

Our Ref: CR/358-03
Your Ref: 7439 V1
Enquiries:



Mr A P O'Gorman MLA
Chair, Community Development
and Justice Standing Committee
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Attention: Principal Research Officer

Dear Mr O'Gorman

INQUIRY INTO COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES IN GOVERNMENT

Perth Zoo is a Western Australian Government statutory authority established under the *Zoological Parks Authority Act 2001*. Our major role and purpose is conservation. As our purpose statement outlines our purpose is:

To secure long term populations of species in natural environments while engaging the community in global conservation action.

In achieving our purpose, Perth Zoo actively seeks out partnerships and collaborations. Perth Zoo presently has formal agreements, memorandums of understanding and letters of intent for the purpose of conservation with the following organisations:

1. Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Australian Orangutan Project for the conservation of species in Bukit Tigapuluh National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia including Sumatran Orangutan, Sumatran Tiger; and Asian Elephant;
2. The Directory of Biodiversity Conservation Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation of the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia for conservation of wildlife in Bukit Tigapuluh National Park and other wildlife conservation initiatives;
3. Free the Bears for the conservation of Sun Bears in Cambodia;
4. Tenkile Conservation Alliance for Tree Kangaroo in Torricelli Mountain Range in Papua New Guinea;
5. Silvery Gibbon Project; Australian Orangutan Project; Project Numbat; Painted Dog Conservation; Asian Rhino Project; and Zoo Peru to support and facilitate conservation action through use of the Zoo grounds and facilities and for the opportunity to apply for funding through Perth Zoo;
6. Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) for the breeding of Dibblers; Western Swamp Tortoise and Numbats for release to the wild programs; and
7. DEC for the purpose of cockatoo wildlife health provision for the release back to the wild.

An agreement with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy is presently also under discussion.

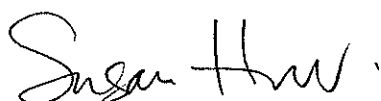
This partnership approach and the mechanism of formalising agreements through letters of intent and memoranda of understanding are vital to our success. Although these agreements and partnerships are animal conservation based, they also actively identify strategies for local community development; employment and education as this integration approach is vital to conservation achievement. For example, the agreements for Indonesia specify local employment; support to education services; and training initiatives.

The approach we use is extremely effective and may be useful comparatively in other areas of government services. I outline below the approach used by Perth Zoo:

- In reaching agreements, the primary process has been to identify shared desired outcomes and identify the responsibilities and task of each of the partners towards achievement of the shared outcomes.
- A more detailed operational planning and financial document may under-pin the broad level agreement as the agreed plan for the implementation of projects.
- Fundamental to the success of these approaches has been commitment at Executive level within the organisation; openness to the value of partnerships to achieving outcomes when facing complex social and or environmental challenges; and internal organisations mechanisms being in place to effectively manage partnerships.

I hope that this information will be useful in the deliberations of the Standing Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information about our work in this area. My contact details are

Yours sincerely



Susan Hunt
Chief Executive Officer
Perth Zoo

22 February 2008