Pygmy hippopotamus... 100% hippo, in size small!

Why exhibit pygmy hippos?

• Surprise visitors with a miniature version of one of the most recognizable mammals! Pygmy hippos are #28 on the list of EDGE (Evolutionarily Distinct, Globally Endangered) mammals - the river hippo is their only close relative, making their endangered status even more critical.

• Provide ex-situ support for a species in desperate need of conservation measures (including captive breeding, as per the IUCN).

• In a financial crunch? A pygmy hippo is one-tenth the weight of a river hippo, and requires significantly less space and fewer resources.

• Captivate visitors with underwater viewing windows, which best show off the grace and amphibious adaptations of this species.

• Use these charismatic animals for interactive tours and keeper talks to connect with guests.

Stewardship Opportunities

The Zoological Society of London’s EDGE initiative includes several in situ pygmy hippo projects: http://www.edgeofexistence.org/mammals/species_info.php?id=21#projects

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 15.17 (32) in 12 AZA (+1 non-AZA) institutions (2016)

Species coordinator: Christie Eddie, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo christiee@omahazoo.com; (402) 557-6932

Social nature: Primarily solitary. Can be maintained in pairs and sometimes larger groups, depending on individuals and space.

Mixed species: Primates, duikers, and fish have all been successful, so long as they are provided with refuge from the hippos. Aquatic and ground-dwelling birds may be harassed.

Housing: A tropical species that is not cold-tolerant. Enclosures should have water features large enough for submersion and ample land space, optimally with substrate.

Medical notes: Generally robust; infectious diseases rare. Dental issues and substrate-related foot problems are most common.

Special requirements: Sufficient space is needed to separate incompatible adults and isolate females when offspring are born.

Keeper resources: Heavy workload. Daily pool cleaning needed if no filtration is present; splattered feces frequently require scrubbing.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines. http://www.azaungulates.org/