

# International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

Supported by the International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature (ITZN)

The Natural History Museum  
Cromwell Road  
London SW7 5BD  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7942 5653  
E-mail: [iczn@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:iczn@nhm.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.iczn.org](http://www.iczn.org)

## ICZN Affiliation - Memorandum of Cooperation

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to you as Executive Secretary of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN). As you will be aware, ICZN produces the internationally recognised and accepted Code for naming animals (now in its 4th edition, and on the web at: [www.iczn.org/iczn/index.jsp](http://www.iczn.org/iczn/index.jsp)), as well as resolving problems that arise with the names of animals. ICZN provides these services through its Commissioners, up to 30 international specialists, and its secretariat based at the Natural History Museum in London.

ICZN's activities are mandated by the International Union of Biological Sciences, of which it is a member, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. ICZN is also an Associate Participant of GBIF, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

At ICZN we now see the emergence of a further, significant benefit to all taxonomists and other users of animal names through the development of ZooBank, a system of registration for the scientific names of animals. The initial proposal appeared in *Nature* last September, and has received strong support from the zoological community. A copy of the *Nature* commentary is attached. It is also accessible through the ICZN website ([www.iczn.org](http://www.iczn.org)), where you will also find discussion of the proposal and related matters.

The work of ICZN will become increasingly important in the face of current global problems facing the environment, biosecurity, biodiversity, conservation, and other issues affecting animals, such as climate change and avian flu. It will become even more essential to ensure the correctness of the scientific names of animals in documentation relating to import and export, quarantine, medicine and veterinary science, and conservation, e.g. red data lists and CITES.

In previous messages we have asked associated organisations for direct financial assistance, however modest, to contribute towards the costs of carrying out the functions of ICZN. While we greatly value this support, we realise that this is an unsustainable fundraising strategy for keeping ICZN running in perpetuity. We are therefore currently seeking not a financial contribution but a statement of approval of ICZN's role and products, in the form of the attached Memorandum of Cooperation. We hope that by building up a critical mass of support from the users of ICZN's products and services we can lobby for financial help from other donors.

Your signature on the attached MoC could therefore be critical for the future of ICZN and consequently for the maintenance of standards, sense and stability in animal names.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Andrew Polaszek  
Executive Secretary, ICZN

**ICZN: GBIF Associate Participant (Global Biodiversity Information Facility)**  
**Appeal Patron: Prof. E.O. Wilson (Harvard University)**

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## ICZN Affiliates

### Memorandum of Cooperation

As signatories to this Memorandum of Cooperation with the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, we support the overall aim of the Commission, that of promoting "Standards, Sense and Stability for animal names in science". We endorse the activities of the Commission in producing and periodically revising the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, and ruling on cases where animal nomenclature requires resolution.

We recognise that the Commission is a unique body of specialist scientists, truly international in its composition, who freely donate their services to the work of ICZN. Without the existence of ICZN, and particularly without the Code, animal scientific nomenclature would rapidly become unstable.

Now more than ever, with information technology revolutionising the way that animal taxonomy is undertaken and the means by which the results of taxonomic research are disseminated, ICZN has a central and crucial role to play in maintaining stability of animal names.

We also support ICZN's Mission and Vision statements:

**Mission:**

*The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is dedicated to achieving stability and sense in the scientific naming of animals.*

**Vision:**

*The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), acting in the capacity of adviser and arbiter, assists the zoological community through generation and dissemination of information on the correct use of the scientific names of animals.*

*This includes the publication of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature and the Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature containing applications to, and rulings by, the Commission.*

*ICZN will distribute this information as widely as possible, working towards the provision of a free service.*

By signing this Memorandum of Cooperation we are therefore pleased to become ICZN Affiliates forthwith.

Signed:

Date:

Position in organisation:

Organisation name or stamp: