

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS
(WAZA)

Dear Members

It's hard to believe – but this is already the third volume of the Proceedings published by the WAZA Executive Office. And it is the first time since 1984, that more than two consecutive proceedings have the same design.

The new look of all WAZA's publications is part of the Executive Office's efforts to address deficiencies identified by the then WZO Marketing Council's Business Workshop held at Palm Jumeirah in October 2000, which declared among other things that the association had no clear direction. The uniform design of all our publications follows the adoption of the association's new name and logo and makes our printed material easily recognizable.

Apart from the new look, we have also implemented the WAZA's new logo as well as the adoption of a revised Mission and Vision Statement (p. 115) and of a defined policy for the management of animal and environmental education (p. 116), and of a continued Code of Ethics and Animal Welfare (p. 119) are important new aspects WAZA's goal of being widely perceived as the global representative of the zoo and aquarium community and of being recognized as a leading organization in the field of animal conservation.

The next major step will be the adoption of the new World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy, which will be presented at the San José Annual Conference.

Yours sincerely

Peter Dollinger

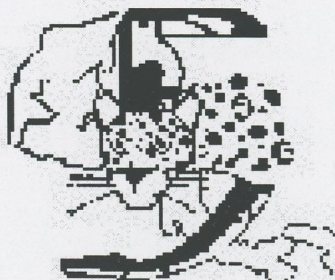


PROCEEDINGS OF THE
58TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

16 - 20 November 2003

HOSTED BY

AMACZOOA, San José, Costa Rica



AMACZOOA

Scientific Session

Contents

Cheryl Asa and Yolanda Matamoros

The Power of International Partnerships: The AMACZOOA and AZA / MACCAP Workshop Series 147

Javier Rodriguez-Fonseca

Population Status of the Most Common Cetacean Species of Costa Rica and the Potential Threats to Them 148

Federico Bolaños

Declining Anuran Populations in Costa Rica, Possible Causes 152

Loría Leandro

In situ and *ex situ* Conservation of the Red-backed Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri oerstedii citrinellus*) – The Role of the Simon Bolivar Zoo 153

Paul Vogt

The Tropical Rainforest House at Krefeld Zoo – an Experiment Based on Co-operation with Costa Rican Institutions 154

Rosamira Guillen

Collaborative Work for the Conservation of the Cotton-top Tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*) 157

Miller R. Eric

Monitoring Avian Health in the Galapagos – Developing an “Early Warning System” 158

Pedro Trebbau

Re-introduction of the Brazilian Giant Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) – a Long Term Project 161

Angel Ordaz

Reproduction of the Horned Guan (*Oreophasis derbianus*) at the León Zoo 162

Mitsuko Masui

Fly into the Wild – Reintroduction Programmes for the Oriental White stork (*Ciconia boyciana*) 163

Mark Stanley Price

Durrell Wildlife's Field Conservation Programmes: Experiences and Evolution 165

Richard Lattis

A Conservation Collection Plan at the Bronx Zoo: Created Through *ex situ* – *in situ* Co-operation 167

Jörg Adler

The International Centre for the Conservation of Turtles at Münster Zoo – a TCF/TSA Action Plan Project 171

Alex Rübel

Masoala – Building a Powerful Conservation Cooperation 173

Shai Doron

“Are We?” – Thoughts After Ten Years of Being Director of a Zoo 175



Return of Black Rhinos (*Diceros bicornis minor*) to Zambia

■ **Christian Schmidt**
Frankfurt Zoo, Germany

Abstract

Zambia lost the last of its originally 10,000 Southern Black Rhinoceroses (*Diceros bicornis minor*) through poaching probably in 1986. In the same year Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) started its largest ever project in Zambia's North Luangwa National Park. Thanks to international co-operation the first five Black Rhinos were returned in May 2003. The return of the Black Rhino to Zambia is an excellent *ex situ* – *in situ* co-operation between three Wildlife Authorities, a Conservation Organisation and a Zoo.

Zambia lost the last of its originally 10,000 Southern Black Rhinoceroses (*Diceros bicornis minor*) through poaching probably in 1986. In the same year Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) started its largest ever project in Zambia's North Luangwa National Park. This project to improve conservation is headed by Hugo and Elsabe van der Westhuizen. The North Luangwa National Park covers a savannah area of over 4,600 km² in the Northwest of the country with very little tourism. Thanks to international cooperation the first five Black Rhinos were returned in May 2003.

The whole story however started in 1989 when KALUSHO and TSORORO, a three-year-old pair of Southern Black Rhinos, arrived at Zoo Frankfurt. They were donated by the Zimbabwe Wildlife Department, because at that time FZS supported the conservation of Black Rhinos in the country. A first female calf called AKURA was born in February 1994. AKURA could not stay in Europe because she and her parents were the only Southern Black Rhinos on the continent and the Black Rhino EEP (European Endangered species Programme) decided to concentrate on East African Black Rhinos (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*). We therefore were excited when South African National Parks (SANParks) showed interest to get AKURA in an exchange for a female East African Black Rhinoceros from the population introduced into South Africa's Addo National Park. This female THANDI joined the small population of some 15 heads (in October 2003 17 specimens) in the Ngorongoro Crater/Tanzania in 1997 and later gave birth and successfully reared a calf. In 1996 the Frankfurt cow AKURA was first sent to Marakele National Park/South Africa, then moved to Kruger National Park and finally returned to Marakele, where she successfully reproduced for the first time in August 2003. This historical calf named JABARI is the first birth to a zoo-bred specimen after reintroduction to the wild.

In February 1997 the Frankfurt pair produced a second daughter called DZIMBA and in March 2001 a third daughter named HAMA. These two Southern Black Rhinos were promised to SANParks in exchange for two pairs destined for North Luangwa National Park. SANParks kindly donated a third cow to Zambia Wildlife Authorities (ZAWA). In June 2000

DZIMBA was shipped to Kruger National Park, where she was kept in a 100ha enclosure together with her sister AKURA, an orphaned young cow and a bull TIM from Florida. Unfortunately the young cow and DZIMBA both died in August 2001 after feeding on the poisonous *Lantana* and *Solanum*. HAMA will be shipped to South Africa in spring 2004. SANParks is eager to get unrelated Black Rhinos to increase the genetic variability after a bottle-neck of only some 20 specimens in Zululand many decades ago.

SANParks (Hector Magome, Dr. Michael Knight, Dr. Markus Hofmeyr) and the FZS Rhino specialist Dr. Pete Morkel captured in March 2003 within two days and within five kilometres around Skukuza/Kruger National Park a bull of 10-15 years (KANABESA, 1150kg) and three cows of 8-12 years (TWATEMWA, 1120kg), 6-9 years (NATWANGE, 1020kg) and 3 years (MAPALO, possibly the daughter of NATWANGE, 775kg) of age. They were joined by a 6-year-old bull (LONDOKENI, 1065kg) from Marakele. A chartered Hercules brought all five directly from Kruger National Park to a specially enlarged airstrip in North Luangwa National Park, where the plane landed on 28 May 2003 at 3.25 pm.

It was a big welcome with a parade of many of the 142 Rangers (50 were specially trained for Rhino protection by FZS-hired Mike Labuschagne) of the Park in front of the Minister of Tourism and Environment, Hon. Patrick K. Kalifungwa, local Chiefs, local school children who sang and performed a play on Rhino protection. The local people were educated for the return of the Black Rhinos with a booklet "Welcome Rhino" and other information. After several speeches Hapenga M. Kabeta, Director General of ZAWA, Hector Magome, Director of SANParks, Dr. Christof Schenck, Director of FZS and Dr. Christian R. Schmidt, Director of Zoo Frankfurt and Vice-President of FZS signed a memorandum of understanding. The intention is to increase this initial small population with the importation of additional 15 Southern Black Rhinos in the near future.

It was already dark (10.20 pm) when the last Rhino was unloaded in the seven bomas, that were constructed for 2,500\$.



The four adults were tranquilised several days later, so that radio-transmitters could be fitted to the rear of the front horn. Within the 4,636km North Luangwa National Park a 55skm pen was built adjoining the bomas. The four-wired, 1m high fence has a length of 35km. The lowest and the top wire are electric, powered by solar energy. The costs were approximately 500\$ per kilometre. The first cow was released into the pen in the night of 8 June, followed by the others within a month. It is suspected that the bull KANABESA mated the cow NATWANGE. In the meantime the young MAPALO joined her probable mother NATWANGE. They all have settled down and are regularly radio-tracked from the perimeter road or from the plane. Impalas (*Aepyceros melampus*) and Pukus (*Kobus vardonii*) are able to jump over the fence, Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*), Zebras (*Equus quagga chapmani*) and Buffaloes

(*Syncerus caffer*) break through the fence, that is daily controlled and repaired. The Rhinos respect the fence so far.

The return of the Black Rhino to Zambia is an excellent *ex situ* – *in situ* cooperation between three Wildlife Authorities, a Conservation Organisation and a Zoo. This is an on-going, long-term project, that so far is very successful. For Zambia it was a great day to get the formerly extinct Black Rhino back.

Contact

Christian Schmidt
Frankfurt Zoo
Alfred-Brehm-Platz 16
D-60316 Frankfurt
Germany



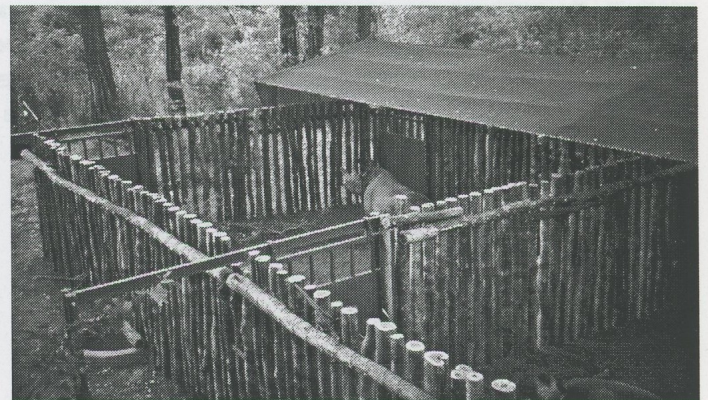
Rangers trained for protecting Rhinos in North Luangwa National Park



A Rhino is unloaded from the Hercules



Children performing a play on Rhino protection



A Rhino in the boma



Female Black Rhino in the boma in North Luangwa National Park



Signing a Memorandum of Understanding were Dr. Christian R. Schmidt, Director Zoo Frankfurt and Vice President Frankfurt Zoological Society, Dr. Christof Schenck, Director Frankfurt Zoological Society, Hector Magome, Director South African National Parks, Hapenga M. Kabeta, Director General Zambia Wildlife Authorities

