

TANZANIA

(Task 1.2 – 1.11)

Review by Richard Emslie (AfRSG) (Country visit with Raoul du Toit (WWF SARPO) and Martin Brooks (AfRSG): June 2000)

INTRODUCTION

Two black rhino subspecies occur in Tanzania. Small populations of the eastern black rhino, *Diceros bicornis michaeli*, are conserved in Ngorongoro CAA, the Serengeti NP (Moru Kopjes and northern Serengeti NP) and Mkomazi Game Reserve, while the south-central black rhino, *D.b.minor* is restricted to areas within the Selous Game Reserve. The eastern black rhino is currently excluded from the SADC Rhino Programme and so this SADC range State review concentrates on the remaining *D.b.minor* in the Selous GR.

1 MECHANISMS FOR PLANNING AND COORDINATING NATIONAL RHINO CONSERVATION EFFORTS

1.1 Rhino Management Authority

There are three main management agencies responsible for black rhino in Tanzania. Only one agency (Tanzanian Wildlife Division) has responsibility for the *D.b.minor* in the country.

- TANAPA – Tanzania National Parks: Serengeti National Park (Moru Kopjes and northern Serengeti NP)
- Wildlife Division, Ministry of Natural Resources & Tourism: Mkomazi GR, Selous GR. This is the only authority currently managing *D.b.minor* in Tanzania
- Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority: Ngorongoro.

1.2 National Rhino Strategy

The first National Plan was completed in 1993, following a stakeholder's workshop convened at Arusha. There were problems with implementation of the first plan. Despite funding having been secured, it took a long period before the first rhino co-ordinator (Max Morgan-Davies) was appointed. As Morgan-Davies worked under WWF and other donors were funding other elements of the programme, there were problems with co-ordination of a national rhino programme. Despite Morgan-Davies' Terms of Reference as National Co-ordinator, some regarded him only as a rhino co-ordinator for the Wildlife Division, and this view was perhaps reinforced by the fact that most of Morgan-Davies' field work was based in the Selous GR.

A revised and updated National Plan was drafted in 1998, following a workshop convened at Morogoro (Annex 8.1). This plan was a great improvement upon the initial plan, but unfortunately still has to be officially endorsed by being signed by the minister. All stakeholders, including all three management agencies and the main sponsors, were represented at Morogoro, including outside technical expertise. Unfortunately there has been some inertia since then.

The 1998 National Plan clearly needs ratification and use as a guide for planning future conservation actions. At the timing of writing, the document is with the heads of the three rhino management authorities for review. After drafting, the then Tanzanian rhino co-ordinator Max Morgan-Davies passed it to the Director of Wildlife, who then passed it to the Ministry. At that time, Mr Emmanuel Severre (then Permanent Secretary in the Ministry) forwarded the plan to the heads of all relevant bodies (listed above). Mr Severre has since been appointed Director of Wildlife and is awaiting comments back from heads of the other two agencies (TANAPA and NCAA), on reception of which the plan can be passed to the Minister for signature. There has also been a change in Director-General of TANAPA (now Mr Melamari). In order to expedite the process, it was suggested that Mr Severre could write to the heads of the two other agencies to state that if no comments have been received by a certain date he would assume their no objection. Tanzania is in a similar position to South Africa with a number of state rhino management authorities. However it is critical that the revised plan is formally endorsed as soon as possible.

1.3 Action Planning

The revised Policy and Management Plan for the black rhinoceros, *Diceros bicornis*, in Tanzania (Annex 8.1) contains specific indicators of progress, and specifies some timings for actions. As described above, the one impediment is that the revised plan still has to be formally ratified by the Minister.

1.4 Coordination Mechanisms

The major highest-level committee is the Rhino Conservation Steering Committee, made up of the heads of TANAPA, the Wildlife Division, the NCAA, and the head of Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRA). This committee has not yet convened.

The action committee is the Rhino Management Committee, of which Mr Maige, as rhino co-ordinator, is Chairman. It is comprised of the technical co-ordinator for Selous (Friedrich Alpers, once appointed as Kidai technical advisor), plus Mr Melita (Acting Chief Manager, Management of Natural Resources, NCAA), the Serengeti Sector Warden, Mr Msumi (for Moru Kopjes), and possibly Mr Jacko Ackermann (northern Serengeti NP). Further details of the structure and function of the coordinating and management committees can be found in Annex 8.1.

Mr Maige has convened one meeting so far of Rhino Management Committee, to decide on 1999-2000 annual budget/workplan. The committee has not yet discussed standardized reporting procedures. To date it has only prioritised activities, and developed a rough idea of budgets to forward to the agencies that are funding rhino conservation at each site. In the absence of meetings of the RCSC, the RMC has therefore acted as the only planning body. The current action plan ends in June 2000 (the Wildlife Division have July-June financial year), and a plan must soon be developed for 2000-2001.

1.5 Focal Point

Mr Matthew Maige is the Tanzanian Rhino Co-ordinator, and is based at the Wildlife Division in Dar-es-Salaam. He is also the Tanzanian Country Representative on the AfRSG, and, although not formally confirmed as Tanzanian SADC representative, he represented Tanzania at the SADC Range States meeting. He is likely to be nominated by the Director of Wildlife to be the official SADC rhino representative for Tanzania.

1.6 Potential for facilitation by SADC rhino programme

In order to expedite progress with action planning and implementation, both the SADC Rhino Co-ordinator and the Chairman of IUCN SSC AfRSG could write to Mr Maige, Mr Severre, Mr Melamari, Mr Chausi, and possibly the Minister, encouraging Tanzania to formally ratify the 1998 rhino conservation plan.

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

2.1 Co-ordination with other range states

The movement of rhinos in and out of Tanzania has so far been restricted to *D.b.michaeli*. The agreement with South Africa for this rhino subspecies is informal. Plans of the FZS (e.g. for sending zoo rhinos to SA) are also informal. Four black rhino have so far been introduced to Mkomazi GR, and 2 black rhino were introduced (successfully) to the Ngorongoro Crater. All six animals came from Addo NP in South Africa. The orphaned bull "Richard" from Ngorongoro was moved to Addo NP to add new blood. More translocations of *D.b.michaeli* are planned to Mkomazi GR from Addo NP in 2000. NCCA have "declined" more translocations into Ngorongoro Crater. NCAA staff suggest that Addo NP rhinos are not used to predators, and so they stay in forest where they are difficult to monitor. Kenya has informally been approached as a possible source of more rhinos, and Tanzania is trying to formalize with KWS for some transfers of rhinos. One individual *D.b.minor* has been sent to South Africa by Frankfurt Zoo (from Zimbabwe parents) – and another is going to be sent in future.

Tanzania is a "very active" member of Lusaka Protocol – but not much has resulted from it since its task force is not fully operational, as all countries have not yet ratified the protocol. Tanzania feels that it is paying its dues but "are the greatest losers" because they are getting little or nothing in return. They are hoping that the SADC Wildlife Protocol will become the umbrella agreement in force (although this would exclude Kenya). There is no formal agreement with Mozambique, although there is some cross-border law enforcement.

2.2 Existing commitments with other SADC range states

There is an agreement in place to catch 50 Niassa wildebeest for Malawi, and this was concluded between the respective presidents of Malawi and Tanzania. The animals were to be caught in the Selous GR by SANP, who had indicated to the Tanzanian Wildlife Division and Tanzanian Rhino Co-ordinator that while they were in the Selous GR they would be prepared to assist rhino conservation efforts in the reserve through provision of some helicopter time and possibly loan of experienced trackers who could undertake some patrolling in the Lukuliro area. The proposed capture of the wildebeest has been postponed in order to formalise the agreement between the presidents on paper. As a result, any possible assistance from SANP has had to be postponed to next year (2001).

3 RHINO POPULATION STATUS

3.1 Summary Statistics on rhino numbers, distribution and trends

TANZANIA (3 subspecies)			AREA	RC/PE	PR	SG	TOT	TREND	DENS
<i>(D.b. michaeli)</i>									
Mkomazi Game Reserve	NP	Sp	45 km ²	4			4	Stable	0.089
Serengeti		S	14 763 km ²						
- Area 1				3			3	Down?	
- Area 2				7		(2)	7	Up	
Ngorongoro Conservation Area		S	8 288 km ²	18		(2)	18	Up	
			23 096 km ²	32		(2)	32	Up	
(Subtotal <i>D.b. michaeli</i>)									
<i>(D.b. minor)</i>									
Selous Game Reserve		S	55 000 km ²	6		(1)	6	Stable?	
- Area 1					9	(6+)	9	?	
- Area 2				6	9	(7+)	15	?	
(Subtotal <i>D.b. minor</i>)									
			55 000 km ²	38	9	(9+)	47	Up?	
Total All subspecies			78 096 km²						

In the Kidai area 5 rhinos are known to exist North of the Rufiji River (including the Beho Beho area). While the review team was visiting Sand Rivers, the Tanzanian Wildlife Division Pilot saw a rhino just South of the Rufiji River. There may possibly be one other rhino in this area. This gives an estimate of 6 rhinos for the Kidai area, with guesstimate of another single animal.

In the Lukuliro area there has recently been one confirmed sighting from the area, but based on Dung DNA ID work by Max Morgan-Davies and Coleen O’Ryan there was an estimated minimum of 9 different rhinos. There certainly could be a lot more rhinos in this area. Consequently, the estimate of 15 rhinos for the Selous GR is a minimum estimate and the true number of rhinos may be much greater. Hassan Sachedina estimates that based on previous work there may also be 5-8 rhino in the Horogwe area and 3-4 rhino in the Nahomba area. Sachedina’s 1999 estimate for the Selous was 23-24.

3.2 Population monitoring and reporting

Patrols in the Kidai area have been looking for rhino spoor and been making occasional opportunistic sightings. Surveys were carried out by Max Morgan-Davies in the Lukuliro area, and rhino dung samples were collected and their DNA analysed in an attempt to determine the exact number of rhinos. Annex 8.2 contains a report on this work. Problems with plant inhibitors resulted in this approach being only partially successful.

While in the Selous GR the SADC review team was able to go on patrol with the Kidai guards. It was clear that monitoring of rhinos and their sign could be improved by (a), improving search patterns to increase return per unit effort and increase overall coverage; (b), using and developing skilled trackers to follow up spoor to try to get visual sightings of animals; and (c), considering sweeping some tracks on some key game paths with suitable substrates to facilitate getting good spoor records.

Rhino poaching was last recorded in the Selous GR in 1994. Formal records are kept in the form of Patrol Observation Sheets (POBS) of poaching incidents and arrests. Records of charges and sentences are also kept.

3.3 Requirements for surveys and monitoring

Further Dung DNA ID work is required to resolve the problem of plant inhibitors. When this has been done, dung samples can be ID’d and the RHINO programme could be used to estimate numbers. The efforts of the SADC rhino programme in this regard should ensure they dovetail with existing initiatives by IRF to fund such research in the Selous GR.

The Kidai rhino project will continue to survey for rhinos and sign. However the SADC review team identified the need to use specialized trackers and to follow up spoor to try to see the animals. In addition searching and patrolling sampling strategies could be improved to increase spoor/animal encounter rate.

4 MANPOWER AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR RHINO CONSERVATION

4.1 Anti-poaching resources

In the Selous GR (Area: 50,240 km²), the total security staff complement is ca. 330, with 10% at any one time not truly operational (i.e. back in stations). These men are deployed in 7 sectors (an 8th area is soon to be added, and probably to 9 are required), each headed by a Game Warden and Assistant Game Warden with university degrees or diplomas. The remainder start as field assistants and become game scouts after one year intensive training. Senior game scouts have obtained the certificate after a rigorous one-month training course that is undertaken in the Selous, handled in-house by the wardens. Mr Benson Kibonde co-ordinates the wardens and is based in Dar-es-Salaam.

The Selous GR budget, excluding salaries, is US\$1,5 m provided direct from the government, which represents close to 50% of the government accrued revenue retained from the Selous (from hunting and tourism).

Vehicles: This varies from station to station, each having a minimum of 3 4x4 vehicles, and some as many as 7. There are 32 vehicles in the Game Reserve that are used for security work. Each station also has a lorry, with about another 3 in support in Dar.

Salaries:	Game scouts	TShs 55 000 pm}	Gross salary before tax
	Senior scouts	TShs 65 000 pm}	Additional benefits include pension
	Asst. Warden	Kshs 90 000 pm}	plus TShs10,000 per day on patrol

As part of an elephant and rhino project funded by WWF in the eastern sector, there are 25 WWF-employed field Rangers. Most of these Rangers operate in the Kingupira/Lukuliro area, with a few in the Kidai area. It has been agreed that the government will take on their salaries at the end of a four-year period (in two years time).

The Selous GR is understaffed in terms of its ability to protect the rhino subpopulations effectively, while still securing the remaining areas. The Park Warden Mr Kibonde feels that the optimum staffing level is probably about 600.

4.2 Expertise available for specialised aspects of rhino management

Monitoring – currently advice is received from the Rhino Co-ordinator.

Capture – There is no expertise available for rhino capture at present, and this would depend on provision of a wildlife vet and capture team from outside Tanzania. Titus Melengeya is a vet based with TANAPA in the Serengeti NP, and he has been involved with rhino work. However for the Selous NP, Mr Kibonde indicated they would still depend upon an external vet for rhino work, as Dr Melengeya did not yet have sufficient rhino experience. Dr Melengeya could be used in a supportive capacity (to add to his experience), and in an emergency.

Ecological CC – currently advice is received through the Rhino Co-ordinator, although this expertise is not available in Tanzania.

Rhino tracking and radio-tracking – no specialised expertise is available in Tanzania.

4.3 Specialised equipment available for rhino management

Specialised equipment for capture/relocation: There is a four-wheel-drive Mercedes-Benz recovery truck in working condition at Ngorongoro. This has lifted rhinos and crates during the movement of rhinos from Seronera (Serengeti NP) to Ngorongoro. The NCAA has two rhino crates. There is concern that the present mechanic at Ngorongoro may not be available, so ongoing maintenance of this truck is uncertain.

The Faith Foundation also donated a rhino truck, which has a crane. This truck is in Iringa where "someone with the workshop is looking after it", and it is "probably better to assume that this truck does not exist". It was suggested that it would be a good idea to try to get hold of this truck and base it in the northern Selous (e.g. at Stiegler's Gorge Camp), where it could be kept undercover and under control

5 PARTICIPATION OF NON-STATE AGENCIES IN RHINO CONSERVATION

5.1 Community Involvement

According to Mr Kibonde there are no formal Wildlife Division programmes as such linked to rhino in the Selous GR, although occasionally the Wildlife Division gets information from individuals who can be rewarded.

Both GTZ and WWF have community approaches, but these do not specifically focus on rhinos. GTZ's Dr Siege has found it impossible to do anything constructive with one major hostile community of traditional poachers and feels that "no programme can keep them out of that". The EU project for the Selous GR was intended to have some community component but this is at a vague level of "if the possibility arises, informers will be used". The African Development Bank has a big programme in the Selous, involving communities on the eastern side. They are commissioning a socio-economic survey to decide what community programme should be developed.

5.2 Local and International NGO Involvement

Local NGOs: Sand Rivers Rhino Project - Government linkage with and approval of this project is through a memorandum of understanding. Total EU funding for the project is 616 000EU (ca. US\$750 000) over two years, and will come through GTZ. An EU expert will lead the programme (Friedrich Alpers), but will be answerable to a Warden (attached fulltime to the project) through to the Director of the Wildlife Division.

International NGO's:

GTZ is directly linked as disbursement organ for the Selous Programme, but also provides support of technical nature for conservation.

WWF's Elephant & Rhino Programme operates in the in eastern Sector of the Selous GR, including the Lukuliro section. Financial support is provided for the project executant (Mr Malima). Budget ±US\$200,000 per year. This pays for 25 WWF employed Rangers, and a ranger of post may have been constructive south of Lukuliro. There is also provision for some equipment. The project is also addressing community-based activity in collaboration with GTZ (but not with rhino as a specific focus).

FZS is currently supporting conservation of *D.b.michaeli* in Serengeti NP and NCAA.

Save the Rhino International is putting some money into Mkomazi GR and the Sand Rivers rhino project in the Selous GR. At Kidai they have helped with construction of a ranger post and pay the salary of a retired guard who now works at Kidai.

5.3 Private Sector Involvement

There is no private sector involvement with conservation of *D.b.minor* (there are no private game ranchers). Selous GR is the only *D.b.minor* population in Tanzania. Private individuals have been involved with support for the conservation efforts in Mkomazi Game Reserve (*D.b.michaeli*).

6 PROPOSED PROJECTS

Technical support to the Selous rhino project

The SADC rhino programme co-ordinator could be included in management planning for rhinos in the Selous GR, and could attend regular meetings and help identify sources of expertise within the SADC region that could assist rhino conservation efforts in the Selous GR.

Improved sampling design of patrols and patrolling techniques is recommended, along with a trial evaluation of the utility of using specialised trackers to follow-up spoor in order to obtain visual sightings of animals. It has been suggested that Zimbabwe DNPWLM Warden Norman English and his expert trackers be used for this purpose, with the possible additional use of SANP expert trackers during the proposed capture of Niassa wildebeest in the Selous GR

During the SADC review team's visit to the Selous GR, it was apparent that the failure of a previous project executant in the Selous to follow standard channels of communication with the Wildlife Division and the Tanzanian rhino co-ordinator created a number of problems. This ended up with the executant leaving the Selous and the selection of a new technical advisor for the proposed EU rhino project. During the review, a protocol for communications and import of technical advice was discussed with the Tanzania rhino co-ordinator, with a view to preventing similar problems occurring in future. It was indicated that all communications should in future be sent to the Director of Wildlife, but that any notes and correspondence should be copied directly to the rhino co-ordinator since he is the official representative to SADC and the AfRSG. The new EU technical expert, Friedrich Alpers, should keep the rhino co-ordinator informed regarding all correspondence and communications. It was agreed to that the AfRSG, WWF, and SADC rhino programme can respond to whoever communicates regarding SADC programme activities in the Selous GR, but must send copies of any correspondence to the SADC rhino co-ordinator (Rob Brett), the Tanzanian rhino co-ordinator (Mathew Maige), as well as Friedrich Alpers and/or whoever else requested the communication or advice.

Finally, there is need for further development of dung DNA monitoring techniques, perhaps using the Selous as a test area and co-ordinating with initiatives in this field by the IRF.

7 NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

Rhinos are protected as National Game under the Wildlife Conservation Act (No 12) of 1974, the National Game Order (No 274) of 1974, the Wildlife Conservation (Capture of Animals) Regulations (No 278) of 1974, and the Economic & Organised Crime Act (No 13) of 1984. A summary of the wildlife legislation for Tanzania, with species-specific details, is provided in Annex 8.3.

7.1 Penalties

Poaching carries a minimum of 10 years imprisonment, up to a maximum of 30 years, or a fine of 10 times the sport-hunting value of the rhino. These penalties are potentially a major deterrent to would-be rhino poachers. Wardens can fine up to 50 000/- for minor offences in protected areas (e.g. illegal entry).

7.2 Ownership of Rhinos

Apart from the clause stating that possession of 'government trophy' is illegal (this including CITES animals, and consequently rhinos) there are no clear provisions in the 1974 Wildlife Act for private ownership of wildlife, including rhinos. A consultancy report on ranching of wildlife has been undertaken by Malte Sommerlatte.

8 DATA SOURCES

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

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Mr John Corse
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8.2 Documentation

- Policy and management plan for Tanzania (Annex 8.1)
- General Management Plan for Selous
- Legislation – Wildlife Conservation Act 1974

9 TRADE AND IMPORT/EXPORT OF LIVE RHINOS

9.1 CITES Management Authority

The Wildlife Division is the Tanzanian CITES authority.

9.2 Veterinary Controls

Export certificates for black rhinos need to be signed by the Director and Chief Research Officer of the Wildlife Division. No specific information on veterinary requirements was available.

9.3 Past Imports and Exports

The only live trade to date has been in *D.b.michaeli* to and from South Africa.

10 HORN STOCKS

10.1 Control, Storage and Identification

Horn stocks recovered by the Wildlife Division are stored in Dar-es-Salaam, and those from Ngorongoro in a safe at Ngorongoro. TRAFFIC's Simon Milledge has been provided with information on Tanzania's horn stocks. Horns are marked with a number, which shows the district of origin and year of recovery. For example Mo/3/2000 is the third horn of year 2000 from the Morogoro district. However to be of use for horn fingerprinting, more detail information about the exact source of the horn is required. The need for development an audit trail for individual rhino horns was identified.

10.2 Involvement in AfRSG rhino horn fingerprinting project

Despite support for the project received by the AfRSG from the then Tanzanian country representative, the previous Director of Wildlife (Mr Mbano), and the then Acting Director of Wildlife (Mr Lyimo), no samples have been obtained to date from Tanzania. Arrangements had been made through Mr Mbano and Mr Lyimo for an AfRSG representative visiting Tanzania to go to Ngorongoro to cut horn samples, and then to transport the samples directly to the AfRSG offices in South Africa. All the necessary CITES permits were issued and the South African CITES import permit was made out to the NCAA. However, when the AfRSG's representative arrived at Ngorongoro, the Conservator refused him access to the horns and so no samples were collected.

Following further discussions during the SADC review, Mr Melita was positive. Unfortunately, it was not possible for the team to discuss the issue with NCAA Conservator directly. Mr Lyimo indicated that the exact origin of current horns in storage in Dar-es-Salaam could not be ascertained, and therefore none could be used for fingerprinting. Consequently, Tanzania still agrees in principle to supply samples from horns of known origin for fingerprinting. The Tanzanian rhino co-ordinator can co-ordinate the provision of these samples.