



Species Survival Working Group

IUCN NCUK SSWG RESPONSE TO THE IUCN CONSULTATION ON THE IUCN SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION POSITION STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF BOTANIC GARDENS, AQUARIUMS, AND ZOOS IN CONSERVATION

The NCUK SSWG is supportive of the IUCN SSC's statement on the role of botanic gardens, aquariums, and zoos in conservation, and welcomes the calls for those organisations not currently delivering on these roles to do more and for conservation partners to collaborate with botanic gardens, zoos and aquariums where possible.

The NCUK SSWG also offered specific comments on the IUCN SSC's statement on the roles played by zoos, botanic gardens and aquariums and zoos in conservation. SSWG considers that the first section in particular, and others throughout, could be strengthened and more compelling by including a greater list of actual examples (perhaps as an appendix) of the successful work that these organisations have achieved. It should include breakthrough work on reintroductions, research into human-wildlife conflict and education. We recommend including a longer list of evidence-based examples from across the world where these bodies have and are making a critical difference to species survival. As well as increasing the list of examples more generally we would like to ensure that work on invertebrate species is included and championed, so suggest highlighting the work on *Partula* land snails by ZSL.

On the matter of those botanic gardens, aquariums, and zoos which do not currently contribute to in situ conservation, it was suggested the text in the position statement read: Professionally organised and accredited botanic gardens, aquariums, and zoos lead and champion best practices in population management, actively fulfil diverse roles in saving species, engage with IUCN and are highly valued expert institutions within the global conservation community. However, some botanic gardens, aquariums, and zoos do not currently contribute to in situ conservation. Some of these institutions contribute to negative practices such as inappropriate population management, unsuitable wild releases or wild collection of threatened species outside of managed and approved conservation efforts.