

Propagation Group

Special Adviser

Susan Behrns, Red Wolf Breeding Facility

(R. Smith)

WHITE RHINOCEROS

A cursory survey of the AAZPA's SSP programs indicates that, in most instances, these programs have been beset by less than an optimum number of founders and/or specimens of traceable lineage. Such is not the case with the white rhino program. Sixty-eight percent of white rhino SSP animals are wildcaught and therefore founders or potential founders. The total number in the program stands at $70.90 = 160$. Further examination of these data reveals that of the 160 animals, 109 are founders/potential founders, 4 are offspring from identifiable founder groups but not identifiable individuals and 47 are F_1 offspring from 12.30 founders. There are no F_2 offspring in the program. More alarming is the fact that of the 47 offspring, 18 (30%) were sired by 1 male, 8 (17%) by another, and 5 (11%) by yet a third. Since 66% of the F_1 offspring were sired by only 3 male founders, it is evident that we have a major overrepresentation problem. Although not quite as severe, a similar problem with overrepresentation exists among the female founders.

A second major problem area concerns the structure of the SSP population. There are 45 institutions presently participating in the white rhino SSP. Only 20 of these institutions have 3 or more animals, and of these 20, only 7 have experienced regular breeding success. Further, 25 institutions possess only a single pair of animals. Almost without exception, these animals are potential founders and over half are in excess of 20 years of age. Obviously, if the lines represented by these animals are to continue, there must be some production of offspring. The data indicate that single pairs rarely breed, the only exceptions being those in which the animals were introduced to each other as adults (or young adults) or those pairs which experienced a drastic change in environments. It would appear then that those institutions with single pairs should expand their collections, attempt exchanges with other institutions, or move their white rhinos elsewhere and replace them with either black rhino or Indian rhino, or with white rhinos which are already surplus.

The third major problem faced by the white rhino SSP is lack of sufficient space to accommodate (1) more breeding herds and (2) any future offspring produced regardless of where they are born. The space problem is compounded by the fact that additional rhino capacity is also needed for the black and Indian rhinoceros. Most of those institutions now possessing white rhinos (including the breeding institutions) simply don't have the capacity to expand their collections. As a result, even if those potential founders were to begin producing offspring, there would be no room for them in SSP institutions. To alleviate this situation, there are presently 3 separate ranch-type projects in various stages of development in Oklahoma, New Mexico, and California. Obviously, more will be needed.

In summary, the major problems confronting the White Rhino SSP are severe overrepresentation of certain founders, the number of potential founders in nonbreeding pairs and the overall lack of capacity for rhinos in general. The proper management of the white rhino population is essential not only to insure a viable, self-sustaining captive population of this species but because it also directly impacts on our ability to properly manage other rhino species. Early next year, the Species Coordinators of both the black and white rhino programs will meet with the AAZPA Conservation Coordinator and other specialists for the purpose of creating masterplans for managing

the 2 species. It is anticipated that once these masterplans are developed, we will be better able to deal with the problems now confronting the management of SSP rhinos.

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Bob Reece, Wild Animal Habitat - Species Coordinator

David Anderson, Audubon Park Zoo (87)	Gerald Lentz, Busch Gardens (88)
Robert Bean, Louisville Zoo (87)	Randy Rockwell, Omaha Zoo (89)
George Felton, Greater Baton Rouge Zoo (89)	Les Schobert, North Carolina Zoo (87)
Larry Killmar, San Diego Zoo & WAP (88)	Elvie Turner, Fort Worth Zoo (88)
John Lukas, White Oak Plantation (89)	

Ex Officio Members

Reinhard Frese, Berlin Zoo

Prof. Dr. Heinz-Georg Klos, Berlin Zoo

(R. Reece)

BLACK RHINOCEROS

In 1985, estimated populations of black rhino on the African continent totalled 8,000 animals. Due to continued poaching, numbers have been reduced to 4,000. As a result of the concern for the drastic decline, the Cincinnati Zoo, Kings Island Wild Animal Habitat, and the AAZPA Species Survival Plan (SSP) in (AERSG) organized an African Rhino Workshop in Cincinnati. (A report on this Workshop appeared in the December AAZPA NEWSLETTER.) The Workshop seemed extremely successful, and the results will have short- and long-term benefits for African rhino. We would like to thank all of the North American zoos that supported the Workshop and also express our appreciation to the AAZPA Conservation Endowment Fund.

The North American regional Studbook Keeper for black rhino reports that the current status for the captive population of black rhinos is 67 animals (28.39). Five animals were born in 1986 (3.2) at Busch Gardens, Los Angeles, Miami, St. Louis, and San Antonio, respectively, whereas, there were 3 deaths in 1986 (2.1) at Dallas, Granby, and St. Louis, respectively. The current North American studbook is in print and available from the Species Coordinator.

The Propagation Group has now completed publication of the Rhino Management Survey which summarizes the results of the international survey that was sent to all institutions housing black rhino, past and present. As a charge to the SSP Committee members, now that we have the valuable data, we plan to further analyze certain sections of the survey by updating and further developing the data so that it can continue to be used as a management tool. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the institutions that responded to the survey. We had 100% response from the North American institutions, with the surveys from other countries still continuing to arrive.

In September 1986, the Species Coordinator and members of Rhino Rescue USA appeared on behalf of the African rhino before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research and Environment, Committee on Science and Technology. Also appearing were Jack Hanna, Columbus Zoo; Daniel Sandiyo, Wildlife Conservation & Management, Kenya; and Esmond Bradley-Martin, Deputy Chairman, IUCN/SSC AERSG. The results of this hearing will help to bring public awareness, at the legislative level, to the problem of rhino conservation and the use of rhino products and will have far reaching implications to the future of rhinos. This congressional hearing will be particularly important in encouraging countries still allowing use to prohibit the entrance of rhino products and will aide in providing the stricter reinforcement of laws in countries already banning use.

There will be a meeting in early 1987 in Minnesota involving the Black and White Rhino SSP Coordinators to further develop the Masterplans for both species. The results of this meeting will be reported to all members.

Recent research is progressing in both black and white rhinos and was reported in detail at the African Rhino Workshop. Most of the work involves reproductive research.

The Species Coordinator has met with Dr. D. Cumming, Chairman, IUCN/SSP AERSG, and Dr. W. Nduku, Deputy Director, National Parks & Wildlife Management, Zimbabwe to discuss the possibility of obtaining additional rhinos for the North American SSP programs. These rhinos are important since few founders from the southern range of the species are in captivity. Our objective is at least 5 pair, and from all indications, we are hopeful that this will become a reality.

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Ed Maruska, Cincinnati Zoo - Species Coordinator

Mike Dee, Los Angeles Zoo (87)	Mark Rosenthal, Lincoln Park Zoo (89)
Louis DiSabato, San Antonio Zoo (87)	John Wortman, Denver Zoo (89)
Charlie Hoessle, St. Louis Zoo (89)	Steve Wylie, Oklahoma City Zoo (88)
Larry Killmar, San Diego Zoo (87)	Bill Zeigler, Miami Metrozoo (88)
Ann Petric, Chicago Zool. Park (88)	

Ex-Officio Members

Betsy Dresser, Cincinnati Zoo	Prof. Dr. Heinz-George Klos, Berlin Zoo
Reinhard Frese, Berlin Zoo	Dr. Esmond Bradley-Martin

(E. Maruska)

MEMBERSHIP

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The applicants listed below have applied for AAZPA membership in various classifications. Members wishing to comment on those listed may direct specific comments to the Membership Chairman, Hayes Caldwell, Executive Director, Caldwell Zoo, Box 428, Tyler, TX 75710 (214) 593-0121.

	<u>APPLICANTS</u>	<u>SPONSORS</u>
Professional Fellow:	NEAL OVERSTROM Assistant Curator/Exhibits Mystic Marinelife Aquarium	Richard Segedi Louis Garibaldi William Flynn
Society:	TULSA ZOO FRIENDS George Watkins, President Tulsa, Oklahoma	David Zucconi, Zoo Director

SPONSORSHIP LETTERS MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL AND SENT TO THE AAZPA EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NEWLY APPROVED AAZPA MEMBERS

Commercial

CAMBRIDGE SEVEN ASSOCIATES, INC, Frank Zaremba, Assoc. Principal, Cambridge, Massachusetts