

SEAZA Pre-Conference Workshop



<u>Animal Welfare</u>	Capacity
Title: Animal Training Workshop Date & Time: 16 November 2025 (Sunday), 09:00 – 17:00 Facilitators: Gail Laule, Mandai Wildlife Group and Claudia Tay, Singapore Oceanarium This interactive workshop provides participants with essential knowledge and hands-on experience in applying positive reinforcement techniques for wildlife training. Through lecture, videos, classroom activities, and live animal demonstrations, we delve into the principles of animal learning and the skills needed for successful training that is enriching for animals and trainers alike. Participants leave the Workshop with practical tools for implementing positive reinforcement training programs that enhance both animal welfare and daily care and management. Morning Session Topics include: ▪ <i>Principles of Learning Theory</i> Participants explore the science behind positive reinforcement, understanding how timing, consistency, and appropriate rewards create lasting behavioral changes without stress or coercion. ▪ <i>Wildlife-Specific Considerations</i> Wildlife species present unique challenges including natural fear responses and species-specific motivations. This topic covers how to adapt training methods for different taxonomic groups, from primates and carnivores to birds and reptiles, while respecting their natural behaviors and welfare needs. ▪ <i>Setting Up a Training Framework</i> Participants learn about systematic training frameworks that guide program development and implementation. Key components include training plans, goal setting methodologies, safety protocols and evaluation systems.	24 pax

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- *Session Planning Workshop*

Small groups develop training plans for specific scenarios, such as teaching a raptor to step onto a scale or training a primate for voluntary blood draws. Each plan addresses safety protocols, progression steps, and success criteria while incorporating species-appropriate reinforcers.

Afternoon Session

- *Positive Reinforcement Training Demonstrations*

We will go out to the Zoo to watch live training demonstrations with a variety of species, from basic targeting to more complex medical behaviours.

- *Troubleshooting Common Challenges*

The workshop concludes with a problem-solving discussion addressing typical training challenges like fear responses, inconsistent participation, and maintaining motivation.

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<u>Aquarium Working Group</u>	Capacity
Title: SEAZA Aquarium Working Group Workshop Date & Time: 16 November 2025 (Sunday), 13:00 – 17:00 Facilitator: Nick Derbyshire, Singapore Oceanarium This pre-conference workshop marks the exciting launch of SEAZA's very first Aquarium Working Group — a dedicated platform for aquariums and facilities with aquatic animal collections to connect, collaborate, and grow together. Whether part of a large, established institution or a smaller, developing facility, this workshop is designed to be inclusive, practical, and inspiring. The session will begin with an introduction to the goals of the working group, which is being formed to help raise and support standards of animal welfare, husbandry, and professional development across the region. Together, we will explore how facilities can benefit from a shared network of expertise, pooled resources, and collaborative opportunities—from training and research to conservation and capacity building. Participants will help shape the group's structure, outline key areas of focus, and share experiences from their own institutions. For those new to the concept, this workshop is an open invitation to learn more, ask questions, and discover how even modest contributions can help shape a stronger regional community. There is no requirement to be a current member of the working group to attend—just an interest in improving aquatic animal care and a willingness to connect with others who share the same passion. By the end of the session, we hope attendees will leave feeling empowered, informed, and excited to be part of a supportive network that puts aquatic animal welfare at the heart of what we do—together.	20 pax

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<u>Conservation</u>	Capacity
Title: From Strategy to Synergy: Strengthening SEAZA's Conservation Network Date & Time: 16 November 2025 (Sunday), 12:30 - 16:30 Facilitators: Josephine Vanda, Gembira Loka Zoo and Dr. Sonja Luz, Mandai Nature SEAZA Conservation Committee (SCC), serves as a vital platform for SEAZA members to exchange knowledge, experiences, and strategic approaches in zoo-based conservation. As a driving force in ensuring active conservation engagement among members, the SCC aims to facilitate peer learning and foster collaboration through the sharing of individual zoo conservation strategies and blueprints. The workshop will provide an opportunity to critically review and improve the current SEAZA Conservation Guidelines and Standards, making them more practical and relevant for implementation within our region. These efforts are ultimately geared toward aligning SEAZA's collective conservation initiatives with the WAZA 2030 Conservation Goals.	30 pax

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<u>Conservation Education</u>	Capacity
Title: Creative Facilitation – Applying a multi-disciplinary approach to zoo education programmes Date & Time: 16 November 2025 (Sunday), 14:00 – 17:00 Facilitators: Haniman Boniran, Mandai Wildlife Group and Chien-Chu Wu, Taipei Zoo Yearly, zoos are visited by guests of varying profiles from school groups to youths and multi-generational families, each seeking a meaningful experience for their visit. How can zoo educators leverage on their park resources to provide engaging experiences for such a diverse audience? This workshop aims to provide zoo educators the opportunity to apply a multi-disciplinary approach in developing age-appropriate educational programmes that are suitable for preschoolers, youth groups and multi-generational families to achieve a meaningful experience during their visit to the zoo.	30 pax

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<u>Nutrition Network</u>	Capacity
Title: Animal Food Safety: Best Practices for Hygiene & Quality (with nutrition centre tour) Date & Time: 16 November 2025 (Sunday), 13:00 - 17:00 Facilitator: Po-Han Chou, Taronga Conservation Society Australia Maintaining food quality and hygiene is just as important as providing a nutritionally balanced diet for animals. These factors have a significant impact on animal health, digestion, and nutrient absorption. This workshop introduces key concepts in assessing food quality, identifying ideal storage conditions, and recognising potential hazards during food preparation. A tour of the nutrition centre, where food is prepared for the parks in Mandai Wildlife Reserve will also be included.	30 pax

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<u>Species Management</u>	Capacity
Title: Ex-situ Population Management Workshop for SEAZA Date & Time: 14 November 2025 (Friday), 13:00 – 17:00 15 & 16 November (Saturday & Sunday), 09:00 – 17:00 Facilitators: Elmar Fienieg and William van Lint, EAZA Executive Office As part of the WAZA 2027 Population Management Goal, enhancing the scientific capacity of the SEAZA Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), Species Coordinators, and Studbook Keepers remains a key priority for the SEAZA Species Management Committee (SMC). To support this goal, facilitators Mr. Elmar Fienieg and Mr. William van Lint from EAZA Executive Office, will lead an exclusive Ex-situ Population Management Workshop designed to deepen participants' understanding of what is required to run a successful breeding programme. Objectives: - Strengthen the scientific profile of population/species management role holders - Support evidence-based decision-making for programme planning and goal setting - Enhance the effectiveness of breeding programme coordination across SEAZA institutions Workshop Topics: - EAZA Policies and Procedures - Demographic and Genetic Management Strategies - Breeding and Transfer Recommendations - Essential Skills for a Successful Breeding Programme Held over 2.5 days, this closed, invite-only workshop ensures participants receive focused, practical training tailored to regional needs and challenges.	30 pax; by invite only