

AAZK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT: To promote and establish connections between AAZK members and the conservation of wildlife and their habitats.
To provide educational resources for members and their institutions about environmentally responsible practices.

PURPOSE: The Conservation Committees Mission is to connect AAZK members with opportunities to engage in habitat conservation and in situ wildlife initiatives and to provide educational resources about environmentally responsible practices.

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WHAT WE DO:

- **Conference Workshops**
- **Conservation Opportunity Database**
The Conservation Opportunity Database connects skilled professional Animal Keepers and Educators directly with conservation organizations for volunteer opportunities around the world.
- **Conservation Station Column**
This column in the Animal Keepers' Forum features articles concerning conservation practices and issues in relation to the field of zoo keeping.
- **Bowling for Rhinos Support**
The conservation committee liaison to the Bowling for Rhinos Program Manager that provides assistance in developing and communicating new initiatives for the Bowling for Rhinos conservation fundraiser.
- **Green Conference Guidelines**
These Guidelines outline green, sustainable best practices to be utilized when planning and hosting a conference.
- **Bowling for Rhinos Conservation Resource Grant**
A small portion of the funds raised through Bowling for Rhinos is made available on an annual basis to support deserving conservation projects. The Conservation Committee is responsible for promoting the availability of the Grant, receiving and evaluating applications, and reporting on the Grant at the National Conference.
- **Certificate of Merit in Conservation Award**
This award is a cooperative effort between the AAZK Awards Committee and the Conservation Committee. It was established in 2010 and is available annually to recognize zookeepers who have made outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation.
- **Association Webpage**
The Conservation Committee provides conservation related resources to the AAZK membership in the "members only" section of the website, and provides general information about the Committee on the public pages.