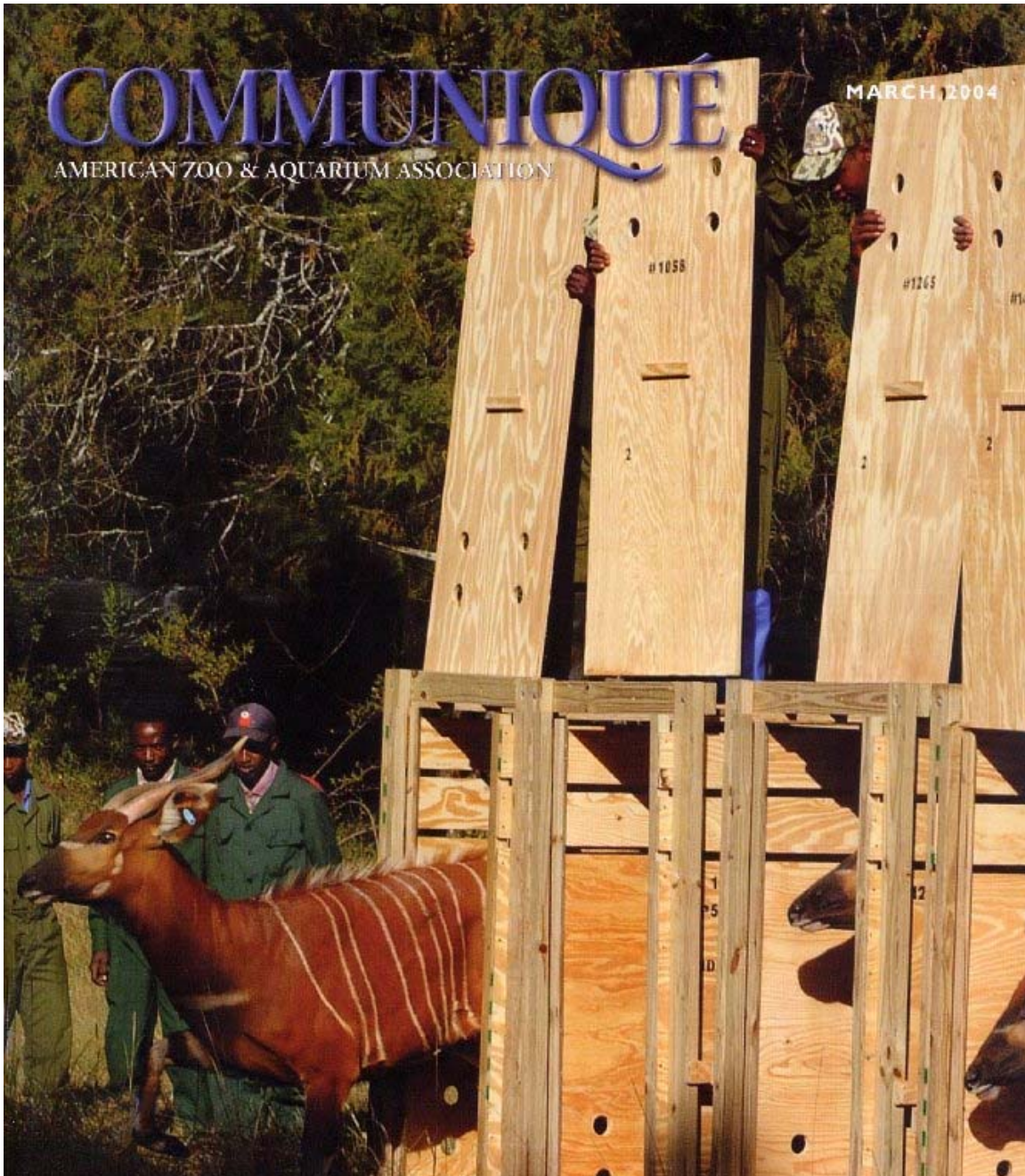


COMMUNIQUE

AMERICAN ZOO & AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2004



COVER: In January, 18 mountain bongo antelope were released at the Mt. Kenya Game Ranch, the culmination of a 10-year campaign by the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation (RSCF/ www.rarespecies.org) and its partners to repatriate bongo from the United States to Kenya. AZA Commercial Member Purina Mills donated a supply of a feed grain, widely used for bongo in AZA institutions, for the journey and initial phase of reintroduction, which will help ensure the animals' well-being during the transition.

The mountain bongo repatriation project represents a milestone in wildlife conservation, aiming to restore, via captive breeding, a critically endangered species to self-sustaining levels in the wild. Bringing projects like this to the attention of the public is part of what the National Awareness Campaign is all about.

AZA members providing animals included: Virginia, Jacksonville, Houston, Cape May County, Los Angeles and Saint Louis zoos, African Safari Wildlife Park, Zoological Society of San Diego, Disney's Animal Kingdom, Busch Gardens, Peace River Refuge and White Oak Conservation Center. The RSCF also provided animals.

Providing financial support were the Fort Worth, Tulsa, Columbus and Milwaukee County zoos, as did the Fort Worth Zoo staff and chapter of AAZK, and the UN Foundation.