

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London



REGENT'S PARK
LONDON NW1 4RY

30 January 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

We, the undersigned, are writing to call on the Government to work together with the European Commission in the name of species conservation. As Great Britain's members of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA), we are at the heart of GB's efforts to save species and restore biodiversity. But this is under threat. We urge you to clear red tape by advocating for a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement to allow the essential movement of zoo and aquarium animals between Britain and EU member states.

Be under no doubt, 3 years since Britain's exit from the EU, red tape still threatens the conservation work of the countries' world-class zoos and aquariums.

International breeding programmes are a vital part of modern conservation and crucial to the very survival of species. These programmes operate on a European and global scale and therefore it is essential that animals in the care of British zoos and aquariums are able to cross international borders smoothly and be a part of these programmes.

It is clear that despite the work of many dedicated individuals over the last two years the mountain of red tape is effectively an unscalable barrier to British participation in these essential programmes. In 2022 just 211 transfers of zoo and aquarium animals took place compared to our previous normal yearly levels of 1,400.

The future viability of many species is dependent on international breeding programmes including the critically endangered black rhino, European bison and Asian elephant. Species that no longer exist in the wild such as Socorro doves and killifish are completely dependent on zoos and aquariums for survival. Red tape is undermining conservation efforts.

We urge the Government to open negotiations with the European Commission in order to secure an SPS agreement that would allow animal transfers to more easily go ahead. *Ex situ* conservation such as breeding programmes, in which GB zoos and aquariums play a leading role globally, is essential to the fight against biodiversity loss and halting the extinction crisis as acknowledged in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. We ask that you help us to play our part in facing these challenges by resolving this critical issue.

Yours sincerely, the undersigned BIAZA zoos and aquariums of Great Britain



Dr Jo Judge
CEO, BIAZA



Jess Leaper
Manager, Alameda Wildlife
Conservation Park



Victoria Faller
Project Development Manager, All
Thing's Wild

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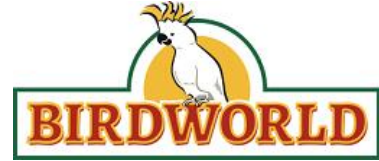
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Roger Heap
Managing Partner, Battersea Park
Children's Zoo



Paul Betchley
Head of Zoological and Park
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James Robson
General Manager, Birdworld



Darren Webster
Director, Blackpool Zoo



Hector Muir
Director, Blair Drummond Safari Park



Dave O'Hare
Curator, Blue Planet Aquarium



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Society**
Saving Wildlife Together

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Sam Whitbread
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Animal and Plant Director,
Chester Zoo



Rebecca Moore
Director, Colchester Zoo



Dawn Gilbert
Director, Combe Martin Wildlife and
Dinosaur Park



Shaun Foggett
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Kathleen Graham
General Manager, Curraghs Wildlife
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Coral Jones
Chief Operating Officer,
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Chris Mitchell
Head of Zoo Operations,
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Chief Executive Officer, Durrell
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Managing Director, Folly Farm



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Halesowen College



Jim Gregory
Zoo Manager, Hanwell Zoo



Penny Smout
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Tina Hughes
Animal Curator, Hobbledown &
Hobbledown Heath



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Richard Robinson
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Kim Simmons
Zoo Director/Partner, Linton Zoo
Conservation Park



Karl Hansen
Executive Director, the Living
Rainforest



Darren Beasley
Head of animal operations,
Longleat Safari



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Marcus Williams
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Carol Heap
Partner, New Forest Wildlife Park



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Steven Sykes
Resource Manager,
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Lynn Whitnall
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Samuel Hunt
Zoo Operations Manager,
Paultons Park



Amy Armitage
Zoo Manager
Ponderosa Zoo



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For conservation, not profit.

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Scott Bird
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Matt Lovatt
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Wildlife Conservation Park

Kim Bellis
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Director of Conservation,
Twycross Zoo



Kim Wood
Director of Living Collections, Welsh
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Angela Potter
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Kico Iraola
Displays Curator,



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Lawrence Bates



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Director General, Zoological
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