



## **OPERATIONAL DOCUMENT**

**Doc #: COE - 2012.02**

**May 2012**

### **Vision**

All African Zoos and Aquaria to be effective and credible centers, which inspire and foster care for nature

### **Mission**

To guide and accredit all African Zoos and Aquaria to become effective and credible centers of animal welfare, conservation, education and research

# **PROFESSIONAL CODE OF ETHICS**

## **OF THE**

## **AFRICAN ASSOCIATION**

## **OF ZOOS AND AQUARIA**



Amended June 2003  
Amended March 2004  
Amended June 2007  
Amended May 2012

## I PREAMBLE

- 1.1 All Members of PAAZAB irrespective of category recognize and acknowledge the need to establish and implement a CODE OF ETHICS to regulate and improve the professional standards under which they operate. They recognize that any Member who fails to strive to meet, or ignores, or knowingly contravenes the letter and/or spirit of this code not only places their membership of PAAZAB or accreditation status in jeopardy, but will also bring disrepute upon the profession and the community of PAAZAB as contemplated in clause 17.1.3.1 and 17.1.3.5 of the PAAZAB Constitution
- 1.2 Additionally as contemplated in clause 10.2.3, all institutional Members and any other member deemed to require it by the Executive Committee of PAAZAB acknowledges and recognizes an ethical responsibility to demonstrate and maintain compliance with the PAAZAB Operational Standard 2.13.10.5(a) of 2008.
- 1.3 The PAAZAB Operational Standard 2.13.10.5(a) of 2008 provides ethical guidance to the level of professional standards contemplated in clause 1.1 above.
- 1.4 The "WORLD ZOO AND AQUARIUM CONSERVATION STRATEGY" (WZACS) of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) of 2004 sets forth the fundamental aims and objects of *ex situ* management within the WAZA community. Therefore, PAAZAB recommends that its Members also apply the WZACS in respect of the management and deployment of their collections.

## 2 TRADE IN AND MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS

- 2.1 All trade in fauna and flora (including import and export) must conform to international conventions and agreements, and to national and local ordinances. No animals or plants should be dispatched until the receiving party has confirmed that it is in possession of all necessary documentation to take delivery.
- 2.3 All members acknowledge and recognize their responsibility to provide relevant, accurate, up-to-date information at all times in order to promote and/or confirm trade in or movement of animals and plants, or to obtain the necessary permits for such actions.

## 3 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

- 3.1 Members agree to the highest possible standards of animal husbandry, veterinary care, and housing for their animals so as to ensure the application of the principle of the five freedoms of animal welfare listed as follows:
  1. Freedom from hunger and thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour;
  2. Freedom from thermal and physical discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area;
  3. Freedom from injury, disease and pain by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment;

4. Freedom to express most normal patterns of behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind, where applicable;
  5. Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment that avoid suffering.
- 3.2 Members agree to make every effort to maintain the biological, genetic and behavioural integrity of the taxa in their collection.
  - 3.3 Members agree not to knowingly engage with, trade in, donate, or otherwise transfer animals into inappropriately painful or distressing circumstances.
  - 3.4 Members agree not to breed, supply or sell animals for the purpose of hunting.
  - 3.5 Members agree to annually provide full correct and complete information about their collections to the coordinators(s) of the PAAZAB holding inventory (ies) in a timely manner and in keeping with any all deadlines imposed on the collation of such data by said coordinators.
  - 3.6 Members agree that euthanasia is a management option in the maintenance of collections and appropriate population management.

## 5 EX-SITU CONSERVATION BREEDING PROGRAMMES

- 5.2 Members acknowledge the validity of formalized regional zoo association-based co-operative and coordinated conservation breeding programmes, including but not limited to, the African Preservation Programme (APP) run under the auspices of PAAZAB.
- 5.3 Members agree to furnish all relevant information in a timely manner when requested to do so by the duly appointed coordinator(s) of such programmes.

## 6 IN-SITU CONSERVATION

- 6.1 Members agree in respect of the supply of species for release, to responsibly consider all implications of this practice in terms of the conservation and preservation of native fauna and flora in terms of the most up-to-date edition of the Reintroduction Guidelines as published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

## 7. PUBLIC SAFETY

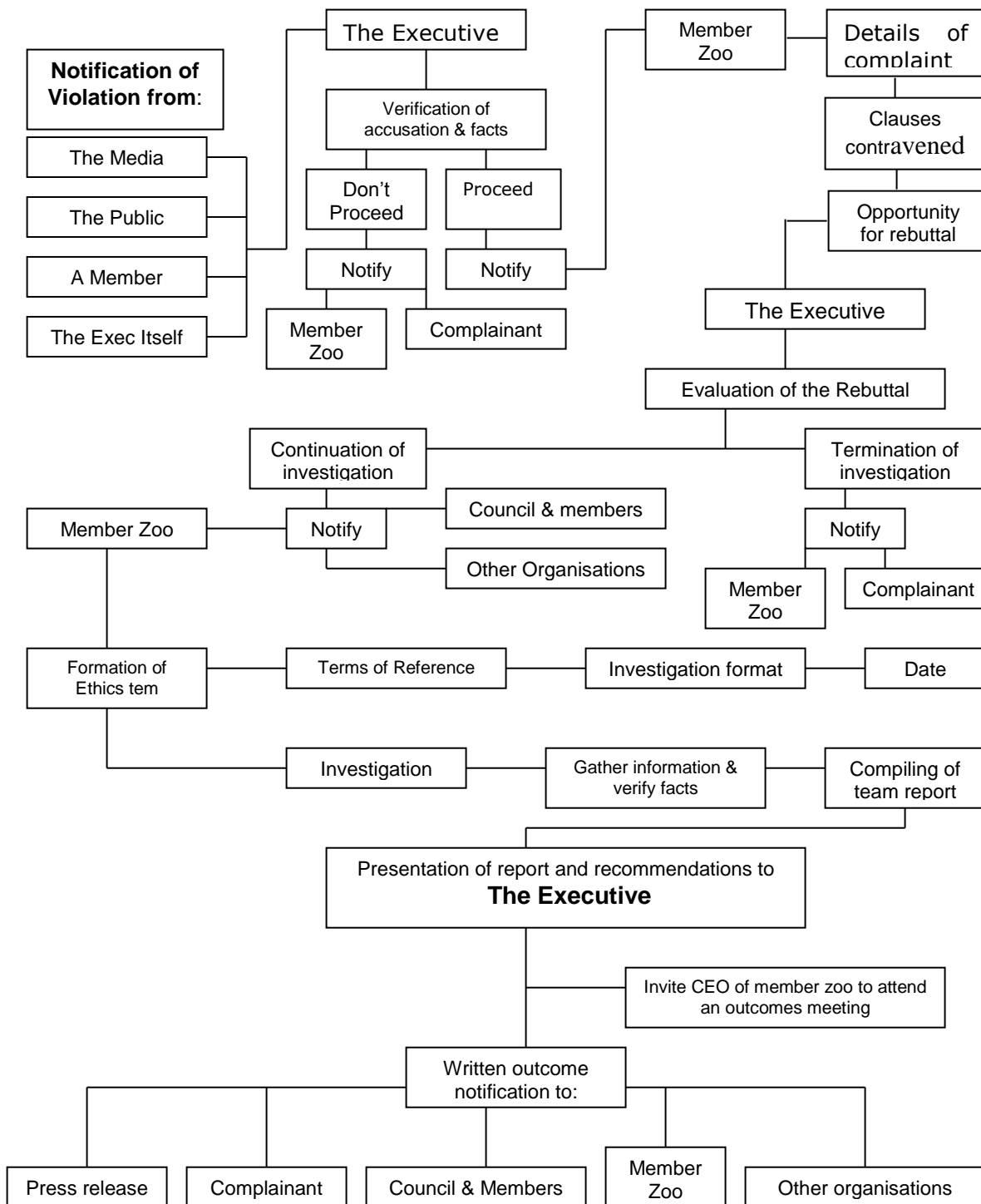
- 7.1 Members agree to uphold the safety of visiting members of the public at all times and recognize their responsibilities to the maintenance of appropriate ethical behavior in their dealings with members of the public.

## 8. APPLICATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THIS CODE

- 8.1 PAAZAB will maintain a portfolio of Ethics on its Executive Committee, the holder of which will serve as the chairman. The chairman will appoint appropriate specialists to the committee, which shall comprise a minimum of 3 (three) members. In the event it proves essential to the professional

- conduct of the Ethics Committee that another appropriate person(s) be co-opted onto the Committee for a particular investigation, the PAAZAB Executive Committee may consider such proposal(s) by the Ethics Committee.
- 8.2 When convened, this Committee will serve as an investigative body in respect of alleged Contraventions of this Code by Members of PAAZAB.
  - 8.3 The PAAZAB Executive Committee will be responsible for activating the Ethics Committee, until such time as an alternative mechanism is evolved. Issues considered deserving of investigation under the terms of this Code should be submitted in writing with all supporting documentation to the PAAZAB Executive Committee, which shall decide whether such an issue is deserving of the attention of the Ethics Committee.
  - 8.4 The Ethics Committee, when convened at the request of the PAAZAB Executive Committee, will investigate the matter and submit a report to the Executive Committee detailing its findings and recommendations. The Executive Committee will examine the report, and decide whether or not the member is in contravention of this code by majority vote.
  - 8.5 All proceedings and documentation of this committee will be confidential, with the exception of the contents of media releases approved by the Executive Committee.
  - 8.6 The PAAZAB Executive Committee may, at its discretion, make available the Ethics Committee's documentation and to local, national or international wildlife, conservation or relevant law enforcement authorities.
  - 8.7 Interpretation of this code is at the sole discretion of the PAAZAB Executive Committee

### THE ETHICS PROCEDURE TREE



## 9 CHANGES TO THIS CODE

- 9.1 Changes to this CODE OF ETHICS may be brought about by a two-thirds majority approval of by present Institutional Members at an Annual General Meeting of PAAZAB.
- 9.2 Proposals for changes shall be submitted in writing to the PAAZAB Executive Director for inclusion in the documentation for an Annual General Meeting of PAAZAB. Proposals for changes may be made and seconded only by Institutional Members, and must be received by the Executive Director not less than forty (40) days prior to the AGM.