

Software Avisoft. Following parameters were measured: duration, minimum frequency, frequency with the highest energy, maximum frequency. Behavioural data were collected at the same time when recording. Following calls could be identified: Begging call, snort, hollow snort, growl, begging call of juvenile one year old and begging call of juvenile ten days old. There was no evidence for vocalizations in the infrasound range only. It can however, not be excluded that wild rhinos use infrasound for finding mates. Recording of wild rhinos was not possible in the frame of this study.

Feeding Tannins to Captive Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*): Results of a Pilot Study

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It has been postulated that the lack of tannins in captive diets for black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) might be responsible for the occurrence of iron overload in captive specimens. In theory, the presence of iron-chelating tannins in natural diets might have induced the evolution of an especially effective iron absorption mechanism in the species, which would lead to excessive iron uptake in the absence of such chelators. In order to investigate this problem, 5 captive rhinos were fed two diets, one with and one without a tannic acid supplement. Feed intake and faecal output were measured for two 5-day periods, respectively. Additionally, the use of several markers (Co-EDTA, Cr-mordanted fibre, n-alkane C36) as pulse-dose and steady state markers was assessed. The animals accepted the tannic acid-supplemented food without hesitation. Measured passage rates suggest that a 4-day collection period should result in total recovery of a pulse-dose marker. Iron concentration of faeces did not differ significantly between treatments and was apparently influenced by soil intake from the enclosure. We conclude that it is feasible to produce tannin-containing feeds for the further evaluation of iron metabolism in black rhinos. Either animals should be kept indoors during trials to prevent soil intake, or an iron isotope should be applied as a pulse-dose marker to compare recoveries between treatments. Additionally, we will present data on digestibilities and marker recoveries.

Rhino Translocation in Nepal

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Since 1986, conservation organizations in Nepal are involved in rhino translocation to safeguard greater one horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) population. The rhinoceros from the Royal Chitwan National Park (RCNP) were transported and released in Royal Bardia National Park (RBNP) and Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (RSWR) in various occasions. The aim of these translocations is to establish new populations of this mega-herbivore within Nepal. Similarly, objectives of the translocation programs are to reduce the risk of population extinction from any disaster in their single home & to minimize human-rhino conflict in the mother gene pool. Altogether, 62 (26 males and 36 females) rhinoceros were translocated in various years (1996, 1991, 1998, 1999 and 2000). Out of total translocated animals 58 (24 males 34 females) were released in RBNP and 4 (1 male and 3 females) in RSWR. The overall translocation activity can be categorized into three main steps. Firstly, pre translocation arrangements include the preparation of cages, selection of site for capturing, identification and determination of age and sex of the translocating animals and habitat assessment in the released site. Secondly, the translocation process starts by capturing and loading into the cage and truck and transported. Thirdly, the post translocation activity includes the monitoring of translocated animals to observe their behavior in the new habitat. The whole operation of translocation is planned and executed by the group of Nepalese experts, conservation professionals and wildlife technicians. The monitoring report of these rhinoceros indicates that these animals are well adapted in their new habitat.

Feeding Ecology of Desert Dwelling Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* L. in Kunene Region, Namibia

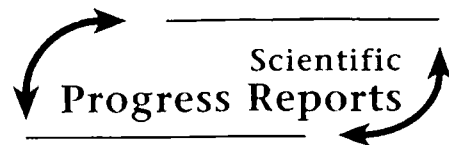
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Feeding ecology of black rhinoceros was studied in extreme arid Kunene region Northwest of Namibia (mean rainfall <150 mm/year), during the dry season from June to October 2000. Using the feeding track method showed, that rhinos were browsed on (about)* 65 of (about)* 140 encountered species (Loutit et al. (1987) 70 feeding species out of the total of 101 species). After the very good rain season 1999/2000 rhinos were feeding beside shrubs and woody species also on a high variety of herbs. The most heavily used feeding specie was the herb *Chamaesyca glanduligera* (Euphorbiaceae).

In comparison to the examination of Loutit et al. the study area varied slightly in a higher population density of black rhino and lower desert influence.

* Please note: At submission date identification of plants and data evaluation was still in progress.



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Recent Research on Elephants and Rhinos

Abstracts of the
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