

Michael Mace
Director of Animal Collections and Strategy
San Diego Zoo Global

In his extensive career, Michael Mace has seen tremendous changes in wildlife populations—with many species heading toward the brink of extinction. He has also been directly involved with projects that have successfully brought species like the California condor, light-footed Ridgway's rail and Guam kingfisher back from this brink and successfully on their way toward recovery. In his role as Director of Animal Collections and Strategy, he works to build strategic plans to maintain sustainable populations of species at risk while working toward overall recovery of these species including reintroduction into managed and protected habitat spaces.

As part of his ongoing work, Michael Mace participates in conservation field projects involving numerous endangered species, including the release programs for the California condor, Andean condor, whooping crane, Southern ground hornbill, white-bellied heron, Guam rail, and light-footed Ridgway's rail. Because of his expertise in wildlife recovery efforts Mace has previously testified before the House Committee on Appropriations in May 2017 and March 2019.

He regularly works with wildlife officers and serves as a liaison between San Diego Zoo Global and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on issues related to wildlife trafficking. In his position he has also testified in the California state senate regarding the illegal trade of elephant tusks and rhino horns. Legislation bill AB96 bill was approved.

Michael is the recipient of a number of awards from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as Endangered Species Recovery Champion, and as a team member for AZA's North American Conservation Award—California Condor and the Plume Award— Light-footed Ridgway's Rail Recovery Coalition and is a former California Condor Recovery Team member. He has authored numerous articles and papers on avian science in peer review journals and in magazines.

Michael is a professional fellow in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and has chaired or served on numerous elected committees and specialized groups included the wildlife conservation and management committee. He is the AZA Species Survival Coordinator for the Andean condor, International Studbook manager for the California condor and is a former United States Fish and Wildlife Service California condor recovery team member. Mace joined the San Diego Zoo Safari Park in 1973. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and an Associate of Science in biology. He has also completed specialized studies through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and San Diego Zoo Global.