

Declaration.

Many species of reptiles and amphibians are globally under severe pressure and/or are declining. Many have some degree of endangered status and some are even extinct in the wild.

Causes for decline are loss of habitat, pollution of soil, water and air, climate change, human population growth, tourism, human consumption and the international trade.

Turning the tide is a difficult task. Nevertheless legal international protection (CITES) and national legislation are tools to stop illegal collecting for consumption and trade. Another important instrument are captive breeding programs in order to establish genetically healthy and viable assurance colonies in order to conserve species for the future and create possibilities for possible future reintroduction in the wild.

The studbook/breeding programs by both the European Association for Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) and the European Studbook Foundation (ESF) pay an important and significant contribution to establish these assurance colonies.

345 zoos in 41 countries are organized within EAZA since 1992 and for 30 species of reptiles and amphibians studbooks/breeding programs are managed.

Within the private sector the ESF manages 80 studbooks/breeding programs for both reptiles and amphibians with an emphasis on tortoises and freshwater turtle species and in particular endangered species.

In 2012 by both EAZA and ESF a Memorandum Of Understanding is signed.

For the Black Chuckwalla *Sauromalus hispidus* a breeding program is started by mr. Hannes Zorn in Austria. From this program the Rotterdam Zoo in the Netherlands recently received two 2011 born animals and is as such participating in the breeding program.

The species solely occurs on a few islands in the Sea of Cortez, Mexico. Reproduction in captivity so far is very limited.

This transaction is a good example of how EAZA zoos and private breeders can cooperate.

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