Barasingha... a regal deer that loves getting muddy!

Why exhibit barasingha?
• Take advantage of marshy terrain! Barasingha are also known as swamp deer, and are well-adapted to water-logged habitats.
• Incorporate a language lesson using the impressive six-pointed antlers of males (which make great biofacts); their name is Hindi for twelve (barha) horns (singha).
• Connect visitors with actual conservation: protective measures in Kanha National Park have allowed the hardground barasingha to recover from 60 deer in 1966 to more than 500 today.
• Reinforce the conservation messages at your tiger and Indian rhino exhibits with this rare deer from the same Indian grasslands, facing similar threats of habitat loss and poaching.
• Forge community ties with fencing and boxing clubs: barasingha fight with their antlers and by rearing up and “boxing” with their front legs.
• Participate in one of the original thirteen SSPs!

Care and Husbandry
RED SSP: 26.29 (55) in 4 AZA (+1 non-AZA) institutions (2019)
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Social nature: Gregarious. Multi-male groups are possible if sufficient space is provided. Rutting occurs seasonally (in autumn); males vocalize with impressive “bugles” at this time.

Mixed species: Successfully housed with other medium-sized ungulates including axis deer, hog deer, sika, and blackbuck. Given sufficient space, barasingha have been safely mixed with rhino and gaur.

Housing: Fine in hot weather if given access to water and shade; fairly cold-tolerant. Barasingha can swim, so water barriers inadvisable. Large pastures allow for herding and rutting behavior.

Medical notes: Robust, with few health concerns.

Special requirements: Water features, such as ponds or mud wallows, should be provided.

Keeper resources: Easy husbandry. Docile when hand-raised; females have been successfully used in contact yards. Birth intervals are predictable as females are monestrous (a single estrus each year).

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

Stewardship Opportunities
IRF’s Indian Rhino Vision 2020 program
http://www.rhinos.org/indian-rhino-vision-2020