

Rhino TAG 2022

AZA Mid-Year Meeting
Long Beach, CA
21 April 2022

- Welcome to Long Beach! Finally!
- State of the TAG
- Support for the TAG
- About today
- EAZA is here—April 24th meeting.



Rhino TAG

- We completed the Regional Collection Plan for rhinos in 2021.
- It should be pretty easy—there are only three species in captivity in North America. But there is a LOT going on with rhinos in the world and with the changes at AZA and with the APM Committee we wanted to get it all right.



Rhinoceros Taxon Advisory Group
Regional Collection Plan
Third Edition
June 2021



Rhino TAG

A photograph of a rhinoceros in a grassy field. The rhino is in the foreground, facing right, with its head slightly turned towards the camera. It has a large, thick horn. In the background, there are several other rhinos grazing in a field. The field is green and grassy, and there is a line of trees in the distance under a clear sky.

- The AZA site has everything published for this TAG. All three breeding and transfer plans are current to 2021.
- The PVAs for white rhinos, black rhinos, and GOHR were all done in 2014.
- Studbooks for black rhino (2020) and white rhino (2021) are current. We have a new studbook keeper for GOHR and that studbook will be updated soon.
- And the Rhino Husbandry Manual is hosted by the IRF on their site www.rhinos.org.

Support for this TAG

- I don't know how most of the TAGs work, but this one has an amazing support structure!
- We have the Rhino Research Council for all things research related and they support this TAG in many ways.
- The International Rhino Keeper Association is a huge asset for all things management, enrichment, training, etc.
- The International Rhino Foundation is also a key organization that we rely on for information about conservation and wild population information.



And, of course, the Steering Committee and Program Leaders

- We (I) fell down a little toward the end of 2021 and into 2022 with the elected steering committee members.
- We should have had turnover in 2021, and the rest in 2022. We also lost a few SC members to non-AZA affiliations, new jobs, or moving within the structure (Metzler from elected board to Vice Chair of the TAG).
- We had an election recently to replace those that rolled off in 2021, and for those rolling off in 2022. We staggered their terms so we could coordinate the turnover so we didn't change the entire committee at the same time.
- Program Leaders only had one change since 2021, bringing on Cody Cseplo from the Wilds as the GOHR Studbook keeper.

Rhino TAG Steering Committee – Appointed members

- Adam Eyres, TAG Chair, White Rhino SSP Coordinator, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
- Steve Metzler, TAG Vice-Chair, Dallas Zoo
- Lisa Smith, Secretary, Eastern Black Rhino SSP Species Coordinator, Buffalo Zoo
- Scotty Wade, Greater One Horned Rhino SSP Coordinator
- Jonnie Capiro, Southern White Rhino Regional Studbook Keeper, SDZWA Safari Park
- Gina Ferrie, Eastern Black Rhino Studbook Keeper, Disney's Animal Kingdom®
- Cody Cseplo, Greater One Horned Rhino Regional Studbook Keeper, The Wilds
- Terri Roth, Rhino Research Council, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden/CREW
- Dan Beetem, Vice Coordinator for White Rhino SSP

Rhino TAG Steering Committee – Elected members

- 2022-2026 (4 yr. terms)
- Tim Thier Saint Louis Zoo
- Ashleigh Kandrac Lion Country Safari
- Robyn Johnson Disney's Animal Kingdom
- Chris Massaro Zoo Tampa at Lowry Park
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- 2022-2025 (3 yr. terms)
- Dana Vinci Brookfield Zoo
- Amy Toman Birmingham Zoo
- Gavin Livingston San Diego Safari Park
- Joseph "JT" Svoke Zoo Miami

Rhino Research Council

- Advisors (Rhino Research Council)
- Eric Miller, Health Advisor, Retired--St. Louis Zoo, MO
- Michele Miller, Health Advisor, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- Lara Metrione, Behavioral Advisor, SEZARC, FL
- Monica Stoops, Assisted Reproduction Advisor, Henry Doorly Zoo, NE
- Vacant, Genetics Advisor
- Katie Sullivan, Nutrition Advisor, Disney's Animal Kingdom®, FL
- Nina Fascione, Executive Director, International Rhino Foundation, VA
- Lance Aubery, Keeper Liaison/International Rhino Keeper Association, CA
- Jamie Ivy, Small Population Management Advisor/PMC,
- Adam Eyres, Management, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, TX



White Rhino SSP

Adam Eyres – SSP Coordinator
Jamie Ivy – Population Advisor
Jonnie Capiro – Studbook Keeper



White Rhino SSP

- Current NA population is 78.145.0 (223) in 46 institutions.
- 18.44 are at one non-AZA institution that was formerly a sustainability partner. 6.1 are at facilities that lost AZA accreditation within the last year.



White Rhino Imports

- There have been almost 80 imports over the past 20 years
- There are at least four facilities (non-AZA) that have permits pending for imports from Namibia. This could add up to 30-50 new white rhinos in North America!



White Rhino SSP

- Target Population Size was increased to 300 in AZA managed zoos during the most recent RCP (completed in 2021). Currently 223 at 46 AZA institutions.
- The number of founders is 66. With a potential of 31 more, not including new imports.
- Current SSP population is 99.5% known pedigree with 97.9% GD.
- The population (within AZA) can maintain 94.5% GD for 100 years.
- PVA has been completed by PMC—available at aza.org

White Rhino SSP Challenges



- White rhinos have a long generation time.
- There are still many founders in the population that are old and non-producing,
- There hasn't been much breeding—the population needs ~21 births over the next two years, which is possible since the population is averaging ~12 births per year.



White Rhino SSP

- As of 2021 Master Planning Session:
- 28 moves recommended--some are pending.
- 104 breedings were recommended. Some are post reproductive or nulliparous.
- 21 births at 9 AZA facilities since February 2021
- 5 deaths in 2 facilities since February 2021. All of those were early pregnancy abortions/stillborns and a neonate death at 2 days old.



White Rhino SSP

- Master Planning occurred virtually February 24th, 2021.
- Several zoos that have requested rhinos are ready to fill their exhibits between 2022 and 2023—some are non-AZA.
- There are multiple males that need to be transferred, and hopefully those moves can be made this spring and fall.
- There are many requests for females (within and outside the AZA). There are now some available and requests are being filled in the order they came in.

Rhino Husbandry Manual

- Available to all institutions on line on the International Rhino Foundation web site.
- <http://www.rhinos.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/rhino-husbandry-manual.compressed.pdf>
- www.rhinos.org. Our Work. Key Publications. Rhino Husbandry Manual
- Or simply GOOGLE “Rhino Husbandry Manual”

Rhino Listserve

- Historically we haven't used this system to communicate.
- I had some feedback when the AZA was re-formatting their web site and people thought we should do this.
- I haven't pursued this any further over the past several years. Anybody want to champion this?

Rhino Taxon Advisory Group Contact Information

- Adam Eyres, Chair and White Rhino SSP Coordinator
 - adame@fossilrim.org
- Steve Metzler, Vice Chair
 - Steve.Metzler@dallaszoo.com
- Lisa Smith, Secretary and Eastern black rhino SSP Coordinator. Black rhino SAFE
 - lsmith@buffalozoo.org
- Scotty Wade, GOHR SSP Coordinator
 - Swade@white-oak.org

Rhino Research Council

Dr. Terri Roth Chair Adam Eyres Rhino TAG Chair

Advisors:

Behavior and Ecology	Dr. Lara Metrione	SEZARC
Reproduction	Dr. Monica Stoops	CREW
Management	Adam Eyres	Fossil Rim
Genetics	Vacant	
Veterinary Medicine	Dr. Michele Miller	South Africa
Nutrition	Dr. Kathleen Sullivan	Disney

Co-Advisors:

Each section has 3-5 co-advisors.

The most current RRC Management Plan was published in 2019 and is available on the AZA Ungulates website.

Greater one-horned rhinoceros
Rhinoceros unicornis – SSP 2022

ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

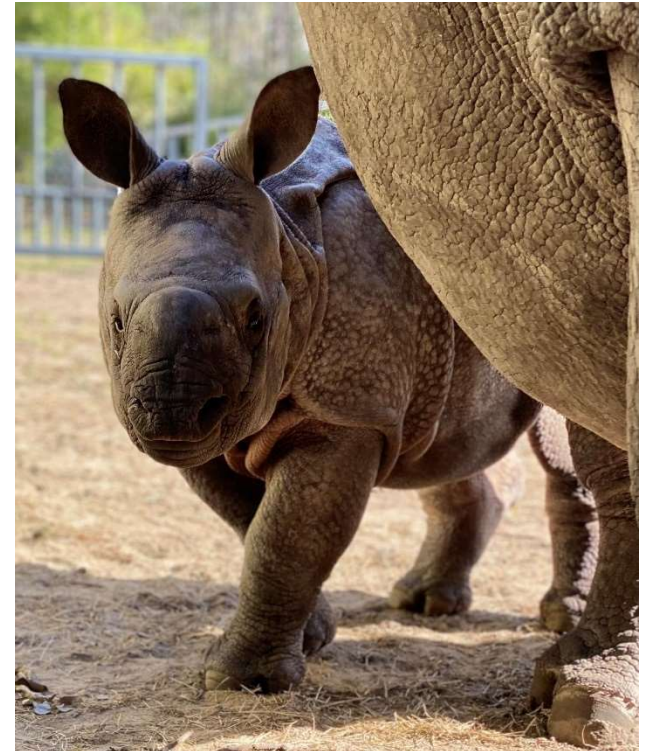


GOHR SSP population

- AZA **YELLOW** SSP
- Last planning meeting occurred Feb. 23rd 2021
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- Current managed population (2022) is 38.44.1 = 83 animals in 19 AZA and one Sustainability Partner.
- Since Feb. 2021 – 3.4.1 = 8 BIRTHS
1.4 = 5 DEATHS
- The target population for this SSP is 85 animals
Animals excluded from managed population = 2.3 = 5
Number of founders in the NA population = 25
Percent of known pedigree = 100%
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- GOHRs currently held in 81 locations worldwide. Zoos in Asia, Europe, North America, India, Nepal, Japan, Pakistan, Thailand, UAE = 114.109 = 223 (2020 Int. studbook)

GOHR SSP Population

- Reproduction statistics show the following:
- First reproduction in:
- Females – 4 years and 10 days
- Males – 6 yrs., 3 mos., 24 days
- Females have reproduced into
- their 30's
- Both sexes can live into their
- mid 40's



GOHR management

ISSUES seen in both the SSP and EEP

Foot pad problems (cement floors)

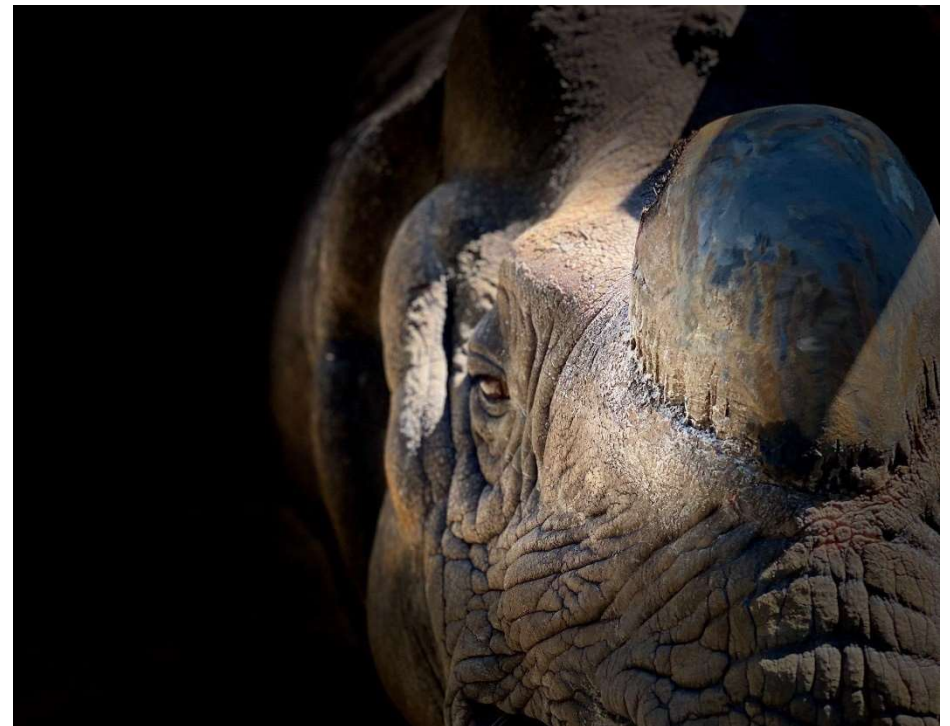
Neonatal mortalities (first time births in young females/stillbirths/aborts)

Sex ratios/Excess males

Breeding introductions

High transport costs

Conservation project support for IRV2020



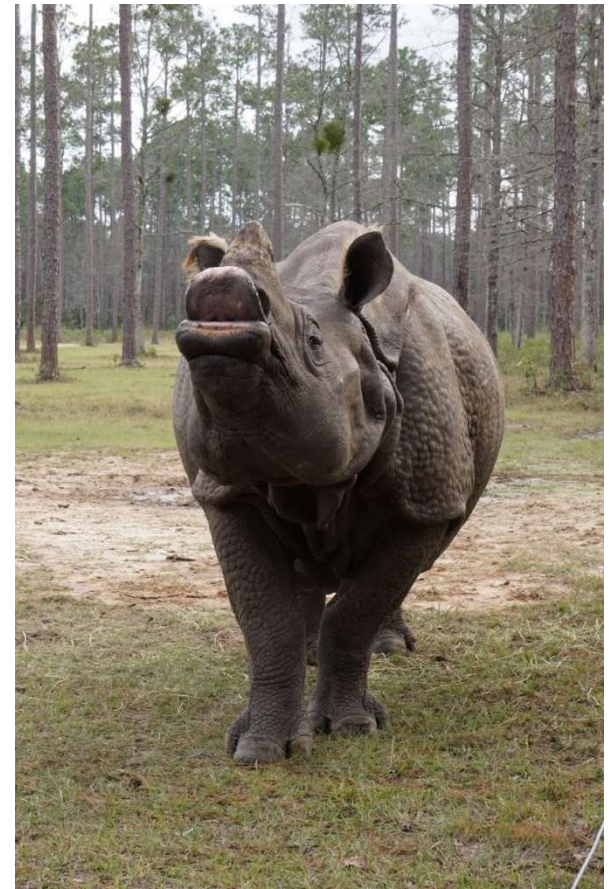
Conservation for the GOHR

IRV2020 (now IRV 2.0) project continues the relocation of rhinos from Pabitora and Kaziranga to Manas, Orang and Burachapori parks.

Poaching of greater one-horn rhinos continues to decrease annually.



Thank you to all of our dedicated SSP and Sustainability Partners



GOHR SSP 2022

- Scotty Wade – SSP Coordinator – White Oak
- swade@white-oak.org
- Cody Cseplo – N.A. Studbook keeper
- cceseplo@thewilds.org
- Dr. Jamie Ivy – Population Advisor
- jivy@jamieivy.com
- Beatrice Steck – International Studbook Keeper
- steck@zoobasel.ch