

Pierre de Chabannes

Founder – Photozoo Collection

Scientific advisor (expertise in captive animal collection inventories, education and animal species identification) – National Geographic USA

Independent photojournalist – Lecturer



A native of Paris, France, **Pierre de Chabannes** is a scientific advisor for National Geographic Society, reporter, photographer, lecturer and an expert in animal identification and conservation issues around the world. He is also the driving force behind the Photozoo Collection, one of the world’s largest documentary websites on captive species.

Fascinated with the world of zoos and aquariums since he was a child, Pierre has extensively studied not only the taxa in their collections, but the conservation status of the more than 15,000 species presently held in captivity. The Photozoo project seeks to preserve, in photographs and educational documents at least, the world’s biodiversity at this moment in time.

This expertise has led to Pierre’s most recent collaboration, collaborating as a consultant to “The Photo Ark” project with long-time National Geographic photojournalist Joel Sartore. In this capacity, Pierre intervenes as a scientific advisor, writer and expert consultant for captive species inventories and identification at the world’s zoos.

A freelance reporter and photographer since 2007, Pierre has authored articles in both English and French for publications such as Avicultural Magazine (The Avicultural Society), Watchbird (American Federation of Aviculture) and International Zoo News. His first book, a concise encyclopedia of all parrot species in captivity, is also in production.

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Zoos, the conservation and education challenge



Featured topics:

- The missions of a « modern » zoo
- Endangered species in the wild: how to quantify the threat
- Animal collections: species choices, strategy, conservation
- Breeding programs
- Is captivity a good solution ?
- Education and communication : the importance of a positive message
- Education is the key to a better world

The fate of the human race is linked to the conservation of nature. According to a BBC story, published in September 2016, more than 50% of existing animals on our planet are gone. Conservation of threatened animal species in captivity is, for now, the only reliable way to make sure these animals actually have a future, knowing how fast their habitat is destroyed.

Education is a critical function of a modern zoo. Most zoos allocate at least one staff member to visitor's education and the biggest zoos often have a full department dedicated to this task. Zoo education involves teaching the visitors about animals that they're watching and explains the stakes linked to biodiversity conservation. To achieve such mission, delivering a positive message is the key to success !

To analyze these topics, Pierre brings you more than 10 years of experience of researches in 25 different countries for over 220 animal collections (zoos, aquariums, private collections, wildlife refuges ...), hundreds of hours of conversations with zoo directors, curators, education department managers, senior zoo staff members, scientists, ... and a documentary collection dealing with over 9,500 animal species.

Great for: ALL AUDIENCES

The adventures of a “zoo trotter”



Featured topics:

- **Travel diary: get backstage with PhotoArk and Photozoo projects**
- **Seeking the world's rarest animals.**
- **Personal enrichment: meeting people and cultures**
- **Last minute problems: « An animal doesn't care about your schedule ! »**
- **Racing against extinction**
- **What can you do to help ?**

Follow in the footsteps of Pierre as he travels extensively to South-east Asia with National Geographic. Between June and September 2016, he studied more than 70 zoological collections in 9 different countries. Working on the PhotoArk project, this Asian expedition was about finding, studying and photographing some of the most endangered and poorly known animal species on the planet.

In the second part of this lecture, from the foothills of Mount Kinabalu on Borneo to the coastal plains of the Gulf of Mexico, you will explore more than 10 years of data collection on animals, their conservation and captive breeding programs to save them from extinction with testimonies brought by Pierre on his encounters with numerous extraordinary animal species.

Illustrated with numerous pictures and enlightened with many fascinating and funny stories, this talk will allow you to understand how every single one of you can make a difference by taking part to animal and nature conservation !

Great for: ALL AUDIENCES

Outstanding animals



Featured topics:

- Presentation of the main groups of living animals.
- Poorly known species.
- Behavior and extraordinary abilities analysis.
- Learning to understand better
- The aim of the Photozoo project: documenting biodiversity

Biodiversity ! This word, in itself, brings to our minds a myriad of living creatures existing in diverse shapes and sizes. Some of them are cute, some are scary but all are outstanding !

There are tens of thousands of animal species on our planet, from the charismatic elephants and lions to the tiniest invertebrates, some of which can only be observed by scientists equipped with a powerful microscope.

Pierre has been on assignment on four continents for more than 10 years and has documented, to this day, more than 9500 animal species of all kinds (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, terrestrial and marine invertebrates ...).

Many of the species featured in this collection are little known to people. Some of them display such amazing behavior or physical capabilities, some have adapted to the harshest habitats on earth and some are so poorly known and so rare that they have almost never been observed. An example could be the African golden cat, an elusive species that Pierre has photographed in April 2016 in Gabon. This specimen is currently the only one known in captivity around the world. .

Great for: ALL AUDIENCES

Endangered animals



Featured topics:

- Why are animals endangered ?
- Presentation of species threatened by loss of their habitat
- Wildlife traffic.
- Endemic species : here and nowhere else
- What future for threatened animal species ?

We are currently witnessing a global animal extinction crisis which is a direct consequence of humane activities. As a BBC article stated, we already lost more than 50 % of living animals and this situation is likely to worsen.

Some species are more vulnerable than others to loss of habitat, disturbance or introduction of alien species. Others live in areas which are badly affected by industrialization and urbanization for big cities development.

Pierre will help you understand one of the greatest challenges faced by the human race today, the conservation of nature and the saving of our planet, through portraits of animals, some of them poorly known, but all of them highly endangered.

This talk features small stories which are directly inspired from Pierre's encounters with amazing but endangered animals and meetings with conservation specialists throughout the world.

Great for: ALL AUDIENCES

Let's be positive ! A vision of conservation education



Featured topics:

- Education, a crucial mission
- Education in Asian zoos
- Optimism and positive reinforcement
- The ten commandments of a successful education message
- Forever learning ...

Great for: zookeepers, zoo education staff, students, people with an interest in conservation and zoos

Delivering a optimistic, yet realistic, message is quite a challenge in today's world in which we're facing a massive animal extinction crisis, constant pollution of our planet, wars and political crisis leading to disastrous living conditions for millions of human beings. Yet, optimism is a crucial element of an educational message, especially when it is addressed to zoo visitors who haven't been taught zoology or nature conservation. Most humans display a natural tendency to step away from negative messages and tend to favor positive emotions.

In this talk, Pierre shares with the audience his opinion on the good that can arise from a positive education, this being especially true in a zoo setting. Hop on with Pierre on a world tour of education messages and practices applied by zoos and understand how efficient a positive education message can be ! Educating isn't enough anymore... today, people want to feel as heroes !

Pierre has gathered experience both as an education material designer and lecturer, but also by his meetings with zookeepers, zoologists, head of education staff and reporters. This allows him to have a global and dynamic vision of the past, present and future of education in zoos.

Conservation, a reflection on the impact of human activities on the animal world



Featured topics:

- **Witnessing the actual world and environment situation**
- **Reflection on the causes of such situation**
- **How to classify and quantify the threats faced by animal species**
- **Photos and data on threatened species**
- **Animal species targeted by breeding programs around the world**

Great for: zookeepers, zoo education staff, students, people with an interest in animals and zoos

The situation is close to desperate: more and more animal species are endangered, some are even extinct, natural habitats are destroyed, global warming puts our own existence at stakes... and we're directly responsible of such situation.

Animal nature and conservation is of critical importance, even for our own survival. Modern zoos often deliver a powerful message about this matter and zoo keepers are often in charge of communicating directly on this crucial challenge to zoo visitors.

For those of you who want to understand what is happening in our world regarding the conservation of nature and animals, Pierre has gathered information and data from zoos and conservationists during the last decade. Pierre will also help you get a better idea of how to talk about animal conservation and even promote it. This talks features pictures of endangered and endemic animals and numerous stories coming from Pierre's animal encounters and travelling experiences.

Identification, testing your knowledge !

Identifier chaque espèce (nom commun, nom scientifique) expliquer votre identification (critères distinctifs) donner le statut IUCN et l'aire de répartition.



Featured topics:

- Physical identification criteria for closely-related species
- What to look for, efficient information search
- Which references to use ?
- Some traps to avoid (using practical cases)

Workshop

Great for: zookeepers, zoo education staff, students, people with an interest in animals and zoos

These workshops has been designed for students and zookeepers who are willing to improve their skills and knowledge on animal identification, classification and taxonomy.

These workshops can cover a broad spectrum of animals or more focused (fishes, birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals... a particular family, groups of species...) and the pictures used to illustrate the exercises come from the Photozoo Collection managed by Pierre. An example of exercise is displayed at the top of the page. (Identify each species (common and scientific name), justify your identification by using physical criteria, give the range and IUCN Status for each one).

It is advised that students should have access to an internet connection by laptops or desk computers for the workshop to be fully profitable. This way, the workshop can evolve in an individual or team challenge, allowing each attendant to benefit fully from this experience.

Custom-made interventions



Sample topics:

- Travel diary: finding Philippines' endemic fruit-pigeon species
- Venomous snakes displayed in South-east Asian zoos
- Ungulates: taxonomic presentation and identification
- Dallas World Aquarium: an outstanding place
- Introduction to the Photozoo and Photo Ark projects
- A day in Singapore's Jurong Bird Park
- And many more ...

Great for: All audiences, students, breeders, zoo professionals, people interested in animals and zoos

Pierre can customize or even fully create animal and zoo related talks and workshops according to your needs.

This could include presentations on a particular group of animals, travel diaries featuring particular themes which can be adapted to the audience. Question and discussion sessions can also be arranged.

Pierre holds a professional certification for reptiles and amphibians breeding delivered by the French administration (dealing with Viperids, geckoes, ratsnakes, boas, pythons, newts and many frog species). Insights into the process of getting such professional certification in France can also be shared in a special session.

Contact Pierre by email at chabanneszoo@gmail.com or by phone, dialing + 33 6 72 81 45 81 to discuss the organization of an event, talk or workshop !

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Pierre's presentation includes a PowerPoint document. He has a Mac Book Air laptop and will bring a back-up presentation file.

Pierre's presentation require the following set-up:

- Electricity plug with extension cord
- Digital projector with appropriate light level for the room and projection screen of appropriate size
- Adapters and necessary connection devices for Pierre's computer to be connected to house sound and digital projector
- Microphone and sound reinforcement system if it is a big venue
- A backup computer in case of main computer malfunction is appreciated

CONTACT

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Pierre on assignment in Cuc Phong, Vietnam