



Zoos and Aquariums Committed to Saving Species Extinct in the Wild



World Association of
Zoos and Aquariums
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Conservation*[®]

Markus Gusset, PhD

Conservation Officer & International Studbook Coordinator





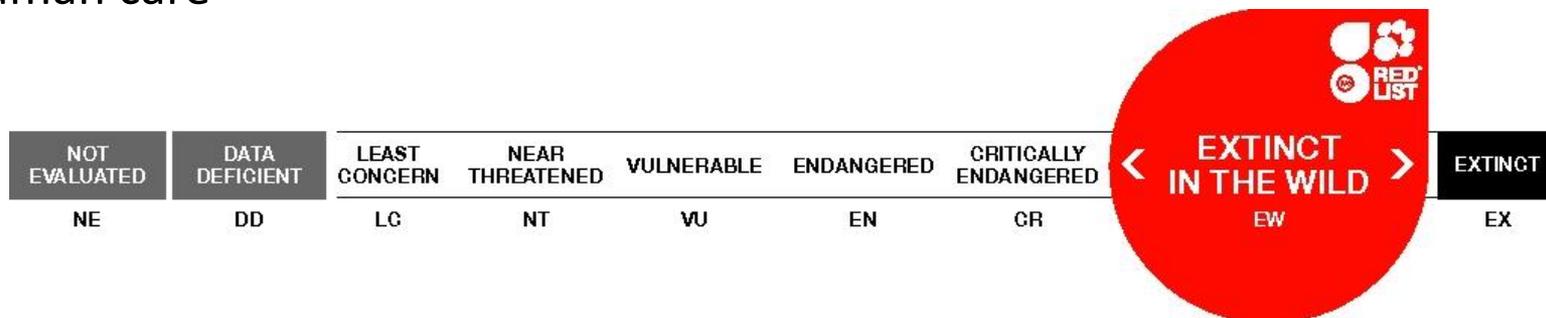
Red List of Threatened Species

widely recognised as the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of animal and plant species

each species assessed is assigned to one of eight different categories, based on a series of quantitative criteria

species classified as Vulnerable, Endangered and Critically Endangered are regarded as threatened

Extinct in the Wild means that these species are known only to survive in human care





Improvement in Red List Status

there were 68 vertebrate species that underwent an improvement in conservation status, all but four due to conservation measures

for these 64 species, conservation breeding was implemented as a major or minor conservation action that led to an improvement during the period of change in 16 and three species, respectively

19 of the 64 species showing genuine improvement due to conservation measures benefitted from conservation breeding



Improvement in Red List Status

figures were subsequently contested and updated

there were 13 instead of 16 species identified for which conservation breeding was implemented as a major conservation action

for at least nine of these 13 species, zoos and aquariums also provided substantial logistical, technical and/or financial support

conservation breeding in zoos and aquariums has played a role in the recovery of one-quarter of those vertebrate species whose threat status was reduced



Breeding and Reintroduction

breeding animals in human care followed by reintroducing them back into the wild was one of the most frequently cited conservation actions that led to improvements

for birds, conservation breeding and reintroduction helped prevent the extinction of six out of 16 species that would probably have gone extinct in the absence of conservation measures

for mammals, conservation breeding and reintroduction were more successful in improving conservation status than other conservation actions and contributed to the genuine improvement of nine species



Extinct in the Wild

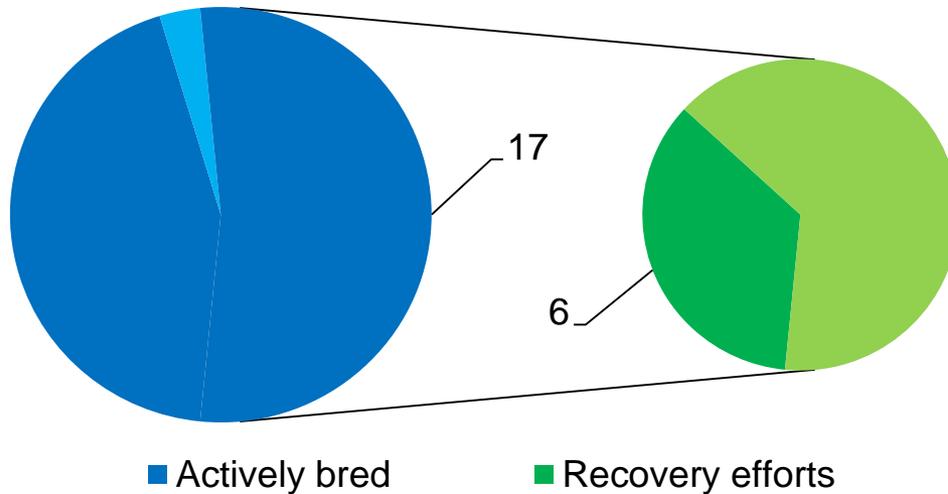
species previously classified as Extinct in the Wild that have improved in IUCN Red List status thanks to the reintroduction of captive-bred animals include the Przewalski's horse, black-footed ferret and California condor

thanks to the same conservation actions, the threat status of the Arabian oryx, European bison and red wolf was reduced from Extinct in the Wild already before the time period considered





Zoo Contribution



32 animal species are classified as Extinct in the Wild on the IUCN Red List (version 2012.2)

31 of these species are actively bred in zoos, aquariums and other animal propagation facilities, which prevent their outright extinction

17 of these species are managed in a studbook-based breeding programme

6 species classified as Extinct in the Wild have ongoing reintroduction efforts using captive-bred animals



Zoo Contribution

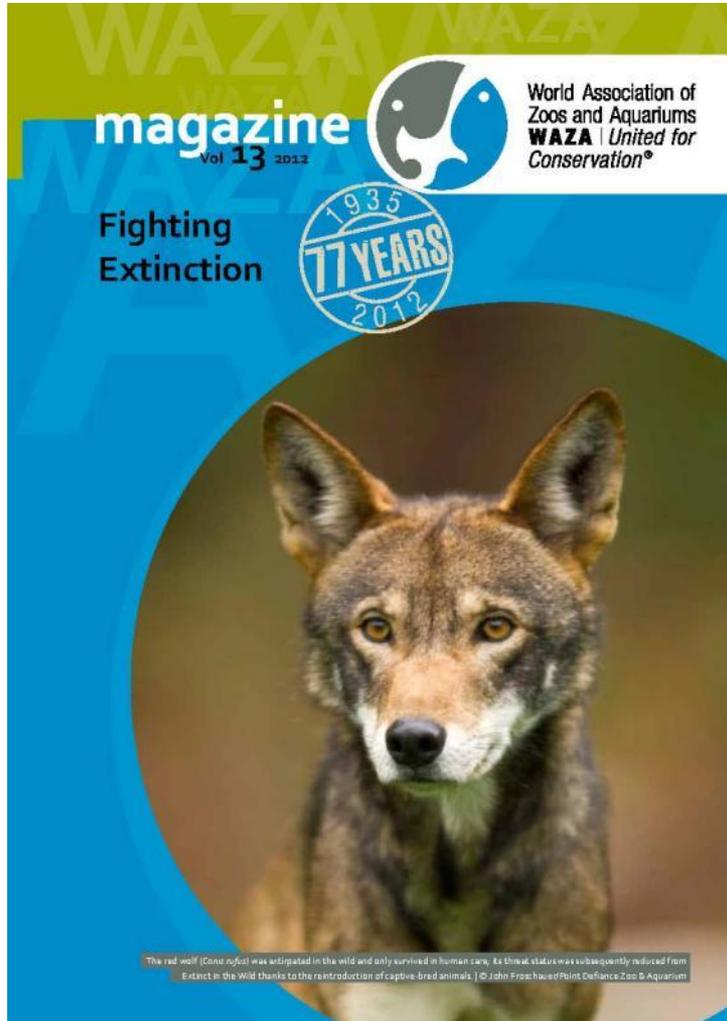
zoological institutions are uniquely placed to contribute to the conservation of species that are no longer found in the wild

there are 12 species that were either reclassified from Extinct in the Wild or reintroduction efforts driven by zoological institutions have been implemented that hopefully will qualify them for reclassification soon





WAZA Magazine 2012



compiled cases where zoos and aquariums have made unique contributions to fighting extinction of those species most urgently in need of conservation action; that is, species classified as Extinct in the Wild on the IUCN Red List

examples of interactive *ex situ* and *in situ* population management

WAZA Magazine 2013: Towards Integrated Species Conservation



UN Decade on Biodiversity

Aichi Biodiversity Target 12 of the United Nations *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* states that “by 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained”

substantially strengthen the case for the world zoo and aquarium community to play an increasingly recognised role in the conservation policies of governments, non-governmental organisations and multilateral environmental agreements



Connecting Zoos and the Field

recovered species provide powerful conservation success stories

examples of how to connect zoos and the wild encompassing a more holistic approach (e.g. partnering with local people and containing an education component)

species classified as Extinct in the Wild easily perceived and understood target for zoos to increase their participation in field conservation projects beyond reintroductions



markus.gusset@waza.org



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