

EAZA Hornbill Management and Husbandry Guidelines

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Foreword

How to use these guidelines

The compilation of these guidelines started in 1996 with the distribution of the EEP Great Hornbill Management and Husbandry Questionnaire. Eighty-five percent of the 55 questionnaires sent to European and American zoos was completed and the resulting report (Galama, 1996b) was presented during the second International Hornbill Workshop 1997 in Malaga (Spain), organized by the EAZA Hornbill TAG and the *Buceros bicornis* EEP species committee. An international group of knowledgeable people working with hornbills in the field or in zoological institutions discussed and summarized suggestions for keeping and breeding hornbills successfully in captivity. As promised, but with quite a delay, the suggestions made during the International Hornbill Workshop, as well as other information that has become available in the interim, can now be shared with others through this document: The EAZA Hornbill Husbandry and Management Guidelines, First Edition, 2002.

Successful breeding of most captive hornbills remains a challenge, and the scarce information available is scattered over the world. Therefore, the guidelines must be seen as a working document that tries to arrange known pieces of the puzzle. Because we wanted to construct the guidelines so that the user only (usually) needs to refer to one section to answer a question, some pieces of information appear more than once in the guidelines. Other sections of the guideline are referred to if they give more or different information regarding a subject.

Hopefully, the guidelines will help to improve hornbill husbandry and management and will inspire the user to document new findings and to also make these available to others. The EAZA Hornbill TAG is planning to produce a revision of the guidelines in 2004. We hope that users will send data, comments, suggestions and corrections on this first/draft version to the EAZA Hornbill TAG chair Koen Brouwer for incorporation into the revision. That version will hopefully be available via internet.