

Working together in a shared studbook database

This document can be used as a guidance document to help International Studbook Keepers and Regional Studbook Keepers who share the same studbook database. They are encouraged to use the below points to create their own document for agreed upon use, editing, etc. of the shared studbook. While for the majority this cooperation applies to studbook databases that are shared between International Studbook Keepers and Regional Studbook Keepers, it could also apply to any situation where two (or more) regions share a studbook database.

It is good to be aware that your regional association (PMC or Population Biologist advisors) as well as the ISB Coordinator at the WAZA Office may be able to help facilitate a meeting or join this discussion.

	<p>Why do you have an international (global) studbook (ISB)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking about this will help determine the best way to cooperate in studbook keeping. • Is there global oversight needed of some sort? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do regional program coordinators evaluate the genetic representation of their individuals globally in breeding and transfer recommendations, or only within their region? ○ Are exchanges between regions needed in the future? ○ Is the ISB used for potential reintroductions? Or is this a future purpose of the ISB?
	<p>Who does what?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the International Studbook Keeper work with the other regional association Studbook Keepers – share editing or not? • Who edits data from which institutions? Will the International Studbook Keeper do all editing? Or is each regional Studbook Keeper responsible for updating their region? Does that include institutions outside of the regional association, but geographically nearby? Does this include institutions that are not Species360 members? • When will you do this? What is the expected frequency of updates by each person that is editing? • What is the contingency plan for if someone needs to update recent data for an analysis, but the responsible person for this part of the studbook is not available?
	<p>Data Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are all data assumptions and conventions clear and documented in the studbook database? These are generally best recorded in the studbook overview, if these are general for the studbook. If a data convention is only for one individual, it is recommended to add this in the individual's notes. • For example, it is recommended that each studbook has consistent data conventions for situations such as: date of birth for marsupials, uncertain data sources, species for which dominant male is virtually always the sire.

	<p>Historic inconsistencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who edits historic data, if needed? Does this vary depending on each region? • What are your rules for communication when working on and deciding upon unreliable or recently found historic data?
	<p>Studbook numbers and UDFs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is any logic followed in terms of studbook numbers? If so, what is this data convention? Note that this is not in any way a requirement for studbook keeping. • Does the studbook use T-numbers or not? This is usually only necessary during the starting phase of a studbook. • What do specific UDF values mean? These should be defined more clearly in the studbook overview section.
	<p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should notes always be added when interpretation of data or data source are not obvious? • Are there specific notes that are always gathered and entered for this species (e.g., reproductive events that do not result in offspring)?
	<p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How frequently and when should all Studbook Keepers communicate in general? • When will those involved communicate specifically about when data will or has been updated?
	<p>Access to the data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about who could or should have access to this shared dataset, and what level of access should they get (Read only, Analytical, Editing etc). • Check the existing Manual or Handbook from the regional associations and/or WAZA's International Studbook Keeper Resource Manual for relevant rules • Encourage an awareness of data sensitivity, and not sharing data of other regions with external parties before discussing this with the relevant region.
	<p>Resources to help with these discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAZA Animal Welfare and Conservation Coordinator, Paula Cerdán (paula.cerdan@waza.org) • Your regional association office • Your regional association population biology advisors • EAZA Population Management Manual (Chapter 3.12.7) • AZA Regional Studbook Keeper Handbook • AZA Guidelines for Roles and Access to ZIMS for Studbooks and Sharing Studbook Data • ZAA Regional Species Planning and Management Policy • WAZA International Studbook Keeper Resource Manual

It is highly recommended that once these decisions are made and written in a document, they will also be noted in the Studbook Overview section of the studbook and will be shared with the relevant TAGs or anyone else involved with the studbook oversight.