

托福阅读素材实例解析：白犀保护希望渺茫

当北方白犀牛只剩下了一头雄性，该如何去保护？人类为了拯救这一物种，想到了那些方法，又做了哪些尝试呢？今天的托福阅读材料就是有关于白犀牛保护的，一起学习吧！

疑难词：

in the pen 关在栏中

ranger n. 突击队员；漫游者；骑警

poaching vt. 偷猎；窃取 vi. 偷猎；侵犯；剽窃

degenerate n. 堕落的人 adj. 退化的；堕落的 vi. 退化；堕落

enclosure n. 附件；围墙；围场

trim. n. 修剪；整齐；情形 vt. 修剪

artificial adj. 人造的；仿造的

vitro fertilization 体外受精

hybrid n. 杂种，混血儿；混合物 adj. 混合的；杂种的

mate vi. 交配

expectancy n. 期望，期待

diminishes 减少，缩小

futile adj. 无用的；无效的

With last male on earth, hope for saving rare white rhino dim

唯一雄性白犀幸存，稀少白犀的保护希望渺茫

In central Kenya's Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Sudan lies quietly in his pen, alone and lonely. Outside, there is a team of armed rangers who take turns guarding the mammal day and night.

Sudan is the last male of five remaining known northern white rhinos in the world.

NATURAL BREEDING ATTEMPTS FAIL

失败的自然繁殖尝试

As its name suggests, the rare species was first captured in 1980s in Sudan, which, together with DR Congo and Central African Republic, used to be their natural habitat. However, years of poaching for rhino horns as well as conflicts in the region have resulted in the animal's disappearance from the wild almost a decade ago.

Sudan had then been kept at a zoo in Czech Republic before brought to the Kenyan conservancy in 2009 with another male, Suni, and two females, in a hope that the natural conditions here can provide "the last chance of survival" and help them breed.

Unfortunately, Suni died last October, which was followed by the death of another male in a U.S. Zoo in December, bringing down the number of remaining northern white rhinos on the planet from seven to five: Sudan and two females in Ol Pejeta, and another two females living separately in zoos of the United States and Czech Republic.

At 42, Sudan is too old to mate as the mammal usually has a life expectancy of 40 years in wild, and maybe a little longer in captivity. The rest four females are also barely to reproduce either because of old age or other physical reasons.

"It's highly unlikely that the animal will not go extinct," said Richard Vigne, Ol Pejeta's chief executive. "If a species diminishes to such small number, then it becomes very difficult to recover that species."

Vigne said there were several natural breeding attempts when the animals were first brought to the conservancy, but all failed.

"The animals haven't lived in a natural environment for a long time, and they are getting old and inter-related," said Vigne, adding that if the rhinos haven't bred for a long time, it would not be easy for them to start again as their reproductive organs may start to degenerate.

Mohammed Doyo, the keeper of the rare species, also recalled he saw Sudan try to mate three years ago with a female southern white rhino, yet it eventually turned out futile.

Like the northern white rhino, a southern white one is a subspecies closely related to the northern, but is less endangered. It has an estimated population of 20,000 worldwide, mostly in South Africa.

Both subspecies has wide mouth though the northern has hair along the edge of its ears. Moreover, the northern tends to be slightly less social than the southern, and prefers thicker bush while the southern likes to be in open space.

ARTIFICIAL REPRODUCTION METHODS DIM

人工繁殖希望不大

In this 90,000 acre of conservancy, instead of wandering around on the vast savanna as before, Sudan now has been kept in enclosure for a year to avoid hurt from other rhinos, according to Doyo. Though guarded by armed rangers around the clock, the mammal's horns had also been trimmed for fear of poaching.

"He is like my own children. I would feel very sad if we lose it," said Doyo.

"Sudan could die tomorrow," said Vigne, noting that the last hope to save the rare species from complete distinction would be artificial reproduction methods.

One way is vitro fertilization: take eggs and sperms of northern white rhinos and create an embryo, which is then implanted into a female southern white rhino, hoping to get a northern white calf.

"However, this technology has never been done in rhinos before, and it is very expensive," said Vigne, adding that they would first develop the technique on southern white rhinos, and apply it on the northern white rhinos once there is enough money and the technique gets perfected.

"We need to raise money first, and we estimate it would take as long as two years before we can get a successful pregnancy with a pure northern rhino embryo," he said.

There is also another option, which will use some already stored semen of northern white rhinos in the world and crossbreed it with female southern white rhinos to get a hybrid. However, this means, if succeeds, it would not be a pure northern white rhino.

"It is not perfect, but it is better than nothing," Vigne lamented(lament, v. 哀悼; 悲叹; 悔恨), calling on more efforts to save the rare rhino and other endangered wildlife.

"Poaching of rhinos across Africa still continues at a very high rate. If we as human race don't do something to stop it, what is happening now to the northern white rhino will happen to many other species," he said.

长难句分析:

1. At 42, Sudan is too old to mate(as the mammal usually has a life expectancy of 40 years in wild, and maybe a little longer in captivity.)

句子类型: 原因状语从句

句子拆分:

主干: Sudan is too old to mate.

定语修饰 At 42, 原因状语从句: as the mammal usually has a life expectancy of 40 years in wild, and maybe a little longer in captivity.

too ... to...结构

翻译: 苏丹已经 42 岁, 不适合交配了, 因为野生哺乳动物一般寿命是 40 岁, 被饲养的犀牛寿命会更长一些。

2. In this 90,000 acre of conservancy, instead of wandering around on the vast savanna as before, Sudan now has been kept in enclosure for a year to avoid hurt from other rhinos, according to Doyo.

句子类型：地点状语+伴随状语

句子拆分：

主干：Sudan now has been kept in enclosure for a year.

地点状语：In this 90,000 acre of conservancy

伴随状语：instead of wandering around on the vast savanna as before

不定式补语：to avoid hurt from other rhinos

翻译：在 90000 多英亩的自然保护区，苏丹没有像之前一样随意漫步，却被关起来以防止伤害其他犀牛。

3.However, this means, if succeeds, it would not be a pure northern white rhino.

句子类型：省略的条件状语从句+宾语从句

句子拆分：

主干：This means...

条件状语从句：if (it)succeeds,省略主语

宾语从句：means(it would not be a pure northern white rhino).

翻译：但是，这意味着万一成功的话，它也不会是北方白犀牛的纯种。

文章大意概括：

苏丹的名字来着它第一次被捕的地方-苏丹。但是，由于人类偷猎白犀取其角，野生白犀有将近十年未出现了。

失败的自然繁殖尝试

在被送去肯尼亚自然保护区之前，苏丹以及另外一头雄犀，两头雌犀被安置在捷克共和国动物园，人们本想为白犀提供唯一的生存机会——让他们繁殖。

但是，另外一头雄犀和其他地方的一头雄犀相继去世，世界上的白犀数由 7 头降到了 5 头：它们被分开饲养在美国和捷克共和国。

苏丹已经 42 岁(野生哺乳动物一般寿命是 40 岁，被饲养的更久一些)不适合交配，其余的雌犀牛也因为年迈或者其他身体原因不能繁殖了。

自然保护区负责人：当一个物种数量少到这种程度时，很难补救，而且在自然繁殖方面的诸多尝试都失败了：长时间脱离自然环境，年迈，生殖系统退化。

稀有物种管理人回忆：苏丹的繁殖尝试失败。

对比南北白犀：南方白犀是北方白犀的近亲亚种，不像北方白犀濒临灭绝，还有约20000头存活，大部分位于南非。北方白犀在耳旁有毛发，常生活在灌木丛中，不像南方白犀喜欢宽敞地带。

人工繁殖希望不大

苏丹被关起来以防止伤害其他犀牛，为了避免被偷猎者觊觎，它的角也背砍下了。

一种防止其灭绝的方式是体外受精，但是因为还没有利用犀牛做过此类尝试，花费也很高，所以自然保护区负责人表示会先用南方白犀尝试，等资金足够，技术成熟再实施。

另外一种方式是：利用保存好的犀牛精液与南方雌犀杂交

尽管希望渺茫，但是总比什么都不做的好，而且，是人类的猎杀导致了今天的结果。如果放任这样的残害，还会有更多物种遭殃。

文章架构分析：

文章为总分结构：

第一部分(总)：说明事实，苏丹是世界上仅存北方雄性白犀。正在被人类严加保护。

第二部分(分)：又分为两个小部分

自然繁殖的尝试

介绍了为了使北方犀牛不至于灭绝，人们所做的尝试：把它和一些雌犀牛关在一起，企图利用自然繁殖，但是由于年龄受限，长期的非自然生存，多次尝试失败。并对比了相对生存较好的南方犀牛。

人工繁殖也受限

介绍了可以尝试的人工繁殖方式，但是由于价格昂贵，还有技术有待提高等问题，还需要进一步尝试。

最后，通过相关负责人的态度，引出了问题的深层探讨：主要是人类对于犀牛的猎杀导致了北方白犀如今的状况，如果人类不能停止这些行为，受伤害的就不只是白犀了。(这部分内容较少)

以上就是我们今天的托福阅读文章及分析，希望大家可以学到相应的托福阅读背景知识。