

BLACK RHINO

As of the end of 1988, the black rhino population in North America totals 71 animals (31.40), which includes 1.1 in Mexico City. During this year, there were 5 (2.3) births (Chicago Zoological Park, Cincinnati Zoo, Miami Metrozoo, San Diego Zoo & WAP, San Francisco Zoo) and 2 (1.1) deaths (Kansas City Zoo, Miami Metrozoo). Also reported in 1988, but actual date of deaths not known, were 1.1 animals at St. Felicien Zoo in Quebec, Canada. Eight animals were moved to different institutions to organize new breeding pairs or to accommodate youngsters: Chicago Zoological Park and Miami Metrozoo to Caldwell Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo (Brooklyn) to Detroit Zoo, Zoo Atlanta to Miami Metrozoo, Los Angeles Zoo to Oklahoma City Zoo, Sedgwick County Zoo (Wichita) to San Diego Zoo & WAP, Oklahoma City Zoo to Sedgwick County Zoo (Wichita), and Denver Zoo to Washington Park Zoo (Portland).

In addition to the SSP Meeting in Milwaukee, there were several other meetings held in 1988 involving black rhino. As a continuation of recommendations from the African Rhino Workshop held in Cincinnati in 1986, 2 working-group meetings were organized in May (Minnesota) and June (Cincinnati) to address the concerns about research on rhinos: what has been done, and what needs to be done. Zoo directors, managers, and related scientists participated and discussed the research needs of the rhino species in captivity. General and specific objectives were outlined, and they are available from the Species Coordinator. Also reaffirmed was the need for the proposal to recruit a rhino research coordinator. The Cincinnati Zoo has agreed to fund this position, and it is now actively seeking applications. Groups of black and white rhinos at many institutions are being identified to be included in various research projects. A Rhino Workshop was also held during the 5th World Conference on Breeding Endangered Species in Captivity in October in Cincinnati. Formal presentations on aspects of research involving nutrition, reproduction, genetics, endocrinology, health, and husbandry were shared. Of particular interest was information about ongoing projects overseas which supplemented information from the previous workshops.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Game Conservation International, AAZPA, and the Government of Zimbabwe in accordance with the Action Plan of the IUCN/SSC African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group has been signed whereby 10 (4.6) D. b. minor will be donated by Zimbabwe to the U.S. for placement at the following institutions: La Coma and Bass Ranches (Texas) (1.2), San Diego Zoo & WAP (0.1), Fort Worth Zoo (1.1), Dallas Zoo (1.1), Milwaukee Zoo (1.1). These animals will reinforce the small gene pool of this subspecies, as only 5 presently exist in North America. In return, financial support will be provided for the establishment of a captive-breeding program for black rhino in Zimbabwe. Animals are due to arrive early in 1989 pending approval of an endangered species permit by the U.S. Department of Interior.

Propagation Group

Ed Maruska, Cincinnati Zoo - Species Coordinator

Michael Dee, Los Angeles Zoo (91)
Louis DiSabato, San Antonio Zoo (90)
Charlie Hoessle, St. Louis Zoo (89)
Larry Killmar, San Diego Zoo & WAP (90)
Ann Petric, Chicago Zool. Park (89)

Mark Rosenthal, Lincoln Park Zoo (90)
Mike Sulak, San Francisco Zoo (91)
John Wortman, Denver Zoo (89)
Bill Zeigler, Miami Metrozoo (91)

Ex Officio Members

Betsy Dresser, Cincinnati Zoo
Prof. Dr. Heinz-Georg Klos, Berlin Zoo - International Studbook Keeper
Reinhard Frese, Berlin Zoo - Assistant International Studbook Keeper
Dr. Esmond B. Martin

(E. Maruska)

GOLDEN LION TAMARIN

Status of the Population: On 12 September 1988, the captive population consisted of 517 (238.242.37) living tamarins distributed over 87 institutions worldwide. This population size represents a 1% reduction in population size since the same time last year.

A gene drop analyses was conducted on the population to evaluate the genetic representation and contribution of the founders to the current population. Fifty-one wild-caught founders are currently represented; however, because of bottleneck events and genetic drift in the pedigree, genomes of many are only partially represented. Only 18 of the 51 are fully represented. Twenty are represented between 50% and 90%, and 13 have less than 50% of their genome surviving in the population. As a result, only 33 of the possible 102 unique founder alleles have survived, representing a 68% loss of founder allele diversity. This translates

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TWIN BABIRUSAS BORN AT THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL PARK



Photo by New York Zoological Society

TWIN BABIRUSAS BORN AT THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Twin babirusas, a male and a female, were born at the New York Zoological Park on 29 September 1988 after a gestation period of 165 days. After two single births, this is the first set of twins to be born to the five-year-old pair imported from the Stuttgart and Rotterdam Zoos. At one day old, the twins were nearly as active as their mother. After nursing about once every hour, they began eating solid foods when only four days old. There are now 4/2 babirusas in the New York Zoological Park's collection. (See cover photo.)

(J. Doherty)