

## **ZACC (Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation)**

Conversation with Beth Armstrong, Chair of ZACC

(As reported by Kristen Wolfe)

1. They do not have a formal vetting process.

2. They choose projects based on previous relationships or connections through an associate. She has the below personal philosophy in what to look for when choosing organizations to fund. The below is based on if you have money to give out, which right now we are looking at just creating the database, but I thought some of this might help.

- If you do not hear back from the group in the way of reports or photo/email updates, ask a second time and then if no response do not work with them again.
- Push and encourage the unknown, the small and new conservation is the future as they may grow into something big if someone takes a chance on them. Going for the known or big global organizations, the money and projects get lost in the shuffle.
- Look for projects asking for items or small amounts of \$ that have a specific need. This often shows a smaller group that has well developed goals and plans. They also have already established action items they are looking to full fill rather than, "we need 5,000 for research"
- Listen to field researchers in the area. They often can back up the reputation of a conservation organization or they can tell you better the needs of a small organization.
- Look for location of the species you wish to fund. Then find organizations that may be covering that area even if not the species you are hoping to help. (we had discussed in our meeting support primates, may help ungulates in the same area)
- Look at organizations that have an emergency fund to support themselves in crisis (natural disaster, etc..) Again shows planning for the future.
- They need to have education programs and community buy in, that can be shown by the locals using the education programs or supporting the organization being in the area.
- Support research as well as conservation, you often have to get research about an area or species to know if it even has a conservation need.

3. When looking at other zoos to mimic their process think about the following:

- Look at zoos that give money in large and small amounts or throughout the year. This means they are good at supporting diverse groups and their application process sorts these groups out well.