



TAG Annual Report Template

2024 Raptor TAG Annual Report

Date: 3/1/2024

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- Please list any new or revised statements or guidelines that the TAG has adopted in the past year (note that new or revised Policies, Position Statements, White Papers, and Guidelines must be approved by the AZA Board of Directors). **None**
- Please share the date of the upcoming annual check-in meeting with the SSP leadership. Will it be virtual or in person? If in person, will it be in conjunction with a conference or larger meeting? **Saturday, March 16 in person @ AZA Mid-year Meetings**

Animal Programs Summary Table

Common name (<i>Scientific name</i>)	SSP Designation ¹	Date of Most Recent B&T Plan	Census Population Size - N (M.F.U) in AZA and Source (e.g. ZIMS Studbook ² , BTP, other)	Number of Participating AZA Member Facilities on census date	Commitment Population Trend (CPT _{DATE}) (Grow, Decline, Stable) or Size (CPS _{DATE}) and date by when it should be achieved ³	Target Population Size (TPS _{DATE}) and date by when it should be achieved ⁴	Recent Five-Year Population Growth Rate (λ) and/or Trend (increasing, decreasing, or stable) if growth rate not available, and date span across which it was calculated ⁵
Andean Condor (<i>Vultur gryphus</i>)	Signature	11/30/2022	61 (26.35.0) on 12/31/2023 from ZIMS Studbook	28	TBD, next RCP due November 2025	TBD, next RCP due November 2025 (next BTP due November 29, 2026)	.992 (2019-2023)
Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	Signature	2/3/2021	128 (56.62.10) on 12/31/2023 from ZIMS Studbook	45		TBD, next RCP due November 2025 (next BTP due June 3, 2024)	.948 (2019-2023)
Spectacled Owl (<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>)	Signature	7/10/2023	49 (27.20.2) on 12/31/2023 from ZIMS Studbook	21		TBD, next RCP due November 2025 (next BTP due July 10, 2026)	.949 (2019-2023)
Cinereous Vulture (<i>Aegypius monachus</i>)	Signature	9/27/2023	57 (29.27.1) on 12/31/2023 from ZIMS Studbook	22		TBD, next RCP due November 2025 (next BTP due September 28, 2026)	1.016 (2019-2023)
King Vulture (<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>)	Provisional	5/1/2023	67 (30.36.1) on 12/31/2023 from ZIMS Studbook	34		TBD, next RCP due November 2025 (next BTP due May 1, 2026)	.963 (2019-2023)
Snowy Owl (<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>)	Provisional	4/10/2023	48 (27.21.0) on 12/31/2023 from ZIMS Studbook	23		TBD, next RCP due November 2025 (next BTP due April 10, 2026)	1.000 (2019-2023)

Animal Program Roles, Goals Table

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Andean Condor / <i>Vultur gryphus</i>
Program Designation	Signature SSP
Program Role	Maintain a genetic reservoir for Columbian program (with irregular reintroduction to the in situ population).
SMAART Goal #1	Create reproductive pair assessments to examine courtship and copulation behaviors, laying, incubation and hatching history, chick rearing behavior, success or failure. Assess institutions' staff experience in successfully performing embryo sexing. Complete survey questionnaire by June 1, 2022. Circulate questionnaire to SSP facilities by June 15, 2022. Collate and examine survey response by July 2022. Assess results, confer with population biologist and program advisors and make recommendations by September 2022.
Progress towards Goal #1	Completed; had 81% survey response; data was collated and analyzed; Will be updated for upcoming B & T plan.
SMAART Goal #2	Contact all officers and advisors and determine continuing interest in serving in SSP roles by June 15, 2022. Advertise any SSP management positions to Institutional Representatives and hold elections by June 2022. Assess advisor positions, recruit for any vacant positions and recruit a new nutrition advisor by May 15, 2022. Confirm updated SSP management group and advisors by August 15, 2022.
Progress towards Goal #2	Past officers & advisors were contacted about continuing interest in Andean condor SSP roles. AC SSP Vice Coordinator was proposed and elected by IRs. Advisor positions were solicited, and Dr. Jenn Hausmann assumed role of Veterinary Advisor. Dr Jason Williams assumed role of Nutrition Advisor. Other advisor positions are being solicited for Education and Pathology specialties.
SMAART Goal #3	Establish Zoom calls with Colombian Zoo and/or NGO partners every 1-2 months by June 2022. Develop collaborative short- and long- term goals between AC SSP, Colombian Zoo and NGO partners by June 2022. Establish strategies between stakeholder groups on approaching newly appointed Environmental ministry official to develop an MOU with the AC SSP for multiple years, Re-engage with Chilean NGO partners and determine needs and discuss short- and long-term goals of their conservation programs by the end of 2024.
Progress towards Goal #3	Remote communication with Colombian Zoo officials and NGO partners has been often, although not at the frequency described in Goal #3 at every 1-2 months. Reviewed and contributed feedback to updated draft Colombian National Andean Condor Plan. Continuing discussions with Colombian stakeholders to develop updated MOU with AC SSP. There has not been any recent communication with Chilean NGO partners on short & long term goals. There have been discussions with Peruvian government officials in SERFOR & SERNAP agencies on Andean condor national census & short term initiatives.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Burrowing Owl / <i>Athene cunicularia</i>
Program Designation	Signature SSP
Program Role	Education – ambassador animals
SMAART Goal #1	Contact current program IRs to gauge interest and solicit candidates for vice chair for the SSP and select a vice chair from that pool by May 2022.
Progress towards Goal #1	Completed
SMAART Goal #2	Improve welfare for burrowing owls used in outreach programs by completing ambassador animal guidelines, including best practices for acquisition of ambassador burrowing owls, and distributing to

	holding institutions by December 2022. Poll existing holders to determine future demand for ambassador burrowing owls and the ability/willingness of institutions to produce chicks for outreach using best practices by July 2023 (ahead of 2024 breeding and transfer plan).
Progress towards Goal #2	Work not started
SMAART Goal #3	Work with the veterinary advisor to determine the three most reported medical concerns for captive burrowing owls by December 2023. Poll all holders on the occurrence of those concerns in their current or historic populations by March 2024. Review and share results of investigation with holding institutions by October 2024.
Progress towards Goal #3	Work not started

Common Name (Scientific Name)	<i>Spectacled Owl / Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>
Program Designation	Signature SSP
Program Role	Education – ambassador animals
SMAART Goal #1	Many of the spectacled owls in North America are in education programs as ambassador animals. The goal is to have a minimum of five breeding pairs set up to be ready to fill the future needs for ambassador birds and exhibition birds by 2025.
Progress towards Goal #1	The Breeding and Transfer Plan was created July 2023. The Plan now recommends 14 females to breed at 12 facilities. This would include 7 transfers to create new breeding pairs.
SMAART Goal #2	Work with the population biologist to determine the number of founders needed over what time frame to retain 90% of genetic diversity at 100 years and identify potential imports of unrelated birds from the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Zoological Association of America and South America by 2024.
Progress towards Goal #2	If the population has a target size of 85 birds and a 2% growth rate, then importing 2 individuals would result in maintaining 90% gene diversity for 15 years and maintaining 80.4% at the end of 100 years. The population currently has one new import from this past year and this owl is paired with another owl for breeding.
SMAART Goal #3	The veterinary advisor is working on assessing the population to determine the possible causes of the brittle feather conditions that are seen in a large number of our captive population. This will include investigating potential nutritional factors, husbandry practices, genetic and congenital possibilities, and environmental conditions. Project to be finished by June 2025.
Progress towards Goal #3	Dr. Melissa Cavaretta continues to work on 'brittle feather' issues. She is working to collect information on the occurrence of brittle feathers and collaborating with a genetics lab to further look at blood samples.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	<i>Cinereous Vulture / Aegypius monachus</i>
Program Designation	Signature SSP
Program Role	Education – Create awareness around Vulture SAFE
SMAART Goal #1	Improve breeding success by developing techniques for semen collection and artificial insemination. Work with St. Louis and Denver Zoos on initial semen collection attempts from the male vulture at St. Louis during the 2022 breeding season with the goal of refining techniques and inseminating their female in the 2023 breeding season and beyond. Identify a second pair with which to initiate AI by 2024 breeding season.

Progress towards Goal #1	St Louis has since declined to proceed with this endeavor after initial attempts appeared to over-stress the male. This male has also started to exhibit age-related health concerns.
SMAART Goal #2	Increase space available by recruiting two new participating institutions by the end of 2024 and by identifying two new or current institutions that will commit to holding a group of juveniles and sub-adults until they become sexually mature. Identify the one such institution by the end of 2023 to begin placing offspring in 2024 and identify a second institution by the end of 2025 to begin placing offspring in 2026.
Progress towards Goal #2	Milwaukee and Toledo Zoos hold socialization groups of young birds and Oklahoma is willing to be a holder of a juvenile group as well. There are 3 institutions (North Carolina, Akron and San Diego Wild Animal Park) that have expressed interest in becoming new holders.
SMAART Goal #3	Re-initiate work identified at the Cinereous Vulture Workshop in Antwerp, Belgium and cooperation with Ikh Nart Nature Reserve in Mongolia that were both stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Draft plans for both by the end of June of 2023.
Progress towards Goal #3	I have been in communication with EAZA via Zoom calls and also attended the European Vulture Conference in November 2023. Phillipe Helsen (Center for Research and Conservation) has indicated that collecting bloodwork from the AZA population is the preferred next step for identifying how the AZA population can support further research. I am currently waiting for Phillipe to provide details regarding collection and mailing of the samples so that a proposal can be sent out to AZA holders.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	King Vulture / <i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>
Program Designation	Provisional SSP
Program Role	Education – Create awareness around Vulture SAFE
SMAART Goal #1	Solicit and maintain a wait list of five to ten institutions by 2024 so that available birds can be moved more quickly.
Progress towards Goal #1	No progress within AZA facilities.
SMAART Goal #2	By 2023, produce and share a protocol, based on the previous year's successful trials, for reintegrating imprinted birds no longer suited for education programs back into the breeding population. Solicit at least two institutions to attempt reintegration using this plan before the next breeding and transfer plan.
Progress towards Goal #2	Protocol is a work in progress, one institution attempted reintegration unsuccessfully. More information needed from successful programs.
SMAART Goal #3	Modify the existing California Condor isolation rearing guidelines to fit this species and share protocols with breeding institutions prior to the 2023 breeding season to reduce the probability of mal-imprinting of hand-reared King Vulture chicks.
Progress towards Goal #3	Alteration to goal in progress with new information gained at 2023 Mid-Year AZA meeting. Instead of isolation rearing, consideration/availability of rearing by foster, or socialization by other New World Vultures.
2023 SMAART Goal #1	By the end of August 2024, reach out to all current holding facilities to assess potential for holding additional pairs and follow up with AZA facilities that have not completed the King Vulture Wants & Needs Survey to gain a more accurate understanding of available space and identify additional holders.
2023 SMAART Goal #2	Gather information from facilities that have attempted pairing and breeding imprinted or ambassador King Vultures and share the information in the next BTP or as an article in The Talon (Raptor TAG newsletter) by the end of 2024 in order to emphasize the importance of avoiding imprinting and encourage more facilities to attempt similar pairings.

2023 SMAART Goal #3	Using puppet-rearing techniques from the Condor SSP as a model, develop and disseminate to holders recommended best-practices for hand- or foster-rearing King Vultures by Spring of 2025 in order to reduce imprinting in the population and improve the chances successful breeding for future offspring.
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Common Name (Scientific Name)	Snowy Owl / <i>Bubo scandiacus</i>
Program Designation	Provisional SSP
Program Role	Not an SSP in 2022. No goals from 2022 RCP.
SMAART Goal #1	
Progress towards Goal #1	
SMAART Goal #2	
Progress towards Goal #2	
SMAART Goal #3	
Progress towards Goal #3	
2023 SMAART Goal #1	Work with current holders and recruit new facilities to increase the total population by 20% and the number of potential breeding pairs by 50% over the next two years.
2023 SMAART Goal #2	In order to increase the population and meet institutional needs, improve breeding success among existing pairs by 50% over the next two years by communicating with all institutions holding paired birds to remind them of key dates to set up their pairs for successful nesting and breeding, beginning with the 2024 breeding season.
2023 SMAART Goal #3	Work to recruit at least three additional AZA-accredited holding institutions in each of the next two years by sending regular requests on the AZA Network and following up with institutions that have previously expressed interest, placing 2023 offspring by February 2024 and creating a list of interested institutions for potential 2024 offspring by September 2024.

Animal Care Manual Table

Common name (<i>Scientific name</i>)	SSP Designation ¹	ACM Status*	ACM Format**	ACM Coordinator
Andean Condor (<i>Vultur gryphus</i>)	Signature	Published (2010)	Standalone	n/a
Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	Signature	Published (2022)	Combined (Owl)	n/a
Spectacled Owl (<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>)	Signature	Published (2022)	Combined (Owl)	n/a
Cinereous Vulture (<i>Aegypius monachus</i>)	Signature	Not Started		
King Vulture (<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>)	Provisional	Not Started		
Snowy Owl (<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>)	Provisional	Published (2022)	Combined (Owl)	n/a

- ☒ I have conducted an annual review of all SSP Sustainability Reports under my purview.
- ☒ I have attached the Animal Program Deadlines and Planning Details Report from PMCTrack.
- Optional: Please list any field conservation, research projects, and/or special accomplishments that have been supported and/or conducted by the TAG in the past year.
 - Supported a new scholarship, the African Raptor Leadership Grant, administered by the Raptor Research Foundation with a \$1500 donation. The grant was awarded to Joan Banda, a raptor research student at A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute in Nigeria, who will study threats to African owls. <https://raptorresearchfoundation.org/grants-awards/african-raptor-leadership-grant/>