

ZAMBIA

(Task 1.2 – 1.9)

Review by Drew Conybeare (Country visit: 21 – 25 August, 2000)

1 MECHANISMS FOR PLANNING AND COORDINATING NATIONAL RHINO CONSERVATION EFFORTS

1.1 *Rhino Management Authority*

The national rhino management authority is the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA). ZAWA is a Government authority set up to take over the responsibilities of the former National Parks and Wild Life Service. The transition is not yet complete and not all the new Directorate have yet been employed. There is an interim management team at present running the authority. ZAWA falls under the Ministry of Tourism.

1.2 *National Rhino Strategy*

There is no national rhino strategy at present. A document was drawn up about 8 years ago but was not endorsed by the responsible Ministry and has not been implemented. It is not clear whether this document was a national rhino strategy or a conservation plan. A copy could not be located while I was in Zambia.

1.3 *Action Planning*

There are no conservation action plans.

1.4 *Coordination Mechanisms*

There are no formalized planning structures within ZAWA set up specifically to deal with rhino conservation. The Research and Law Enforcement Divisions will be responsible for rhino conservation in the future (but see sec. 3.2). An NGO, "Save the Rhino Trust" was an important body in the past and is still in existence.

1.5 *Focal Point*

Henry Mwima, Director of Operations and Research, was the previously designated contact person within ZAWA for the AfRSG and SADC Rhino Programme. Clement Mwale of the Law Enforcement Branch was previously the delegate to the RMG. George Kampamba, the new Head of Research, will now take all these responsibilities.

1.6 *Potential for facilitation by SADC rhino programme*

ZAWA would welcome assistance from SADC RPRC with updating the national rhino strategy.

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

2.1 *Co-ordination with other range states*

There is no formal collaboration with other range states except through the AfRSG and RMG. Informal contacts have been made in the past with Zimbabwean authorities and it is probable that ZAWA will look for more structured liaison with other countries in the future, especially Zimbabwe.

2.2 *Existing commitments with other SADC range states*

There is not now any documentation regarding previous commitments to cooperation with any other range states. However, the translocation of white rhino in the early 1960s from Umfolozi Game Reserve in South Africa must have involved some cooperation. (If pre-1964, this was to N. Rhodesia as Zambia became independent in 1964).

3 RHINO POPULATION STATUS

3.1 Summary Statistics on rhino numbers, distribution and trends

There is no official change from the report made to the SADC Rhino Programme Stakeholders Planning Workshop in March 2000. Although that report stated that there was a possibility that some individuals might remain in various parts of the country follow up investigations to some reported sightings have not revealed any rhino and there have been no reliable reports of sightings or other evidence of occurrence for some years. It would be realistic to assume that there are no black rhino left in Zambia.

There are 5 white rhino in the country, 3 males and 2 females held in Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Livingstone. Six animals, 2 males and 4 females were imported from a private source, Sable Ranch in South Africa in 1994. The details of this transaction are not clear but it may have been an exchange for sable. Two females have died and one male calf was born soon after their arrival. No calves have been conceived since the animals came to Zambia. It is possible that these rhino are all related.

One of the animals that died drowned in the Zambezi river in 1994 and the other did not recover from immobilisation after dehorning. Dehorning has been done twice and should be done again if this policy is to be continued (M. Faddy, pers. comm.). The records of these animals at the Head Office in Chilanga are probably not complete and more complete records may be available in Livingstone.

White rhino probably did not occur naturally in Zambia in historical times and the first introduction took place in the early 1960s. Four animals, two males and two pregnant females from Umfolozi Game Reserve in South Africa were introduced to Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. The number increased to 13, but subsequently declined as a result of poaching and natural mortality. The last of these animals was killed by poachers in January 1989.

3.2 Population monitoring and reporting

The white rhino in Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park are confined within an electric fenced area of 11 km² and monitored daily. ZAWA intends to increase the size of the game fenced area. The last known poaching incident was in 1989. There is a need to investigate the reason for the absence of breeding in those animals.

3.3 Requirements for surveys and monitoring

Although ZAWA is prepared to accept that there are no black rhino in the wild there is some feeling outside ZAWA that it would be worthwhile to mount ground surveys in some areas, particularly in the eastern end of the Zambezi Valley where very broken country has never been properly surveyed for rhinos and patrolling is only of very low intensity (M. Faddy, pers. comm.).

Lavushi-Manda Game Reserve was also suggested as another possibility (H. Jachmann, pers.comm.).

4 MANPOWER AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR RHINO CONSERVATION

4.1 Anti-poaching resources

It is difficult at this stage to determine the number of Scouts on an area basis as the transition from the former National Parks and Wildlife Service to ZAWA is not yet complete. Staff establishment is allocated on a Regional basis with some flexibility in distribution of staff to Stations within the Region. Proposed staff establishments for South Luangwa Area Management Unit, Bangweulu Area Management Unit (which includes North Luangwa NP), Lower Zambezi Area Management Unit and Mosi-oa-Tunya Area Management Unit were provided by the reviewer.

For Mosi-oa-Tunya NP a breakdown for stations indicates a total of 8 Scouts (proposed) for the National Park, which includes the fenced Game Area where the white rhino are held. There are 4 Scouts allocated to protection of and monitoring the 5 white rhino and also 1 4WD vehicle donated by the Save the Rhino Trust.

There are no formal budgets available for 2000 and those for 2001 are in preparation. Salary scales for all posts have also not yet been finalised but proposed starting salaries for the lower grades are

available (Table 1). These salary levels are far higher than the salaries for equivalent posts in the previous National Parks Service.

Table 1. Proposed starting salaries for some grades in ZAWA
USD1:ZK3300 (August 2000)

Grade	Annual starting salary	
	ZK	USD
Wildlife Scout	5,4m	1636
Senior Scout	9,0m	2727
Ranger	27,0m	8182

4.2 Expertise available for specialised aspects of rhino management

There is little availability of expertise for specialized aspects of rhino management at present. There are posts for two veterinarians in the new ZAWA structure and one has been appointed. There is a Research Division with ecologists available for monitoring.

4.3 Specialised equipment available for rhino management

There is no specialised rhino management equipment available within ZAWA for rhino capture and translocation.

5 PARTICIPATION OF NON-STATE AGENCIES IN RHINO CONSERVATION

5.1 Community Involvement

There are no formal measures at present for direct community involvement in rhino conservation. Such measures would need to be incorporated in the National Strategy. The present community involvement in wildlife conservation/utilisation is through the programme for the Administrative Management Design for Game Management Areas (ADMAGE), which operates outside National Parks and Game Reserves, whereas any rhino reintroductions would be likely to take place into National Parks.

5.2 Local and International NGO Involvement

Save the Rhino Trust, a local NGO is the only NGO directly involved with rhino conservation. SRT has done no fund raising for about 10 years and has had no direct involvement in wildlife management for about 14 years since the inception of the Luangwa Integrated Rural Development Programme (LIRDP). It does still however supply money to NPWS (ZAWA) on request and has supported measures to combat commercial poaching. It supplied the 4WD vehicle to assist the management of the white rhino in Mosi-oa-tunya NP. Without further fund raising the Trust would be able to contribute about USD10,000 p.a. to rhino management.

Other international NGOs contribute towards wildlife conservation in general e.g. NORAD in South Luangwa and Frankfurt Zoological Society in North Luangwa.

There are a number of other NGOs that support conservation in Zambia:

Wildlife, Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia;

Conservation Lower Zambezi;

Environmental Council of Zambia through the Wildlife Monitoring Unit, funded by the Netherlands Government.

5.3 Private Sector Involvement

The private sector can become directly involved in the form of Honorary Rangers.

6 PROPOSED PROJECTS

Sanctuary establishment and relocation of the Black rhino in Zambia

This project proposal was submitted to the AfRSG in 1996 (Mwima 1996). Objectives of the project were to:

- i. Determine the present numbers of the Black rhino and distribution in Zambia using scientifically based research and monitoring;
- ii. Establish sanctuaries to ensure long-term existence of the Black rhino;
- iii. Translocate Black rhino to sanctuaries and establish an effective management programme.

This project proposal will require complete revision.

There is a possibility that the reintroduction of Black rhino is being considered into North Luangwa National Park where there is a Frankfurt Zoological Society funded rehabilitation project, but there has been no official approach to ZAWA.

I don't think that the position of wildlife conservation in Zambia is yet stable enough to warrant reintroduction of Black rhino. This view was supported by M. Faddy and H. Jachmann.

Upgrade of monitoring of white rhinos at Mosi-oa-Tunya

A programme to formalise the white rhino monitoring at Mosi-oa-Tunya is planned (G. Kampamba, pers. comm.). Given the lack of breeding in this small group, a review of the project, suitability of habitat, size of the sanctuary, etc is required.

Two further proposals were added to the country review:

Evaluation of feasibility of reintroduction of black rhinos to North Luangwa NP

(Requested by FZS)

Although not yet formally endorsed by ZAWA, this project would assess the North Luangwa NP as a potential area for re-introduction of black rhinos to Zambia. The project managers of FZS have already provided a considerable amount of background material, vegetation studies, etc on this area and its potential. This project would involve a detailed assessment of the suitability of the area using standardised biological and non-biological criteria (past rhino densities, present habitat suitability, existing threats, law enforcement and management capacity, sustainability, etc)

Assessment of potential areas and options for re-introduction of black rhinos to Zambia

(Suggested by the SADC Programme Co-ordinator)

This concept proposal would examine the wider opportunities for re-establishing a population of black rhinos in Zambia, initially considering all protected areas within past distribution/range of black rhinos, and particularly those with very large populations (i.e. more than 1,000 animals). The Luangwa NP (North and South) and Kafue NP would be candidate areas for examination. This exercise would be worthwhile prior or parallel to a detailed feasibility study focused on North Luangwa NP (above), at least to cover all options within the country, and in particular to look at the biological criteria across the Zambia PA's in advance of assessing suitability with regard to the management and protection capacity and potential of different areas.

7 NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

The primary legislation is the Zambia Wildlife Act (No. 12 of 1998) and there is also a Policy for National Parks and Wildlife in Zambia, dated 1998. Pertinent sections of the Zambia Wildlife Act are found in Annex 6.1. The Policy for National Parks and Wildlife in Zambia is found in Annex 6.2.

7.1 Penalties

There are penalties for offences involving elephant and rhinoceros are laid down in section 133 of the Act:

- i. for a first offence, to a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years but not exceeding 20 years without the option of a fine; and,
- ii. for a second or subsequent offence, to a term of imprisonment of not less than 7 years but not exceeding 25 years without the option of a fine.

If the offence involved illegal trafficking in ivory or rhinoceros horn the penalties are:

- i. for a first offence, imprisonment for not less than 7 years but not more than 20 years without the option of a fine; and,
- ii. for a second offence, imprisonment for not less than 10 years but not more than 25 years without the option of a fine.

7.2 Ownership of Rhinos

Ownership of wild animals in Zambia is vested in the President. However, where an animal has been captured lawfully in terms of a licence, ownership is vested in the licensee. A landowner has the right of use of animals on his land. This would appear to allow private ownership of rhino but would probably need to be clarified in a specific policy document. Mr Kampamba indicated that assistance from the SADCRCP could be sought to assist with formulating such a policy.

8 DATA SOURCES

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

Mr H.K. Mwima, ZAWA, Director of Operations and Research, Anglo-American Building, 74 Independence Avenue, Lusaka. Tel. 260-1-255776; Cell 097-774061. rhkmwima@mail.zamnet.zm

Mr G. Kampamba, ZAWA, Head of Research, P.Bag 1, Chilanga, Zambia. Tel. 260-1-278323; Fax. 278439; Cell. 097-774057.

Mr W. Chisulo, ZAWA, Finance Manager, Anglo-American Building, 74 Independence Avenue, Lusaka. Tel. 260-1-255776.

Mr J. Kasanga, Interim Director, Human Resources at ZAWA. Independent Management Consulting Services (IMCS), P.O. Box 30997, Lusaka. Tel. 227889

Mr C. Wakung'uma, IMCS consultant

Mr M. Faddy, Save the Rhino Trust, P.O. Box 30106, Lusaka. Tel: 260-1-225976. Fax: 260-1-226736. chinzsaf@zamnet.zm

Dr H. Jachmann, Environmental Council of Zambia, Wildlife Monitoring Unit. Tel. 260-1-254130

8.2 Documentation

Banda, W.J. and Siachibuye, C. (2000). A brief report on the rhino status and existing conservation plans. Report to Range States meeting, SADC Rhino Programme, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mwima, H.K. (1996). Sanctuary establishment and relocation of the Black Rhino in Zambia. African Rhino Specialist Group project description and funding application.

ZAWA (2000) Staff Establishment (proposed and actual) for Mosi-oa-Tunya NP, South Luangwa NP, Lower Zambezi, and Bangweulu.

Republic of Zambia (1998) The Zambia Wildlife Act, 1998 (No 12 of 1998). Supplement to the Republic of Zambia Government Gazette, 24th April, 1998.

DNPWS (1998) Policy for National Parks and Wildlife in Zambia. 30th April, 1998.

9 TRADE AND IMPORT/EXPORT OF LIVE RHINOS

9.1 CITES Management Authority

ZAWA is the CITES Management Authority and any import or export would require standard CITES documentation.

9.2 Veterinary Controls

Veterinary requirements are not certain but would certainly require quarantine and inspection in the country of origin for imports and quarantine and inspection in Zambia. The presence of Veterinary Officers in ZAWA should facilitate the procedures.

9.3 Past Imports and Exports

Full details of previous importations were not available, but have been:

- i. Five white rhino from South Africa in the early 1960s to Mosi-oa-Tunya Park at Livingstone. All these animals and their offspring died.
- ii. 6 white rhino in 1994 from South Africa to Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park at Livingstone. These were from a private land source, Sable Ranch and were probably on an exchange basis.

No live rhino have been exported from Zambia.

10 HORN STOCKS

10.1 Control, Storage and Identification

Rhino horn is held in a strong room together with ivory at the old National Parks Headquarters at Chilanga, 15km south of Lusaka.

The horns have a serial number punched into the horn and are recorded on a register which also gives the weight. Existing records do not give the source of the horn, e.g. horns cannot be identified as having come from Luangwa or Kafue.

According to Mr Kampamba there are 24 full horns with a mass of 17 kg, and 6 pieces with a mass of 2,5kg, in the strong room at Chilanga.

10.2 Involvement in AfRSG rhino horn fingerprinting project

There has been no involvement in the FP project to date.