

Modern zoos and aquaria are playing an increasingly active and important role in protecting and managing global biodiversity. Many zoos explicitly include wildlife conservation in their mission and, in recent years, have started changing the focus of their institutions in order to increase even further the benefits of their activities for *in situ* wildlife conservation. With these developments, the following searching questions are now being asked: What is the true role of zoos in conservation? How can they contribute more significantly to global conservation efforts? What are the unique attributes of zoos that can be applied in the conservation landscape? And, should zoos be doing more? In parallel with this voluntary movement, legal requirements for zoos to support conservation in the wild are also becoming more stringent. This book defines a new conservation vision for zoos and aquaria that increases their contribution to tackling the on-going global biodiversity crisis.

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LESLEY DICKIE is the Zoo Conservation Officer of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and is developing new auditing processes to fully collate the conservation activities of the Living Collections with respect to the mission of the ZSL. Her main research and conservation interests are in the biodiversity of Madagascar, with particular regard to the conservation role of European zoos on the island.

CHRIS WEST is CEO of the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia and Professor of Zoology, Adelaide University. Previously Zoological Director at ZSL, his interests range from good management practice for the conservation impact of zoos, sound ethical frameworks and welfare standards, as well as conservation medicine, to political leadership to link conservation with human and sustainable environmental development, the last being explored locally in Australia.

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