustainability Reports, for each SSP you represent. This section contains a summary of the major challenges and needs related to population sustainability and often includes requests and directives for institutions, particularly for greater communication on a range of topics or for implementation of particular husbandry practices. The primary responsibility for IRs is to facilitate communication between your institution and the SSP, so be sure to review this information and respond accordingly.
If you already know what type of animal you’re looking for, you can use the Associated TAG field or even type in one word of the common name into Program Name. For example, entering “pigeon” will return all pigeon SSPs, but entering two words, such as “Nicobar pigeon” will not return any results. See FAQ for more information.

Use the Continent and Biome fields to narrow by geography and habitat type. For example, searching for a candidate appropriate for an African savanna exhibit, you would enter “Africa” into Continent and “Savanna” into Biome.

The Species Appeal was designed particularly with collection planners in mind. Options include a range of searchable features that represent an array of search criteria. Your search can identify “Reverse light cycle” for nocturnal exhibits, climate tolerances (“Warm weather tolerant” for species that are typically held outdoors year-round at facilities with warm climates and “Cold weather tolerant” for species that may be held outdoors for all or most of the year at facilities with below-freezing day temperatures throughout winter), or a low annual per-animal cost (“Inexpensive to hold (less than $1000 per year)”).

If you are looking for an ambassador animal, select “Yes” in the Ambassador Animal field.

Special Exhibit Considerations can be used to identify candidates for your exhibit based on certain exhibit features. Here are a few example phrases that can be entered:
- “free-flight aviary”
- “aquatic” or “terrestrial” for Chelonians
- “vertical” for spaces with complex vertical structure

To narrow a search to include species that can be held with other species, select “Yes” in the Multi-Species Exhibit Potential field. If you are adding species to a multi-species exhibit and would like to identify SSP species that can cohabitate with your current species, you can use the field entitled Species Opportunities in Multi-Species Exhibits. For example, selecting “Capybara” in this list and pressing Go, returns the SSP Sustainability Reports for SSP animals that can cohabitate with capybara. Details on multi-species exhibits may be found on the first and second pages of the report.
- There are a few generalized groups of species within this list. Here are the species groups, and collection planners are encouraged to use this list when possible, rather than selecting specific species.
  - Bird (Various spp.) – Crane
  - Bird (Various spp.) – Hornbill
  - Bird (Various spp.) – Parrot
  - Bird (Various spp.) – Penguin, Arctic & Sub-Arctic
  - Bird (Various spp.) – Penguin, Temperate
  - Bird (Various spp.) – Perching
  - Bird (Various spp.) – Shore
  - Bird (Various spp.) – Waterfowl, Large
  - Bird (Various spp.) – Waterfowl, Small
  - Cichlid, Lake Victoria
  - Fish (Various spp.) – Freshwater
  - Fish (Various spp.) – Marine
  - Hoofstock (Various spp.) – Large
  - Hoofstock (Various spp.) – Small
  - Monkey (Various spp.) – New World
  - Monkey (Various spp.) – Old World
- Snake (Various spp.) – Aquatic
- Snake (Various spp.) – Terrestrial
- Turtle (Various spp.) – Freshwater
- Turtle (Various spp.) – Sea
- Turtle (Various spp.) – Terrestrial

- If you are planning for the exportation or eventual passing of an animal in your collection and are considering allocating that space to an SSP species in the future, you may use the field entitled Non-SSP Species that can be Substituted by an SSP Species. For example, searching “Slider, Red-Eared” in this field returns all of the Chelonian SSP species that could be placed in a red-eared slider exhibit with minimal or no changes to the space. Select one of the species groups listed immediately above, to broaden your results.

- If your exhibit space is situated in a themed sequence related to conservation or educational messaging, you may want to use the Messaging Opportunities field. This will narrow your search to include those SSP species appropriate for a specific educational topic (e.g., “Climate change”).

### iii. Research Scientists

- The last field in the Search Portal is entitled “Research Opportunities.” It is a keyword search that returns the reports for species that could benefit from that field of study. Please consult the list below for the most common research keywords. This is not exhaustive, as some keywords apply to only a very few species. Details for research opportunities are provided on pages 4 or 5 of the report.

- Reproductive biology
- Endocrinology
- ART
- Assisted reproductive technology
- AI
- Artificial insemination
- Semen collection
- Semen cryopreservation
- Medical
- Veterinary
- Health
- Disease

- Physiology
- Pathology
- Offspring survivorship
- Offspring survival
- Offspring mortality
- Husbandry
- Animal behavior
- Animal welfare
- Diet
- Nutrition
- Genetics
- Conservation
2)  Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I'm using the Program Name to search for a specific SSP or animal. Why isn't anything coming up?  A: You may need to make sure you are using only one word in the “Program Name” text field. The database searches for words in the exact order they are given, and common names are organized by animal. In other words, the sloth bear is in the database as “bear, sloth.” If you search for “sloth bear,” nothing will be returned. But if you search for either “sloth” or “bear,” the Sloth Bear SSP Sustainability Report will be listed, along with any other SSPs with “sloth” or “bear” in the name.

Q: Why do some SSP Sustainability Reports have blanks in areas that are complete for other reports?
A: Sometimes information has not yet been published on the population, so there is no material that can be included in the report (for example, no census graph has been created and no gene diversity estimate has been calculated because a Breeding and Transfer Plan is not yet published). These reports are living documents, and will be updated over the years as more information is known, communicated, and ultimately published. If you are a Program Leader who would like to contribute to these data, please contact Rebecca Greenberg (rgreenberg@aza.org).

Q: When I view the Sustainability Search Portal in Internet Explorer, the field titles have been narrowed and are very hard to read. What can I do?
A: This is a view settings problem. Click on the Settings gear in the upper right hand corner of the window. Select Compatibility View Settings. In the pop up window, type “aza.org” (no quotations) into the “Add this website:” field. Click Add. Close the window and refresh the Search Portal page.

Q: While using the Search Portal, I am finding some gaps in the information. For example, using the “Species Opportunities in Multi-species Exhibits” field, I don’t see some of the SSP species that I know would be compatible with the selected species. Or, I know an SSP species that is being affected by the pet trade, but selecting “Pet trade” in the “Messaging Opportunities” field does not return the expected species. Shouldn’t those SSP reports be returned?
A: The search portal can only search what has already been submitted and entered into the database, and not every entry may be fully complete and accurate. If you know that an SSP species can live with another animal, but it’s not coming up, please contact Rebecca Greenberg (rgreenberg@aza.org) to add to the data entry. The same may be true of an educational “Messaging opportunity” you know is relevant (but is not coming up), a “Species Appeal” point that isn’t returning your species, or any other data issue of concern.

Q: I’m a collection planner. I am entering the criteria I’m looking for and nothing is coming up. What’s going on?
A: You may need to reduce the number of fields into which you’ve entered criteria and widen your net. The narrower a search, the fewer SSP Sustainability Reports are returned. For example, looking for an Asian antelope to be used as an ambassador animal with climate change messaging (using the Continent, Associated TAG, Ambassador Animal, and Messaging Opportunities fields) returns no results, but searching for an Asian antelope does.

Q: Why does the field “Non-SSP Species that can be Substituted by an SSP Species” contain SSP species in the dropdown menu?
A: This list is derived from our overall database species list. Every species that has a record for anything (conservation projects, multi-species exhibit, SSP, etc.) is automatically listed here.
Q: I am a Program Leader, and I would like to add to or update my information. Whom can I contact?
A: Contact Rebecca Greenberg (rgreenberg@aza.org), the Conservation and Science Coordinator.

3) **Descriptions of Individual Search Fields**

**Program Name**
- Text field (type only one keyword for searches to eliminate confusion with database)
- Identifies the common name of the SSP species
- Useful for species-specific searches (if you already know what animal you are looking for)

**Taxon**
- Dropdown menu of taxa: Amphibian, Bird, Fish, Flora, Invertebrate, Mammal, Reptile
- Useful for collection planners developing a taxon-specific exhibit (e.g., a space in a reptile house)

**Family**
- Text field (type only one keyword for searches to eliminate confusion with database)
- Identifies the taxonomic family of the SSP species

**Genus, Species, and Subspecies fields**
- Text field (type only one keyword for searches to eliminate confusion with database)
- Identifies the specific taxonomic classification of the SSP species
- Useful for species-specific searches (if you already know what animal you are looking for)

**IUCN Status and US Conservation Status**
- Dropdown menu of IUCN status levels (e.g., extinct in the wild, critically endangered, etc.)
- Dropdown menu of US Endangered Species Act status levels (e.g., endangered, threatened, etc.)
- Useful for collection planning search for exhibits with a conservation theme for endangered species
- Some species are listed under ESA as Endangered, but are not given the Endangered status with IUCN. You may want to run a search for each status type.

**Activity Pattern**
- Dropdown menu of daily activity patterns: Crepuscular, Diurnal, Nocturnal
- Useful for special nocturnal exhibits

**Continent and Biome fields**
- Dropdown menu of continents and oceans (e.g., Africa, North America, Pacific Ocean, etc.)
- Dropdown menu of biomes / ecosystem types (e.g., Forest: Tropical Rain, Wetland, Desert, etc.)
- Useful for collection planning searches that focus on a geographic area or habitat type (e.g., an Asian tropical forest exhibit theme)

**Associated TAG**
- Dropdown menu of all AZA Taxon Advisory Groups (TAGs) (e.g., Amphibian, Bat,
Gruiformes, etc.)
• Useful for many searches to narrow the list of species into one type of animal (based on TAG grouping)

International Program Status
• Dropdown menu of formal international management types: WAZA Global Species Management Plan (GSMP) and Inter-regional Program
• Useful for many searches to identify programs with formal international arrangements for population management and facilitated international transportation and permitting

Program Designation
• Dropdown menu of SSP Program designations: Green, Yellow, Red

Species Appeal
• Dropdown menu of species or exhibit qualities that may appeal to collection planners
• Very useful for collection planners looking to identify certain engaging aspects of a species exhibit
• Examples include “Reverse light cycle” for nocturnal exhibits, “Weather tolerant” for species held outdoors in temperate areas, “Dual aquatic / terrestrial viewing” for exhibits that have a visible water feature for guests to look into, and “Walk-through exhibit” for exhibits that guests can enter

Ambassador Animal
• Dropdown menu of Yes, No, Unknown
• Identifies SSP species that may be used as ambassador animals

Special Exhibit Consideration(s)
• Text field (try to type only one keyword for searches to eliminate confusion with database, when possible)
• Searches the language that describes typical exhibit and holding spaces
• Examples include “outdoors,” “nest box,” “arboreal,” etc.
• Do not type phrases together (for example, typing “outdoors arboreal” will not return any results, but separate searches for each word will)

Recommended Social Structure(s) in Zoos and Aquariums
• Dropdown menu of social configurations (e.g., Bachelor groups, Pairs, Colonial / herd / group)

Reintroduction Program
• Dropdown menu of Yes, No, Unknown

Multi-Species Exhibit Potential
• Dropdown menu of Yes, No, Unknown
• Identifies strictly whether or not the SSP species is able to cohabitate with other species
• Very useful for collection planners building or seeking an addition to a multi-species exhibit

Species Opportunities in Multi-Species Exhibits
• Dropdown menu of species (2000+ species)
- Very useful for collection planners building or seeking an addition to a multi-species exhibit, if the other cohabitants are already known
- For example, selecting “Anteater, Giant” from this list will identify SSP species that are able to be housed with the giant anteater

Non-SSP Species that can be Substituted by an SSP Species
- Dropdown menu of species (2000+ species)
- Very useful for collection planners looking for an SSP animal to substitute a non-SSP animal in the exhibit
- For example, selecting “Bustard, White-Bellied” from this list will identify SSP species that can inhabit spaces currently occupied by white-bellied bustards, without significant change to the exhibit

Messaging Opportunities
- Dropdown menu of conservation education messages (e.g., Palm oil, Overfishing or bycatch, Climate change)
- Very useful for collection planners looking for a SSP species that will fit a particular messaging exhibit theme

Research Opportunities
- Text field (search one research keyword at a time)
- Identifies SSPs with research opportunities, based on the keywords entered into the field
- Examples include endocrinology, assisted reproductive technology, nutrition, animal welfare, animal behavior, reproductive biology, species biology, etc.