Species Fact Sheets

Order:	Bucerotiformes	**Family:**	Bucerotidae
Scientific Name:	*Buceros rhinoceros*	**Common Name:**	Rhinoceros Hornbill

AZA Management: ☐ Green ☒ Yellow ☐ Red ☐ None

Photo (Male): Photo credit Dr. Roy Winkelman

Photo (Female): Photo credit Karl Lehman

NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range:	Europe	☐	Asia	☒	North America	☐	Neotropical	☐	
	Africa	☐	Australia	☐	Other	Click here to enter text.			
Habitat:	Forest	☒	Desert	☐	Grassland	☐	Coastal	☐	
	Riverine	☐	Montane	☐	Other	Click here to enter text.			
Circadian Cycle:	Diurnal	☒	Crepuscular	☐	Nocturnal	☐	Other	Click here to enter text.	
Cold Tolerance:	To 70° F	☐	To 60° F	☐	To 50° F	☒	To 40° F	☐	
	To 30° F	☐	To 20° F	☐	Other	Heat should be offered if temperatures drop below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.			
Heat Tolerance:	To 30° F	☐	To 50° F	☐	To 70° F	☐	To 90° F	☒	
	To 110° F	☐	Other	Birds can tolerate heat up to about 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Shade should be offered and sprinklers/showers can be used to help the bird cool down if outdoors during extreme heat					
Diet:	Frugivore	☐	Carnivore	☐	Piscivore	☐	Insectivore	☐	
	Nectivore	☐	Omnivore	☒	Folivore	☐	Other (Add Below)	☐	

Captive Dietary Needs:

Mainly, a wide variety of fruits with some protein items. During breeding, the birds especially like figs or fig paste, banana, avocado, and other soft fruits to use in the mudding of the next cavity opening. Protein needs increase during breeding season and many institutions offer increased insects or rodents seasonally. Commercially made grains such as dog food or soft bill pellets are often added as a nutritionally whole diet component.

Life Expectancy in the Wild:	Males:	Approximately 30 yrs	Females:	Approximately 30 yrs
Life Expectancy in Captivity:	Males:	Approximately 40 yrs	Females:	Approximately 40 yrs

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:	Males:	5-6 Years of Age	Females:	5-6 Year of Age

Courtship Displays:	Courtship includes nest inspection, food offerings, regurgitation, preening and posturing.
Nest Site Description:	Cavities are natural holes in trees 9-15 m above ground. The entrance is a narrow slit just wide enough for the female to enter. The female seals the cavity entrance from the inside so only a small hole remains for male to offer food throughout nesting period.
Clutch Size, Egg Description:	1-2 eggs hatch after 37-45 day incubation period. The female emerges from the nest after 40-50 days after hatch and chicks fledge at about 80 days of age.

Incubation Period:	37-45 days	**Fledgling Period:**	Approximately 80 days

Parental Care:	Chicks are completely dependent on the sire to provide food in the nesting cavity. The sire will regurgitate whole pieces and pass them into the nest cavity for the dam and the chicks. After fledging, chicks will stay close to the nest, still fed by the parents. Once they can fly reasonably well, the chicks join the parents on foraging trips for food.
Chick Development:	Chicks hatch inside the nest cavity with no feathers and their eyes are closed. Their eyes open after about 10 days, but their feathers develop much slower. Feathers are fully formed by the time the chick leaves the nest at about 80 days of age.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild:	Live in breeding pairs or groups of juveniles
Social Structure in Captivity:	Kept as breeding pair or individually.

Minimum Group Size:	One individual	Maximum Group Size:	Pair with juvenile offspring

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:	No	**Comments:**	Not exhibited in mixed species exhibits because of aggression from rhinoceros hornbills and their tendency to hunt small birds and mammals.

Optimal Habitat Size:	The enclosure should be at least 60 ft in length, 15 ft wide and at least 12 ft high. A variety of perching should be offered to facilitate flights and sunning. Cover should be offered as well as plantings for a variety of perches and shade.

Management Challenges:	Breeding of captive bred birds has been a challenge. As aging wild caught population is lost to attrition, breeding success of the overall population is decreased. With a small population size, pairs are not always compatible and mate choice is not often an option. This slows the process of pairing birds and can result in frustrating transfers between institutions. In addition, being a large species, management is limited by space availability.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

IUCN - Near Threatened,
CITES Appendix II

REFERENCES:

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