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**ENV D.3 – Nature
Protection
European Commission**

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**Results of the Zoos Directive evaluation
(Council Directive 1999/22/EC relating to
the keeping of wild animals in zoos)**

Zoos Directive: main objectives

- Protect wild fauna and conserve biodiversity
- Strengthening the role of zoos in the conservation of biodiversity

Zoos Directive: specific objectives

- (1) **Research** and/or **training** and/or **exchange of information** and/or **captive breeding, repopulation, reintroduction of species** into the wild
- (2) Promote **public education and awareness** in relation to biodiversity conservation
- (3) Accommodate animals under conditions which aim to **satisfy the species' biological and conservation requirements** and maintain high standards of animal husbandry
- (4) **Prevent escape of animals** and intrusion of outside pests and vermin
- (5) Keep **up-to-date records** of the collections

Statistics on zoos

- At least 1,000 licensed zoos in the evaluated 14 Member States
- Across the 14 MS, 19% of the licensed zoos are EAZA members
- Across the whole EU probably only 10% EAZA members
- 140 million annual visits to EAZA zoos, 700 million visits worldwide

Licencing and inspection systems

- 12/14 Member States introduced stricter or more detailed provisions in their national legislation
- Zoo inspectors responsible for a range of different duties
- Inspector's skills broad and not necessarily focused on wild fauna or conservation, mainly veterinary sciences

- In 12 /13 Member States the share of licensed zoos increased between 2010 and 2015
- Not all zoos licenced yet
- Only few penalties and zoo closures - authorities prefer to grant zoos the possibility to improve
- Main breaches detected: animal accommodation and husbandry, education and awareness raising

Conservation measures in zoos

- Largely achieved: promotion of education and awareness raising, captive breeding, repopulation and reintroduction, information exchange
- Not fully achieved: research, training, keeping animals under appropriate conditions, preventing the escape of animals, keeping up-to-date-records

- Zoos' role in the conservation of biodiversity has been strengthened
- Extent of conservation activities' impact is unclear
- The Zoos Directive helps to close the gap between more and less conservation oriented zoos
- Its legally binding nature makes it a strong catalyst for the expected change of zoos' role in the conservation of biodiversity

Key messages for policy makers – lessons learned

Issues still impeding more effective implementation:

- limited capacity and resource constraints in Member States' competent authorities
- coordination issues between authorities at different levels

- Measures to remedy shortcomings in licencing and inspection systems could serve as good practice examples
- The absence of a forum of exchange represents an obstacle to share information and good practices to improve implementation

- The EU 2015 “Zoos Directive Good Practices Document” aimed at improving implementation is regarded as extremely useful by all stakeholders.
- Its lack of translation into all EU languages has hampered its visibility and use.

- The Directive's provisions are flexible and open enough to accommodate scientific and technical progress and the changing role of zoos
- Ex situ conservation work done by zoos and in situ measures in the wild should be better integrated

- Zoos' participation in the LIFE programme has so far been limited
- Continued EU action necessary to support more effective and efficient application of the Directive's requirements

Follow-up actions

- Translation of Zoos Directive Good Practices Document
- Call for tender published:
 - ✓ Organisation of three annual stakeholder meetings
 - ✓ Developing training modules for authorities, zoos and zoos associations
 - ✓ Give trainings in 4 different EU geographical regions
 - ✓ Support authorities using peer-to-peer mechanisms