

population. Specific recommendations include a combination of natural breeding and assisted reproduction. Analysis of the population produced the following information: a generation time of 6.1 years, number of founders at 64, and the amount of genetic diversity retained to date as 96.9%. Presently, the difference between the actual and the potential gene diversity is such that the importation of new founders is not critical until the potential of the current population has been realized to the extent possible. The current North American population is approaching the carrying capacity allocated to the AZA Cheetah SSP by the AZA Felid TAG.

AZA Rhino Advisory Group

The Behavioral Research Committee of the AZA Rhino Advisory Group will hold

a meeting/workshop in Atlanta, Georgia, hosted by Zoo Atlanta on 19-20 May. The goals are to review progress since the first meeting in January 1994 and to set up working groups to deal with a number of pressing issues in captive rhino research/propagation. The committee welcomes the participation of individuals from specialties in addition to behavior, who are working on rhino problems. Space limitations require that attendance be restricted to active participants. Attendees are expected to bear their own travel and per diem costs. Contact Renee Hodgden by 1 April at Zoo Atlanta, 800 Cherokee Avenue, S.E., Atlanta, GA 30315 (404) 624-5826, fax 624-5684. *D. Lindburg*

Assistance Needed

In January, a cyclone destroyed the Education Center at Parc Ivoloina Zoo in Madagascar. The zoo is a critically important site for in-situ captive breeding

of endangered fauna, training of Malagasy students, and public education. They hope to rebuild the center as quickly as possible, using cinder block on a concrete foundation so that it can better withstand cyclones. Parc Ivoloina is seeking funds for the project. Contributions earmarked for this work can be sent to the Madagascar Fauna Group, 1 Zoo Road, San Francisco, CA 94132. Other parts of the zoo suffered only minor damage, and no animals were lost. *E. Sargent*

Ring-Tailed Lemur (*Lemur catta*)

This has been a very busy and exciting year. The AZA Ring-tailed Lemur SSP was approved by WCMC in April 1995. The third edition of the Ring-tailed Lemur North American Regional Studybook was published on 1 August 1995. The AZA SSP Management Group was

formed and the first Master Plan meeting for this species was held on 20-21 October 1995 at the Indianapolis Zoo. The first edition of the Master Plan was mailed to AZA institutions at the end of the year. Any questions regarding the studbook or the Master Plan should be directed to the Species Coordinator, Lynne Villers (Indianapolis Zoo).

The Management Group consists of the following members: Scott Carter (Detroit Zoological Institute), Joe Christman (The Phoenix Zoo), John Dinon (Binder Park Zoo), David Haring (Duke University Primate Center), John Iadorosa (St. Catherine's Wildlife Conservation Center), Randi McCormick (Dreher Park Zoo), Ingrid Porton (St. Louis Zoological Park), Randy Reiches (San Diego Wild Animal Park), David Traylor (Emporia Zoo), and Sam Winslow (Lowry Park Zoological Garden). Advisors to the AZA SSP are: Education--Deb Buehler (San Antonio Zoological Gardens & Aquarium), Field--Dr. Robert Sussman (Washington University, St. Louis), Genetics--Kevin Willis (AZA), and Veterinary--Dr. Roberta Wallace (Milwaukee County Zoological Gardens).

Genetically the population is in good shape. The breeding moratorium has been lifted now with breeding being restricted to only those recommended in the Master Plan. Even with limited breeding, the target population of 350 (current 432) can be attained within five years.

Because ring-tailed lemurs are the only member of the genus *Lemur* and the only primate species whose range is restricted to Southern Madagascar, the Management Group felt that this species would have a significant role as a flagship species for the flora and fauna of Southern Madagascar.

For more information, contact the Species Coordinator, Lynne Villers, Indianapolis Zoo, 1200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46222 (317) 630-2001.

Red Wolf (*Canis rufus gregoryi*)

The success of the red wolf recovery program is due in part to the combined strategies outlined for implementing the missions of AZA SSPs. This principle was challenged on 9 August 1995 by an amendment to the Department of Interior appropriations bill introduced by North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms to suspend all funding to the red wolf recovery program. Approval of this amendment and its effects would have been devastating to every aspect of the program. Fortunately the amendment was defeated, though narrowly. Defenders of Wildlife, the AZA Conservation and Science Office, and Red Wolf SSP (RWSSP) cooperators took quick action by contacting senators with accurate information and are to be commended for their efforts in this victory for endangered species recovery programs.

Population figures at the end of last year include 165 (81.84) red wolves in 30 approved institutions. Captive facilities at the two mainland reintroduction sites in eastern North Carolina (ARNWR), the southern Appalachians (GSMNP) and three island propagation projects (Bulls, SC; St. Vincent, FL; and Horn, MS) managed 45 (24.21) animals. In the wild, eight litters totaling 15 pups have been verified at ARNWR in 1995. Sixty-nine wolves inhabit this reintroduction area with fates unknown for 33 of those animals due to lost radio contact or animals observed but never captured from last year's and/or previous years' reproduction. Eighty-nine percent of the wolves being monitored have been born in the wild. At the GSMNP, four wolves are being monitored, with five whose fates are unknown. Three pups from a single litter were born in the wild at this site. Four free-ranging red wolves were shot in 1995, with investigations ongoing. Ten pups were born at RWSSP institutions last year with six

surviving. This represents a substantial decrease in births compared to previous years as the RWSSP deals with limited holding space. To that end, the RWSSP is working with the AZA Contraception Advisory Group by monitoring three female wolves implanted with the new GnRH agonist.

The collaboration among the RWSSP, International Canine Semen Bank (Boring, OR) and Metropolitan Toronto Zoo's reproductive physiology lab, will continue studies to assess red wolf semen freezing/thawing techniques and sperm cell viability and characterize hormonal and behavioral patterns of the red wolf reproductive cycle.

Several advisors have recently joined the RWSSP including Education Advisor, Sara Ryan (North Carolina Zoological Park); Behavior and Husbandry Advisors, Greta McMillan (Knoxville Zoological Gardens) and Tarren Wagener (Fort Worth Zoological Park); and Systematics Advisor, George Amato, Ph.D. (Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Park).

For more information about this program, contact the Species Coordinator, Will Waddell, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, 5400 North Pearl St., Tacoma, WA 98407 (206) 591-5337.

development & marketing

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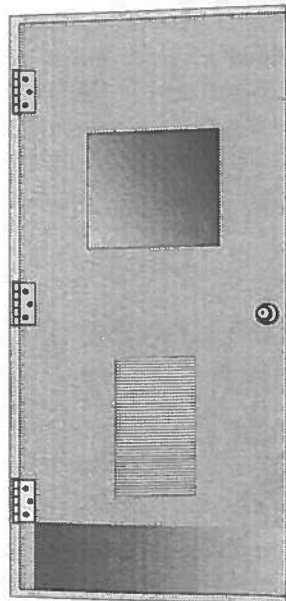
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