



THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIA

TAG Reports 2017



CONTENTS

Introduction	1	Prosimian	30
Glossary	2	Callitrichid	31
Terrestrial Invertebrate	3	Larger New World Monkey	34
Fish And Aquatic Invertebrate	5	Old World Monkey	35
Amphibian	7	Gibbon	37
Reptile	7	Great Ape	39
Ratite	10	Small Mammal	41
Penguin	11	Canid And Hyaenid	43
Ciconiiformes And Phoenicopteriformes	13	Bear	44
Waterfowl And Pelecaniformes	15	Small Carnivore	46
Falconiformes And Strigiformes	17	Felid	48
Galliformes	19	Marine Mammal	50
Charadriiformes	20	Equid	51
Pigeon And Dove	21	Rhinoceros	54
Parrot	21	Tapir And Suiform	55
Toucan And Turaco	23	Cattle And Camelid	57
Hornbill	25	Antelope And Giraffid	58
Passeriformes	26	Long-Term Management Plans	60
Monotreme And Marsupial	28		

Releasing four Przewalski's horses (*Equus przewalski*) to Gobi B, Mongolia © Ulrike Rademacher



regionally inbred since important founder animals have dropped out of the population.

In December 2016, the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and the IUCN SSC Equid SG convened a workshop in Addis Ababa to develop an Ethiopian National Action Plan for Somali wild ass in addition to Grevy's zebra and Plains zebra (*Equus quagga*) conservation from 2017 – 2026.

In March 2017, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) hosted a workshop in Bonn, Germany, for experts and representatives from all African wild ass range states. More than 20 participants from governments, NGOs, universities and technical aid agencies attended. For the first time, colleagues from Ethiopia and Eritrea were able to meet and discuss mutual concerns about conservation action plans for the African wild ass. The outcome of the workshop was the development of A Conservation Road Map for the species.

In June 2017, Prague Zoo in cooperation with Przewalski's Horse EEP, International Takhi Group and other subjects organized another transport of four horses from Europe to the Strictly Protected Area Great Gobi B in Western Mongolia. So far, 27 horses from EEP were moved to Mongolia within the frame of "Return of the Wild Horses" project.

RHINOCEROS

TAG Chair: Friederike von Houwald (Basel Zoo, Basel, Switzerland)
TAG Vice Chair: Lars Versteeg (Safaripark Beekse Bergen, Hilvarenbeek, The Netherlands)

INTRODUCTION

The vision and mission of the EAZA Rhinoceros TAG is to have a healthy, viable population of free ranging and intensively managed rhinos ranging through intact ecosystems, where they are valued and cherished both locally and globally; and to ensure all captive populations are healthy, self-sustaining, genetically viable and are capable of being an effective tool in support of rhino conservation in the wild.

BREEDING PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS

- o The Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) EEP experienced breeding success in Tallinn Zoo (Estonia) and Rotterdam Zoo (The Netherlands) – where offspring were welcomed for the first time. The EEP assigned Linda Bruins-van Sonsbeek (Rotterdam Zoo) as an additional Veterinary Advisor.
- o The Greater one-horned rhinoceros EEP (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is working on collaboration with the North American region and selected a new Species Committee.
- o The White rhino EEP (*Ceratotherium simum*) showed an increase in cooperation by realising several important transfers.

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

In 2017, the TAG met at the EAZA Annual Conference in Emmen. A major aim was to continue to strengthen forces with the *in situ* partners to tackle the huge poaching problems. Josephine Gibson, the International Partnership Development Manager of Save the Rhino International (SRI) gave a talk about zoos' collaboration for rhino conservation projects. Michael Eliko, Education Officer of the North Luangwa Conservation Programme (Zambia) was invited to talk about the Black rhino reintroduction into North Luangwa National Park and how zoos can get involved in "Education against Extinction". Further subjects covered during the TAG meeting were improved husbandry aspects with special emphasis on indoor substrate use. Focus was given to animal health and welfare of the three rhino species in human care.

A Greater one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) new born, January 2017 © Basel Zoo



According to the IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG), the number of African rhinos killed by poachers in 2017 were 1028. While poaching is down in Kruger National Park, it is significantly up in other provinces, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal (both in South Africa).

There were 12 cases of poaching of Indian rhinos in Assam during 2017.

The third Black rhino husbandry meeting was held, with 27 people from 12 collections attending, in addition to the EAZA representative and Rhino TAG Vice Chair. The totality of participants reported the workshop to be useful / very useful. Particular topics included were nutrition, breeding and veterinary issues.

The White rhino EEP had their annual meeting during the EAZA Annual Conference as well, with focuses on veterinary issues, nutrition, conservation and building up a sustainable population. The initiatives of the White rhino EEP, regarding the historical lack of breeding in this species, are now really showing results and, with the number of births rising, the population has become sustainable.

With the increase in the number of calves the importance of additional separation/holding facilities for animals which cannot be held in the group any longer, increases for EAZA.

PUBLICATIONS

The veterinary chapter of the EAZA Black Rhino BPG is under review.

Pluhacek, J. *et al.* (2017). *Interbirth intervals are associated with age of the mother, but not with infant mortality in Indian rhinoceroses.* Current Zoology 63 (3): 229-235.

This paper concluded that in Indian rhino, interbirth

intervals in human care can be slightly extended to approach situation in the wild and when necessary for management reasons (space availability).

Heidegger, E.M. *et al.* (2016). *Body condition scoring (BCS) system for Greater one-horned Rhino: Development and Application.* Zoo Biology 35 (5): 432-443.

The article suggests the BCS was not correlated to foot problems and not correlated to parity. But it was correlated to the amount of food offered as estimated from the questionnaire. Adjusting the amounts and the nutritional quality of the diet components is an evident measure to consider.

COLLABORATIONS

The Black rhino EEP is in discussion with African Parks and the AfRSG about future reintroduction plans to Akagera National Park in Rwanda.

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

Many EAZA rhino holding facilities already support rhino conservation projects. This is highly appreciated and needed by the people who are working in the field and whose commitment – often at tremendous costs to themselves and their families – is 100% for rhino protection. Additional efforts would make an even bigger difference.

Several research studies were conducted with support of the TAG. The role of oxidative stress in the pathogenesis of iron overload disorder in captive Black rhinos is studied on the European population by Hanae Pouillevet (the Nantes Veterinary Environmental Platform, France). The gut microbiome and diet in this species is investigated by the EEP Vet Advisor Linda Bruins-van Sonsbeek and conservation genomics research is being conducted by Franziska Elsner-Gearing (Chester Zoo, UK).

Thirty-five EAZA Members are reported to participate in White rhino conservation projects in the EAZA Conservation Database. Outside of the database, it is known that additional EAZA Members donate to the large rhino conservation organisations, such as SRI and International Rhino Foundation.