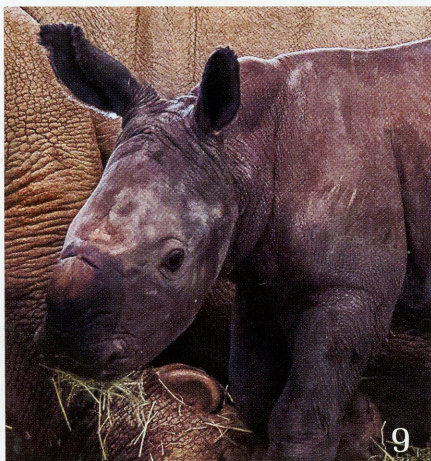
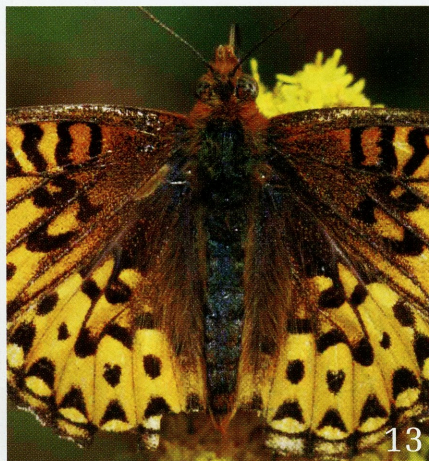


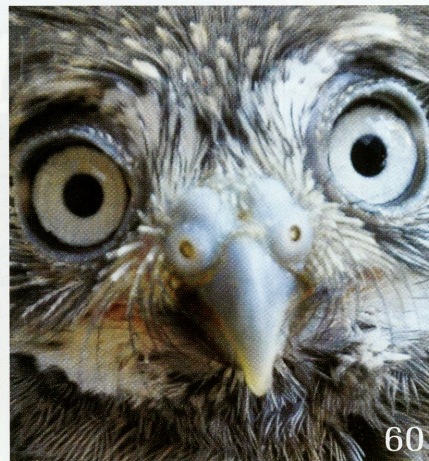
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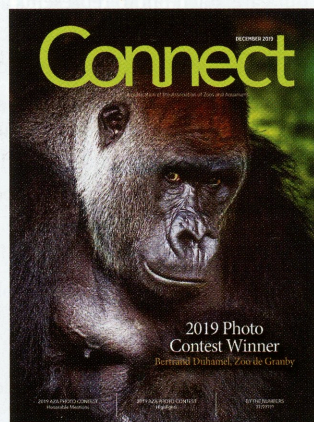
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Lowland Gorilla



©Bertrand Duhamel, Zoo de Granby

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E-MAIL THE EDITOR

tlewthwaite@aza.org

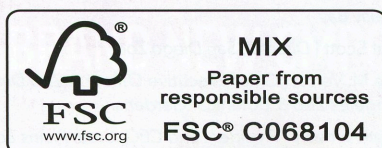
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Assisted Reproduction

San Diego Zoo Global Announces Historic Birth of Southern White Rhino Calf Conceived Through Artificial Insemination

San Diego Zoo Global in San Diego, Calif., announced the successful birth of a southern white rhino calf at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park near Escondido, Calif.—the conservation organization's first rhino born following hormone-induced ovulation and artificial insemination.

The mother, Victoria, gave birth to a healthy male calf 28 July 2019, in the barn at the Nikita Kahn Rhino Rescue Center. Animal care staff on hand to witness the birth reported Victoria did extremely well and remained calm during the 30-minute labor. The calf is nursing well, and mother and calf are bonding in a quiet nursing setting. Artificial insemination of southern white rhinos has rarely been successful; this is the first successful artificial insemination birth of a southern white rhino in North America.

"All of us at San Diego Zoo Global are elated with the arrival of this special rhino calf," said Dr. Barbara Durrant, Henshaw endowed director of reproductive sciences

at San Diego Zoo Global. "We are so pleased Victoria and the calf are doing well. She is very attentive to her baby, and the calf is up and walking, and nursing frequently. Not only are we thankful for a healthy calf, but this birth is significant, as it also represents a critical step in our effort to save the northern white rhino from the brink of extinction."

Victoria was artificially inseminated with frozen semen from southern white rhino Maoto on 22 March 2018, following hormone-induced ovulation. White rhino gestation is estimated to be 485 days—but as with any baby delivery, this can differ. Victoria carried her calf for 493 days.

The artificial insemination and successful birth of the rhino calf is not only an historic event for San Diego Zoo Global, but represents a critical step in the organization's ongoing work to develop the scientific knowledge required to genetically recover the northern white rhino, a distant subspecies of the southern white rhino. Only

two northern white rhinos currently remain on Earth and, unfortunately, both are female.

San Diego Zoo Global has a history of expertise with rhino species. With the birth of this calf, there have now been 99 southern white rhinos born at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, in addition to births of 73 greater one-horned rhinos and 14 black rhinos at the Safari Park. The challenges associated with limited gene pools and severely reduced numbers facing Javan rhinos, Sumatran rhinos, and northern white rhinos mean that some form of assisted reproduction may be their only hope for the future.

There are an estimated 18,000 southern white rhinos remaining in the wild. The southern white rhino is classified as Near Threatened on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species™, due to poaching threats and illegal trafficking of rhino horn. Currently, a rhino dies every eight hours in South Africa as a result of poaching.