

San Antonio Zoological Society

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Community Initiatives Bond Committee  
City of San Antonio

January 18, 2007

Dear Committee Member:

The San Antonio Zoo respectfully requests \$1.5 million from the City's 2007-2012 Bond Program to help fund **Africa Live! Phase II**, a \$10 million project. The San Antonio Zoological Society is a non-profit organization that operates the San Antonio Zoo under a 25-year lease agreement with the City of San Antonio. The Zoo also has a contract with the City to operate Brackenridge Park concessions and the miniature train. However, the Zoo receives less than 5% of its \$11 million operating budget from the City.

The Zoo successfully raised \$12 million to build **Africa Live! Phase I**, which is currently under construction and scheduled to open this fall. The City helped with that campaign by providing \$1.45 million in the 2003 bond process. We are grateful to the City for their support.

**Africa Live! Phase I** (opening this fall) will immerse visitors into Africa with state-of-the-art underwater viewing of both hippo and Nile crocodile, and the Nanyuki Market, which is a new gift shop and two story catering facility.

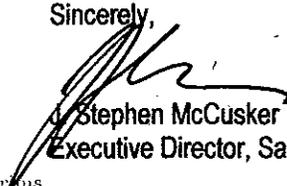
**Africa Live! Phase II** will include an aviary called **Wings of Africa**, a Colobus monkey exhibit, a leopard exhibit, an African wild dog exhibit, a meerkat exhibit, and a new restaurant called the Baraza Café.

As you ponder the allocation of your available Bond funds, we respectfully ask that you please consider the following:

- ◇ According to the Texas Department of Economic Development, the San Antonio Zoo is the 10<sup>th</sup> most visited public attraction in the State of Texas.
- ◇ The Zoo has more than 930,000 visitors per year – 60% from San Antonio and 40% tourists – which helps generate tourism revenue for our city.
- ◇ The Zoo educates more than 100,000 students every year through field trips and education programs, and the Zoo provides bus transportation and admission for 10,000 students in local school districts who can't afford field trips to the Zoo.
- ◇ As you may have read in last week's Business Journal, the Zoo's financial position is healthy, as we have realized a positive cash flow for the past 13 years and have been able to reinvest our surplus into capital improvements.
- ◇ Since 1975, the San Antonio Zoo has spent more than \$25 million in capital improvements to Zoo facilities – facilities that belong to the City of San Antonio.
- ◇ The Zoo is directed by **2020 Vision**, a master plan that will completely restructure the Zoo and divide it into five zoogeographic regions: Africa (which we are currently working on), Asia; North America (represented by a Texas exhibit), South America, and Australia.

Great zoos are signatures of great cities; together we can improve both. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
J. Stephen McCusker  
Executive Director, San Antonio Zoo

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AFRICA  
II

*Continues*



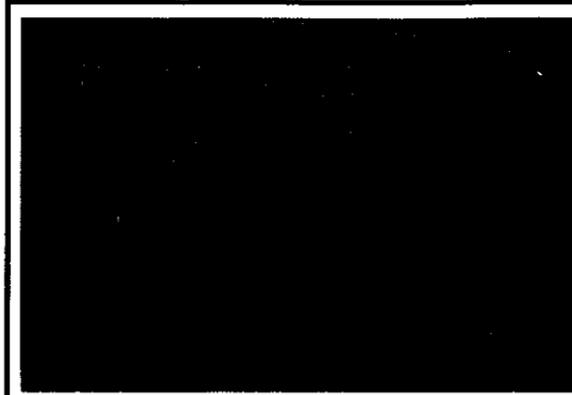
SAN ANTONIO ZOO

ESTIMATED COST OF CONSTRUCTION:  
\$10 MILLION

\* INTERNATIONAL UNION OF  
CONSERVATION FOR NATURE  
& NATURAL RESOURCES



**MEERKAT**  
MEERKATS ARE FOUND IN AREAS OF SAVANNAH AND OPEN PLAINS AND THEIR DISTRIBUTION DEPENDS ON SOIL TYPE, WITH FIRM TO HARD SOILS BEING COMMON LIVING GROUNDS



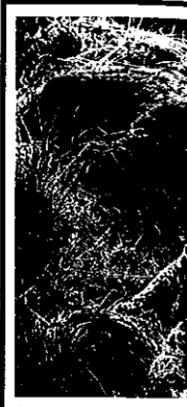
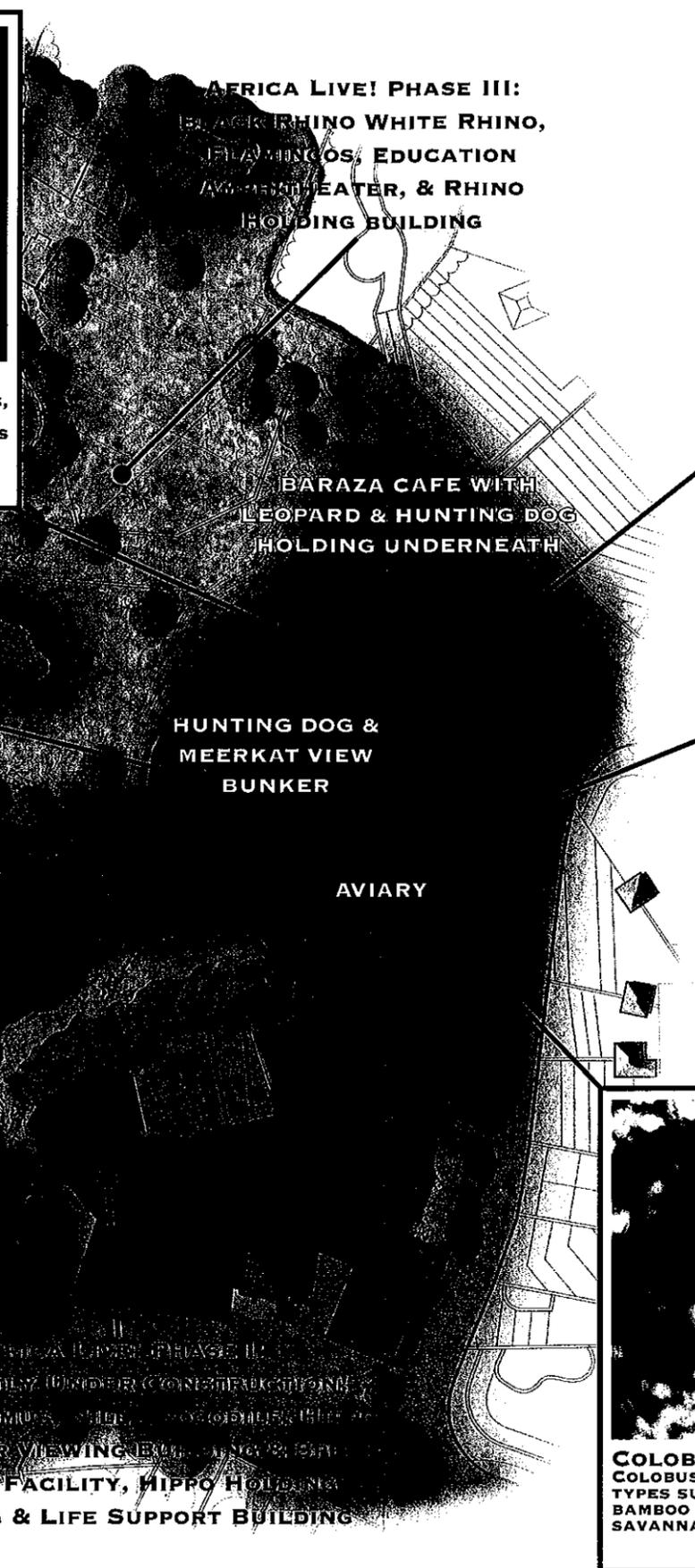
**AFRICAN HUNTING DOG**  
AFRICAN HUNTING DOGS ARE FOUND IN GRASSLANDS, SAVANNAHS AND OPEN WOODLANDS. THEY ARE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED ACROSS THE AFRICAN PLAINS AND ARE NOT FOUND IN JUNGLE AREAS.

IUCN\* STATUS: ENDANGERED



**OKAPI**  
OKAPIS OCCUR IN THE DENSE RAINFORESTS AT MIDDLE ELEVATIONS WITHIN THEIR RANGE. THEY FREQUENT RIVER BANKS AND STREAM BEDS AND MAY OCCASIONALLY VENTURE INTO AREAS OF SECONDARY FOREST GROWTH

IUCN\* STATUS: LOWER RISK



**LEOPARD**  
LEOPARDS LIVE IN... FEEL JUST AS SE... AS IN RUGGED M... FORESTS, MOUNT...

IUCN\* STATUS:



**ARMADILLO**  
PRIME HABITAT F... GRASSLAND PLAIN... ALSO BE FOUND IN...



**COLOBUS MONKEY**  
COLOBUS MONKEYS ARE FOUND IN... TYPES SUCH AS GALLERY, MO... BAMBOO FORESTS. THEY ARE SAVANNAS AND SWAMPLANDS



**THE EXPEDITION CONTINUES**

## **THE EXPEDITION CONTINUES...**

**AFRICA LIVE! PHASE II IS A CONTINUATION OF THE NEW HIPPO UNDERWATER VIEWING BUILDING AND ASSORTED EXHIBITS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THE EXISTING AREA FOR PHASE II HAS ALREADY BEEN CLEARED AND ALL THE UTILITIES NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THIS PROPOSED PROJECT ARE BEING INSTALLED.**

**PHASE II FEATURES MANY SPECIES LISTED AS ENDANGERED ON THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CONSERVATION FOR NATURE & NATURAL RESOURCES RED LIST.**

**AFRICA LIVE! WILL CREATE A TREK THROUGH NEARLY FOUR ACRES WHERE ANIMALS APPEAR "FREE-RANGE," AND THE VISITORS WILL EXPERIENCE THE SENSATION OF BEING ON SAFARI. GUESTS WILL WALK ALONG A DARK, MYSTERIOUS RIVER WHILE EXPERIENCING THE SIGHTS, SMELLS, ANIMALS, AND CULTURE OF AFRICA. AFRICA LIVE! IS PART OF THE ZOO'S MASTER PLAN, 2020 VISION, AND IS THE LARGEST DEVELOPMENT EVER IN THE ZOO'S 92-YEAR HISTORY.**

**HELP US CONTINUE TO MAKE THE SAN ANTONIO ZOO THE #1 DESTINATION FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN THE SAN ANTONIO REGION.**

AFRICA LIVE II:  
THE EXPEDITION  
CONTINUES...