



## TAG Annual Report Template

### Bear TAG Annual Report Date: July 2019

\*\*\* Please note that Annual Reports must be digitally submitted to the AZA Conservation & Science Department ([conservation@aza.org](mailto:conservation@aza.org)) and the TAG's WCMC Liaison no later than **July 15**.

\*\*\* Please adjust the tables as necessary to accommodate complete answers.

\*\*\* This template is available in a digitized Word form at <https://www.aza.org/templates-and-applications>

1. Please provide a list of the most current TAG Steering Committee members and Advisors. Example:

| NAME                | ROLE                            | INSTITUTION                     | EMAIL                               |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Rebecca Snyder      | Chair                           | Oklahoma City Zoo               | rsnyder@okczoo.org                  |
| Randi Meyerson      | Vice Chair                      | Detroit Zoological Society      | rmeyerson@dzs.org                   |
| Debbie Thompson     | Immediate Past Chair            | Little Rock Zoo                 | dthompson@littlerock.gov            |
| Ann Meyer           | Secretary                       | Audubon Institute               | ameyer@auduboninstitute.org         |
| Liz Larsen          | Treasurer                       | Utah's Hogle Zoo                | llarsen@hoglezoo.org                |
| Amy Cutting         | SC Member                       | Oregon Zoo                      | Amy.Cutting@oregonzoo.org           |
| Angela Gibson       | SC Member                       | Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium | toebby80@gmail.com                  |
| Ronda Schwetz       | SC Member                       | Henry Vilas Zoo                 | schwetz@countyofdane.com            |
| John Ward           | SC Member                       | Fort Worth Zoo                  | jward@fortworthzoo.org              |
| Eric Albers         | SC Member                       | Akron Zoo                       | eralbers@akronzoo.org               |
| Travis Vineyard     | SC Member                       | Cleveland Metroparks Zoo        | tgv@clevelandmetroparks.com         |
| Gary Lunsford       | SC Member                       | Milwaukee Zoo                   | gary.lunsford@milwaukeecountywi.gov |
| Carrie Pratt        | SC Member                       | Columbus Zoo                    | Carrie.Pratt@columbuszoo.org        |
| Devon Sabo          | SC Member (non-voting)          | Columbus Zoo                    | devon.sabo@columbuszoo.org          |
| Victoria Sokol      | Advisor-Education               | none                            | Victoria.h.sokol@gmail.com          |
| Darin Collins       | Advisor-Veterinary              | Woodland Park Zoo               | Darin.collins@zoo.org               |
| Wynona Shellabarger | Advisor-Veterinary              | Detroit Zoo                     | wshellabarger@dzs.org               |
| Barbara Henry       | Advisor-Nutrition               | Cincinnati Zoo                  | Barbara.henry@cincinnati zoo.org    |
| Ann Ward            | Advisor-Nutrition               | Fort Worth Zoo                  | award@fortworthzoo.org              |
| Matt Brooks         | Advisor-Nutrition               | Oregon Zoo                      | Matt.brooks@oregonzoo.org           |
| Troy Tollefson      | Advisor-Nutrition               | Mazuri                          | TNTollefson@mazuri.com              |
| Jaap Wensvoort      | Advisor-Nutrition               | Toronto Zoo                     | jwensvoort@torontozoo.ca            |
| Dave Garshelis      | Advisor-Field                   | Minnesota DNR                   | Dave.garshelis@dnr.state.mn.us      |
| Don Moore           | Advisor-Husbandry and Welfare   | Oregon Zoo                      | Don.moore@oregonzoo.org             |
| Laura Bottaro       | Advisor-Training and Enrichment | Oklahoma City Zoo               | lbottaro@okczoo.org                 |
| Cheryl Frederick    | Advisor-Captive Bear Research   | Unity College                   | cfrederick@unity.edu                |
| Megan Owen          | Advisor – Bear Research         | San Diego Zoo Global            | mowen@sandiegozoo.org               |
| Terri Roth          | Advisor-Reproduction            | Cincinnati Zoo                  | Terr.roth@cincinnati zoo.org        |

2. Please list any new or revised statements or guidelines that the TAG has adopted in the past year (note that new or revised Policies, Position Statements, White Papers, and Guidelines must be approved by the AZA Board of Directors).

None

3. Please attach an updated, Animal Programs Summary Table (See Table 3 in the TAG Handbook, p. 47-51 for more information).

**Animal Programs Summary Table**

| Common Name<br>(Genus species)                            | Date of Last PVA/<br>Breeding and<br>Transfer Plan                   | Current<br>Pop<br>Size (N) | Current<br>Number of<br>Participating<br>AZA<br>Member<br>Institutions | Projected<br>%GD at 100<br>years or 10<br>generations                                    | SSP<br>Program<br>Designation | 5 year<br>Target<br>Population<br>Size | Long-term<br>Target<br>Population<br>Size | Space<br>Needed<br>(target<br>pop size<br>- current<br>space) | Recent 5<br>Year<br>Population<br>Trend | USFWS<br>IUCN<br>CITES   |
|---|--|----------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| Giant panda<br>( <i>Ailuropoda<br/>melanoleuca</i> )      | Published April 2019   | 548 <sup>b</sup>           | 4 <sup>b</sup> AZA<br>89 <sup>b</sup> non-AZA                          | 93.9% <sup>b</sup>   | Green SSP                     | 600 <sup>b</sup>                       | 600 <sup>b</sup>                          | 600-600<br>= 0  | Increasing                              | Endangered<br>Vulnerable<br>Appendix I                                       |
| Andean bear<br>( <i>Tremarctos<br/>ornates</i> )          | 11 July 2012/8 June<br>2017  | 41 <sup>a</sup>            | 24 <sup>a</sup> AZA<br>1 <sup>a</sup> non-AZA                          | 37% <sup>a</sup>   | Red SSP                       | 55                                     | 100 <sup>a</sup>                          | 100-49<br>= 51  | Decreasing                              | Not Listed<br>Vulnerable<br>Appendix I                                       |
| Sun bear<br>( <i>Helarctos<br/>malayanus</i> )            | 6 Sept 2012/14 June<br>2010  | 17 <sup>g</sup>            | 12 <sup>g</sup>  | <i>H.m.</i> <sup>c</sup><br><i>malayanus</i> 41%<br><i>H.m.</i><br><i>euryspilus</i> 59% | Phase Out                     | <17                                    | 0   | 0-17<br>= -17   | Decreasing                              | Not Listed<br>Vulnerable<br>Appendix I                                       |
| Sloth bear<br>( <i>Melursus<br/>ursinus</i> )             | 12 July 2012/ 23<br>April 2018                                       | 32 <sup>e</sup>            | 15 <sup>e</sup>  | 66.1% <sup>a</sup>   | Red SSP                       | 45 <sup>e</sup>                        | 45 <sup>a</sup>                           | 45-41<br>= 4  | Decreasing                              | Not Listed<br>Vulnerable<br>Appendix I                                       |
| Asiatic black<br>bear<br>( <i>Ursus<br/>thibetanus</i> )  | 12 July 2012   | 8 <sup>e</sup>             | 4 <sup>e</sup>   | NA   | Phase Out                     | <8                                     | 0   | 0-8<br>= -8   | Decreasing                              | <i>U. t.</i><br><i>gedrosianus</i><br>endangered<br>Vulnerable<br>Appendix I |
| American<br>black bear<br>( <i>Ursus<br/>americanus</i> ) | NA   | 206 <sup>f</sup>           | 46 <sup>f</sup> AZA<br>27 non-AZA                                      | NA   | Monitored<br>non-<br>breeding | NA                                     | NA  | NA  | Stable                                  | One<br>subspecies<br>threatened<br>Least<br>Concern<br>Appendix II           |
| Brown bear<br>( <i>Ursus arctos</i> )                     | NA   | 130 <sup>d</sup>           | 42 <sup>d</sup> AZA<br>3 <sup>f</sup> non-AZA                          | NA   | Monitored<br>non-<br>breeding | NA                                     | NA  | NA  | Stable                                  | Threatened<br>Least<br>Concern<br>Appendix II                                |
| Polar bear<br>( <i>Ursus<br/>maritimus</i> )              | PVA in progress<br>Draft masterplan<br>sent for comment<br>June 2019 | 56 <sup>h</sup>            | 25 <sup>h</sup> AZA<br>5 <sup>h</sup> non-AZA                          | 25.3%  | Yellow SSP                    | 80                                     | 126 <sup>c</sup>                          | 100-101<br>= -1   | Decreasing                              | Threatened<br>Vulnerable<br>Appendix II                                      |

<sup>a</sup>Source is current Population Analysis and Breeding and Transfer Plan posted on AZA website.

<sup>b</sup>Source is Dr. Kathy Traylor-Holzer at Conservation Breeding Specialist Group. Dr. Traylor-Holzer does the population planning for the giant panda, a government owned and globally managed population.

<sup>c</sup>Source is the Population Viability Analysis report posted on the AZA website.

<sup>d</sup>Source is Brown bear registry maintained by Gail Karr, Memphis Zoo

<sup>e</sup>Source is Sloth bear SSP Coordinator and Asiatic black bear studbook keeper, Travis Vineyard, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

<sup>f</sup>Source is American black bear registry maintained by Ann Meyer, Audubon Institute

<sup>g</sup>Source is Sun bear studbook keeper, Gaylene Thomas, San Diego Zoo Global

<sup>h</sup>Source is Polar bear SSP Coordinator, Randi Meyerson, Detroit Zoological Society

4. Please attach an updated Animal Program Summary Table with Roles, Goals, and Essential Action items. (see Table 4 in the TAG Handbook, p. 47-51 for more information). Please provide the action steps the TAG/SSP is taking, or intends to take, in order to achieve each identified goal, and indicate an approximate timeline for these actions.

#### Animal Program Roles, Goals and Essential Actions Table

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Common Name / Scientific Name</b> | Giant panda ( <i>Ailuropoda melanoleuca</i> )   |
| <b>Animal Program Designation</b>    | Green SSP   |
| <b>Primary Role</b>                  | Conservation Action   |
| <b>Goal #1 / Essential Action(s)</b> | Generate money for field conservation through loan programs and verify use of loan money as part of required annual reports to US Fish and Wildlife Service.  |
| <b>Progress Toward Goal #1</b>       | All institutions completed and submitted their annual loan money conservation reports to US Fish and Wildlife Service. Three holding institutions are in the midst of loan renegotiations. Loan amounts are expected to increase for new pairs, and thus additional money will be generated for field conservation in China.  |
| <b>Goal #2 / Essential Action(s)</b> | Collaborate with other US giant panda holding institutions and partners in China to carry out scientific research on the captive and wild giant panda populations. Progress is measured through reporting at the annual SSP meeting and through required annual reports to US Fish and Wildlife Service.  |
| <b>Progress Toward Goal #2</b>       | Giant Panda SSP meeting are now held every two years, rather than annually. The next Giant Panda SSP meeting will be held in October 2019. At this meeting all AZA panda holding institutions provide research reports and discuss opportunities for research collaboration within AZA institutions and among other panda holding institutions. All US Zoos completed and submitted annual research progress reports to US Fish and Wildlife Service. |
| <b>Goal #3 / Essential Action(s)</b> | Provide training opportunities for Chinese staff at partner institutions and build capacity. Progress is measured through reporting at the annual SSP meeting and through required annual reports to US Fish and Wildlife Service.  |
| <b>Progress Toward Goal #3</b>       | Additional training opportunities for Chinese staff at partner institutions are expected to be included in the new loan agreements.   |
| <b>Common Name / Scientific Name</b> | Andean bear ( <i>Tremarctos ornates</i> )   |
| <b>Animal Program Designation</b>    | Red SSP   |
| <b>Primary Role</b>                  | Education and Exhibition  |
| <b>Goal #1 / Essential Action(s)</b> | Increase population through increased reproduction and importation of breeding age females  |
| <b>Progress Toward Goal #1</b>       | One birth of 1.1 cubs occurred this year. There is still hope for another importation of an individual from Calli Zoo in Columbia. Several new breeding pairs have been established in the last two years and have had breeding. We await the results of these pairings.  |
| <b>Goal #2 / Essential Action(s)</b> | Increase holding institutions for Andean bears  |
| <b>Progress Toward Goal #2</b>       | Andean bear holding institutions have not been increased, because currently there are no Andean bears available to send to new institutions. This goal is designed to support the goal to increase the population.  |
| <b>Goal #3 / Essential Action(s)</b> | Forge collaborative relationships with in-situ conservation projects  |
| <b>Progress Toward Goal #3</b>       | Collaboration with the Andean Bear Conservation Alliance (ABCA) has continued to strengthen. Several new Andean Bear SSP institutions have committed to or have already provided financial support to the Andean Bear Conservation Alliance, and the Bear TAG's endorsement of ABCA has facilitated this.   |
| <b>Common Name / Scientific Name</b> | Sloth bear ( <i>Melursus ursinus</i> )  |
| <b>Animal Program Designation</b>    | Red SSP   |
| <b>Primary Role</b>                  | Education and Exhibition  |
| <b>Goal #1 / Essential Action(s)</b> | Recruit additional holding facilities; beginning in 2015 the SSP Coordinator will monitor the Asiatic black bear population in relation to spaces being vacated by attrition of that population. Those holding facilities will be directly solicited to consider SSP managed species.   |
| <b>Progress Toward Goal #1</b>       | There was a net loss of holding facilities over the last year. Recruitment of additional facilities continues. One loss is attributed to moving the bears out for new construction, which will ultimately re-add a facility and additional spaces. Interest in the species remains good, with two new institutions exploring adding the species. The Asiatic Black Bear population continues to be monitored. There was a loss of a specimen; that    |

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
|                                      | directly translated into additional space for a sloth bear.   |
| <b>Goal #2 / Essential Action(s)</b> | Facilitate successful reproduction, cub rearing and cub weaning; the SSP will create a document targeting these specific topics to distribute to facilities with breeding recommendations. Additionally, it is the goal of the SSP to facilitate the import of 2.2 reproductive aged animals.   |
| <b>Progress Toward Goal #2</b>       | For the 2018–2019 breeding season the SSP made direct contact with all recommended breeding institutions to gauge reproductive success and be a resource if necessary. Two successful offspring, at two different institutions were produced in 2019. Infant mortality still tracks at 50%. For the 2019–2020 season it remains our goal to pre-distribute to facilities with breeding recommendations, resources and contacts for cub preparations. Measurable progress was made to draw awareness of digestive cancers via a draft version of the husbandry manual and strengthened partnerships with EAZA on sloth bear husbandry. |
| <b>Goal #3 / Essential Action(s)</b> | Serve as an educational model for in-situ human / wildlife conflict; starting in 2015 the SSP will continue to facilitate a conservation partnership with Wildlife SOS. The goal in 2016 is to coordinate a unified educational message and project support strategy.   |
| <b>Progress Toward Goal #3</b>       | There were continued communications and collaborations explored to bolster educational messaging, conservation and husbandry partnerships. The SSP has championed a conservation trip to highlight the <i>in-situ</i> partnerships with Wildlife SOS and sloth bear conservation challenges and a second trip is being planned for 2019.  |
| <b>Common Name / Scientific Name</b> | Polar bear ( <i>Ursus maritimus</i> )   |
| <b>Animal Program Designation</b>    | Yellow SSP  |
| <b>Primary Role</b>                  | Research Population   |
| <b>Goal #1 / Essential Action(s)</b> | Increase captive population size by increasing births and founders. This is an ongoing effort.  |
| <b>Progress Toward Goal #1</b>       | This year a female cub was produced from one of the new pairings in 2018. It was the first cub by this female. There also was a cub born from a previously successful pair. We are hoping to be able to bring founders into the population under an MMPA scientific research permit. Working with USFWS on this process.  |
| <b>Goal #2 / Essential Action(s)</b> | Work with US Fish and Wildlife Service through the Polar Bear Conservation plan to allow for international acquisitions. These acquisitions would facilitate polar bears' roles as climate change education ambassadors and as non-invasive research participants that help gain information for in-situ applications. Plan to accomplish this in 2016-2017.  |
| <b>Progress Toward Goal #2</b>       | Completed the 5 yr. Polar Bear Research Master Plan as noted in last year's plan. Randi Meyerson, SSP coordinator, and Dr. Megan Owen from SDZ Global were both named to Polar Bear Conservation Management Plan implementation team.   |
| <b>Goal #3 / Essential Action(s)</b> | In 2017, increase the number of facilities that participate in ex-situ research projects with in-situ applications  |
| <b>Progress Toward Goal #3</b>       | The Polar Bear Research Council under the SSP, developed a process for researchers to submit standardized research applications requesting support of their projects. After review and if approved by the PBRC and SSP, a letter of support is provided to them, encouraging SSP members to participate in the project. So far seven projects have been recommended for Polar Bear SSP facility participation.  |

5. Optional: Please list any field conservation, research projects, and/or special accomplishments that have been supported and/or conducted by the TAG in the past year.

- The Bear TAG is developing a husbandry course, modeled after the Felid TAG's course, which we plan to offer in spring 2020.
- The TAG's steering committee and advisors have made significant progress on the American Black Bear and Brown Bear Animal Care Manual. Our goal is to submit a draft of this ACM by the end of the year.

6. X I have conducted an annual review of all SSP Sustainability Reports under my purview.