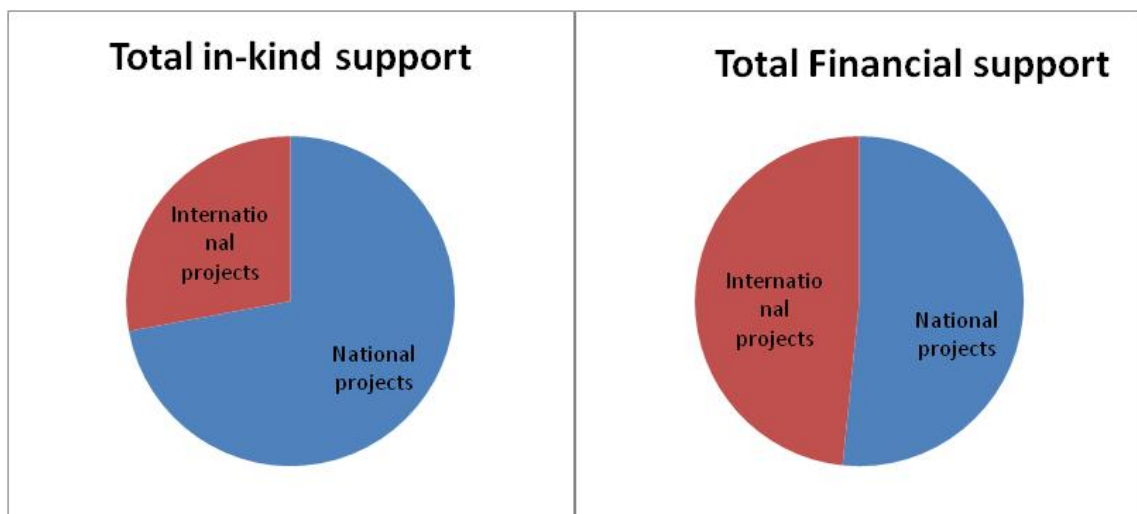
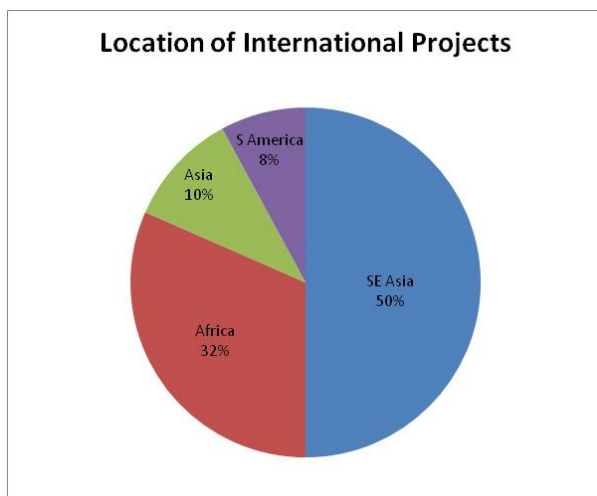


ZAA Conservation Activity Report 2012 to 2013

The Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia currently has 84 member institutions. These institutions participate in a range of conservation activities ranging from breeding for release for recovery programs in Australia and New Zealand, provision of in-kind support to conservation projects, participating in on-the-ground activities in range states for endangered species, as well as financial contributions to conservation efforts in Australia, New Zealand and in other range states. The Australasian region commits 2.12% of the annual operating expenditure to conservation projects; this includes both in-kind support and financial support.



The majority of international conservation projects supported by the members of the ZAA are located in the SE Asia region with others located elsewhere in Asia, Africa and South America.



The ZAA currently manages 11 conservation programs in Australia, and 8 conservation programs in New Zealand. These programs are all active recovery program species. The ZAA published a paper in 2013 in relation to zoos and conservation in Australia, Hogg, C.J. (2013). Preserving Australian native fauna: zoo-based breeding programs as part of a more unified strategic approach. Australian Journal of Zoology 61, 101–108. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/ZO13014> (<http://www.publish.csiro.au/paper/ZO13014.htm>).

Two of our more high profile conservation efforts are the Tasmanian devil program in Australia and the Brown Kiwi program in New Zealand. There is a high participation rate from our regional zoos in both of these important conservation programs.

Tasmanian Devils

Tasmanian devil populations have been decimated in recent years by Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) with an estimated loss of 95% of animals in some wild locations. The disease is now estimated to cover 80% of the state of Tasmania. The ZAA manages the insurance population for this species, on behalf of the Tasmanian government. There are currently over 600 devils held in 28 institutions in Australia, and we have commenced a pilot program to export devils overseas. In addition, we have recently embarked on a four-way partnership with the University of Sydney, the Tasmanian government (DPIPWE) and San Diego Zoo Global to ascertain the best way to manage semi-wild populations of devils released from the insurance population in the long term.

Brown Kiwi

New Zealand's iconic bird is under threat in the wild. All four taxa of Brown Kiwi are in serious decline, primarily due to predation. One of the aims of the captive program is to breed sufficient birds to support targeted release and restoration requirements. This is done in conjunction with *in situ* management such as pest control. In areas where there is no active predator control or supplementation from captive populations, kiwi are estimated to be declining at a rate of 2-3% per annum. ZAA coordinates the captive population to also provide adequate display birds used to impart important conservation messages to the public, and for research and staff training, all of which directly benefit conservation of kiwi in the wild.