
Barasingha 95 Report (1/1/95)

Barasingha (*Cervus duvauceli*)

Introduction

After five years, the threefold Action Plan is still viable. The three actions of the plan are: (1) to develop a plan to manage the existing population, and eventually replace it with viable founders from known geographical origins (this action is ongoing); (2) to develop a proposal to study the subspecies question, both in captive and in free ranging populations in India (this has recently received a favorable response from the Central Zoo Authority in India); and (3) to acquire new founder stock from known locations in India (there is little progress to report on this action at this time).

Data Table (current through 1 July 1995)

[Data Table unavailable online - see AZA ANNUAL REPORT ON CONSERVATION AND SCIENCE]

A new International Studbook Keeper has been selected. K. Fulkerson is in the process of updating the studbook. She has requested collection information to complete this process. If institutions have not sent updates, please do so as soon as possible. She hopes to have an updated draft by the end of 1995. She can be reached at the San Diego Wild Animal Park, 15500 San Pasqual Valley Rd., Escondido, CA, 92027, Ph.: (619) 735-5530.

Current Population Status

In the past several years, we have attempted to maintain the existing population awaiting developments of our threefold Action Plan. Animals have been moved within the North American population on a case by case basis. We are still attempting to acquire new founders from India. Recently, the SSP Coordinator received information from S. Walker that the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in India is in a position to consider doing phylogenetic analysis on Barasingha. This is great news, and the SSP is hoping at long last to get started on this very important part of the Action Plan.

Population Genetics

As mentioned in previous reports, the SSP continues to work with the Zoo Outreach Organization to acquire new founder stock. The SSP is still hopeful that the Mysore Zoo, (India) may in fact be able to help in acquiring new stock. After the above mentioned analysis is complete, we are hopeful that we will have some movement in this area.

Special Concerns

As mentioned in the 1994 report, the subspecies status of the North American population is unchanged. At this time, the major obstacle is still that of securing animals from the Indian government for transfer to the North American SSP population. Institutions have resigned from the SSP and, due to the status of the species, there seems to be little hope to recruit mainstream institutions to include the species in their collection plans for the near future. The SSP intends to keep working with the Cervid TAG in an attempt to generate interest in this species.

Short-term Goals for Upcoming Year

- (1) Continue negotiations with Zoo Outreach Organization and the Indian Government for the acquisition of new founder stock.
- (2) Fund study of the subspecies determination for both captive and free ranging populations in India and North America.
- (3) Determine the future status of this SSP. Determine if the SSP should continue as is, or reorganize to an interest group.
- (4) Publish the Barasinga Studbook for the first time in five years.

Excerpted from: Swaringen, K.; Wiese, R.J.; Willis, K.; Hutchins, M., eds. AZA ANNUAL REPORT ON CONSERVATION AND SCIENCE. Bethesda, MD, American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, 1995.