

SADC REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR RHINO CONSERVATION

RHINO AND ELEHANT SECURITY GROUP OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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IUCN
The World Conservation Union



SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION
AFRICAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP

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ABOUT the SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation:

The Programme is funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for Development Cooperation (Project AID 5064).

The Programme is contracted to CESVI and implemented through a regional consortium which comprises:

- The Secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)
- IUCN-ROSA (The World Conservation Union - Regional Office for Southern Africa)
- The IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group
- WWF-SARPO - (World Wide Fund for Nature - Southern Africa Regional Programme Office)
- CESVI (Cooperazione e Sviluppo)

The **Programme goal** is to contribute to maintain viable and well distributed metapopulations of Southern African rhino taxa as flagship species for biodiversity conservation within the SADC region.

The **Programme objective** is to implement a pragmatic regional rhino strategy within the SADC region following the acquisition of sound information on, firstly, the constraints and opportunities for rhino conservation within each range state and secondly, the constraints and opportunities for rhino metapopulation management at the regional level.

DISCLAIMER

The information, opinions and materials presented herewith do not necessarily reflect the official views of any of the organisations involved, including the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SADC, CESVI, IUCN-ROSA, WWF-SARPO, AfrSG or governments of SADC member countries.

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PROGRAMME WEB SITE:

We invite you to visit our web site : www.rhino-sadc.org

RHINO AND ELEPHANT SECURITY GROUP Of Southern Africa

TERMS OF REFERENCE

VISION

Our vision is a continent in which there are secure and increasing populations of free-ranging rhino and elephant in their natural habitats. We believe that attaining this vision will contribute to the economic and spiritual well-being of our peoples. This will be achieved through provision and coordination of adequate security and law enforcement, and the realisation of opportunities and benefits derived from the sustainable utilisation of these resources

OVERALL GOAL AND OBJECTIVE

- To develop guidelines, strategies and databases for the effective and efficient protection of African rhino and elephant populations
- To assist the various conservation agencies, communities and private landowners to minimise rhino and elephant poaching and the illegal trade in rhino horn and ivory.
- To provide advice, training and coordination

MODUS OPERANDI

A Brief summary statement on the composition and purpose of the RESG:

"The RESG is an Advisory Group composed of government representatives and invited NGOs, which convene and coordinate to enhance regional efforts to improve the security, viability and promote the increase of rhino and elephant populations in Southern Africa"

KEY COMPONENTS

- LAW ENFORCEMENT
- INTELLIGENCE
- PROCEDURES FOR EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION, AND MINIMISING INTERNATIONAL TRADE
- SECURING AND MANAGING RHINO HORN/IVORY STOCKS
- COORDINATION, NETWORKING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE
- TRAINING FOR CAPACITY BUILDING
- POSITIVE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
- INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS
- SUSTAIN ABILITY, FUNCTIONING AND SUPPORT OF RESG

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Objective:

RESG will recommend levels and pro-active deployment of anti-poaching resources to achieve successful protection in the field

Activities:

- Provide range states with recommended standards for desirable staffing levels for areas where rhinos and elephants are protected
- Provide forum to make range states aware of the practical value and cost effectiveness of different law enforcement strategies, and reassess these strategies
- Promote use of law enforcement monitoring and data analysis to guide and improve future deployment
- On request undertake and assist with assessments of threats to the security of rhino and elephant populations, and develop strategies to mitigate these threats

INTELLIGENCE

Objective:

RESG facilitates the establishment and successful operation of intelligence networks

Activities:

- Promote the development and successful use of intelligence databases
- On request, facilitate the training of intelligence database users
- On request, facilitate training on the handling of informers and the establishment of informer networks
- Provide forum for advice on policies for effective maintenance of informers
- Encourage conservation agencies and organisations to brief staff on procedures to follow up on suspicious approaches to elicit information on reserve security, numbers of rhinos and elephants, disposal of horn/ivory, etc
- Promote the analysis of intelligence on a regular basis
- Provide intelligence reports to RESG member agencies

PROCEDURES FOR EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION, AND MINIMISING INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Objective:

Identify and provide strategies that maximise the chances of successful detection, investigation, prosecution of offenders in crimes involving rhinos and elephants

Activities:

- Review and advise on legal penalties, and, where insufficient, recommend that they be increased or modified, or that alternative sentencing options be explored (e.g. asset forfeiture), as already agreed by range states through the SADC Wildlife Protocol
- Promote effective methods for scene-of-crime investigations
- Encourage member states to establish and maintain databases of court cases and their results
- Identify and promote techniques and procedures which can result in successful prosecution and sentencing
- Promote the use of forensic techniques such as DNA analyses and horn fingerprinting where appropriate
- Promote the standardised use of passive transponders and readers/scanners
- Establish and coordinate a regional database of passive transponders used on rhinos and elephants
- Through RESG meetings, facilitate cross-border cooperation on investigations and prosecution
- Recommend staffing levels and establishment structures of investigative staff
- Promote awareness of offences relating illegal killing of rhinos and elephants and trade in their products in all range states

SECURING AND MANAGING RHINO HORN/IVORY STOCKS

Objective:

Range states and their management authorities advised on the process of handling, registration, auditing and management of their horn and ivory stockpiles

Activities:

- Advise on techniques and CITES requirements for marking, storage and trade/export of rhino horn and ivory
- Advise on the control and audit of rhino horns and ivory, and the process of transfer and registration of seizures and stockpiles
- Promote the establishment and use in range states of systems for auditing stocks of rhino horns and ivory
- Make rhino and elephant management authorities, private owners, conservancies and custodians aware of any CITES stockpile reporting requirements
- Encourage RESG members to provide assistance to regional studies of rhino horn and ivory stockpiles

COORDINATION, NETWORKING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Objective:

RESG provides a forum whereby range state management agencies, custodians and private owners can be kept informed on security developments and level of threats facing rhino and elephant populations in the region

Activities:

- RESG members submit country/organisational reports at every RESG meeting, containing information on local security threats and levels of crime relating to rhinos and elephants
- Use the RESG to set up a network to facilitate the rapid dissemination of critical information (e.g. intelligence, poaching incidents) between agencies and range states
- Set up an information directory ('Network File') for RESG members
- To liaise with other relevant rhino and elephant conservation bodies (AfRSG, SADC RMG, SADC RRG, AESG, AROA, Interpol ETCG), and provide feedback on strategy developments and security issues/threats. RESG representatives to attend meetings of these groups if possible.

TRAINING FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

Objective:

Security training needs identified and RESG to provide and/or facilitate such training

Activities:

- Identify expertise and facilitate scene-of-crime training courses
- Facilitate development and training for identified staff of range state management authorities, conservancies, custodians and private owners in essential security procedures (e.g. monitoring, anti-poaching)

POSITIVE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AWARENESS & EDUCATION

Objective:

Promotion of enhanced liaison and good relations with communities owning or neighbouring to rhino and elephant populations, as this can contribute to improved security (as agreed in the SADC wildlife protocol)

Activities:

- Encourage conservation agencies and organizations to brief neighbouring communities on procedures to follow up on approaches to elicit information on security status
- At RESG meetings share information on community initiatives that have resulted in improved security for rhino and elephant populations

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

Objective:

Enhanced awareness and implementation of relevant international and regional conventions and agreements (e.g. CITES, SADC Wildlife Protocol, Lusaka Agreement)

Activities:

- Circulate current information to RESG members on the international and regional conventions and agreements relevant to rhino and elephant security
- Promote the adoption and use of approved systems for the law enforcement monitoring and surveillance of elephant and rhino populations (e.g. MIKE, ETIS)

SUSTAIN ABILITY, FUNCTIONING AND SUPPORT OF RESG

Objective:

RESG able to fulfil its mandate

Activities:

- Solicit funds for identified key activities of the RESG (e.g. meetings, training courses, reports)
- Hold biannual meetings (to coincide with meetings of the Interpol ECTG)
- Produce and circulate minutes of meetings
- Membership to provide current status information to the coordinator for regular dissemination to other RESG members by email/fax
- Appoint individuals with responsibility for key RESG activities (e.g. transponder database management)
- Appoint coordinator to assist the RESG Chair, and identify funding to support operating expenses
- Members to report back to, and lobby support from their respective organisations
- Market outputs and achievements in order to enhance the credibility and standing of the RESG
- Ensure that the RESG actively contributes towards the implementation of relevant articles of the SADC Wildlife Protocol by member states

MEMBERSHIP

Level of Membership: Requirements

- Rhino/Elephant security knowledge & current involvement, but also adequate seniority and influence
- Continuity of representation by countries or organisations
- Formal appointment by country or organisation. RESG Chair writes to Directors/CEO'S to obtain nominations for individual representatives to the Group for a specific period (e.g. 3 years). Develop general guidelines for countries on ideal type of RESG representative, to attach to letter inviting nomination.

Technical Membership

- Elect or co-opt specialists in rhino or elephant security, nominated by RESG members as and when their input is required.
- Observers invited at Chairman's prerogative

Legitimacy and Political Endorsement

Potential benefits of SADC Umbrella

- Improved liaison with Government departments (e.g. Police)
- Political Backing for Group (e.g. in order to facilitate sharing of information between Governments)

The RESG will explore other possibly beneficial linkages via SADC WSTCU.

GENERAL

- Species: Maintain current Species: Rhino and Elephant
- Geographical Area: Maintain RESG with Regional membership only, but maintain liaison with non-SADC range states (e.g. Kenya). Keep membership under regular review.
- Office Bearers:
 - Chairman
 - Vice Chairman
 - Coordinator (including duties of treasurer)

DEFINITION OF TERMS

COMMUNITY	A group of people living in a contiguous geographical area with a common boundary living with or along side, and sharing a common interest in, the security of rhinos and elephants
MIKE	Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants
TRAFFIC	Trade Records Analysis in Flora and Fauna in Commerce
IPZ	Intensive Protection Zone (see Definitions in Emslie & Brooks Action Plan 1999)
Sanctuary	see Definitions in Emslie & Brooks Action Plan 1999
Rhino Conservation Area	see Definitions in Emslie & Brooks Action Plan 1999
SADC RMG	SADC Rhino Management Group
SADC RRG	SADC Rhino Recovery Group
SADC WSTCU	SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Coordination Unit
ETIS	Elephant Trade Information System
AfRSG	IUCN/SSC African Rhino Specialist Group