

New Enclosures

Armitage

Indian rhinoceros exhibit at CERZA

A new exhibit for Indian rhinos opened recently at CERZA (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Zoologiques Augeron near Lisieux, France). Three enclosures situated in a light, airy, well-planted building cover an area of more than 250 m². Natural tree trunks, which are less abrasive to the animals' skin than concrete, were used as much as possible in enclosure construction. The vertically arranged trunks are spaced at intervals sufficiently wide to allow easy escape of staff in case of emergency. The concrete floors are covered in rubber matting to protect the rhinos' feet. Furthermore, an inside bathing pool is provided and the enclosures are heated by warming the air. Visitors have a good view of two indoor enclosures through large laminated windows.

A large sliding door allows access to an outdoor enclosure of approximately 2 ha that is landscaped as a gently sloping valley with an old overgrown hedgerow in the centre.

This enclosure, fenced by horizontal cables, one of which is electric, provides ample grazing. Indian rhinos love to bathe and three large, natural, interconnecting pools have been provided for this purpose. Four ha of adjoining meadow and forest have been redeveloped as an exhibit for Asian ungulates – banteng, axis deer, Burmese brow-antlered deer and blackbuck. All these species except the banteng have access to the rhino enclosure through suitably sized spaces in the separating fence. The first Indian rhino to be placed in the CERZA exhibit was the San Diego-born male 'Gujera', on loan from Lisbon Zoo (Portugal). A female Indian rhino has more recently arrived from Planckendael Wild Animal Park (Belgium). It is expected that there will be a changing population of Indian rhinos at CERZA as the situation within the EEP programme develops.

Source: David Armitage

Indian rhino enclosure at CERZA



Photo: Mick Peart

Butterfly exhibition at Budapest

The first open-air butterfly exhibition in Hungary has opened at the Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden. The 2000 m² exhibit, covered with green net, houses 19 Central and South American butterflies, as well as two Hungarian species, from the subfamilies Brassolininae, Danainae, Heliconinae, Morphinae, Nymphalinae and the family Papilionidae. Painted quails, nutmeg pigeons and ringed teals are exhibited with the butterflies.

Four butterfly species have reproduced at the zoo: *Danaus plexippus*, *Helioconius charitonius*, *Helioconius melpomene* and *Dryas julia*. The other butterflies are shipped in from Costa Rican butterfly farms that supply

many North American and European institutions. Butterfly farming is a good business in Costa Rica, and the number of landowners choosing to produce butterflies rather than cutting down the forest for cattle ranching is increasing.

The two Hungarian species *Papilio machaon* and *Inachis io* exhibited live in the hilly countryside around Budapest and are protected. Caterpillars were collected from their natural habitat and the same number of specimens will be released after reproduction has occurred so that the zoo does not impact the natural population.

Source: Zsófia Dukát