

## CONSERVATION COORDINATOR'S REPORT

### AQUARIUM SSP

A meeting was conducted on 30 July at the New England Aquarium (NEA) to explore possibilities for development of some SSP programs for taxa predominantly maintained by aquariums. To date, taxa designated for the SSP have been species maintained mostly by zoos. Attending the meeting, organized by Les Kaufman of NEA, were: John Prescott, Sharon Dean, Paul Boyle and Les Kaufman (NEA); Nick Brown and Bob Jenkins (National Aquarium in Baltimore); Lou Garibaldi and Paul Sieswerda (New York Aquarium); Roger Klocek (Shedd Aquarium); Bob Wilson (Franklin Park Zoo); Ulie Seal (Chairman of the IUCN CBSG, which has been trying to assist development of Aquarium SSP programs; and Tom Foose (AAZPA). A number of candidates, both taxa and faunas, were considered. Two candidates that appear definitely to have emerged are: the Lake Victoria cichlids, and the endangered Appalachian stream fishes. Others such as the Mediterranean monk seal will continue to be explored. The minutes of the meeting will be available to member institutions.

### SSP TAXA

The AAZPA Wildlife Conservation and Management Committee (WCMC) is currently reviewing petitions to designate 2 new taxa for the SSP: Guam rail (Rallus owstoni) and Micronesian kingfisher (Halcyon cinnamomina cinnamomina). Both of these species are part of the gravely endangered Guam Island avifauna that AAZPA has been trying to help preserve.

Petitions are in preparation for several other taxa: Moorean land snails (Partula sp.); black palm cockatoos (Probosciger aterrimus); California condor (Gymnogyps californianus); Spectacled bear (Tremarctos ornatus); Asian tapir (Tapirus indicus).

Species come and species go. At the recommendation of the AAZPA Crocodile Advisory Group, the Orinoco crocodile (Crocodylus intermedius) has been removed by the WCMC from the SSP because it seems impractical, for the immediate future, to obtain adequate founder stock for a captive propagation program. Other efforts by AAZPA institutions to assist conservation of this species will continue, including a head-start program being organized by the New York Zoological Society.

### SUMATRAN RHINO

The AAZPA Sumatran Rhino Trust (SRT) project to capture "doomed" rhino in Sumatra is now in full operation. During the month of July, the first 3 rhino were captured. All are females and appear to be in good condition. Under the SRT agreement with Indonesia, 2 of these rhino are destined for SRT facilities in North America.

Elsewhere, the program in Peninsular Malaysia has captured 2 more rhino: a subadult male (the first of this sex they have collected) and another adult female. A second facility, similar, but larger, in design to the one at Melaka Zoo, is under construction at Sungai Dusun. Reports from Sabah are less sanguine. Evidently, another rhino has been lost during the capture process: 2 of the 3 animals they have captured have died. The captive population is currently:

Peninsular Malaysia	1/8
Indonesia	2/2
Sabah	1/0
England	1/1
To North America	<u>0/2</u>
TOTAL	5/13

### DUTCH CONSERVATION COORDINATOR

Dr. Frank Princee' has recently been appointed Conservation Coordinator for the Dutch Federation of Zoos and will be based at the Masquerade Zoo in a new Unit being supported by the Government of the Netherlands. Frank has been very active in developing software and masterplans for the EEP.

### Propagation Group

#### Bob Seibels, Riverbanks Zoo - Species Coordinator

Fred Beall, Baltimore Zoo (90)                      Arthur Risser, San Diego Zoo (90)  
Kevin Bell, Lincoln Park Zoo (89)                Larry Shelton, Houston Zoo (91)  
Bruce Bohmke, St. Louis Zoo (89)                Ed Schmitt, Chicago Zool. Park (89)  
Don Bruning, New York Zool. Park (91)        Greg Toffic, Woodland Park Zoo (90)  
Mary Healy, San Antonio Zoo (91)

(B. Seibels)

### INDIAN RHINOCEROS

Currently, there are 17.16 Indian rhinos in the North American SSP, an increase from 12.10 when the SSP was established for Indian rhinos in 1982. Of the 9 institutions holding animals, 5 have had successful reproductions. Of the 4 institutions that have not had reproduction, 2 have animals that are sexually immature; and we should not see any breeding for at least 2-3 years.

The San Diego Wild Animal Park has had the best breeding record so far; their 10th calf was born this past May. Philadelphia has a pregnant female (her 3rd calf, due very soon) sired by the oldest male in the United States at 33+ years. A founder female on loan to Philadelphia from Miami has failed to breed. Hormonal assays show that she is cycling, but the hormone levels are in the low range.

A masterplan meeting was originally scheduled for June of 1988, but this was cancelled and will be rescheduled for March of 1989.

### Propagation Group

#### Mike Dee, Los Angeles Zoo - Species Coordinator

Wilbur Amand, Philadelphia Zoo                      Carmi Penny, San Diego Zoo & WAP  
Bruce Beehler, Milwaukee County Zoo              Mike Sulak, San Francisco Zoo  
Mitch Bush, National Zoo                              Steve Wylie, Oklahoma City Zoo  
John Carnio, Metro Toronto Zoo                      Bill Zeigler, Miami Metrozoo  
Jim Doherty, New York Zoological Park

### Ex Officio Members

Mrs. Kathleen Tobler, Basel Zoo - International Studbook Keeper for Indian Rhino  
Dr. Dieter Ruedi, Basel Zoo - Director

(M. Dee)

## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

### NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

On 2 August, the House Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research and the Environment met to mark-up H.R. 4335, the National Biological Diversity Conservation and Environmental Research Act. Chairman Scheuer, the sponsor of the bill, offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute. That amendment does not alter the basic nature of the bill. It ensures that international activities of the U.S. be considered in assessments of the Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and includes a provision to require Federal agencies to review their programs to determine if they are consistent with the conservation of biological diversity. Congressman Henry of Michigan also offered two amendments to further expand the global aspect of the bill.