

BOTSWANA

(Task 1.2 – 1.6)

Review by Rob Brett (Programme Co-ordinator) (Country Visit: 11-13 September, 2000. Also on DWNP staff 1999-2000)

1 MECHANISMS FOR PLANNING AND COORDINATING NATIONAL RHINO CONSERVATION EFFORTS

1.1 Rhino Management Authority

The national management authority for rhinos in Botswana is the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP). The DWNP falls under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI).

1.2 National Rhino Strategy

There is a national rhino strategy, which was first drafted in July 1991 but has still not been finalised or received formal approval from the DWNP Director, or Minister of Commerce and Industry. The latest version of the plan (DWNP 1999a) was circulated in July 1999, and includes four objectives:

To adequately protect and/or remove from harm's way all wild, free ranging rhino in the country.

To hold, care for and captive breed rhino in secure sanctuaries within Botswana's borders utilizing supplemental breeding stock acquired from outside the country when deemed necessary.

To reintroduce rhino in Botswana to their wild free ranging state when conditions allow.

To work with other range states and the world community to remove the threats which have brought the rhino to the brink of extinction.

Although the black rhino is believed to be extinct in Botswana, the draft strategy *'is applicable to the management of both black and white rhinos'*, and is in need of updating, finalisation and approval.

1.3 Action Planning

The draft Botswana rhino conservation strategy does specify priority areas for rhino conservation in Botswana (e.g. Khama RS, Mokolodi NR, Gaborone GR, Francistown GR), and there are recommendations for holding and movement of specified numbers of white rhinos (e.g. in Gaborone GR). However, there is no timing specified to the recommended actions, and the current document should be finalised as a strategy. Once this has been approved, medium-term (5-year) and short-term (yearly) action plans need to be developed.

1.4 Coordination Mechanisms

The draft strategy (DWNP 1999a) specified the structure and composition of a national rhino committee, the Rhino Management Group, which *'will be responsible for the planning and implementation of comprehensive breeding strategies involving all sites'*. The RMG includes representatives of DWNP senior staff and the private land rhino sanctuaries, and the Botswana Defence Force (BDF, due to its interest in conservation and involvement with anti-poaching and security of rhino). The RMG has never met, and one of the consequences has been a lack of direction, co-ordination and facilitation of rhino conservation activities in Botswana in the five years.

1.5 Focal Point

There has been no formal appointment of a rhino co-ordinator for Botswana or focal point for the SADC Rhino Programme. Isaac Theophilus (ag Deputy Director, DWNP) represented Botswana at the SADC Range States meeting in March 2000. Moremi Tjibae (Senior Wildlife Officer, DWNP) represented Botswana at the last AfRSG meeting (Tanzania, June 2000: Tjibae 2000). Cyril Taolo (Senior Wildlife Biologist, DWNP) represented Botswana at the previous AfRSG meeting (Namibia, April 1998).

1.6 Potential for facilitation by SADC rhino programme

The SADC Rhino Programme is in a very good position to facilitate the updating of the current draft rhino strategy, the development of a mid-term action plan (for which the programme could provide appropriate expertise) and several projects involving the use of additional expertise from the SADC region, and potentially, planning for the re-introduction of black rhinos to Botswana.

2 EXISTING MECHANISMS FOR COLLABORATION WITH OTHER RANGE STATES (Excluding SADC Rhino Programme)

2.1 Co-ordination with other range states

Botswana has had several fruitful links with conservation agencies in South Africa, particularly with regard to provision of southern white rhinos for re-introduction to areas of former range in the country. This has continued in spite of the virtual extinction of the first 'wave' of white rhinos re-introduced between the last 1960's and 1980. These rhinos (94 in total) were all provided by the Natal Parks Board. The assistance of the Natal Parks Board continued during the phase of capture and recovery of 8 remnant animals in Chobe NP and Moremi GR in 1994-96, of which 6 survived after translocation to the Khama Rhino Sanctuary near Serowe. The DWNP presently has formal ties with the North West Parks and Tourism Board in South Africa. The co-ordination arrangements were originally formalized through a high-level bi-lateral agreement at Ministerial level. The initial dealings involved a donation of 5 white rhino to Khama Rhino Sanctuary (June 1995), followed by a further three animals (August 1999). One rhino was brought in exchange for a number of wild dogs provided to NWPTB, but then died.

2.2 Existing commitments with other SADC range states

At the time of independence (1990), Namibia committed to a donation of two black rhinos to Botswana, with the possibility of providing a further two animals in exchange for waterbuck. Negotiations over these transfers have continued between the Namibian MET and DWNP up to date, including a meeting held in 1998. Effecting the transfers has been complicated by (i), disease control and quarantine of water buck from Botswana to Namibia, (ii), the different black rhino subspecies and their former range in Namibia (*D.b.bicornis*) and Botswana (*D.b.minor* in northern and eastern areas of Botswana). To resolve the subspecies issue, there has already been discussion over a solution involving transfer of *D.b.bicornis* from Namibia to SANP in South Africa, and provision of *D.b.minor* from SANP to Botswana. An alternative arrangement would be the provision of *D.b.bicornis* to Botswana, followed by exchange for these with an equivalent number of *D.b.minor* from RSA (SANP). There has been formal co-operation between Botswana and Namibia over cross-border law enforcement, including regular meeting of district representatives, and representation at the Regional Security Committee. Botswana has also been represented in the Rhino and Elephant Security Group (RESG).

3 RHINO POPULATION STATUS

3.1 Summary Statistics on rhino numbers, distribution and trends

The rhino population estimates provided to the AfRSG meeting in June 2000 were as follows:

Country	Species	SSp	Park	Type	Num	Size	RCPE	Prob	SG	Total	Trend	Den
Bot	White	Css	Moremi GR	S	1	15380			3	3	?	0.000
Bot	White	Css	Gaborone GR	S	1	5	1			1	D	0.200
Bot	White	Css	Khama Rhino Sanctuary	C	1	43	15			15	U	0.349
Bot	White	Css	Mokolodi NR	P	1	30	9			9	U	0.300
Bot	White	Css	Tholo Ranch	P	1	35	3			3	?	0.086

Since the AfRSG meeting, a further two births at Khama RS (August 2000) and Mokolodi NR (July 2000) have increased the total population of white rhinos in Botswana to an estimated 33 animals, of which 30 are found in fenced areas. The population breakdown of the two sanctuary populations is as follows:

Khama RS	Male	Female	Unsexed	Total
Adult	1	6	0	7
Subadult	1	1	0	2
Calf	4	2	1	7
Total	6	9	1	16

Mokolodi NR	Male	Female	Total
Adult	2	3	5
Subadult	0	1	1
Calf	1	3	4
Total	3	7	10

Apart from the single adult male in Gaborone GR (within a 1 km² paddock within 5 km² reserve), and the three probable animals remaining in Moremi GR, there are three white rhinos at Tholo ranch in Ghanzi District (2 subadult females, 1 subadult male). An adult male black rhino was translocated to Jwana Game Park (Jwaneng Mine) in August 1999, but died shortly after release. Francistown GR (12 km²) is being developed as a future area for a small population of white rhinos, and is now ring-fenced to an adequate standard. Like Gaborone GR, the Francistown GR is primarily an educational facility. The black rhino is believed to be extinct in Botswana. Although occasional reports are received of rhinos, possibly black, straying into Botswana from Hwange NP in Zimbabwe, there have been no confirmed reports of black rhinos in Botswana since 1994.

3.2 Population monitoring and reporting

The rhino populations in Khama RS, Mokolodi NR, Gaborone GR and Tholo Ranch are monitored daily and all are individually identified. Currently populations are small enough to identify all animals, although ear-notching is already needed at Khama Rhino Sanctuary to confirm future identity of immature rhinos. Isolated reports are received of rhinos in Moremi GR, north of Nxai Pan NP and the Nata area (probably animals straying from Zimbabwe), although there is no follow-up of these reports at present.

Private sanctuaries are obliged to report to DWNP on status of rhino populations, although the timing and format for such reports are not clear. There is no formal reporting procedure. Khama RS used to provide quarterly reports to DWNP, but now do so less often, but at least annually. Mokolodi NR provide irregular reports on rhino populations status to DWNP. The most recent owner of white rhinos (R Eaton) had his property checked by district DWNP staff before permits for translocation of the rhinos were issued. Poaching information is compiled in monthly reports by M Tjibae, and all records will be entered into an incipient poaching database. Horns seized are retained by the police until court cases have been completed. The current wildlife legislation (RoB 1992: Annex 3.1) provides for a penalty specific to crimes involving rhinos, such that an '*offender is liable to a fine of Pula 100,000, and to imprisonment of 15 years*' for illegal killing of rhinos, or possession or trafficking in rhino horn.

3.3 Requirements for surveys and monitoring

Although standards of rhino monitoring in the private land rhino sanctuaries are of adequate standard for routine surveillance, these have not been realised in DWNP areas. This includes the small fence Gaborone GR, where monitoring was insufficient to detect the cause of death of three animals since March 1998. In addition, there is inadequate information about the remnant animals in or neighbouring the Moremi GR and stray animals on the Botswana-Zimbabwe border area. Present standards of rhino monitoring, surveillance and security in DWNP are a definite impediment to adequate protection of rhinos on state land in Botswana, and this will have to be addressed for the development of any larger population of rhinos, black or white, on DWNP estate in the future, particularly a free-ranging population.

4 MANPOWER AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR RHINO CONSERVATION

4.1 Anti-poaching resources

The tables below give approximate figures for scout density, operating budgets and staff salaries for the key rhino protection areas in Botswana:

Area	Type	Area (km²)	Scouts	km²/Scout	Operating Budget (USD)	Budget (USD/km²)
Moremi GR	S	4900	20	245	?	?
Chobe NP	S	10624	37	287	?	?
Gaborone GR	S	5	4	1.25	?	?
Khama RS	C	43	11	3.91	50,000 ^{NB}	1,163
Mokolodi NR	P	50	8	6.25	220,000	4,400

^{NB} This does not include costs of BDF security patrols on periphery of Khama RS

Scout Salaries USD pa	Recruit		Junior		Senior	
DWNP	2450	2940	3120	3710	3739	4498
Mokolodi NR			1200	1680		2880
Khama RS				1080		2160

4.2 Expertise available for specialised aspects of rhino management

There is very limited availability of rhino management expertise in Botswana. DWNP has a senior veterinary officer with some experience of rhino capture based in Kasane (Dr K Alexander). A more experienced game capture veterinarian (L Patterson) is based in Gaborone. Past evaluations of rhino habitat, carrying capacity, etc of rhino sanctuaries have been performed by external consultants (Khama RS: D Grossman, Mokolodi NR: D Reynolds). There is little or no advanced expertise on rhino monitoring, rhino tracking and demographic monitoring within DWNP or the private sector areas.

4.3 Specialised equipment available for rhino management

DWNP has a new Bell 207 Jet Ranger helicopter and two Cessna 206s. DWNP also has two ageing and little used rhino capture trucks based in Gaborone (1991 models), and three rhino crates. These were not inspected during the review. Khama RS has five large holding pens (white rhino) and linked release paddocks, all maintained to adequate standard. Mokolodi NR has six half-built rhino bomas, which need poles and sliding doors to complete. They intend to use the completed pens eventually for game auctions.

5 PARTICIPATION OF NON-STATE AGENCIES IN RHINO CONSERVATION

5.1 Community Involvement

Khama RS has the potential for a high degree of community involvement. The Khama RS was set up as a community project, and the Khama Rhino Sanctuary Trust is already managed by a board of trustees composed of village headmen from the immediate area of the Khama RS. Although the stated aim of the Trust is '*to ensure full community participation as well as the capturing of benefits and opportunities generated by the project by the local community*' (KRST 1995), at present there is insufficient revenue inflow from the tourism to share directly with neighbouring communities. However, the existing and future employment opportunities offered by the sanctuary are good. Mokolodi NR has some degree of community interaction, functioning mainly as an educational establishment offering subsidised visits and courses for school children from the Gaborone area. The reserve and its education and tourist facilities employ over 70 people from adjacent villages (Mokolodi Wildlife Foundation 2000a). Gaborone GR also has high value as a low-cost educational park for the residents of Gaborone, with low entry fees and popular picnic sites.

5.2 Local and International NGO Involvement

The two main local NGOs are those managing the two main private rhino sanctuaries, the Khama Rhino Sanctuary Trust and the Mokolodi Wildlife Foundation. Each enjoys a very good relationship with the DWNP. The DWNP director sits of the MWF board. International donors/NGO's (e.g. NORAD, US Fish & Wildlife Service) have contributed to the KRST in the past, and the MWF receives extensive support from local donors.

5.3 Private Sector Involvement

There are presently three private sector participants in rhino conservation in Botswana: Khama Rhino Sanctuary Trust, the Mokolodi Wildlife Foundation and Tholo Ranch (Messrs Eaton). A fourth (Debswana: Jwana Game Park at Jwaneng Diamond Mine) briefly held one adult male white rhino, and intends to develop a population of white rhino at Jwana Game Park (and possibly at Orapa Mine) some time in the future. At present the involvement of the private sector is entirely positive, especially bearing in mind the relative lack of capacity for protection and management of viable rhino populations within DWNP-managed areas. The private sector is essentially managing Botswana's rhino population on behalf of the Government.

Although the Mokolodi NR rhinos are owned by the MWF, and some (but not all¹) of the Khama RS rhinos are owned by the KRST, the draft rhino policy (DWNP 1999a) states: '*Notwithstanding and recognising the actual ownership of the rhino, all rhinos in Botswana should be viewed as the "national herd" and form part of a coordinated breeding and conservation program. In this context, all rhinos born within Botswana (at whatever facility) are considered to be a part of this breeding strategy and their disposition will be governed by the conditions outlined... (in the plan)*'. The only possible negative aspect of the private sector involvement is that there would appear to be less incentive for the Government to re-introduce rhinos to its wildlife estate while the private sector are managing the country's rhinos successfully on its behalf. However, given the limited capacity and long-term viability of the sanctuary rhino populations, development of large wild populations in National Parks or Reserves will be an essential component of maintaining a viable metapopulation of rhinos, white or black, in Botswana in the future.

The Khama Rhino Sanctuary is managed with reference to an approved management and development plan (KRST 1995), although the plan is now in need of updating, particularly in light of the recent acquisition of a ca. 50 km² ranch from the Botswana Livestock Development Corporation (BLDC) near to, but not adjoining the present Khama RS. If this land can be exchanged for an equivalent or larger area adjoining the west or southwestern side of the Khama RS, and the whole area thus more than doubled in size, it has the potential for developing a large population of white rhinos, as well as a small breeding nucleus of black rhinos. If it could be achieved, this development could also provide the basis for the re-introduction of black and white rhinos to a larger protection area for rhinos on DWNP estate (e.g. Moremi GR).

The objectives of the Mokolodi GR are less focused on rhino conservation and more on education (MWF 2000a), although the present white rhino population is in an ideal state for rapid growth up to the capacity of the reserve. This needs revised estimation, particularly given the impact of other grazers in the present reserve area. A draft management plan was produced for the Mokolodi NR in 1993 by Dan Reynolds, which included estimates of carrying capacity for rhinos and other herbivores on the basis of livestock units. Mokolodi NR does carry out annual vegetation assessments and regular game counts (MWF 1998, 1999). A new management plan for the reserve (MWF 2000b) is presently in draft form.

6 PROPOSED PROJECTS

Update and finalisation of the draft Botswana Rhino Conservation Strategy

SADC RPRC Outputs: 1

SADC RPRC Activities: 1.1, 1.2

Lead agency: DWNP

Collaborating agencies: Khama RS, Mokolodi NR, Moremi GR private sector, Private ranches

Possible Timing: Semester 3

Background and Rationale

Botswana's national rhino strategy, which was first drafted in July 1991, is still in draft form, and has not been finalised or received formal approval from the DWNP Director, or Minister of Commerce and Industry. The finalisation of the rhino strategy would be a vital first step in developing rhino conservation in Botswana towards consolidating the management of white rhinos in present conservation areas (mostly private sector), and developing viable populations of rhinos in DWNP-managed protected areas, including the potential re-introduction of black rhinos (*D.b.minor*) to the country. It would require the input of one SADC programme consultant for one week in Botswana, and include a workshop to agree on the strategy in a form which can be submitted for approval by the Minister of Commerce and Industry. Once the principles for future conservation and management of both white and black rhinos in Botswana have been agreed on, action plans can be drawn up on an annual basis for development of rhino protection areas and translocation of rhinos, etc. Facilitation of the national rhino committee (RMG), for which the workshop would in effect be its first meeting, would also be an important result.

¹ All rhinos translocated to the Khama RS by the DWNP and any offspring the females may produce remain the property of the Government of Botswana. Additional rhinos from private sources or from sources outside Botswana may be brought to the Khama RS, pending approval by DWNP on a case by case basis (DWNP/KRST 1994, in KRST 1995: see Annex 3.2)

Workplan

The plan would be revised and finalised by a SADC programme consultant during a mission which would commence with an inaugural meeting of stakeholders, which would convene regularly thereafter as the Rhino Management Group (composition already defined in the draft strategy). This meeting would confirm the outline goals and management principles for Botswana's rhino strategy that could be signed up to by all participants. Following comments received from all parties and additional input from the SADC consortium (AfRSG), a final draft would be submitted to the Director DWNP and key representatives of the private sector (Khama RS, Mokolodi NR) for signature. The strategy would then be formally approved by the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Training of scouts/rangers in rhino monitoring/surveillance methods

SADC RPRC Activities: 4.1, 4.2, 6.1

Lead agency: DWNP

Collaborating agencies: Khama RS, Mokolodi NR, RSA wildlife authority (e.g. KZNP, NWPTB)

Possible Timing: Semester 4

Given the lack of expertise in Botswana for rhino monitoring and surveys, particularly within DWNP, this project would provide training in the form of a course held at a rhino reserve in South Africa (e.g. KZNP, NWPTB) with a high level of rhino monitoring expertise, for selected staff from DWNP, Khama RS and Mokolodi NR. This could be followed by on-the-job training in Botswana rhino reserves, and include the production of manuals for use by rhino monitoring staff in the public and private sector areas.

(NB this project could be extended to include other SADC range states, and become a regional training project).

Assessment of habitat, carrying capacity and management options for black and white rhinos in an extended Khama Rhino Sanctuary

SADC RPRC Outputs: 1, 6

SADC RPRC Activities: 1.2, 6.1

Lead agency: Khama RS

Collaborating Agency: DWNP

Possible Timing: Semester 3

Background and Rationale

Khama RS has been the most successful conservation area for rhinos in Botswana to date. Although the present sanctuary has sufficient area and capacity for ca. 30 white rhinos (stocking rate guidelines in the current management plan: KRST 1995), the area could only hold a maximum of 5-6 black rhinos (at an estimated ECC density of 0.1-0.15 rhino/km² (KRST 1999 eECC = 10)). If the acquisition by KRST of ca. 5000 ha of land (near to, but not adjoining the present sanctuary) can lead to an extension of the sanctuary to ca. 100 km², the development of a small breeding nucleus of up to 10-15 black rhinos becomes feasible. This project would make a detailed assessment of the habitat and carrying density of the present sanctuary, land acquired and possible areas for extension to ca. 100 km², and recommend the best options for development of the sanctuary to allow holding of populations of at least 10 black rhinos and 30 white rhinos.

Workplan

Two SADC programme consultants would visit Khama RS for one week, and undertake a systematic assessment of rhino habitat, review sanctuary management and security, and examine and recommend the most suitable options for expansion of the sanctuary to allow the development of a larger white rhino population and the development of a small breeding nucleus of black rhinos. The output would be a report for the KRST including recommendations for both the trust and DWNP.

Assessment of areas and options for development of an intensive protection zone for re-introduction of white and black rhinos to Moremi GR

SADC RPRC Outputs: 1, 3, 5
SADC RPRC Activities: 1.2, 3.1, 5.3
Lead agency: DWNP
Collaborating Agency: DWNP
Possible Timing: Semester 3

Background and Rationale

With a few remnant white rhinos in the area, suitable habitat, natural boundaries, and position away from international boundaries, the Moremi GR presents itself as the most suitable area in Botswana's protected areas for development of a protection zone for large wild populations of white and black rhinos. Private concessionaires with camps/lodges in the area (e.g. Chief's Island: Mombo area) have already expressed an interest in a partnership with DWNP over monitoring and management of rhinos re-introduced. This study would examine all options for development of a rhino protection area (IPZ, flexible fenced sanctuary, etc) in Moremi GR, and assess the opportunities and requirements for adequate protection and management (by DWNP, BDF, the private sector and local communities) of restricted or free-ranging populations of white and black rhinos. This would include participation of, and potential benefits to local communities. The biological/habitat constraints of potential sites would also be evaluated.

Workplan

A 10-day mission by 2 SADC programme consultants would be required, including a field visit to Moremi GR (Mombo area) and areas where reports of outlier white rhinos are still received. Alternative options for development of an IPZ and/or flexible sanctuary would be examined, bearing in mind past introductions, distribution and release methods for white and black rhinos, availability of suitable habitat, and security and management capacity within the DWNP, BDF and private sector and/or a combination of all three. The product would be a report for use by DWNP and partners in funding and developing protection area for rhinos in Moremi GR with the best possible chances of success within the conditions prevailing in the area.

Facilitation of the provision of a small founder population of black rhinos to Botswana

SADC RPRC Activities: 1.2
Lead agency: SADC Consortium
Collaborating Agency: DWNP (Botswana), MET (Namibia), SANP (South Africa), NWPTB (South Africa)
Possible Timing: Semester 4-5

Given the long-standing offer of two black rhinos to Botswana from Namibia, and the opportunities for provision of the appropriate subspecies (*D.b.minor*) to Botswana from South Africa (SANP, NWPTB) in exchange for Namibian *D.b.bicornis* (with more negotiable from Namibia in exchange for Sable Antelope from Botswana) this project would entail facilitation by SADC consortium members to effect the delivery of a small founder population of *D.b.minor* to Botswana. This would also be dependent on adequate standards of protection and monitoring of animals in an area with adequate ECC, and potential for expansion of the population (e.g. an extended Khama RS, Moremi GR IPZ). The project would be a consortium activity that would encourage improved co-ordination in sharing expertise and rhinos between wildlife agencies in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. Negotiations involving Namibia and RSA would be facilitated by developing a focal point for RSA, rather than individual agency or private land representation (e.g. SANP, Tswalu, etc)

Establishment of a rhino capture/translocation capability in Botswana

In order to carry out routine rhino capture and translocation operations that will be necessary in future, the rhino management capability within Botswana needs to be improved to reduce dependence on private operators from other countries. The project would determine the best options for development of rhino capture expertise and hardware in Botswana, including:

- availability of expertise, equipment and vehicles within Botswana
- availability and past use of capture units from other countries, including private companies
- existing use and potential upgrade of existing equipment and vehicles
- options for development of a rhino capture unit within DWNP and/or private sector in Botswana
- assessment of DWNP staff with game capture experience, and training needs.

The visit of a rhino capture specialist from the SADC region would be required for 1-2 weeks, which would include inspection of all existing equipment and installations (vehicles, bomas, etc), assessment of the likely demand/workload for a rhino capture unit in future and the opportunities for sharing rhino capture expertise and equipment with neighbouring range states.

7 NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

The current wildlife legislation is the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act (No 28) of 1992 (RoB 1992). In section 17 of this act, the rhinoceros (white or black not specified) is listed as a protected game animal in Botswana (Sixth Schedule). Copies of relevant pages of the Act are found in Annex 3.1

7.1 Penalties

Hunting or capture of protected game animals is prohibited, and where such an offence involves a rhinoceros, the offender is liable to a fine of P 100,000 (ca. USD 20,000) and to imprisonment of 15 years. The only qualification on this paragraph (2), is that a permit may be issued by the Director, for hunt or capture, if it satisfies conditions under Sections 39 and 40. Paragraph 1 (b) and (c) of Section 39 present the possibility of the Director, DWNP granting a permit to hunt or capture a rhinoceros in the interests of conservation.

Section 17 is reinforced by Section 67 (paragraph 6) and Section 70, which prescribe the same penalties for killing a rhinoceros, reporting the circumstances of the killing, failing to hand in horns within 7 days of the killing, possession of rhino horn and dealing in rhino horn.

7.2 Ownership of Rhinos

Sections 82 of the Act specifies that no live animals may be kept or possessed in confinement without a permit from the Director, DWNP. There is a penalty of a P 2,000 fine and imprisonment of two years for non-compliance. Section 83 states: *'the owner of land on which any animal is kept or confined, and which is enclosed by a game proof fence or in such other manner as may be approved by the Director, shall enjoy rights of ownership over such animal'*. These ownership rights are not lost if an animal escapes from such land or confinement. The consequences of confinement of rhinos on private land, and ownership rights for rhinos, have in the past been clarified where rhinos owned by the Government of Botswana are placed on private land (i.e. a custodianship agreement, DWNP/KRST 1994: see Annex 3.2). However, the rights of ownership of rhinos purchased from within or outside Botswana consequent to such purchase are not dealt with in the current legislation. There is no provision for community ownership of rhinos (fenced or unfenced), and there are no other sections in the legislation with clauses specific to rhinos.

7.3 Hunting and live sales of rhinos

Hunting of rhinos is not permitted (see above). There is precedent for live sales (purchase) of white rhinos (e.g. Khama RS, Tholo ranch) in Botswana.

8 DATA SOURCES

8.1 Names, addresses and contact details of all informants/interviewees

Johanne Mokgosi, Assistant Wildlife Officer, Management of Education Parks, DWNP, P O Box 131, Gaborone.

Moemi R Batshabang, Senior Wildlife Officer, Head of Conservation Education Division, DWNP, P O Box 131, Gaborone. mbatshabang@gov.bw

Diana Chuminda, Assistant Wildlife Officer, Licensing, DWNP, P O Box 131, Gaborone. dwnp@gov.bw

Bathusi Lethlare, Park Warden, Khama Rhino Sanctuary, P O Box 10, Serowe. krst@mopane.bw

Dick Eaton, Tholo Ranch, Ghanzi District.

Puso Kirby, Park Manager, Mokolodi Nature Reserve, P O Box 170, Gaborone. puso@info.bw

Rapelang Mojaphoko, Assistant Director, Research, DWNP. rmojaphoko@gov.bw

Joe Mathlare, Director, DWNP, P O Box 131, Gaborone. jmathlare@gov.bw, msetlhomo@gov.bw

Isaac Theophilus, Ag Deputy Director, DWNP, P O Box 131, Gaborone. itheophilus@gov.bw

Moremi Tjibae, Senior Wildlife Officer, DWNP, P O Box 131, Gaborone. dwnp@gov.bw

Jan Broekhuis, Assistant Director Parks, DWNP, P O Box 131, Gaborone. jbroekhuis@compuserve.com

8.2 Documentation

DWNP (1999a) Rhino Conservation and Management in Botswana. Draft rhino strategy document. July 1999.

DWNP (1999b) Botswana rhino horn register, as at 1st March 1999

Khama Rhino Sanctuary Trust (1995) Management and Development Plan for the Khama Rhino Sanctuary. David Grossman & Associates, for KRST.

DWNP/DRST (1994) Letter of Agreement between DWNP and KRST, clarifying relationship within section 82 of RoB (1992)

Mokolodi Wildlife Foundation (1998) Mokolodi Nature Reserve. Vegetation Assessment 1998.

Mokolodi Wildlife Foundation (1999) Report and recommendations on animal numbers. 1999 Mokolodi Game Count: 22-24 October 1999. Internal report.

Mokolodi Wildlife Foundation (2000a) The Mokolodi Wildlife Foundation: A charitable foundation. Background/fund-raising document.

Mokolodi Wildlife Foundation (2000b) Management Plan 2000. Draft.

Republic of Botswana (1992) Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act, 1992. Act 28 of 1992.

Republic of Botswana (2000) National Parks and Game Reserves Regulations, 2000. Government Gazette Volume XXXVIII, No 17 (27th March, 2000).

Tjibae, M (2000) Report for DWNP on the 5th meeting of the IUCN/SSC AfRSG at Lake Manyara Serena Lodge Tanzania 27 May to 1 June 2000.

9 TRADE AND IMPORT/EXPORT OF LIVE RHINOS

9.1 CITES Management Authority

DWNP is the CITES Management Authority for Botswana. Permits for import of rhinos to Botswana are granted on receipt of an export permit (CITES).

9.2 Veterinary Controls

Veterinary permits are also required for import of rhinos (veterinary permits for export of rhinos are also required by RSA). According to Section 17 (qualified by Section 39) of the Wildlife Act, a permit is

required for the capture of a rhinoceros. Properties receiving imported rhinos (e.g. Tholo ranch in 1999) are checked for security by Wildlife Officers of DWNP.

9.3 Past Imports and Exports

White rhinos (*C.s.simum*)

Year	Source	Destination	No	Transaction
1967	Natal Parks Board, RSA	?	4	Donation
1974-1980	Natal Parks Board, RSA	Chobe NP & Moremi GR	91	Donation
1989	Mashatu, RSA	Gaborone GR	3	Donation
1994	Natal Parks Board, RSA	Mokolodi NR	2	Sale (R75,000 each)
1994	Natal Parks Board, RSA	Mokolodi NR	3	Donation
1995	Mafikeng GR, NWPTB, RSA	Khama RS	5	Donation, or Deposit?
1999	Thaba Manzi, Warmbaths, RSA	Tholo Ranch, Ghanzi	3	Sale (USD 40,000)
1999	Mafikeng GR, NWPTB, RSA	Khama RS	3	Donation

The exact nature of the transaction(s) involving the first five rhinos for Khama RS originating from NWPTB was not clarified during the country visit. DWNP staff indicated that these rhinos were on deposit/loan and could be reclaimed at any time, although the offspring were owned by Khama RS (or possibly Government of Botswana, see also 5.3 footnote, DWNP/KRST 1995). Given the ownership issues, notwithstanding the statement about management of a common rhino 'herd' in Botswana, there is a clear need for identification of rhinos, particularly offspring, at Khama RS. Given the current age structure, ear-notching operations are urgently required to resolve any future ownership issues involving DWNP, Khama RS and NWPTB.

10 HORN STOCKS

10.1 Control, Storage and Identification

Rhino horn is controlled by DWNP and stored at in a strong room at the ivory store in Gaborone. A register (ledger) of all horns is maintained, and a digital version was compiled in spreadsheet form in March 1999 (DWNP 1999b). Horns are marked with permanent black marker only. Including recent additions to the Gaborone store (8 pieces in 1999), there is a total of 121 rhino horns weighing ca. 210 kg in stock in Botswana, including 9 horns in DWNP stores in Kasane, Serowe and Francistown. The presence of ca. 19 horns that are unmarked or have unreadable marks is matched by a similar number of horns that are missing from register entries. It was not clear from the register whether any horns in stock, except 1999 entries, could be traced to original source population.

10.2 Involvement in AfRSG rhino horn fingerprinting project

The DWNP has not provided samples of rhino horn to this project to date. There would be considerable benefit to the SADC region in terms of future detection of the source of horn seizures with Botswana's participation, particularly if a substantial number of samples can be sourced through the register, and used for expanding the source populations sampled for base-line studies.