

African Rhino Group P.O.box 60642 Nairobi, Kenya Tel: 331542

no.2

NEWSLETTER

October 1980

RHINO GROUP MEETING 1980

The IUCN/SSC African Rhino Group held its first series of meetings in its present form, at the IUCN Survival Service Commission meeting in Kenya between 25th April and 2nd May 1980. 13 members of the group and over 24 observers participated, aided by travel costs from WWF/IUCN.

ACTION PLAN

As part of the 18 month New York Zoolog cal Society funded survey, done under the auspices of IUCN, a report is being produced on the status of rhinos throughout Africa. (On-going summaries of information are available from the last Newsletter and IUCN Bulletin Vol.1 **-**0.1 & 2.).

Summaries of the rhino status for each African country are included in the Action Plan, together with outlines of the projects which the governments, NGOs, Scientists and the Rhino Group together have identified to try to conserve rhinos and often also with benefit to other species in each country. Further sections of the plan cover general projects and those aimed at the trade, one of the most important aspects. Priorities for these projects were assessed at the meeting. The table overleaf shows the projects which have been extracted as highest priority and demonstrates how many have already begun to be carried out with the funds already raised. Action is well under way - but more funds are still needed; and a the Action plan is dynamic and still developing.



"The rhino appears at his best at night, and gambols in sheer lightness of heart. I have seen them romping like a lot of overgrown pigs in the neighbourhood of the drinking place. Pig-like, too, they will nallar in the mud and then trot away to the nearest tree, against which EXTRACTION OF HIGHEST PRIORITY PROJECTS REQUIRING FUNDS FROM LUCH/SSC AFRICAN RHINO GROUP ACTION PLAN <u>P).</u>

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Except where indicated funds allocated so far are from MMF Rhino Campaign.

A Haif funding by South African Nature Foundation possible part Frankfurt Zoological Society and People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES).

An Partial funding only from Rhino campaign.

An C7,200 from PTES for camel-mounted anti-poaching unit.

· TRADE

The IUCN African Rhino Group emphasised at the meeting that the highest priority for long term conservation of rhinos is to control and stop trade in their products and that projects to effect this must take priority for funding.

The following position statement on the Trade has nowbeen issued from IUCN/WWF with the Rhino Group's input:

IUCN/WWF STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN RHINO PRODUCTS:

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have received a report from their consultant, Dr. Esmond _idley-Martin, on the international trade in rhinoceros products, based upon survey work undertaken in Africa and Asia. The report will be made widely available for the information it reveals on the nature of this trade, covering such topics as the uses to which rhino products are put, the pattern of prices in recent years, geographical aspects of the trade and a quantitative assessment of world consumption of rhino horn. The report is the first comprehensive account of its kind, bringing together evaluating data already available, as well as new information brought to light by Dr. Bradley-Martin's research. The conclusions are alarming, for they point to continuing pressure on the already highly vulnerable five species of rhino. In this statement, TUCN/WWF highlight the findings of

Bradley-Martin's study and make their position clear on the action towards the trade needed to save the remaining number of rhinos.

The most striking point to emerge from the study is that the wholesale price of rhino horn has risen twentyfold over the last five years in response to an upsurge in demand in several parts of Asia. Whilst the study has dispelled the myth that the Chinese use rhino horn as an aphrodisiac, it has shown that they regard it instead as a powerful fever-reducing drug, and that other rhino products are widely used. In Southeast and East Asia, more than half of the annually available supply of rhino horn is consumed for such medicinal purposes. In parts of India rhino horn is used for its supposed aphrodisiac properties. A major use of African rhino horn is for making Yemeni dagger handles, and it is primarily because of the present demand in the Yemen Arab Republic that the prices for rhino horn have risen so high. The world rhino population is only a fraction of what it was a hundred years ago. And the

to the malus of thing horn

To save the two African and three Asian rhino species from extinction, WWF has mounted an international fund-raising campaign, "Save the Rhino", for a programme of rhino conservation projects developed by IUCN in Africa and Asia. Already \$750,000 have been raised, and much of this has been committed to anti-poaching operations, creation of new reserves, reinforcement of national park operations and public education projects. Clearly conservation reasures of this kind are essential, as two success stories - the white rhino in South Africa, and the Indian rhino in India and Nepal - show. But the picture generally is depressing. The populations of African black and northern white rhino are under severe pressure and the small numbers of Sumatran and Javan rhino are surviving only in restricted ranges.

Conservation measures alone are insufficient and the greatest effort should be directed towards arresting the trade in rhino horn. This offers the best hope for the long-term survival of rhinos. Dr. Bradley-Martin has made a number of recommendations to this effect, which have been carefully reviewed by IUCN, WWF, and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

*Now \$1.4million.

The action which | UCN and WWF intend to take is as follows:

A campaign will be mounted to encourage interest in producing, consuming and trading countries to join CITES, to enforce CITES more effectively, and to halt trade in rhino products. The help of competent internationa organisations, such as the Organisation of African African Unity, the Association of South East Asian Nations, and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation, will be enlisted.

Technical assistance will be provided to producing countries, especially in Africa, on improvements to the administration and enforcement of trade controls under CITES, so as to make full use of this Convention.

Particular attention will be given to bringing the seriousness of the situation to the notice of the Chinese authorities, who have recently indicated their desire to adhere to CITES and control the trade in rhir products. Contact will be made with medical and pharmaceutical associations and with practitioners in other Asian countries to persuade them not to prescribe or dispense any rhino derivatives, and to encourage the use of alternative and substitutes. Far

- Particular attention will also be given to drawing the attention of the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the consequences of their demand for rhino horn daggers. An approach which recognises the deep respect of the Yemeni people for Islamic traditions and which urges the use of alternative materials for dagger handles will also be made.
- Governments will be requested to halt all internal as well as external trade by placing a moratorium on the sale of all government and parastatal stocks of rhino products. Records of these stocks, regularly updated, should be made available to IUCN.
- Hunting of rhino should be prohibited anywhere in the world except where such hunting serves to promote the conservation of particular populations and provided proper control of the hunting and disposal of products and trophies is assured.



Two other main topics were discussed and resolutions produced:

LOCAL OVER ABUNDANCE AND UTILIZATION AS A TRADE CONTROL MEASURE

Various controversial questions regarding control of overcrowding and e onomic utilisation of rhinos and their products in order to promote conservation have been raised:

- I. Hunting of excess Southern White Rhinos Contotherium simum simum in Natal, as a necessary means of managing the populations and their habitat. Although export of trophies of appendix I species is not forbidden under CITES, it is difficult to justify in view of the aim of the present rhino conservation campaigns and the principle of CITES for appendix I species. One suggestion was for the Government of South Africa to request transfer of this population of C. s. simum to appendix II. The vicuna are a classic example of a similar situation.
- 2. Allowing hunting of small numbers (1 or 2 per year) of black rhinos in some areas. All the money accruing from this would return to the local people in order to give them an economic incentive for conservation of rhinos and other wildlife.
- 3. Removal of horns from rhinos which are being captured for various purposes and sale of these horns to ease the demand leading to illegal Filling for horn, and to return

4. Further to this, a proposal was put forward by the late Dr. Leslie Brown for ranching of rhinos (particularly southern white rhinos). Sale of products could realise greater financial returns than from cattle ranching, increas the economic value of rhinos and possibly take pressure off illegal obtaining of horn. On the other hand it could just keep the market open allowing even greater demand for hon which could be supplied illegally.

After discussion it was decided that the IUCN SSC African Rhino Group's position on these is:

- 1. The primary aim should be an all out attem to stop the trade; not at this stage to suggest manipulating markets.
- 2. As part of achieving the above aim we shou make all efforts to support and strengthen CITES.
- 3. Such a position is theoretically compatibl with hunting, as in points 1. and 2. above bu translocations would be preferable where fund can be found.
- 4. Detailed recommendations of the Trade are given in the IUCN position statement.
- 5. Consideration of the effects on the trade of market manipulations of supply and demand are beyond the scope of this group and a marketin study by an economist should be carried out before such things were considered seriously in the future.



MAINTENANCE OF GENETIC DIVERSITY

In view of the fact that two sub-species of the square lipped rhinoceros and more that one of the black rhinoceros are recognised, after discussion the African Rhino Group recommended that:

- 1. In the case of translocation every effort be made to keep sub-species distinct, both in captivity and in the wild.
- 2. Detailed records should be kept of all introduced and translocated individuals and populations. "studbooks" of the type used by zoos should be kept by each country and be standardised to facilitate flow and exchange
- 3. The genetic differences between rhino populations need to be determined.

of information.

4. In principle, translocations should be limited to re-introductions to areas former inhabited by the species or individuals

ANGOLA

No recent information, but M. Joao Amaro, the Director of National Parks said in July that a helicopter survey of the souther tern part of the country was about to be undertaken, from which it was hoped to obtain some idea of the number of rhinos still surviving. Ground visits to this region are still impracticable.

BOTSWANA

The Okavanga Wildlife Society is trying arrange for the move of a further 96 white rhinos from Natal to the Chobe and Nxai National Parks and the Moreme National Reserve. These would supplement the 48 successfully moved to Chobe and Moreme in 1974-76. The Natal Parks Board has agreed to provide the animals and the Botswana Game Department is anxious to receive them. The Frankfurt Zoological Society and the S.A. Nature Foundation have between them undertaken to pay the cost of moving 66 animals and funds are being sought to cover the cost of remaining 30+, which People's Trust for Endangered Species have expressed interest in. The first 5 animals have now been transported to Chobe with the unfortunate loss of one male which died en route.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Since the Rhino Group meeting in April, Clive Spinage (FAO Wildlife expert) has submitted details of a US\$243,050, three year project covering a broad survey of the rhino situation in the country and the establishment of two anti-poaching units. Half of the necessary money could possibly be found from WWF elephant funds and the rest is being sough under the rhino campaign. Bilateral aid is being approached, and a suitable person to carry out the project is being sought. Two other projects have been proposed for CAR. One, put forward by M. Thomassey is to complet a survey of an area east of Bamingui Bangoran with a view to establishing a National Park. The second, related, but put forward for elephant funds is for Peace Corps to do a detailed survey of St. Floris N.P.

CAMEROUN

Prof. Pierre Pfeffer visited Cameroun in March on behalf of IUCN and WWF, and was taker on a tour of some of the rhino areas. His report confirms the presence of about 100 bla rhinos, mainly within and in the vicinity of the Benoue and Boubandjidah National Parks and the Faro Reserve, with the species entire absent from the south of the country.



INTO THE UNKNO

The sun sets low,
While the lone rhino re
the wilderness,
Its fate unknown.
Moving!
Into the lonely night.
What awaits you
Oh lonely creature?
A lover?
A friend?
the hunter?
the poacher?
or
The morning sun?

H. N. Kimola

Poaching from the north is becoming a serious problem. Prof. Pfeffer's recommendations include a survey and the provision of an aircraft and six landrovers, together with fixed and mobile radio sets, to enable effective anti-poaching measures to be undertaken. Tents and other equipment for foot patrols will also be required. Projects and details of how these would be used are being developed with the Camerounaise and funds would come jointly from other sources.

Recently, poachers have killed a further

KENYA

6 rhino in Meru National Park, at least 2 in the Aberdare National Park and another 4 on private land in the Laikipia District; otherwise there appears to have been a lull in rhino and elephant poaching. The equipping of a camel-mounted anti-poaching unit to operate in the area of the Meru National Park has recently been completed with funds provided by the People's Trust for Endangered Species. A total of 42 isolated rhinos have been captured since the beginning of the year, mainly in the Laikipia ranching area, for transfer to national parks and reserves. start has been made on testing aerial census techniques for rhinos, using known populations of those animals to determine the minimum sample necessary to give a reasonably valid estimate of total numbers in different typesof habitat and the correction factors that need to be applied to other counts to give more meaningful results for rhinos.

MUZAMB I QUE

Dr. Alan Rodgers visited Mozambique as an IUCN consultant in May and has drafted five project proposals, in conjunction with the authorities.

- To survey the proposed Rovuma National area.
- 2) To establish a field force in the existing Niassa Game Reserve there. (Funds have been raised by WWF Switzerland for Rovuma).
- A survey of the Zambezi Valley area linked with the proposed survey from the Zimbabwe side.
- 4) Rehabilitation of Gorongosa National Park.
- Establishment of a ranger field force in Southern Mozambique. Approval from the government is awaited.

A total of less than 400 rhinos is estimated for the whole country, with the best area possibly still being Zambezi Valley which Tello estimated had contained 250 black rhino in 1975. Elsewhere there may be around 50 in Niassa Reserve and less than 10 in Gorongosa N.P. There are estimated to be 30 - 40 white rhino in Maputo Park but they are not increasing, possibly due to human use of the Park area. Two white

thino are believed to remain in Gorongosa N.P.

a this is now considered weavitable bab

SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA

Clive Walker (Endangered Wildlife Trust) -. writes that the drought has been bad and rhinos have been reported dying, but a number of translocations are under way to ease the situation. The translocation of 100 white rhinos to Pilanesburg was planned in May of which, about 50 have been moved and 96 others are going to Botswana. 45 black rhinos are being translocated to Kruger National Park. An aerial survey of the Natal Parks black rhino was carried out from September 22nd as a joint exercise by the Parks Board and the Endangered Wildlife Trust. Aerial survey initiated by the Trust is commencing in Kaokoland on October 16th. Dr. Jeremy Anderson has taken on the job of Warden in Pilanesburg, the new National Park being created and re-stocked in Bophuthotswana land. SUDAN

A detailed project covering the establishment of the proposed Shambe White Rhino National Park has been submitted by the government of the Southern Region to IUCN/WWF and part funding promised by the latter body. WWF (Netherlands) will run a special campaign for the project in November. Funds for the remainder of the project, and for the parallel management plan studies, are still being sought elsewhere.

A possible expatriate warden for the park has been identified and government approval for his appointment is awaited.

Funds have been allocated for boats for anti-poaching and for H.F. radios.

SWAZILAND

This country was accidentally omitted from the original Action Plan.

Approximately 60 white rhinos, whose progenitors were first introduced from Natal in 1971, are now at complete liberty in the Hlane reserve, while the stocking of the Malalotsha National Park is about to begin. A few further individuals occur in the Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary

TANZANIA

Projects covering the provision of vehicles and other anti-poaching equipment for the Serengeti and Ruaha National Parks and Selous Game Reserve; the establishment of new guard posts at Lake Eyasi and on Rubondo Island; contributions to various education programmes including the new Wildlife Clubs, an aerial elephant/rhino survey of the northern part of the Selous Reserve, and the testing of aerial survey methods have now been approved by IUCN/WWF and rhino and elephant appeal funds totalling \$310,000 will shortly be released. The large quantities of ivory and rhino horn going illegally to Burundi (not a signatory of CITES) and exported from there is still a major problem.

ZAMBIA



UGANDA

Surveys by lain Douglas-Hamilton and Rob Malpas (see item 1 of Action Plan) have shown the white rhino to be almost certainly tinct throughout its natural range on the west bank of the Nile and very few of those individuals transferred to the Kabalega National Park in the sixties, or their descendants still exist. The survival of any of the indigenous black rhinos of the Kabalega Park is equally problematical and the only representatives of the species known for certain still to occur in the country are in the Kidepo National Park in the extreme north.

ZAIRE

A ground count of white rhinos in the Garamba National Park carried out in April 1980 (but not yet officially confirmed) gave a minimum total of 246 compared to the 258 counted in April 1979. The two wardens of the rk (Makabuza Kabirizi at Gangala na Bodio and Mushenzi Lusenge at Nagero) have confirmed that no rhinos exist in Zaire outside the Park and its bordering reserves, but there is movement of animals from the Park across the frontier into the contiguous Lantoto Reserve (and proposed national park) in Sudan and back again. Cooperation between the Zaire and Sudanese conservation authorities is good in this region and poaching is said to be kept within reasonable bounds in the southern part of the Park. However, it is under considerable threat with the availability of arms from Uganda in the area and the potentials for illicit trans-border trading, and there have already been examples of rhinos and elephants machine-gunned.

The Park is starved of vehicles and other forms of equipment and a project covering the provision of patrolling equipment, and of motor cycles and radios to improve communication between guard posts, at a cost of \$37,500, is being submitted to IUCN/WWF. Much more solid help is required and the possibility of obtaining EEC aid for the joint

The SRT's two anti-poaching teams (see Newsletter No.1) have continued active operations with one team commanded by Phil Berry. concentrating on the Luangwa Valley and the second team commanded by Pax Chilokole working mainly in the adjacent Luano and lower Zambezi Valleys. Added support has been given by Honorary Rangers and, at times, by paramilitary police units. Both teams have had considerable success in arresting members of the large and well armed gangs they have encountered and in recovering rhino horn and ivory. In general, however, it appears that poaching is a much better organised "industry" than was originally appreciated and that, although existing forces should eventually be able to get the upper hand in the field, the battle cannot be won without the appointment of a special C.I.D.-type investigation team capable of tracking down and dealing with the upper echelons of the poaching ring in urban areas.

SRT estimates that, including government's share, \$3 million will be required to run its present campaign for three years. Towards that IUCN/WWF has promised \$400,000, partly in the form of vehicles and other equipment, and thanks to other contributions from the Wildlife Conservation Society, Honorary Ranger and Zambia business firms, etc., as well as governmental commitments, \$2½m of that is already in sight.

A newsletter recording progress is issued periodically by the Save the Rhino Trust, of P.O. Box 255, Lusaka.

Ian Grimwood, Lee Talbot and Sir Arthur Norman have just returned from a visit to Zambia and Botswana.



It is hoped that the survey of black rhinos on both the Zimbabwe and Zambian sides of the Zambezi Valley, which was agreed to as a highest priority project at the April meeting of the Rhino Group, can now be extended to cover some of the Mozambique part of the valley and that it will be carried out next year. IUCN/WWF has earmarked \$25,000 of rhino appeal money towards the cost of this exercise.

TRADE

IUCN has published the results of Dr. Esmond Bradley-Martin's 1978/79 investigations and analysis of the trade in rhino products in North Yemen, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Thailand and Sri Lanka in the form of a booklet entitled The International Trade in Rhinoceros products.

Since his original investigations, Dr. Martin has made a second study in India and is at present engaged in further studies in Japan, Indonesia, S. Korea, and Malaysia the results of which will presumably be published by IUCN at a later date.

As one of Dr. Martin's recommendations arrangements have been made for an Arab member of SSC to visit North Yemen later this year to investigate ways of reducing the demand for rhino horn for making janbiyya handles in that country.

Peter Sand, Secretary General of CITES is developing two projects for a consultant to aid countries in implementing CITES.

One is for various African countries, including Zambia, who have specifically requested this, the other is for Japan and possibly other Asian countries.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE RESOLUTIONS ON LOCAL OVER ABUNDANCE.

- 1. The Government of South Africa has applied to put their population of *C.s. simum* on Appendix II of CITES and opinions are being solicited.
- 2. Following the meeting, the governments in question have decided against allowing any hunting of black rhino at all.
- 3. Approaches have been made to Museums in Europe, many of whom have expressed a desire for scientific and educational specimens of *C.s. simum*. This is being followed up but further offers would be welcome.

and MAINTENANCE OF GENETIC DIVERSITY.

1. The National Parks Board of South Africa have decided to move Diceros bicornis minor

FUNDING

IUCN/WWF reports that the total amount money resulting from its world wide rhino appeal and available for African and Asian projects is likely to be about \$1.4m. Unfortunately some of that sum is earmarked for projects other than those included in the highest priority category by the group its April meeting. Final allocations have yet to be made but it appears that at least another \$1.3m. will be needed to complete the financing of that category of projects alone. To raise that is a daunting task. However, other sources of funds are being sought for specific projects and mention ha been made in the preceding notes of which have already found sponsors.

Involvement of much greater sources for longer term conservation is being investigathrough IUCN for certain areas, partic __rl where development funds are relevant.

FUTURE OF THE AFRICAN RHINO GROUP

In response to the resolution passed at the April meeting of the Group IUCN/WWF has undertaken to provide a salary and secretar facilities for the Group Chairman for six months during 1981. During the other six months, which for climatic reasons will not be sequential, she hopes to be engaged on active field studies of the northern white rhino and ecosystem of the proposed Shamber National Park. The NYZS grant which has supported the Chairman's activities since 1979 comes to an end in December this year

It is hoped that we can work towards bringing a number of useful publications of the group, and negotiations are the for another joint rhino/elephant specialing group meeting coupled with a small symposin Zimbabwe.

THE
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
IN RHINOCEROS PRODUCTS

By Esmond Brudley Martin
December 1979

Available at \$7.50 from: IUCN/WWF ll96 Gland
Switzerland

"As Jade can make gold crumble so body will pulverise rhinoceros horn".