

Foreword

Normally we do not start the DER ZOOLOGISCHE GARTEN, THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, with a foreword, but for this special issue, the issue 2 of Volume 91, in which we show to the inside and the outside world how important modern dolphinariums are today and how we cooperate globally with other experts, I make an exception.

As Editor-in-Chief but also as Past-President of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and as Co-Chair of Reverse the Red (RtR), I am very proud that we were able to put together so many interesting, scientific articles of high ranking scientists over the globe on the topic of cetaceans, especially on their research, their management in human care, science-based conservation or conservation medicine.

And I like to congratulate all, exemplarily the zoo of Nuremberg (Tiergarten Nürnberg) on the 50th anniversary of keeping and breeding dolphins in Germany, the first dolphin arrived in 1965. It is a good example of how keeping, breeding and animal welfare of wild animals in human care, carried out by experts, has improved especially over the last decades. You will read that the European population of the bottlenosed dolphin became self-sustaining. The life expectancy of these animals has increased and we can prove this with our own data.

The articles show how animals can benefit from our work, even *ex situ* but more and more mixed with *in situ* projects. We live the One Plan Approach of the Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG).

Dr Lorenzo von Fersen initiated this special issue of our peer-reviewed magazine and I like to thank him and his team and especially Jörg Beckmann for collecting all these great articles.

And I am totally proud that no less than Prof Dr Jon Paul Rodríguez, the Chair of IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC), teaching at the Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, and head of the Non-Governmental Organization Provita, Caracas, Venezuela, has written introductory remarks for this issue. This shows also that the scientific run zoos and IUCN are partners at eye level.

Of course you know about the biodiversity loss crisis which we experience. But the zoos and aquariums of the Verband der Zoologischen Gärten (VdZ) e. V. and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, are fighting this crisis. That's why we are organized and run many breeding programs up to the reintroduction of animals following the IUCN Reintroduction Guidelines. We need to be inclusive, have to improve other zoos and aquariums, as we need more good, scientific run zoos to fulfill our goals: education, research and of course conservation.

Dr Rodriguez highlights the One Plan Approach and I would like to draw your attention to Reverse the Red – if you have not yet heard of it, please check our website (www.reversethered.org). We want to create a movement that makes people aware of the importance of biodiversity. And yes, we are planning to have a Species Congress next year. At this congress we want to share science but also many stories of success what we and all the other players in conservation have reached. We need to tell stories of hope and get societies involved. In addition, we are

establishing more and more so called Centers for Species Survival (CSS). These are partnerships between the SSC Chair's Office and leading species conservation organizations. CSSs will closely work across NGOs, government agencies, zoos and aquariums, and among other stakeholders to understand the key networks and conservation efforts that are underway in their country or region. This will enable all involved parties to identify priority gaps and ensure that efforts, resources and experts are even more effectively connected and hopefully maximize our conservation impact.

Finally, I want to thank especially all authors not only for their articles but also for their work which made these articles possible. And a special thanks goes to all who were involved and supported these kind of important research!

Yours,

Prof Theo B. Pagel
Editor-in-Chief