

AAZPA SSP INDIAN RHINO COMMITTEE REPORT

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During the 1981 AAZPA Conference in New Orleans, a proposal was set forth to include the Indian rhinoceros into the Species Survival Plan. A species coordinator was elected from the zoos that maintained this species, and a committee formed with a representative from each zoo holding that species. The International Studbook Keeper serves in an advisory capacity.

To date the committee has recommended transfer of the following animals: Toronto male to New York (thereby breaking up a sibling pair), National male to Toronto (both National's animals are on breeding loan to New York), placing the young male located in Philadelphia (on breeding loan from Basel) to New York. These transfers would give the zoos involved the best possible advantage for the breeding of non-related pairs.

As of August 31, 1982, two female Indian rhinoceros calves were born at the Los Angeles Zoo - one to a wild caught cow and one to a captive bred cow. Unfortunately, only one calf survived. This is the first reproduction of these animals, and a first for the zoo collection. The San Diego Wild Animal Park produced a male calf from a cow that was born in that collection in 1978. Negotiations are under way to bring in another male founder from India to San Diego. The present status is 12.11 animals in U.S. collections of which 3.2 were born in U.S. collections.

The London Symposium on the care and management of rhinoceros in captivity resulted in a very favorable response from the Basel Zoo regarding that institution's interest in becoming the European counterpart of the AAZPA's SSP Indian Rhinoceros Program with the Director of Basel acting as Species Coordinator. The Basel Zoo has expressed an interest in compiling a handbook on the management of the Indian rhinoceros in captivity.

The population in the wild appears to be on the upswing, and the Indian government is exploring the possibility of translocating animals from potentially crowded conditions in Assam to protected areas in their former range. This may also lead to the possibility of more founders coming into captivity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Tom Foose for his helpful criticisms and ideas with this committee. Thank you for your attention.