



## Dr Phil Ainsley Chief Executive Zoos South Australia

Phil has more than 25 years' experience working with some of the world's most threatened animal and plant species. Trained as a bioengineer, he holds degrees from Flinders University and the University of Adelaide. He began his career in the forestry industry in New Zealand before returning to Adelaide, where he spent over a decade as a senior manager and conservation biologist with the Department of Environment and Water.



Phil joined Zoos South Australia in 2013 as Conservation Programs Manager, working across Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park. He progressed to Curator, overseeing conservation programs and animal care across bird, reptile and native species, before being appointed Director of Adelaide Zoo. He is now the 12th Chief Executive of Zoos South Australia.

During his time with Zoos SA, Phil has led a number of significant conservation and animal management outcomes, including establishing the Pygmy Bluetongue conservation program, achieving the first breeding of Sumatran Tigers at Adelaide Zoo, and securing the ongoing presence of Giant Pandas.

He contributes to multiple threatened species recovery programs, is a member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, provides animal welfare guidance to the South Australian government, serves on the Board of the Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia (ZAA), and is a member of ZAA's Ethics Committee.

Phil is committed to leading Zoos South Australia as a contemporary conservation organisation, grounded in animal welfare, science and community connection, with a clear focus on saving species from extinction.

### Professional memberships

- Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, Department of Environment and Water
- Australian Society of Herpetologists
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission, Tortoises and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group
- Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles
- Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA) Board member
- Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA) Ethics Committee