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Appendix 3: Template for proposing a new EEP

TAGs can use this Template for proposing a new EEP to the EEP Committee. As per default these applications follow from the RCP publication process and the Species Assessment Sheet should be sent along with this template. In exceptional cases new EEPs may also be proposed in between RCP editions. A separate Species Assessment Sheet should be completed if an EEP is being applied for in between RCP editions. Note that not all sections below may be relevant to each programme. Also note that 'species' represents any taxonomic unit the TAG has chosen as the unit of management in an EEP.

EEP Proposal for

Common Family Name: Mudminnows

Scientific Family Name: Umbridae

Prepared by

Name(s): Freshwater Teleost TAG

Year: 2020

1. Contact information

Contact details of proposed EEP Coordinator

Name: Anton Weissenbacher

Institution: Vienna Zoo

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2. Taxonomy information

Taxonomy of the species

Umbridae family includes 7 species (source: fishbase 2021)

3. Identified roles

Identified role(s) description

Insurance: This direct conservation role contemplates the possibility to maintain long-term ex situ populations to preserve options for the future. The ex

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situ populations are a potential future source to build up (long-term) populations for reintroductions.

Research: This role would focus on reproductive biology and genetic diversity of selected species of this family.

Programme decision statement

EEP. Proactive management and coordination along with a clear strategy among all the holders will be required to deliver the EAZA contributions to the insurance role selected for Umbridae. Therefore, the TAG recommends to actively manage it as EEP.

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4. Programme participants and governance

EAZA institutional scope *(As a default, participation in EEPs is obligatory for EAZA Members. If you wish for an exemption, identify which institution(s) holding this species is/are not part of the EEP and explain the underlying reasons.)*

Non-EAZA holding institutional scope *Select one or more of the options below.*

- EAZA population/community is the dominating driver of the EEP and any non-EAZA Members will occasionally join and are not integral to the structure of the EEP.*
- In addition to EAZA, there are other structural/equal drivers of the EEP (e.g., World Pheasant Association, ...). Please describe.*

The focus in this family is on *Umbra krameri*, the European Mudminnow. Years ago, there was a large renaturation project to stabilize the habitat of this species in Austria. We have established a breeding project together with the Danube National Park. We offer *Umbra krameri* of our breeding project to private person with seminatural swimming ponds to create many backup populations.

- A larger initiative exists and the EAZA population is a small part of this (e.g., GSMP, ...). Please describe.*

Additional information:

Essential non-EAZA partners not holding animals *(List the organisations, define their role, and how they will work with the EEP).*

Until now *Umbra krameri* has been held held and bred only in few aquariums, institutions and by private breeders. Most of the aquariums are located in the natural distribution area of this species and will be helpful with different priorities in the EEP. Some of them are EAZA and/or EUAC members and have been involved in conservation activities for this species for many years.

Members of the EEP core group (Species Committee + non-voting members)

- *By default, EEPs have a Species Committee (a democratically elected representation of the holders) as part of their EEP core group (information on*

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the Species Committee and its associated default decision making process can be found in the Population Management Manual). If that will not be the case for this EEP, explain why and define the composition, structure and decision-making process for the EEP core group.

There are no immediate plans to have a family committee for Umbridae, but members of the Freshwater TAG that hold the species will be part of the family committee.

- *List the EEP core group members (names and institutions) (if already known): Species Committee members, Advisors, others.*

Not clear at the moment.

Collaboration with EAZA Working Groups and Committees *(Explain any current and/or future proposed links to existing EAZA groups and committees, such as the Animal Training Working Group, Biobanking Working Group, EAZA Group on Zoo Animal Contraception (EGZAC), EAZA Population Management Advisory Group (EPMAG), EAZA Education Committee, EAZA Nutrition Working Group, EAZA Research Committee, Reintroduction and Translocations Group, Transport Working Group, EAZA Veterinary Committee, EAZA Conservation Committee, Animal Welfare Working Group, Palm oil Working Group).*

There will be collaboration with: EPMAG, Reintroduction & Translocations Group

5. Programme characteristics

The detailed programme characteristics, goals, objectives and management strategies to fulfil the roles and goals of the EEP will be developed at a later stage as part of a Long-Term Management Plan (LTMP). The questions below are intended to help paint a rough view of what is currently intended/expected for the general EEP programme characteristics.

- *If there is a recent/active Long-term Management Plan for this species, list the demographic, genetic and other goals determined (if they still apply post RCP workshop).*

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At the moment, there are LTMP for the few habitats of this species. In the frame of the EEP we should develop a long-term ex-situ breeding concept to guarantee a viable number of specimen for necessary reintroduction activities.

- *What is the anticipated duration of the programme?*

At the moment, it is difficult to define a timeframe. Parts of the habitat of this species have been renatured but a large area is lost. An accompanying ex-situ breeding project on a long-term basis should provide a viable stock for necessary reintroduction activities.

- *What is the anticipated likelihood and time scale of the use of the EEP population for restoration in the wild (reintroduction, reinforcement, etc.)?*

Reintroduction is not planned at the moment, because there are viable populations in the wild and hopefully no further reintroduction will be necessary. However, it is essential to be prepared.

- *Are some or all the individuals within this EEP intended to be held in specialist ex situ centres in the species' native range? Specify.*

Yes, this is the case in Austria, Rumania and Croatia.

- *Is it expected to be necessary that the whole population, or a certain proportion thereof, will need to be held off exhibit in order to fulfil the roles of the programme? If yes, please explain. (this question does not refer to the temporary housing of individuals off exhibit for space reasons)*

Yes, all breeding activities will take place backstage. This means that the whole breeding population is held behind the scene.

- *Does a part or the whole of the EEP population need to be held in bio-secure facilities? And/or are there known diseases that have an above average effect on fulfilling the roles of the EEP?*

A part of the breeding population is held under safe conditions. This means that all of the tanks have their own LSS and are not connected to other tanks.

- *What is the expected estimated number of individuals and institutions required to fulfil the selected roles? (this question will be answered in detail*

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during the LTMP session for the taxon, but if some indication of scale is clear already, this should be stated here)

Five institutions with a total of 500 individuals.

- *Is this EEP intended to include rearing of wild eggs/young (i.e. head-starting)?*

No

- *Is this EEP intended to include ex situ breeding?*

Yes

- *Is there likely sufficient expertise for this, or a model, taxon to achieve the roles of the programme and provide conditions for good welfare? Please indicate if Best Practice Guidelines already exist and if yes, include publication date.*

The current holders have long-time experience with this species. BPG will be developed in the first year of the EEP.

- *Will (non-)breeding and transfer recommendations be issued? If yes, with what frequency? (naturally problems will need to be solved throughout the year, but with what frequency will recommendations be issued for the whole population at once)*

As the species in this family will be group-managed, the frequency will be determined by the new guidelines being created for this type of management by the Group Management study group and the EAZA population biologists, in cooperation with the TAG.

- *Do you anticipate that the EEP population will be (largely) closed or will there be regular planned additions of individuals? In case of the latter, will this be for genetic and/or demographic reasons and what will be the source (other ex situ sources and/or from the wild)?*

There is the opportunity to introduce individuals from the wild.

- *Do you expect genetic and demographic management in this EEP to be individual and/or group-based?*

Group-based

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- *Do you expect genetic management in this EEP to be based on pedigree analysis, group history analysis, and/or molecular genetics?*

Group history analysis.

- *Do you anticipate, or proactively plan for, biobanking and/or assisted reproduction to be key components of this programme?*

Biobanking

- *Do you anticipate certain national or international legislation to form a particular hindrance (more than average) to achieving the roles of your EEP (e.g., CITES, BALAI, governmental ownership, etc.). If so, explain how.*

No

- *Are there any other issues/plans related to in situ conservation support that you feel should be mentioned and are not evident from the role description of the EEP?*

No

- *Is there a research component/aspect to the EEP that is expected to have important consequences for the design of the EEP programme (e.g. housing and husbandry of a significant proportion of the population, etc.)? If yes, explain.*

I don't think so.

- *Do you anticipate there to be any sizeable political, social, or public conflicts of interest related to the EEP programme and how do you plan to deal with them?*

No

- *Any important additional programme characteristics that you would like to mention?*

- **This EEP is family based.**

6. References (if any)

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Sasa Maric et al: Phylogeography and population genetics of the European mudminnow (Umbra krameri) with a time-calibrated phylogeny for the family Umbridae

Hydrobiologia volume 792, pages151–168(2017)

Weissenbacher, A., Zimmerman, B., Aparici Plaza, D., Fienieg, E., Hausen, N. (eds.) 2020. Regional Collection Plan –EAZA Freshwater Teleost Taxon Advisory Group– Edition One. EAZA Executive Office: Amsterdam.