

POSITION STATEMENT

For Auckland Zoo

9.12.2010

Executive Director of the Zoo and Aquarium Association, Martin Phillips says:

“The Zoo and Aquarium Association unites its members from the zoo and aquarium industry, to partner for conservation. The Zoo and Aquarium Association supports member zoos that hold Asian Elephants because they are an endangered species, facing a very high risk of extinction. Auckland Zoo has well developed skills in caring for this species as part of the regional program for Asian elephants.

Zoos have made significant progress in the past 10 years in the care and management of elephants. Zoo and Aquarium Association member zoos are amongst the best in providing high quality enclosures with management techniques incorporating the highest degree of welfare for the elephants.

Zoos are not only places where people can appreciate and learn about these wonderful animals, they also support elephant conservation by contributing to conservation programs for wild elephants in various countries in the Asian region.

Elephants in zoos play an important role as ambassadors for their wild cousins, helping to educate and raise community awareness of the plight of elephants in the wild, as well as raising funds for in-situ conservation.”

World-wide, zoos attract over 600 million visitors annually and are uniquely placed to galvanise community support for wildlife through their education programs and conservation messages.“

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