

Welcome to Around the Horn

and what we hope will prove to be a valuable resource for everyone concerned with rhino conservation. For the past several months a number of us have been quietly massaging the idea of putting together a communication device - a newsletter, if you must - which could be placed in the hands of everyone directly involved in rhino conservation projects.

A few years ago, at an African Rhino Workshop in Cincinnati, specialists and managers from field projects, zoos and academia came together to exchange information and discuss ways to confront the threat of extinction looming on the African horizon. Out of that gathering emerged a new sense of respect for the roles each of us must play. We know that the problems are complex, the solutions elusive, and the implications of failure totally unacceptable. The last few years have seen a number of new initiatives - the Sumatran Rhino Trust, the proliferation of captive management programs in Great Britain, Europe, Australasia and Japan, cooperative arrangements with the government of Zimbabwe designed to both protect rhino in situ and provide animals for captive propagation. More ideas, more resources and more initiatives will be committed in the months ahead.

The effort to preserve the rhinos of the world is not the province of a few - rather it hinges on the coordination and dedication of many. Communication is an overworked and overused term, but it describes what is necessary to the coordination and success of the rhino effort. There is nothing more frustrating and embarrassing than for someone intimately involved in one respect of rhino conservation to be suddenly confronted by the realization that he hasn't the foggiest idea of what someone else is doing. There is also nothing more destructive of a team effort. Around the Horn hopes to do something about that.

This newsletter will be published biannually and will have the capability of rapidly disseminating critical information to its readership through a companion piece, Around the Horn - Update! We intend for Around the Horn to provide a forum for news, views, questions and ideas, all of which must come from you. Ultimately, Around the Horn belongs to you, and its success will depend on you.

Robert W. Reece, Editor



The sign on the shipping crate read "WELCOME TO COWTOWN RHINOS". Many people gathered at the Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport last July 16 to watch as 10 southern black rhino were carefully unloaded from the Lufthansa 747 which carried them there from Zimbabwe. (Photo by Robert W. Godfrey)

ZIMBABWEAN CONNECTION

By Edward J. Maruska

On July 16, 1989, ten black rhinos of the southern subspecies (*Diceros bicornis minor*) arrived in Texas from Zimbabwe. They came on breeding loan to the AAZPA and have been dispersed to six different zoos and ranches participating in the black rhino SSP program. These animals represent just the "first installment" of what we hope will be a continuing effort to build up the number of founders in the now separately managed North American SSP Propagation Group for the Southern African subspecies of black rhino. The rhinos arrived in North America as part of a tripartite agreement involving the AAZPA, Zimbabwe and Game Conservation International (Game Coin)

In return for the shipment of black rhinos, the AAZPA agreed to provide technical assistance to the government of
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