



## **WILD ANIMAL RESCUE NETWORK CONSTITUTION**

### **PREAMBLE**

1. We, the Wild Animal Rescue Network (WARN) are an organization devoted to the rescue, rehabilitation and conservation of wildlife.
2. Believing that every biological species has a right to survival, that humans have an obligation to protect that right, we are therefore obliged to educate and motivate the general public to care for wildlife and to help preserve biological diversity;
3. Desiring to carry out this obligation by we seek to rescue wildlife and release them back into the wild following international guidelines. Failing which we will provide a good quality of life for captive animals under our stewardship in conditions that promote their individual wellbeing, genetic diversity of their populations, preservation of their taxa, and conservation of their natural ecosystems;
4. Also desiring to promote cooperation among East and South East Asian institutions providing sanctuary or rehabilitation of rescued wildlife (hereinafter referred to as wildlife rescue centers) , and to promote professional camaraderie with other conservation organizations outside East and South East Asia, in order to facilitate cooperative pursuit of our shared goals of protecting and conserving wildlife;
5. And knowing of the resolution adopted at the 2009 International Conference On Wildlife Rescuing in East and South East Asia held at Pingtung Rescue Center For Endangered Wild Animals, Pingtung, Taiwan, Republic of China, on 3 November 2009.
6. We hereby declare the adoption of this Constitution joined here with the Bylaws of the Wild Animal Rescue Network, to become the Constitution and Bylaws of the Wild Animal Rescue Network (WARN).

### **Article 1 – NAME AND MEMBERSHIP**

The name of the association shall be the Wild Animal Rescue Network, a non-governmental organization, hereinafter referred to as “WARN”. Members shall consist of wildlife rescue centers in the East and South East Asian Region.

### **Article 2 - PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

WARN's purpose is to enhance the capabilities of East and South East Asian wildlife rescue centers to rescue and conserve wildlife, provide conservation awareness education for the public, and to improve the standard, status of wildlife rescue centers in East and South East Asia. WARN has several objectives, the pursuit of which will help to accomplish its purpose. These objectives are:

- a) To rescue, rehabilitate and release wildlife.
- b) To conduct, encourage and assist public education programmes to highlight wildlife conservation issues.
- c) To conduct relevant research that will assist in the rescue, rehabilitation and release

- process and hence contribute to the collective knowledge for the species that we rescue.
- d) To care for and provide a good quality of life for rescued animals held in our centers.
  - e) To promote camaraderie and cooperation amongst wildlife rescue centers.
  - f) To provide a forum in which members can exchange information, share expertise, and co-ordinate activities of common interest.
  - g) To support in-situ wildlife conservation and research programs and promote their integration with ex-situ programs in WARN institutions.
  - h) Advocacy and support for implementing effective national and international wildlife conservation laws and policies.

### **Article 3 – ACTIVITIES**

In pursuance of the objectives mentioned above, WARN shall initiate and / or undertake activities that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Organize conferences / seminars / workshops to exchange information and discuss matters of common interest;
- b) Conduct training in any and all aspects of animal rescue, rehabilitation and release management;
- c) Undertake or participate in conservation breeding programs on the basis of current knowledge of conservation needs.
- d) Dissemination of relevant information
- e) Coordinate with and support in-situ conservation and management programs, particularly those dealing with IUCN Listed Threatened species endemic to East and South East Asia.

### **Article 4 – PRINCIPLES**

- a) All members shall comply with the Constitution and Bylaws of WARN;
- b) Members shall undertake to:
  - i. Maintain a high standard of animal husbandry including a strong program of veterinary medical care at both preventive and curative levels;
  - ii. Participate in coordinated species conservation programs at national and / or international levels whenever necessary;
  - iii. Assist fellow members to the best of their ability.

### **Article 5 – STRUCTURES**

The structure of WARN shall consist of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Secretariat.

- a) The General Assembly:
  - i The General Assembly shall comprise the delegations of all voting members of WARN, and shall convene at intervals of not exceeding two years;
  - ii The principle of One Country One Vote shall apply. WARN members for within each country should undertake to agree on one representative who shall vote on their behalf;
  - iii At least six months notice shall be given in writing before the conference of members in the next General Assembly together with a provisional agenda and circulated to all WARN members;

- iv A quorum for a General Assembly shall be a simple majority of the eligible voting members present (as defined in Article III Section 1, and Article V, Sections 2 and 3 of the WARN Bylaws);
  - v Issues discussed and decisions made at the conference of members in the General Assembly shall be recorded in the Conference Communiqué.
- b) The Executive Board:
- i The affairs of WARN shall be managed by an Executive Board elected at a meeting of the General Assembly. No member of the Board shall receive compensation for his or her services.
  - ii The members of the Executive Board shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and 4 Members. The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees.
  - iii The Executive Board shall be entrusted with the general direction and operation of WARN and may adopt such rules and regulations for the condition of business as they deem advisable, within limits of the Constitution and Bylaws.
  - iv The Executive Board may establish standing committees as needed to assist in the management of WARN affairs.
  - v The elected members shall perform the usual duties of their offices and such other duties as may be determined by the Executive Board in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.

**c) Secretariat:**

The Secretariat will be located in any appropriate country as agreed upon by a simple majority of the Executive Board.