

Zoos, Tourism and Conservation

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Zoos of the World

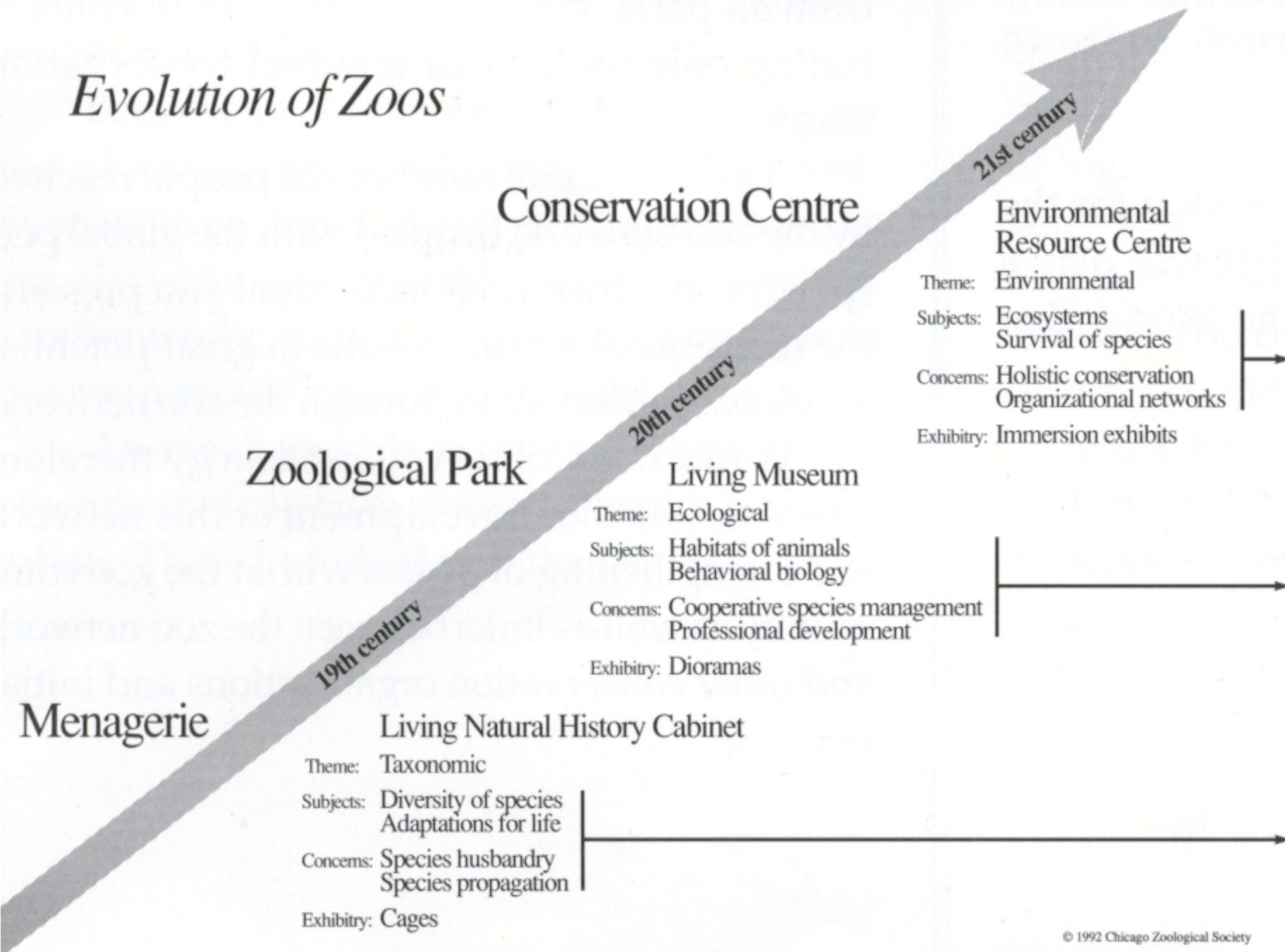
- 10,000 “zoos” worldwide
- 1,000 “federated” zoos
- 47 Australian “federated” zoos

(Source: WZCS, 1993)

Melbourne Zoo 1893

London Zoo 1905

Evolution of Zoos



The Zoo Challenge:

Commercial Viability

Versus

Ethical Credibility

The CRC Project

Objectives

To assess and evaluate:

- ◆ Extent of conservation activities
- ◆ \$ spent
- ◆ Effectiveness
- ◆ Obstacles
- ◆ Benefits for the zoos

The CRC Project (cont.)

Methods

- ◆ Survey of Australian Zoos
- ◆ Analysis of “successful” programmes
- ◆ Assessment of effectiveness
- ◆ Comparison with UK and US zoos

Conservation Activities of Zoos

- Direct Wildlife Management
 - ex situ
 - in situ
- Financial contribution
- Economic incentives
- Education

Direct Wildlife Management

- Ex Situ - captive breeding/management
- conservation research
- In Situ - habitat and wildlife recovery

Ex situ – captive breeding

Ex situ – captive management

In situ – habitat/wildlife recovery

Financial Contributions

- Ex Situ - not identified
 - substantial
- In Situ - \$15 million in 2000 by UK zoos
 - much less by Australian zoos

Financial Contributions – *in situ*

Economic Incentive of Conservation

- Unclear
- Commercialism versus conservation

Education

- A primary function of zoos
- Formal and informal programmes
- An increasing activity
- Difficult to assess

Education - formal

Education - informal

Assessing The Zoos' Contribution

- A net positive
- An increasing
commitment
- Active on three fronts

BUT

Assessing The Zoos' Contribution

- Is it enough?
- Is it effective?
- Is the message getting through?

Recommendations

To undertake:

- A critical assessment of conservation activities
- A survey of visitor attitudes to zoos and conservation
- Promotion of zoos' contributions