

Preparing to Set Target Population Sizes

At least 3 months in advance – Conduct a space survey for all species.

- Total spaces
- Breeding spaces
- Holding spaces
- Potential for additional spaces

2 months in advance – Send the following to the PMC (kkovar@lpzoo.org)

- Results of your space survey
- RCP draft (if no RCP draft exists, list all PMP and SSP species that will need target size)
- Studbooks for validation. Include:
 1. A .zip file of your studbook and analytical studbook
 2. Specimen by specimen documentation of your assumptions and/or unresolved parentage issues
 3. A list of animals to be excluded from the breeding population (and the reason for the exclusion)
 4. The total number of animals (males.females.unknowns) remaining in the breeding or managed population.
 5. A time window of demography – (e.g., 1970-present) -in what year do you feel modern management began for your species?

The PMC will return studbook validation reports to all studbook keepers who have submitted studbooks. **Changes to the studbook may be required based on the validation report.**

If no studbook exists for a PMP or SSP species, either the TAG chair or person the chair designates should fill out a life history worksheet (next page). In addition, an ISIS download will be obtained by the PMC. In many cases, the PMC may ask the TAG chair to designate a person to “clean” the ISIS downloads.

Begin discussing tentative dates for the meeting with PMC. Assume one hour is necessary for each species requiring a target population size.

1 month in advance – Check in with PMC to ensure:

- All materials listed above have been received
- Corrected studbooks have been received (if necessary)
- A firm meeting date has been set
- TAG chair has made meeting agenda (1 hour/species) and it has been sent to PMC & meeting attendants
- Meeting attendants have been invited and a list has been sent to the PMC
(Attendants should include studbook keepers, species coordinators, TAG steering committee. **It is imperative to have experts on each species present at the meeting.**)

Meeting day – bring the following:

- A copy of your studbooks on paper and on disk.
- A copy of your draft RCP or TAG goals
- A copy of your space survey
- Completed worksheets for non-studbook species
- Each species’ most recent management plan

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Setting Target Population Sizes for a species without a studbook

In many cases, collection plan decisions need to be made for species that do not have a formal studbook. For these species, the Population Management Center (PMC) can help estimate an appropriate target population size in two ways:

- 1) by using studbook data from a surrogate species (i.e., a closely related species or one with similar lifespan and reproductive traits)
- 2) by compiling the necessary information from other sources, such as your own husbandry knowledge and expertise, ISIS, space surveys, scientific literature, etc.

If a surrogate studbook is not available, the PMC would need as much as possible of the following information:

Species (Latin name): _____

From space survey or ISIS

	Your data	Your source
Current population size		
Sex ratio		

From your own knowledge, similar species, scientific literature, etc.

	Your data	Most similar species common in captivity	Your source
Age at first reproduction (females; males)			
Age at last reproduction (females; males)			
Life span			
Infant mortality (%)			
Litter/clutch size			
Inter-litter/clutch interval			
Average probability of a pair breeding (%)			
Number of founders or importations (with living descendants)			
Number of generations in captivity, or year captive population started			
Possibility of additional founders?			

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