

SADC REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR RHINO CONSERVATION

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON BIOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR THE BLACK RHINO IN NORTH WEST NAMIBIA

Palmwag Lodge, Kunene Region
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WORKSHOP REPORT

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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.

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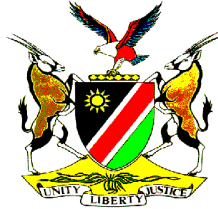
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Kunene black rhino population serves as a strategic flagship resource both for the conservation of biological diversity and for improving livelihoods, through ecotourism, on communal land in northwest Namibia. These rhino range over some 20,000 km² of largely unoccupied semi-arid communal land between the Skeleton Coast Park and the communal farming areas. Poached to near extinction in the 1970's appropriate conservation measures have since led to a steady increase in rhino numbers. The monitoring and recovery of these desert-dwelling rhino represents an important example, or model, of a successful partnership between Government; NGO's; communities; and, tourism concession holders in rhino conservation in the SADC Region. However, new challenges face the area, particularly the need to secure regional buy-in of meta-population goals for the country.
2. The historical impact of poor rainfall, and increased competition for browse, compounded by the escalating numbers of other wildlife species, highlights the need to consider manipulation of the population in areas where growth is below 5%, or likely to be heavily impacted by the onset of drier conditions. Differences in performance were recorded between two of the optimum habitats. In Zone 3, with historically higher poaching and where rhinos were translocated out in 1989, performance indicators were good. In Zone 6, with similar habitat but no removals and less poaching (poaching per rhino present), poor calving intervals and calving ratios per adult female suggest density-dependent factors limit growth and health of the population¹.
3. This report presents the proceedings of a workshop to disseminate the findings of a study, completed by the research section of Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) at the request of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and the SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation: Semester 4-5 Task 5.3-1. This explores the interactions of rural livelihoods, ecotourism, and biological management in a free ranging population of black rhino. A total of 63 delegates attended the workshop including: SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation representatives; the MET rhino co-ordinator; wardens from the Directorate of Scientific Services, Parks and Wildlife Management and the sub-division of the CBNRM unit; traditional leaders; committee members and field officers from all 12 conservancies bordering the Kunene range area of the black rhino; non-governmental organisations; and, the tourism concession holders falling on the Kunene range.
4. The participants reached general consensus that **biological management of rhino in Kunene is needed, as long as communities benefit appropriately**. Several options of biological management have been suggested, focusing **first on translocation to neighbouring communities, then within Namibia, then within the historical range in SADC and lastly consumptive use**. Useful actions and tasks have been agreed upon to implement these various options. Organisers of the workshop were urged to speed up the process and to ensure real results. A representative committee was formed to review the draft workshop report on 24th March 2004. Various participants expressed real satisfaction with the process and outcome of the workshop.

¹ Hearn, M.E. (2003) *Assessment of Biological and Human Factors Limiting The West Kunene Rhino Population*. A report for the IUCN SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Windhoek, Namibia.

1.1 General Introduction

The map displays the geographical distribution of the West Kunene Rhino Range (hatched area) and the Protected Area Network (green area) in Namibia. The Kunene range is situated along the Atlantic coast within the Kunene and Erongo regions. The Protected Area Network is more extensive, covering parts of Kunene, Erongo, Karas, Hardap, Otjozondjupa, Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena, and Kunene. The map also shows the Atlantic Ocean to the west and an inset map of Africa highlighting Namibia's location. A scale bar indicates distances up to 200 km, and a north arrow is present.

The Kunene black rhino population serves as a strategic flagship resource both for the conservation of biological diversity and for improving livelihoods, through ecotourism, in these areas. The success of this rhino conservation programme has already had far reaching implications for the conservation of wildlife resources and rural development in the region. However, to realise the goal of sustainable natural resource management there is a need to reconcile aspects of biological meta-population management of black rhino with development goals for communities. This will ensure the appropriate social, economic and biological management requirements are in place to meet meta-population goals for the national population of black rhino while maximising benefits to neighbouring communities.

1.2 Decline and Status of the Black Rhino in Kunene

1.2.1 Introduction

The desert-dwelling black rhino are typical of a population that have been poached to near extinction and are now showing a recovery in numbers following the successful implementation of appropriate conservation measures. In 1970 the population stood at approximately 300 animals. Poaching and heavy drought in the early eighties reduced the population to approximately 60 animals in 1982. Appropriate conservation measures introduced at this time have since led to a steady increase in rhino numbers. The monitoring and recovery of these rhino represents an important example, or model, of a successful partnership between the Ministry of Environment and Tourism; regional government; traditional authorities; community leaders; non-governmental organisations; tourism concession holders; and, more recently through the emerging conservancy programme in northwest Namibia.

These rhino range over some 20,000 km² of largely unoccupied semi-arid communal land between the Skeleton Coast Park and the communal farming areas. The density, breeding performance and ranging patterns of black rhino in Kunene are influenced by the variable geology and its impact on soil development, the vegetation types and access to water. This is compounded further by the very low rainfall (<150mm per annum), which is unreliable and patchily distributed. Further influences come from human-induced disturbance (HID), chance events, and demographic effects in small sub-populations.

1.2.2 Rhino Performance Indicators across Range Area

Differences in the availability of surface water, geology, topography and forage in Kunene result in variations in the density of black rhino. The highest densities of black rhino are associated with the mountainous basalt areas of the range. Differences in population performance have been recorded across two of these optimum habitats (Zones 3 and 6). In the area with higher poaching and off-take, Zone 3, performance indicators suggest density-dependent factors limit growth and health of the population. Differences between female calving intervals also exist across each Ecozone. This suggests that in sites where female home range is increased relative to the availability of resources recruitment rates are reduced. Comparing Zones 3 and 6, the ratio of males to females is 0.67 and 1.18 respectively, indicating that density-dependent factors as well as a male bias could have major implications on future performance. This would be amplified should there be a drought in the region, resulting in a dramatic decline in breeding performance.

1.3 Objectives

This report presents the proceedings of a workshop to disseminate the findings of a study undertaken by the research section of the Save the Rhino Trust (SRT). The study was completed at the request of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and the SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation, Semester 4-5 Task 5.3-1.1, to act as a case study for understanding interactions of rural livelihoods, ecotourism, and biological management in a free ranging population of black rhino.

The workshop focused on the biological management intervention strategies needed in Kunene to meet meta-population management goals. The workshop aims were as follows:

- disseminating the key findings of a study, implemented by the SRT, assessing the human and biological impacts on the Kunene black rhino population;

- enhancing community participation in rhino management in northwest Namibia through a consultative workshop to make recommendations on biological management needs; and,
- improving the technical capacity for rhino management by developing a MET and community-driven programme for the biological management of the black rhino in northwest Namibia.

PART 2: WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS.

2.1 General Introduction

Invitations, a copy of which is included in Appendix One, were sent to all stakeholders. The attendance at the meeting is listed in Appendix Two, with the majority of invited guests attending. The SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation was represented by Dr. Rob Brett and Mr. Raoul du Toit. The MET was represented by: the rhino-coordinator, Mr. Pierre du Preez; regional representation from the Directorate of Scientist Services; Kunene Region wardens from the Directorate of Parks and Wildlife and the sub-division of the CBNRM Unit. Local representation included: field officers and committee representatives from all 12 of the conservancies bordering, or falling on the Kunene range area of the black rhino; traditional authorities and leaders from these areas; the Honourable Regional Governor and Local Councillors; non-governmental organisations operating in the area (NACOBTA, IRDNC & SRT); and the two tourism concession holders falling in the Kunene range area. Only two traditional leaders were unable to attend the meeting: Johannes Basson, from the Bersig area, was receiving treatment in hospital on the days of the workshop and transport was unavailable for Japie Uararavi to travel from the Puros area.

The workshop was held at “the cottage” at Palmwag Lodge in Kunene Region on the 3rd and 4th March 2004. Accommodation was arranged for the Regional Governor and Traditional Leaders at Palmwag Lodge. The SRT Rhino Centre hosted other delegates and provided evening meals for all those attending. A total of 63 delegates attended the meeting (Appendix Two). A further 35 remained for the field trip, on the 5th March, to the Palmwag Rhino Camp (Appendix Six). The Rhino Camp opened in April 2003 and is a joint venture between SRT and Wilderness Safaris with the goal of using tourism to help pay for the monitoring costs of rhino conservation. The venture also has far reaching impacts on Kunene’s local communal farmers, creating jobs and diversifying career opportunities. Already two of SRT’s trackers are training at Rhino Camp to become guides for Wilderness Safaris. The camp acts as a remote research camp for SRT from where the breeding performance; rhino condition; rainfall; and, habitat conditions can be monitored by the daily outings.



Figure 2. Participants in a stakeholder workshop on biological management options for the Kunene black rhino in northwest Namibia

2.2 Opening and Welcome

2.2.1 Meeting started at 0840hrs: Prayer

The pastor, Sesfontein Councillor Thr. Hendrichs, opened proceedings with a prayer. Translators were appointed: Fredrich ||Hawaxab from the Sesfontein Conservancy; and, Betholdt Kandjii from MET Opuwo. Assistance with translating was also provided by Obed Hambo, Ephraim Thaniseb and Jermain Ketjii.

2.2.2 The Honourable Governor Simson Tjongarero

The Governor of Kunene Region welcomed guests and appointed the Councillor from Sesfontein, Theodore Hendrichs, to represent the Office of the Regional Governor. However, being a trustee of the SRT his personal interest in this programme means he was keen to attend the first day's proceedings. At a smaller meeting last year, for the Darwin Initiative's Steering committee, the Governor outlined how this had reviewed the research findings of this programme; discussed the management of rhino; given direction on research; and, given guidance on the inputs to achieve representation of local interests.

For this longer meeting, the Governor emphasised its importance and his hope to see concrete decisions for future management. The time allowed, and stakeholders present, will give sufficient time to look further forward. To allow a balanced plan, the Governor mentioned a need to reflect on where we have come from, in terms of the black rhino programme. To tackle the challenges and dreams for the future, delegates must look 5years, 10 years, or even 20 years into the future.

The Governor stressed that sustainable development be incorporated into this vision and that the guiding document would be strengthened by the representation of leaders and fellow countrymen present. The Governor ended by thanking SRT; the other organisations involved in sponsoring this meeting; the government officials; the facilitators that will assist us in meeting our expectations and dreams from this plan; and, delegates present that will be steering a way forward for the conservation of black rhino in Kunene. The Governor stressed his belief that with all those gathered today, we would receive global recognition for what we accomplish today – with this he declared the meeting open.

2.2.3 Presentation of Workshop Objectives

Bertus Kruger, facilitator for the meeting, welcomed delegates and introduced the groups present at the meeting:

- 1. Traditional and Elected Leadership**
- 2. Conservancy Leadership in resource management issues**
- 3. Tourism concession holders**
- 4. Support Service Groups such as MET and NGO's**

Bertus Kruger then outlined the goals of this meeting as follows:

- Sharing knowledge**
- Consultation on views**
- A plan to move forward in the appropriate direction**

Continuing with the agenda, Bertus Kruger outlined the presentations to be given: continental perspective on rhino conservation; exploring the national rhino programme; and, focusing on Kunene research findings regarding the black rhino.

A series of questions were posed to delegates to serve as an ice breaker and to set the scene for the rest of the workshop. These questions include:

- 1. How do we see the future of black rhino?**
- 2. Should numbers increase?**
- 3. What is the direction we should take and how do we reach consensus on a common vision?**
- 4. What options and possibilities exist for us to reach these goals?**

As a final note, Bertus Kruger stressed, *“The structure of the workshop is to allow everyone a voice in this process through plenary and group work sessions.”*

2.3 Presentations

2.3.1 African View on Rhino Conservation

2.3.1.1 Presentation by Mr. Raoul Du Toit, (WWF Zimbabwe)

The presentation gave a background on where rhinos occur; the physical differences of black and white rhino; and, the impact of poaching and the resulting change in distribution. The driving forces behind rhino poaching were described, highlighting that locally very little of the published value of rhino horn is realised from poaching, *“The value of rhino is realised through good management.”* An example from Botswana’s reintroduction of rhino, as a SADC regional programme, was highlighted to describe the role of the SADC programme. The concept of biological management was outlined: its impacts on growth of black rhino; the impact on vegetation; and, the role of translocations to maximise growth. The role of extension work was presented and in referring back to the Grootberg meeting he emphasised that consensus was reached that growth of rhinos numbers was a priority. In speaking about biological management Mr. Du Toit finished by stressing, *“Biological management of rhino is similar to livestock farming principles, something everyone in this room is aware of.”* For a summary of the slides used in the presentation see Appendix Three.

2.3.1.2 Questions

In response to the presentation, the following questions, comments and answers were entertained:

Obed (Committee member), Anabeb Conservancy: In translocation of animals, say to South Africa, should the animal die, what would happen?

Du Toit: This would be a failure. In moving rhinos we need to consider why and where to take them to ensure they have good habitat and the area is secure. We should spend as much time considering where we take them to, as we do where we take them from.

uNAIBEB (Field Officer), Dora !Nawas Conservancy: rhinos have been translocated to other parts of the world. Why have we not considered parts of Namibia prior to other parts of the world.



Figure 3. Delegates during presentations and discussions on biological management options and case-studies

rdTOIT (WWF), Zimbabwe: Spreading the risk allows us to not have all our “eggs in one basket”. Examples were given on what happened in Zambia and should all the rhinos be here, the species would have been lost. This gives you options that allow you to “trade” rhinos to support rhino conservation programmes.

aUARIJE (Field Officer), Omatendeka Conservancy: First you need to reintroduce these rhinos into the conservancy areas where they used to occur. The Kunene Region has not reached the carrying capacity yet. Namibia and Kunene should be first. You cannot give food away while your kids at home are hungry.

rdTOIT (WWF), Zimbabwe: I agree and it is not one or the other, you should first prioritise – you are right. However, with the options available, continental goals can also be met.

2.3.2 Namibian Perspective on Rhino Conservation Programme

2.3.2.1 Presentation by Mr. Pierre du Preez, MET Rhino Co-ordinator for Namibia.

Pierre, as the senior scientist for MET, began by outlining the process behind the translocation of black rhino to Botswana (mentioned in rdTOIT’s presentation) – this was a gift from the President of Namibia, originally it had been two and later increased for conservation goals.

Introducing his talk, pdPREEZ stressed the importance to see Kunene in the national perspective when developing a vision for management of black rhino in Kunene. As background, the vision for the Namibian rhino strategy was outlined. Collaboration across the continent was highlighted in the conservation of the white rhino, and the lesson’s learnt from this joint

programme. Illegal trade was outlined and how the sub-species occurring in Namibia (*Diceros bicornis bicornis*), is distributed across range states. pdPREEZ outlined the numbers of rhino in the country, between each population, stressing that these figures are confidential and should be treated in an appropriate manner. Here, he highlighted the levelling off of growth of the Kunene population, when compared to that of Etosha National Park.

Biological management principles were outlined in greater detail, including: Maximum Sustainable Yield; Ecological Carrying Capacity; and, that managing at a level that the habitat can sustain gives the best growth. Examples from the National Programme were used to illustrate these concepts. To reach the vision, examples of different growth levels were used to stress the importance of investing in biological management. Also, how this would provide a buffer against poaching; and, would minimise loss of genetic diversity.

Examples of populations of rhino in South Africa, where a delay in investing in biological management resulted in slow growth from 1998, were used to show the loss in the number of rhino occurring in these populations now. The outcome of exceeding carrying capacity, and the resulting loss of rhinos, was described. Here, biological management was described as a mean of investing, with interest building up on the initial capital. To display this, examples were given where populations of rhinos have “eaten” into resources. This factor results as the availability of food and water (resources) is reduced by the increasing number of rhinos, resulting in the condition of animals reducing, which in turn impacts breeding and rhino population growth levels.

The presentation then discussed what factors have a negative effect on a population growth? This included: impact of skew sex ratios on growth; and, how mortalities can reduce growth at different age categories. Indicators of how to measure growth were outlined: calf ratios per cow were outlined and the example of Kunene was used where cows have increased but the number of calves has not proportionally increased. The concept of calving intervals was outlined, giving examples from the SADC region – with an indicator of good breeding being a 2.5 year interval. Pictures of animals in different conditions were used to explain how a reduction in the availability of food can impact calving and the growth of the population.

The role of monitoring, and the use of this information to allow informed decisions on developing biological management strategies were outlined. This stressed the importance of the discussions and planning process we are going through now. In conclusion an example of the successes achieved with the white rhino programme at Waterberg Plateau Park, by incorporating biological management, was shown. For a summary of the slides used in the presentation see Appendix Four.

2.3.2.2 Questions

The following questions, comments and answers were entertained:

bROMAN (Torra Conservancy): Does Kunene not get recognition for assisting in the spreading of rhinos and the increase in numbers?

pdPREEZ (MET), Rhino Co-ordinator: Correct, these rhinos were moved in the 1960's to Etosha and the last translocation took place in 1989. Looking forward, we see this process as continuing on the ground made at the Grootberg meeting in November 2001 and the steering committee meetings of the Darwin Initiative Programme.

Chief LKASAONA (Traditional leadership), Warmquella area: During the presentation the figures indicated the increase of rhino numbers in Etosha is faster in comparison to Kunene. What is the reason for this discrepancy?

pdPREEZ (MET), Rhino Co-ordinator: The increase in Etosha is more because of the increased knowledge of all the people involved. Mike will explore this issue further in his talk.

rdTOIT (WWF), Zimbabwe: As an outsider, the issue that growth is slowing in Kunene is a not a failure, it is an indication that the programme has been an incredible success. Management is an active process that all those involved can be proud of.

rLOUTIT: (SRT), Trustee: Also, to add to Pierre, and give further clarity to the Chief, Etosha has been the main donor population and the stimulation of the population has resulted into the increase in numbers.

2.3.3 Kunene Status and Results of SRT Study

2.3.3.1 Presentation by Mr. Michael Hearn, SRT Director of Research

This presentation disseminated the results of the report: Assessment of Biological and Human Factors Limiting the West Kunene Rhino Population, Semester 4-5 Task 5.3-1.1 (Hearn, 2003). A background of the conservation efforts was presented, discussing the suite of approaches undertaken by community, government and private sector stakeholders in the successful conservation of the Kunene black rhino. Unique aspects of this population were outlined. This included this population representing one of only four unreconstructed populations of black rhino in the world – where no rhino have been reintroduced to supplement the population – others include: the remaining animals in Cameroon; the Masai Mara population in Kenya; and, the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park population in South Africa.

Current monitoring methods used to assess population performance and distribution were outlined, highlighting the role of SRT teams in gaining access to the often rugged terrain by often innovative means, such as the Camel team based from the village of Khowarib. This highlighted the role of community-based teams in undertaking patrols to monitor the black rhino, emphasising the important role of community members in this conservation programme.

The distribution of rhinos across the range was presented, indicating the ecological factors that impact the population. Home ranges of rhinos were described, how these reflect the distances rhinos must travel in search of food and water, and the availability of these resources in Kunene. Criteria to monitor population performance were described: calving intervals; calving ratios; and, sex ratios of the population and how these are used to monitor population performance. The results of these analyses were presented. (See Appendix Five).

The objectives of biological management for the Kunene population were reaffirmed: to manage rhinos in the current population for good growth; to provide animals to repopulate other arid areas of the historical range; to manage rhinos (and remove) to minimise inbreeding; and, to manage rhinos to maintain good veld conditions for other browsers & rhinos. Also, activities in support of these objectives were outlined, such as research by the SRT/DICE Darwin Initiative Programme and the MET/SADC Rhino Programme training of MET, SRT and community monitoring team. For a summary of the slides used in the presentation see Appendix Five.

2.3.3.2 Questions

In response to the presentation, the following questions, comments and answers were entertained:

dLIEBENBERG (Tourism Concession Holder), Etendeka: How does birth rate relate to infant mortality amongst rhinos?

mHEARN (SRT), Director of Research: Calf mortality has been very high in the southern range (50% of calves lost up to 2000), amplified by limited resources in that area. Also, looking at Zone 4 (only 6 animals), a series of deaths was recorded, but there is now decreased calf mortality. Zone 2 also had poor calf mortality over the same period. The highest calving mortality was recorded in Zone 1 in the late 1990s. Here we have reduced rainfall; low food availability; large home ranges; compounded by human-induced disturbance (HID), though this factor is hard to quantify. Patrolling has increased in this area, but need to explore further what the impacts are. SRT now have data captured over 20 years.

dLIEBENBERG (Tourism Concession Holder), Etendeka: when is a birth successful – up to which age?

mHEARN (SRT), Director of Research: Not enough data in Zone 4. mHEARN explains difficulty where calf mortality can decrease calving intervals.

Question 3: Are there other factors that affect breeding?

mHEARN (SRT), Director of Research: Need to understand what HID effects are: e.g. low flying aircraft, tourism. Need long periods to evaluate these factors and their potential effects.

Question 4: Study of possible reintroduction areas (e.g. Sanitatas, Orupembe) – what are your preliminary results?

mHEARN (SRT), Director of Research: Darwin Initiative Programme is carrying out this research. These areas are part of many that are being assessed. Six conservancies will be assessed as part of this study (in historical range). Too early to interpret findings at this stage.

pdPREEZ (MET), Rhino Co-ordinator: SRT not deciding on these areas. We all need to set criteria, even though SRT research is ongoing. Direction on the criteria to be used will have to come out of this room.

pKAPI: (Field Officer), Ehirovipuka Conservancy: Behaviour of rhinos: do males and females stay together from birth? Is there inbreeding if the same animals stay together in same area?

mHEARN (SRT), Director of Research: More than one male in each area who is doing the mating. This can change depending on population dynamics. There may be “sneaky rutters”, where a younger animal may cover a receptive female. SRT are collecting DNA in order to use genetic studies to determine which males are breeding.

uNAIBEB (Field Officer), Dora !Nawas Conservancy: It was said that some of the deaths may be due to exceeding carrying capacity e.g. Z1 and Z8. Is this true?

mHEARN (SRT), Director of Research: Hard to say which of the associated factors are the exact cause of death. Okongwe: high mortality in all categories. Very stressed zone due to

limited water availability. Also the possible tourism induced stress in Zone 1. Compound the poor habitat with HID and there will be deaths. We need to invest in biological management in these areas to get the best potential population growth.

fNASEB (Traditional Leadership), Fransfontein: Carrying Capacity, one clarification. As a farmer I have goats, cattle and donkeys. “While some animals are grazing, the cattle are wasting grass”. We are now dealing with rhinos, next will be elephants, and the next springbok? Need clarification on what is the carrying capacity for each species?

pdPREEZ (MET), Rhino Co-ordinator: Very difficult, need to look at rhinos first. Elephant will play future role. E.g. Springbok, already in conservancy plan, and utilisation options are already dealt with in this process. Rhinos can not be hunted as it is a special species and therefore require a unique management plan..

Senior TC jJAPUHA (Traditional Leadership), Omatendeka area: I greet you all; I am Chief in the Omatendeka conservancy. I am with Alfonse, who is one of my committee members, to take care of conservancy issues. He appreciates this workshop, a meeting which is tackling all the rhino issues, which they have heard about before. I thank you all that we are all still together, with the conservancies and their partners. He is now glad to see that we are all partners in rhino management, and glad that the issue of disturbance to rhinos is being recognised. Our traditional grazing system may affect the rhino management, but we are still all together. That’s why they did zone their conservancy areas (e.g. game only, cattle areas, etc) and they have already started with their conservation measures.

2.4 Does the Case for Biological Management Exist in Kunene?

2.4.1 Opinions Towards Biological Management

With facilitation by bKRUGER, following a review of the presentations, a question was posed for delegates to answer: “From your own perspective, would you like to see rhino numbers in the Kunene Region increase at maximum rate?”

Participants were each given a blue dot to vote on this question. The choices to be made were “Yes”, “No” or “don’t know”

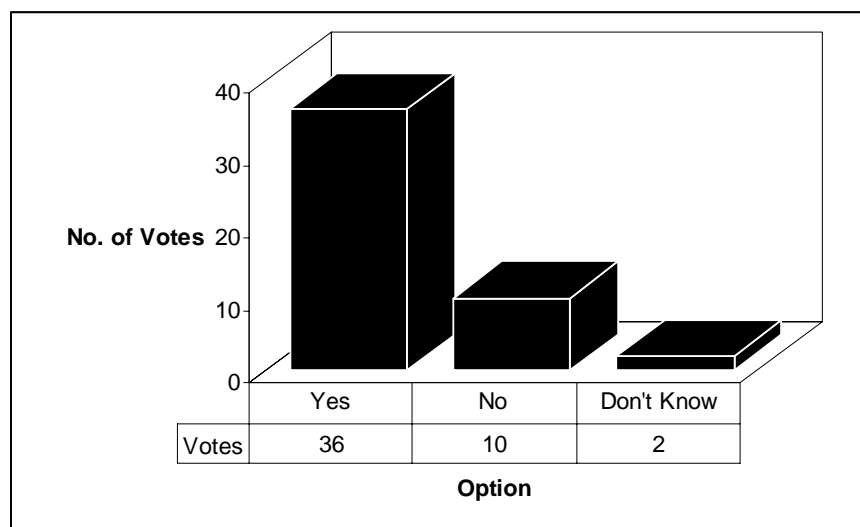


Figure 4. Results of the question posed for delegates to answer supporting, or not, biological management of black rhino in Kunene.

After the voting, a general discussion of the results of the voting was done.

2.4.2 Questions

bHOWAOSEB: Sorri Sorris Conservancy: I voted “don’t know”. I see the “power” with government and the monitoring with SRT. Why should I vote for something I have no control over? If government wants to put rhinos into an area allowing me to own them and benefiting from them, I will vote “yes”.

bKRUGER: If the opportunity to benefit is given to the areas where rhinos go, would I be correct to say everyone would vote “yes”? The issue of benefit and ownership will not be solved now. If in the groups you feel that more direct benefit should come from rhino, say this in the group and report that back to the larger group that we sit. Direct benefit from rhinos or ownership in the conservancies, is a burning issue and should be discussed in the small groups and we can capture views and report back to the plenary on these findings.

2.5 Group Work on developing options for increasing rhino numbers

2.5.1 Introduction

Three smaller groups were formed, consisting of:

- 1. Traditional and Elected Leadership**
- 2. Conservancy Leadership in resource management issues**
- 3. Support Service Groups such as the MET; NGO’s and international representatives; and, Concession Holders**

In the groups, the following guidelines for discussion were suggested:

- **Clarify with the group what was meant by biological management**
- **Give options for biological management of Kunene rhinos**
- **Discuss these options in detail, and**
- **Rank these options within the group**

2.5.2 Feedback from Group Work to Plenary

2.5.2.1 Introduction

Report backs from the previous day’s group work followed, with elected members from each group presenting the findings.

2.5.2.2 Conservancy Group

- **Biological management:**

“We will control rhino numbers to allow maximum growth under conditions that the right of ownership is given to conservancies to gain benefits directly or indirectly.”

- **Options:**
 - 1. Translocating**
 - Before translocating rhinos to other conservancies outside Kunene and Erongo the conservancies within these regions should be given priority
 - 2. Swapping rhinos for other species**
 - 3. Utilization**
 - Old rhinos be hunted by trophy hunters to create benefits for communities
 - Sale of rhinos

Questions

mHEARN (SRT), Director of Research: Clarity on if this was the order of priority for the group or simply the order they discussed it.

aUARIJE (Field Officer), Omatendeka Conservancy: This is the priority we foresee.

rdTOIT (WWF), Zimbabwe: What species would conservancies consider swapping these animals for?

uNAIBEB: (Field Officer) Dora !Nawas Conservancy: Whatever was needed at the time. Needs assessment would be undertaken at the time.

pdPREEZ (MET), Rhino Co-ordinator: Specific to the presentation regarding ownership. Is this the same principle as conservancies have rights over antelope and elephants? Or is this different?

pKAPI (Field Officer), Ehrovipuka Conservancy: Correct. It is understood that it could be under the same circumstances as the rights we have to use elephants and other animals.

aUARIJE (Field Officer), Omatendeka Conservancy: We know that the rhino is a specially protected animal. We want to conserve the rhinos so we want the ownership of the horn.

bROMAN (Torra Conservancy): We seek ownership, as far as legally allowable.

rdTOIT (WWF), Zimbabwe: With this in mind, maybe we should reconsider the groups statement in this light, “the right for utilization” as opposed to out-right ownership.

Chief jGOABAEB (Traditional Leadership) Sesfontein: I have been silent until now, now I must give you my voice. I want more clarification on what Conservancies mean. Who is the owner of the land, why do they exclude the leaders of the land?

bKRUGER: A good question. We are only on the first group’s presentation. The role of the traditional leaders will still be presented to give this a fair hearing.

Chief LKASAONA (Traditional leadership), Warmquella area: Regarding ownership. We did discuss this in our group. The conservancies and the traditional leaders both speak for the communities. When both our groups talk about ownership, we talk on behalf of the community. The issue of rights of ownership is understood by rural people that they are the owners of the rhinos. Because the MET has more power than the communities, they have taken the rights of ownership from communities to fall under MET control. The communities want it back.

eTHANISEB (Committee member), Anabeb Conservancy: If you look at the other species, springbok etc. Conservancies get direct benefits from these species. However, the rhino is like the holy fire, we cannot have a say though we share resources (springs) – we need ownership as a means of benefiting from the rhinos.

mMUHEUE, (Field Officer), Anabeb Conservancy: Regarding why we want right of ownership. When comparing a girlfriend and a wife. With your wife you have the right to choose what you wish. If I do not have the right of ownership, then I will not have the capability to undertake any of the options we have presented – to conserve it and utilize it.



Figure 5. Feedback of group work. Fredrich Hawaxab, Sesfontein Conservancy, presenting to the plenary.

bKRUGER: When comparing this, Michael was right, even in the case of a wife you cannot do as you choose: beat her, sell her or kill her. You have to do everything with consent. This is the important point. We need to add to this and clarify what we mean.

bROMAN (Torra Conservancy): Legally allowable ownership is what is asked. Even the government has a right over our lives, everything comes with conditions.

bKRUGER: There are conditions, Bennie and Michael have outlined examples of these. With ownership comes accountability and responsibility.

bKRUGER urged the participants to move on to what the traditional leaders have to say in with this regard. He then summarised the groups feeling on ownership with the emphasis that ownership is a conditional right offered by government that also implies accountability and ownership.

bKRUGER clarified the issue as communities wanting to keep and sell the horn, as opposed to it going to Windhoek.

vFLORRY (Field Officer) Torra Conservancy: Regarding the horn. Conservancies are about involvement of communities in the decision making process, with this we see ourselves having ownership in the process. If communities are not involved in decision making, it is not easy for us to make the right decision on how to utilize it.

rdTOIT (WWF), Zimbabwe: Let me give an example of how this process is dealt with in Zimbabwe. Nobody owns the wildlife, not even the state. It is a “fugitive” resource, moving around; liken it to who owns the migrating European swallow that sits on the telephone poles? The emphasis is therefore on utilization, while it is on your land you have the right to use and benefit from it. Ownership and utilization are different.

eTJIKUVA (MET), Kunene Chief Control Warden: As a point of clarity to the communities. Are we talking here of the same status for the rhino as communities have for elephant? If so (not necessarily specific to hunting, only specific to the “conditions” being granted by MET) would these meet expectations of the conservancies? Here permission/utilization rights must be requested from MET.

jNDERURA (Traditional Leadership, rep of Langman Muzuma), Otjokavare: I would like to remind all of us here the ownership of all wildlife remains between us (as conservancies) and the government. In this case, we have to request utilization rights from government. Let us request the same rights as this.

aUARIJE, (Field Officer), Omatendeka Conservancy: Regarding ownership, we have made it clear that we are requesting utilization rights, under conditions provided by the government. Old bulls and the right of sale must be permitted as a utilization right for the communities. If we are granted this, we will follow all the laws that are set for the utilization.

bKRUGER: When seeking consensus on a topic, we are not looking for full agreement on this issue. By consensus we should be able to “live” with another person or group’s feelings. We do not necessarily have to agree with all points, but only recognise these points are valid.

2.5.2.3 Traditional Leaders Group

- **Biological management:**
 1. Allow natural breeding process
 2. Provided there are legitimate rights and ownership, with direct benefits to local communities (e.g. bursaries, tourism activities, income for administration purposes for traditional leaders)
 3. Don’t allow cross breeding from outside without proper research and health inspections
- **Options:** (Presented in the order of priority)
 1. **Translocating**
 - Expand to the neighbouring communal conservancies in the historical range
 2. **Exchange for other species**
 - Within Namibia
 - Then regionally
 3. **Utilization**
 - Sale of rhinos to neighbouring countries at auctions
 - Sale to the commercial farms under contract

Concerns and questions within the group:

When discussing breeding, the group asked the question:

- **Did rhinos breed naturally in the past, or did someone bring rhinos in from other areas in the past?**

Questions

nHOWOSEB, (MET) Kunene co-ordinator of CBNRM unit: Gave clarity to the point regarding giving rhinos under contract to commercial farms. The leaders had asked about the custodianship scheme and maybe they can support this system.

pdPREEZ (MET), Rhino Co-ordinator: Gave a summary of the custodianship programme. This outlined the role of responding to growth declining in Etosha and how “removing” rhinos stimulated growth. This programme looked for the assistance of the farmers to provide habitat for rhinos. It also allowed MET to create a buffer against disease and poaching in Etosha, so rhinos could be returned from the farmers once this period is alleviated. The rhinos remain the property of the government and are a national asset. Government check up and “look after” these rhinos. Farmers have a benefit from the tourism potential of these animals, but they do not pay government for these rhinos. The expense and risk of death from translocating these animals often means that rhinos remain on one farm for substantial times to ensure maximum return, in the form of breeding success, on the high investment cost of moving them. However, we move some around as biological management requires. As a point of clarity, no animals have been brought in (to Kunene) from outside.



Figure 6. Chief Ernst Guriieb, on the left; and, Chief Lucky Kasaona at the Rhino Camp during the field trip at the end of the workshop.

Chief LKASAONA (Traditional leadership), Warmquella area: Are you not referring to the communal farmers as the custodians? We take care of the rhinos here. If the MET do not regard us as custodians, how do they foresee us as benefiting from the rhinos?

rLOUTIT (SRT), Trustee: Before we address this we must be clear that the custodianship scheme has a written contract that has conditions applied to it.

KETjii (NACOBTA), Extension Officer: To give clarity on the translation of what Chief LKASAONA said, does the MET regard the communal communities and its traditional authorities as custodians? If they are regarded as custodians, how does the MET intend for them to benefit.

pdPREEZ (MET), Rhino Co-ordinator: The process we are going through now is seeing communities as stakeholders and the results of this meeting will shape the management of rhino.

In this way the MET do see communities as custodians – though the reference to commercial farms has a separate meaning.

eTHANISEB (Committee member), Anabeb Conservancy: How does this custodianship process work. Does MET approach the farmers or do they make a request to MET.

pdPREEZ (MET), Rhino Co-ordinator: It is not restricted to commercial farms. It does also apply to communal areas. The MET would then send out a group of experts to assess the area (security, habitat etc.). These are then ranked for each area. The farmer must then sign a contract, must look after rhinos, send in reports to MET etc. MET look at the logistics of how many animals an area could receive. These options are then offered to farmers.

2.5.2.4 Support Services Group (MET, NGO's & Concession Holders)

- **Biological management:**

1. The principle of an investment strategy was used, with a vision to reconcile biological management with socio-economic goals in Kunene
2. This process is an interaction of three factors that seek the “best fit” of: rhino population growth, social gains; and economic gains (Figure 7)

Rhino Growth: Expressed as the percentage growth of the population per annum, where 5% or over is ranked high (3); less than 5% growth is ranked 2; and, less than 2% growth is ranked 1.

Social Gains: Expressed as the positive attitude of communities to have rhino, where 3 is very positive attitudes; 2 is no strong feeling to have rhino or not; and 1 is a negative attitude to having rhino.

Economic Gains: Where financial benefits are being accrued to the local area and its residents, where 3 is high financial benefits being accrued; 2 is medium financial gains; and, 1 where no financial gains are being accrued. These financial gains should be in support of both the costs of rhino conservation and development objectives in the area.

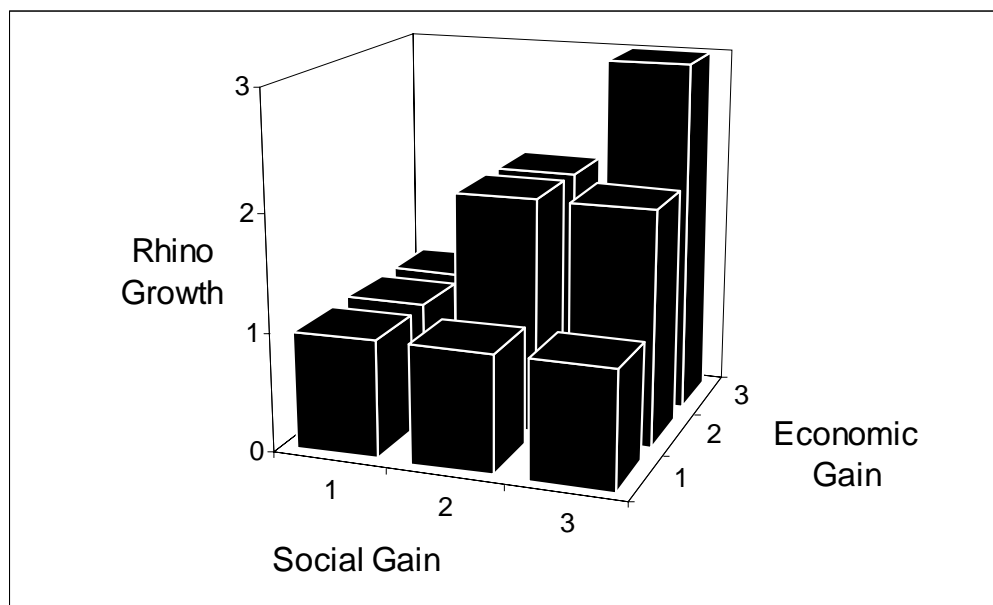


Figure 7: Ranking the conditions for rhino management, as an interaction of biological growth; social gains; and, economic gains. A ranking of 3 is the goal, but 2 can still work as a viable option, 1 is not meeting any management objectives and is to be avoided.

- **Options:** (Presented in the order of priority)

1. **Translocation**

- Moving rhinos to areas in the current rhino range in Kunene

- Moving rhinos to areas in the historical range in Kunene
- Moving rhinos to areas of the historical range of the sub-species range in Namibia
- Moving rhinos to areas of the historical range of the sub-species range outside Namibia (South Africa & Angola)
- Moving rhinos outside of the historical range (E.g. Zoos or other countries with suitable areas)

2. Consumptive Utilization

- Feeling was this should be lead by the communities (traditional leaders and conservancies)
- This is a feasible option where it can be reconciled with biological management

3. Leave it as is

- General feeling was that this was not a desired option, but an option non-the-less.

Questions

The question was posed whether we have consensus on there being a need to consider aspects of biological management when considering the future of the Kunene black rhino population, keeping in mind the working definition defined earlier.

gOWEN-SMITH (IRDNC), Director: It should be made clear to the meeting about the international situation regarding the hunting of rhino and the use of horn.

rdTOIT (WWF), Zimbabwe: The options presented are not mutually exclusive, taking up one does not mean the other cannot be followed. We do need to talk about Garth's point. You can hunt as well as moving breeding groups. There are times when one option requires a further option be carried out. For example, if you are going to safari hunt rhinos you need to acquire regional support and consensus by showing whilst hunting you are supplying rhinos to areas in the region that might be in need of rhinos. There is not international agreement to hunt black rhinos. Therefore Namibia would first have to show sound biological management of its rhinos to the world.

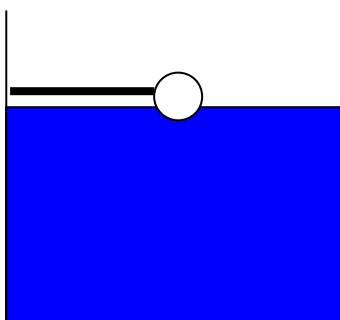
aUARIJE, (Field Officer), Omatendeka Conservancy: I do agree with the presentation of Betsy Fox's group. I applaud the comment of utilization being lead by the community. When you say you are going to give rhinos to South Africa, what is the benefit to Namibia? Secondly, Option three states "leave it" are you saying leave the research and collection of biological information on the population?

pdPREEZ (MET), Rhino Co-ordinator: With regard to how Namibia benefits, how we benefited to date is by a "swap-deal". Rhino have been swapped for waterbuck and tsesabe. Also, this contributed to wider goals for regional biological management.

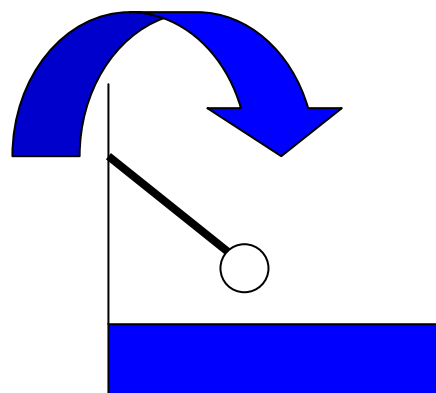
rdTOIT (WWF), Zimbabwe: We must weigh what is the cost and benefit to Namibia. Everything has a carrying capacity, liken this to a waterhole with a ball-valve (a). You take out water that is again replenished as the ball valve drops (b). A small amount of water fills up quickly, this slows down as it approaches capacity.

bKRUGER adds to this, the water left in and not taken out can get old and bad – similar to rhino populations.

The MET Kunene co-ordinator of the CBNRM unit, nHOWOXAB, also adds we do not know if the supply of water might dry up, and then there can be no replenishment.



(A): Water-hole full



(B): Water level low & replenishes quickly

jNDERURA (Traditional Leadership, rep of Langman Muzuma), Otjokavare: Experts and doctors are talking and it is difficult for me to speak in this company. However, we are the herders and I feel I must add to this. We are not against rhino management, but we want the full community involvement in every process. On the question of leave it, we have all gone beyond this – the community game guards system and other initiatives are testament to this. The request is to allow communities to participate to prevent negative attitudes in the communities and not rely solely on decisions from Windhoek and international experts.

eGURIRAB (Traditional Leadership), Khoadi Hoas area: As a custodian I am here to say something. Thank you for the three options in front of us: the one supporting government; that of the traditional leadership; and, the options of the conservancies. I recommend trying and accommodating everybody's needs. However, I am not clear on everything. Following the development of conservancies they have become the right wing/hand of the traditional authorities. Concerning the ownership of rhinos I recommend the traditional leaders must accommodate the conservancies as they have rights and ownership over the other wildlife species. The requests from each group are similar. I had to share these rhinos with other parts of the country. I also hear they must be brought back to the historical parts of their range. However, I do not have an idea of the number of rhinos in this area (eGURIRAB was absent on the first day's presentations). My request is that consultation always takes place.

2.6 Group Work Ranking Options in Plenary

2.6.1 Opinions Towards Options

The facilitator then introduced another voting session to prioritise the different options. These options are listed in no particular order. The group was allowed to vote for what each person feels are the top three priorities. Each person will have 3 votes. These votes can be spread across three options, or you can have a maximum of two votes on a single option, should you feel strongly about a certain option. However, no more than two votes from each person to an individual option. (Before this, a chance was given to the headman Japuha to speak).

Senior TC jJAPUHUA (Traditional Leadership), Omatendeka area: Thank you Mr Chair. Different groups had different options. When we have finished I request the experts here to take this to the highest authority with speed and report back on the options that have been accepted. I ask this simply to avoid the process being delayed.

Option	Number of votes
Translocate in the historical range locally (Kunene	55
Translocate within historical range in Namibia	26
Translocate within the range in SADC	8
Export (Zoo's)	0
Consumptive use (Hunting)	25
Trade/selling	51

bFOX (MET) Kunene Scientist: The last option can be a method to implement the first three options.

2.7 Tasks to Achieve Options

2.7.1 Introduction

Two key themes have come out during the discussion of options for biological management in Kunene:

- 1. Ownership, as defined as the right to use and benefit from rhino**
- 2. Community involvement/participation in the decision making process, from the design; discussion; and, implementation of management strategies**

The next round of group work involves taking the top four options and looking at how to implement these options. Presentations will focus on what are the important processes/tasks that need to happen. The following four prioritised options were discussed in groups:

- **Translocate in the historical range locally (Kunene)**
- **Trade/selling**
- **Translocate within the Historical range in Namibia**
- **Consumptive use (Hunting)**

2.7.2 Feedback from Group Work to Plenary

2.7.2.1 Translocate in the Historical Range Locally (Kunene)

1. Founder Population/Area:

- **Demarcate the historical range/zonation and historical use**

- Identify space within historical range
- Suitable areas: Water; grass; trees; and rhino vegetation
- Acceptance of community in these areas
- Provide adequate security
- Prioritise suitable areas
 - i. Minimum viable population group
- Determine present and previous land use in historical range
- Accessibility of sites
- Make an application to MET

2. Donor Population/Area:

- Identify overstocked areas (of rhino)
 - i. Studies of:
 - a. Sex ratios
 - b. Amount of animals/density
 - c. Age of animals
- Assess the security risk
- Logistics and finances for successful translocation
 - i. Infrastructure
 - ii. Boma needs

Questions

bFOX (MET) Kunene Scientist: requests clarity on the role of the Rhino Technical Advisory Group

pdPREEZ (MET), Rhino Co-ordinator: It comprises of deputies from each Directorate to advise the Minister on rhino management. This can co-opt other representation e.g. SRT. As we sit here today, we are involved in a consulting process. This will be taken to the Directorates and feed up to the Minister. The RTAG deals with cross-cutting issues between Etosha, Waterberg, Kunene and other populations. A meeting will be held to discuss the process we are going through today.

General feelings from participants were a request be made that there could be community/conservancy representation on this committee, when dealing with management of rhino in Kunene. This would allow informed decisions on land use and management strategies, beneficial to good rhino growth, at both regional and conservancy levels.

2.7.2.2 Trade/selling

- Consult stakeholders to discuss areas targeted and benefits to be accrued
- Set a realistic quota and whether they are to be swapped or sold
- All the factors to be considered
 - i. Sex ratio, age etc.
- Benefit sharing will be taken into consideration – who and how they should benefit
- A letter of request would be forwarded to the Minister to await approval
- Legislation does not permit sale of rhinos – then cabinet approval will be needed to let the monies be accrued directly to the community, considering costs of moving animals (capture team etc.)

Questions and comments within the group:

In the case of swapping, an assessment of the species required would be made. The process presented above should consider all legal requirements and be accountable to these, and other requirements not identified here.

2.7.2.3 Translocate Within Historical Range of Namibia**1. What rhinos:**

- Identify overstocked areas (of rhino)
- Permission from whom? (conservancy, NGO, Govt. and community)
- Rhino sex, age etc. for translocation
- Information transfer (between Rhino Technical Advisory Group and community, NGO's and Govt. etc.) to allow those with rhinos and in the areas to share information
- From what area? – to be decided by the specialists

2. Where to:

- Permission from whom? (communities, Govt.)
 - i. community response to options; and
 - ii. what benefits are accrued from where rhinos are taken (conservancy, NGO, Govt. and community)
- Contract between the relevant parties (exchange or what benefit)
- Research/Assess by specialists of:
 - i. Habitat
 - ii. Security
 - iii. Holding bomas
 - iv. Community attitude where rhinos are going

3. Finance:

- a) Acquire necessary funds for translocation

2.7.2.4 Consumptive Use**1. To build capacity, share knowledge and skills to successfully implement, with the full involvement of community members (have experts at the local level):**

- Well trained community representation on hunting safaris aware of ethics and conditions of hunting
- Community members involved in the research of identifying areas, rhinos and all processes leading to quota setting

2. Tasks and processes:

- Continue/improve biological management to strengthen the case to hunt (e.g. manage for good rhino growth, managing habitat)
- Lobby for changes to legislation
- Develop conditions/criteria in partnership with stakeholders
- Counts/census undertaken
- ID only old, non breeding males to be hunted

Questions and comments within the group:

Is the meat nice? What happens to the horn?

Questions

fASEB (Traditional Leadership), Fransfontein area: Group two said there must be a mechanism in place to see if the neighbouring communities, or others, benefit. Who is responsible for developing this?

bKRUGER: I believe there is a benefit distribution plan for other species? Would I by right to say that all the stakeholders would meet to put a similar one together for rhinos?

Reply from the group confirmed this statement and that a consultative process would be required.

sGAWISEB (MET), Warden from Khorixas: Is the meat nice?

gNEKONGO (IRDNC), facilitator: I have tried white rhino meat and it tastes good.

nHOWOSEB, (MET) Kunene co-ordinator of CBNRM unit: There was a case of a poached rhino calf in Kunene being eaten in the southern area.

2.8 Next steps

Discussion revolved around how to ensure that the views of the communities had been accurately captured in the report to come from the meeting. The following steps were accepted by the meeting:

- 1. Proceedings documented by the 23rd March**
- 2. A representative committee should review the document. This committee would be a volunteer group who should list their names at the end of the meeting and come to the SRT Rhino Centre on the 24th March 2004**
- 3. pdPREEZ to take the proceeding to the officials of MET (Rhino Technical Advisory Group) to feed up to the Minister**
- 4. Representatives here today should give feedback to the communities**
- 5. MET will liaise through SRT to fast-track the above process, and which recommendations are to be taken up**

2.9 Closing Comments

Dr. Rob Brett (SADC Regional Rhino Programme):

Thank you for everyone coming: conservancies; traditional authorities; and support service groups. It has been a very successful workshop with agreement on many issues. The Italian government, who funded this through the SADC Rhino Programme, would have been very impressed with the workshop and its organisation through Mike Hearn and facilitation by Bertus Kruger. One point, made by Raoul du Toit, to reflect on as we leave this meeting was, “The reason we are here is because of the successes you have had.” Now we are in a situation where we need to consider moving rhinos out of areas where there are maybe too many rhinos. This is a position to be applauded.

Pierre du Preez (MET):

Thank you to everyone: Traditional leaders, conservancies, NGO's, SRT for there organisation; and, concession holders present. The region has many experts and I see a lot of hope for this programme and its future. Many thanks also to Bertus Kruger for his facilitation.

Senior Traditional Councillor Josef Japuha (Omatendeka area):

This meeting has a unique element to it. Other meetings have gone from one side to the other; I thank the facilitator for successfully handling the meeting to avoid "push and pull". Maybe this was because of Mike Hearn and the other experts present? With this I say thank you to Mike Hearn and let us wait for the committee to look at the document so we can track the outcome of this meeting. My thanks to those who have suggested this committee to review the final report.

Chief Johannes Hendriks (Kamanjab area):

Conservancy members and honourable guests I thank you. Also, my special thanks to the facilitator. We have learnt a lot in the past two days. I see what we have achieved in the past two days might have taken a whole week. The participation was clear and enabled everyone to have a voice. The meeting was well organised, and I thank you for that. We had many topics to consider. I believe once this has been approved and put into operation I see this being a success. Looking into the future I feel we need to maintain the involvement of everyone, right from the smallest issue of management, to the feedback on all the processes we have agreed. I believe we all saw that those present were keen to have further input to the final document. This was an indication that we need to continue to build trust between ourselves. I see this improving as we begin to see further interaction over the development of this programme.

Bertus Kruger:

I thank all of you for your comments and inputs, and I would like to thank the translators, Fredrich Hawaxab, B Kanjii, Obed Hambo, and those from Palmwag lodge and Wilderness Safaris who have looked after us so well.

Councillor Thr. Hendricks (Sesfontein Councillor):

On behalf of the regional governor and councillors I wish to thank you. It was a great success and well organised. We have accomplished much in these two days. My thanks to SRT, the organisers and the conservancy members who have come great distances, such as the Uis area. Have a nice journey back and remember the meeting we are going to have on the 24th March 2004.

The Pastor closed with a prayer to end the workshop

APPENDIX ONE

Invitation Letter:



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Dear Sir/Madam

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Save the Rhino Trust would like to invite you to a two-day workshop to discuss the biological management of black rhino in Kunene Region. The Workshop will be held at the Palmwag Lodge and SRT Rhino Centre on the 3rd and 4th of March 2004, arriving on the 2nd March and departing on the afternoon of the 5th March.

The SADC Regional Programme sponsors the workshop for Rhino Conservation as part of a continental programme supporting black rhino conservation objects. The workshop aims to draw together traditional leaders and conservancies bordering, or falling on, the Kunene rhino range to:

- Review case studies from the African continent on investing in biological management;
- Present research findings on biological impacts on the Kunene rhino; and,
- Examine options to maximize the continued growth and health of the Kunene population of black rhino.

The workshop will be held at the conference facilities at Palmwag Lodge. Please find attached details on accommodation at Palmwag Lodge and the SRT Rhino Centre. An evening meal will be served at the SRT Rhino Centre on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th at 7pm. Lunch will be at the Lodge on the 3rd and 4th.

There will be a field trip on the morning of the 5th March to the SRT and Wilderness Safaris Rhino Camp in the Palmwag concession. A buffet lunch will be served at the tented camp following a morning rhino tracking. Vehicles will leave the lodge on the 5th March at 0700hrs and will return after lunch. This partnership aims to meet the monitoring costs of rhino conservation through linking SRT's monitoring activities with tourism in the concession.

Please confirm your attendance with **Michael Guiseb at the SRT Rhino Centre on 067 697014**, and to enable us to plan vehicles and lunch on the 5th March please indicate if you will be joining the field trip.

Yours sincerely,

Pierre du Preez
MET Rhino Co-ordinator

APPENDIX TWO

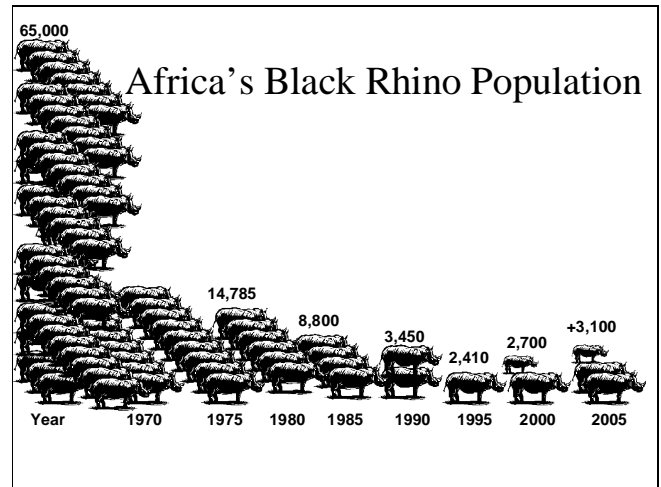
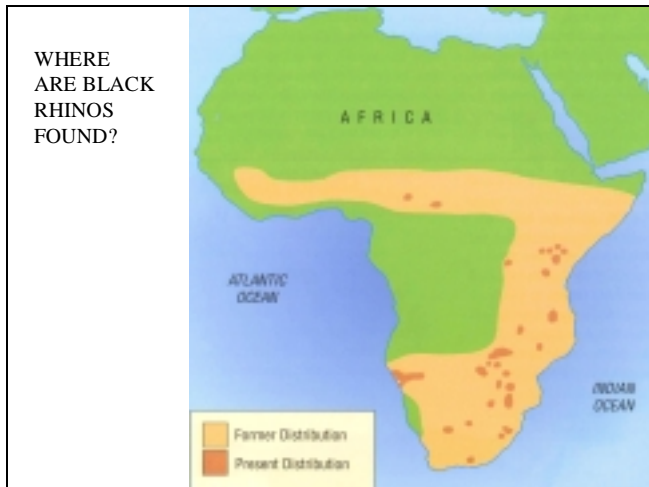
List of Participants:

NAME	ORGANISATION	AREA	CONTACT DETAILS
Pierre du Preez	MET, Rhino Co-ordinator	Windhoek	061 263131
Raoul du Toit	WWF	Zimbabwe	rdutoit@wwf.org.zw
Chief J.Gaobaeb	Chief of Sesfontein	Sesfontein	065 275530
Rev. Thr. Hendriks	Kunene Regional Council	Sesfontein	065 275528
Hon. S.Tjongarero	Governor - Kunene Regional Council	Opuwo/Khorixas	065 273446/9
Chief J.Hendricks	Kunene Regional Council	Doro !Nawas (Kamanjab)	067 330232/0812486419
Chief F.Aseb	Kunene Regional Council	Fransfontein	067 331021
Filliman Kapi	Field Officer, Ehrivopuka Conservancy	Otjikavare	PO Box 66, Kamanjab
Kavisina Kasaona	Traditional Leader, Puros	Puros	Radio Call sign 2286
Richardt H. Uriab	Vice Chairman, Sorri Sorris	Sorri-Sorris	067 331890
Ernst Karutjiava	Field Officer, Puros Conservancy	Puros	Radio Call sign 2286
Limbie Awarab	Nami Damara Traditional Leadership - Senior Councillor	Sesfontein	065 275540
Raymond Geiseb	Vice Secretary, Uibasen Conservancy	Uibasen	067 697983
Titus Hango	Field Officer, Uibasen Conservancy	Uibasen	067 697983
Obed Hambo	Anabeb Conservancy	Warmquella	065 275311
Ebson Mbunguha	CGG, Anabeb Conservancy	Warmquella	065 275311
Chris Bakkes	Wilderness Safaris	Palmwag Rhino Camp	061 274506
Immanuel Tsuseb	Traditional Councillor	Sorri-Sorris	067 331890
Tuban Boseb	Senior Traditional Councillor, Gao Daman Authority	Uis	064 504162/504042, PO Box 84 Uis
Joshua Kaisuma	Sesfontein Conservancy	Sesfontein	065 275508
Mike Muheue	Field Officer, Anabeb Conservancy	Warmquella	065 275319 (P/Bag 2001 Khorixas)
Joseph Kangombe	Traditional Leader, Anabeb Conservancy	Warmquella	065 275311
Betsy Fox	MET, Regional Scientist	Outjo	067 313436
German Muzuma	Ehrivopuka Conservancy	Otjikavare	065 276208
Chief Lucky Kasaona	Chief Kasaona Authority	Warmquella	065 245320
Councillor Josef Japuha	Senior/Omatendeka Traditional Authority	Okarivizu	065 276611
Jeckson Nderuira	Acting Headman (For Langman Muzuma)	Otjikavare	065 276208
Bertus Kruger	DRFN, Facilitator	Windhoek	061 229855
Siegfried T. Tjitjo	MET	North West Region	067 313436/0812931088
Bernard I. Roman	IRDNC	Wereldsend	067 697055
Amon Gaiseb	CGG, Tsiseb Conservancy	Tsiseb	064 504162
Bob Guibeb	Field Officer, #Khoadi Hoas Conservancy	Grootberg	067 333017
Alphons Uarije	Omatendeka Conservancy	Omuramba	065 276600
Sebetus Nguezeeta	Omatendeka Conservancy	Omuramba	065 276604
Biyclelee Howoseb	Sorri-Sorris Conservancy	Sorri-Sorris	067 331890
Nahor Howoseb	MET, CBNRM Unit	Outjo	067 313436 nahorh@iway.na
Bernd Brell	SRT	Ugab Basecamp	064 203581 (Radio Call Sign 2988)
Phillip Nicholls	Wilderness Safaris	Palmwag Area	061 697063
Gary G. Nekongo	IRDNC	Otjikavare	065 276203/0812594290
Vitalus Florry	Field Officer, Torra Conservancy	Bersig	067 697063
Adelmer Uises	Tsiseb Conservancy	Uis, Brandberg	064 504125
Theresia Aebes	Hûab Conservancy	Fransfontein	067 331853/331968
Jermain Ketji	NACOBTA	Windhoek	061 250558 ketji.nacobta@iway.na
Mbavabga Verimuje	NACOBTA	Windhoek	061 250558
Bonny Awarab	Etendeka Mountain Camp	Kunene Region	Radio Call sign 463
Filliman Nuab	IRDNC	Wereldsend	067 697055
Eliphaz Areseb	Doro !Nawas Conservancy	Pertrified Forest	081 1223875
Ulrich Naibab	Doro !Nawas Conservancy	Ward 7	081 2591617
Chips Tjambiru	Puros conservancy	Puros, Omburo	Radio Call Sign 463
Joram Tjipombo	Puros conservancy	Puros, Omburo	Radio Call Sign 463
Hiskia Tjipombo	Puros conservancy	Omburo	Radio Call Sign 2286/2120

Penias Aiseb	Doro !Nawas Conservancy	Khorixas	067 687 983
Kaiporo Kandjii	MET, Opuwo	Opuwo	065 273171
Chief P.Ganuseb	Nami Damara Traditional Leadership - Senior Councillor	Sesfontein	065 275552
Ephriam Thaniseb	IRDNC	Khowarib	065 275311
Fredrich Hawaxab	Sesfontein Conservancy	Sesfontein	065 275502
Rob Brett	SADC Rhino Programme	Harare, Zimbabwe	robb@iucnrosa.org.zw
Mike Hearn	DICE, Project Officer, Darwin Initiative Programme; SRT, Director of Research	Kunene Region	mikeh@rhino-trust.org.na
Anton Esterhuizen	IRDNC	Kunene Region	067 697055/061 228506 irdnc@iafrica.com.na
Garth Owen-Smith	IRDNC	Kunene Region	067 697055/061 228506 irdnc@iafrica.com.na
Bruce !Howoseb	Sorri-Sorris Conservancy	Sorri-Sorris	
Ernst Gurirab	Chief Gaio Daman Authority	Grootberg	

APPENDIX THREE

African View on Rhino Conservation:



RHINO TRANSLOCATIONS



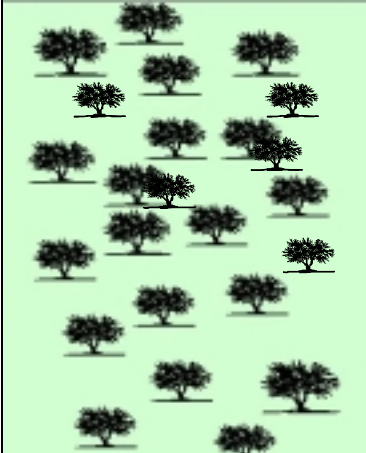
To increase Rhino numbers

To spread the risk of poaching leading to losing all rhinos

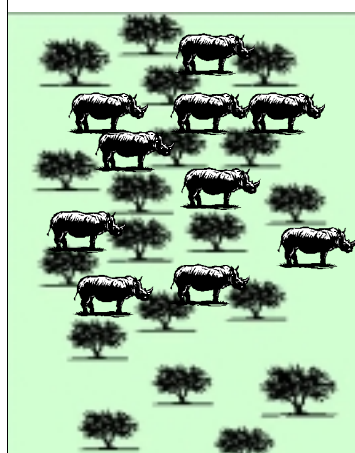
To distribute rhinos in new areas

To distribute rhinos in areas they used to occur

NEW AREA FOR RHINOS

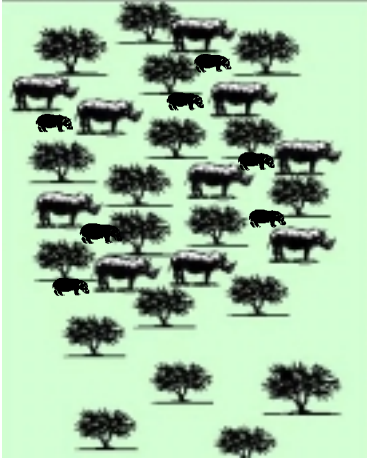


RHINOS PUT IN AREA



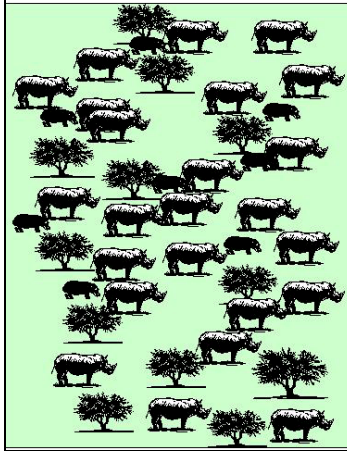
NUMBER OF ADULT RHINOS = 10

RHINOS BREED IN AREA

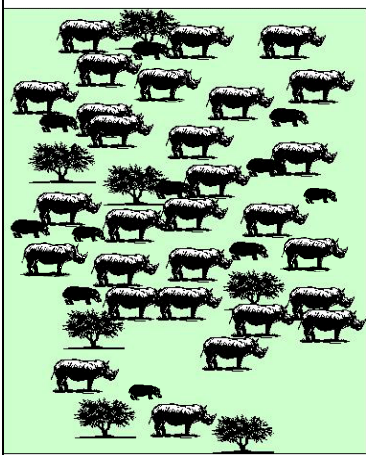


10 RHINO CALVES
AFTER 10 YEARS

POPULATION GROWS MORE

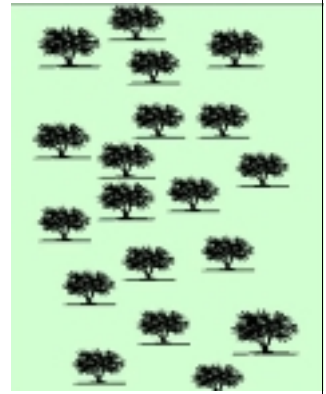
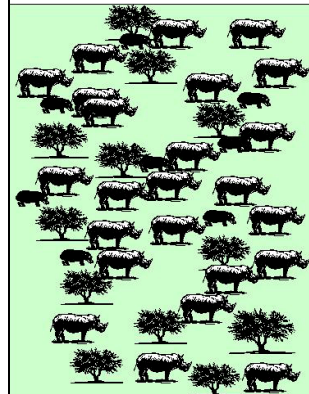


RHINOS AT CARRYING CAPACITY



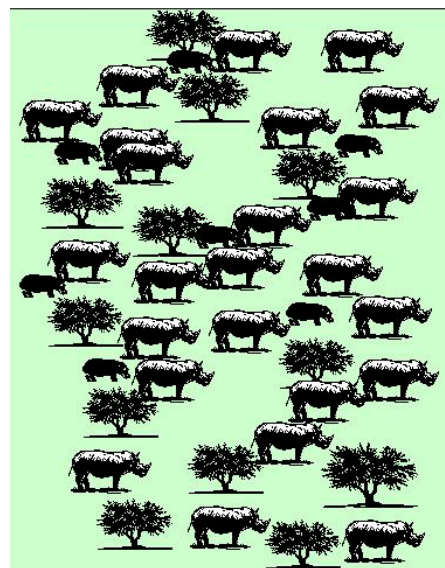
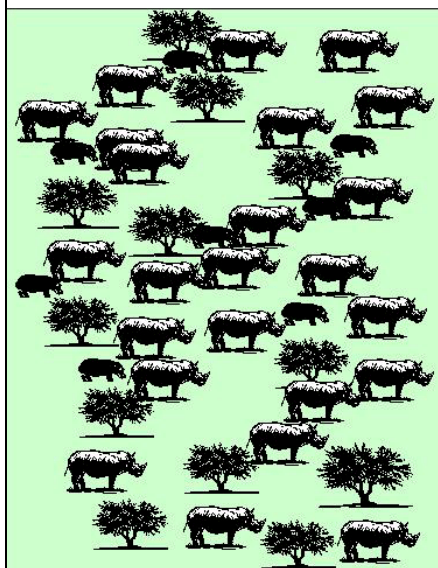
LESS FOR RHINOS TO EAT
NO POPULATION GROWTH

MOVE SOME TO ANOTHER AREA



DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF RHINOS

BIOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT

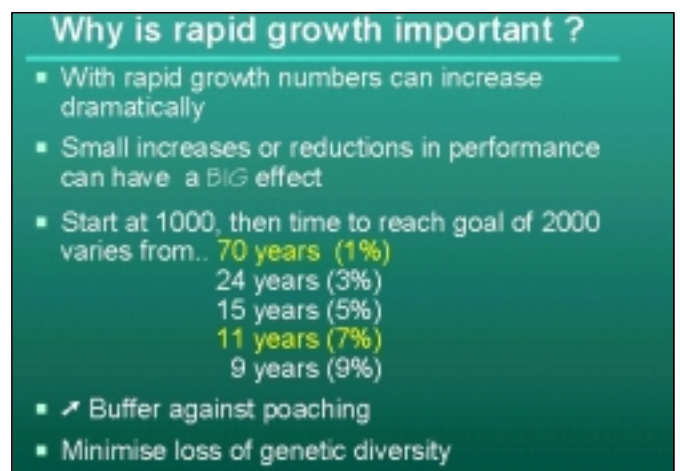
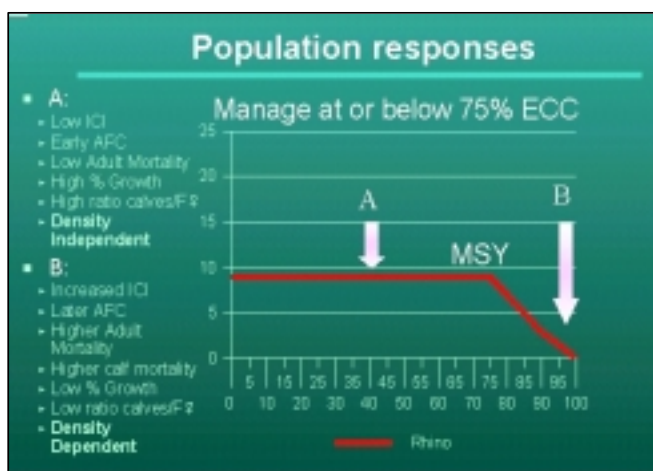
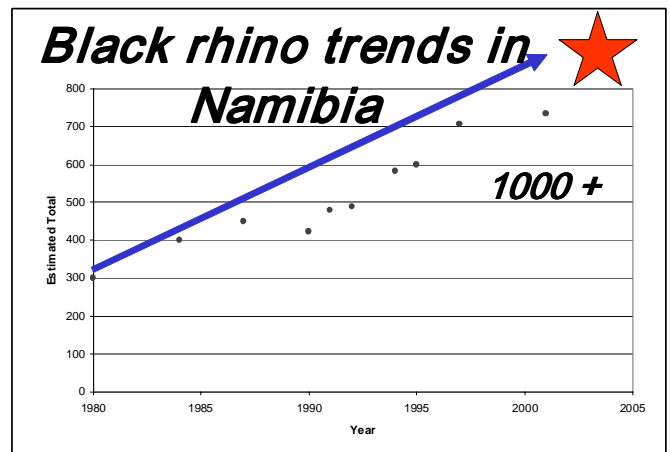
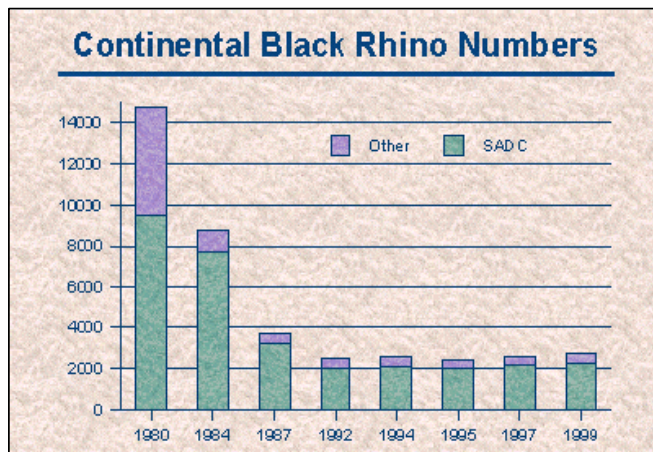


APPENDIX FOUR

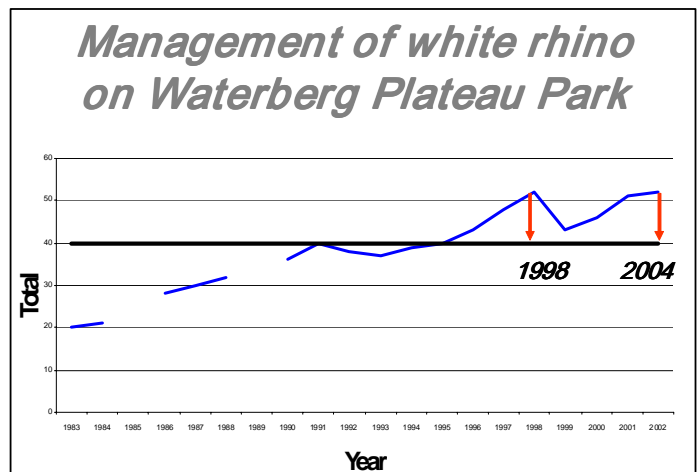
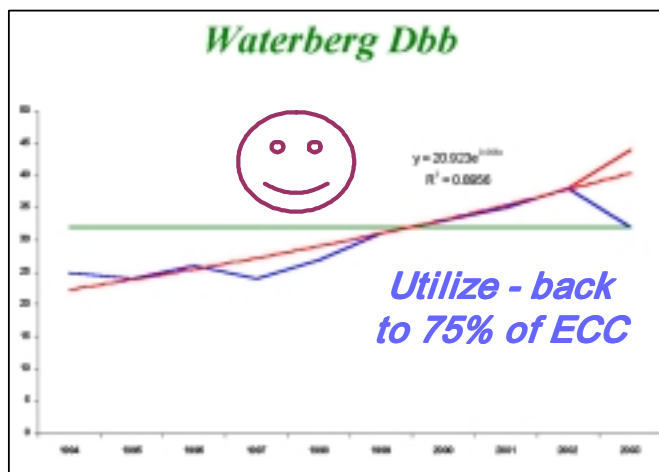
Namibian Perspective on Rhino Conservation Programme:

THE VISION

***By 2030, the subspecies
D.b.bicornis is re-
established in viable,
healthy breeding
populations throughout its
former range, and is
sustainable utilized***

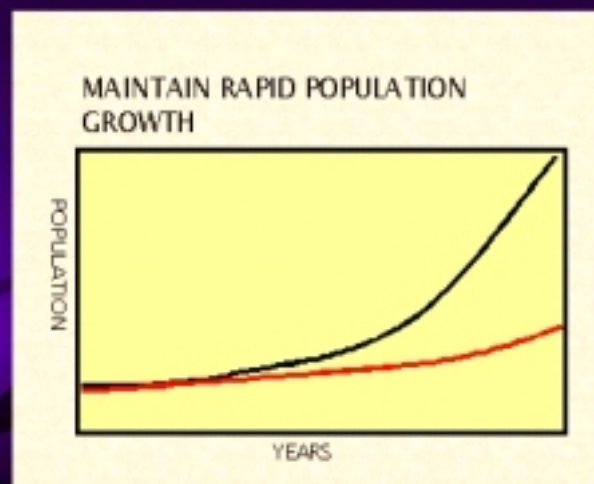


Examples in Namibia of maximizing growth through biological management



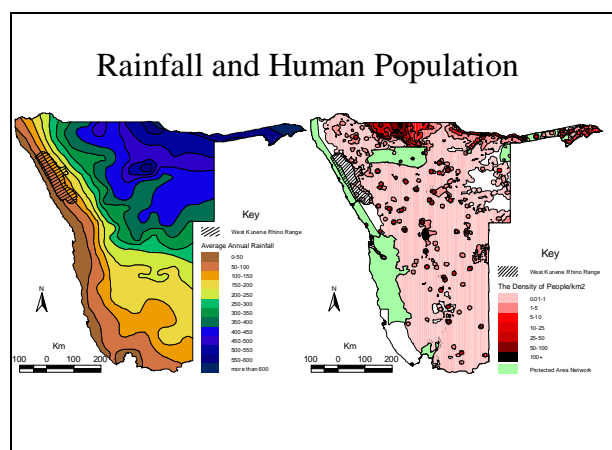
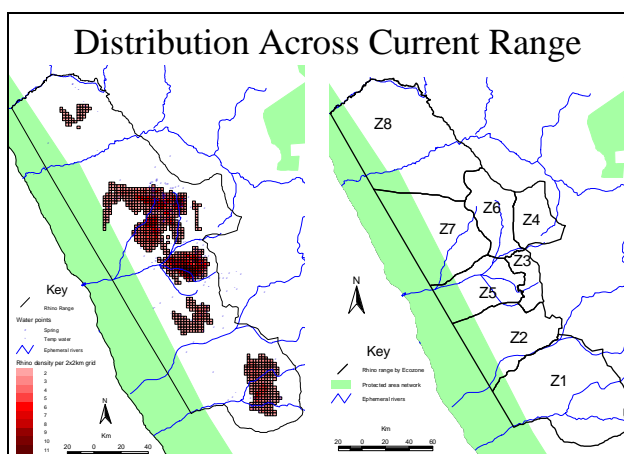
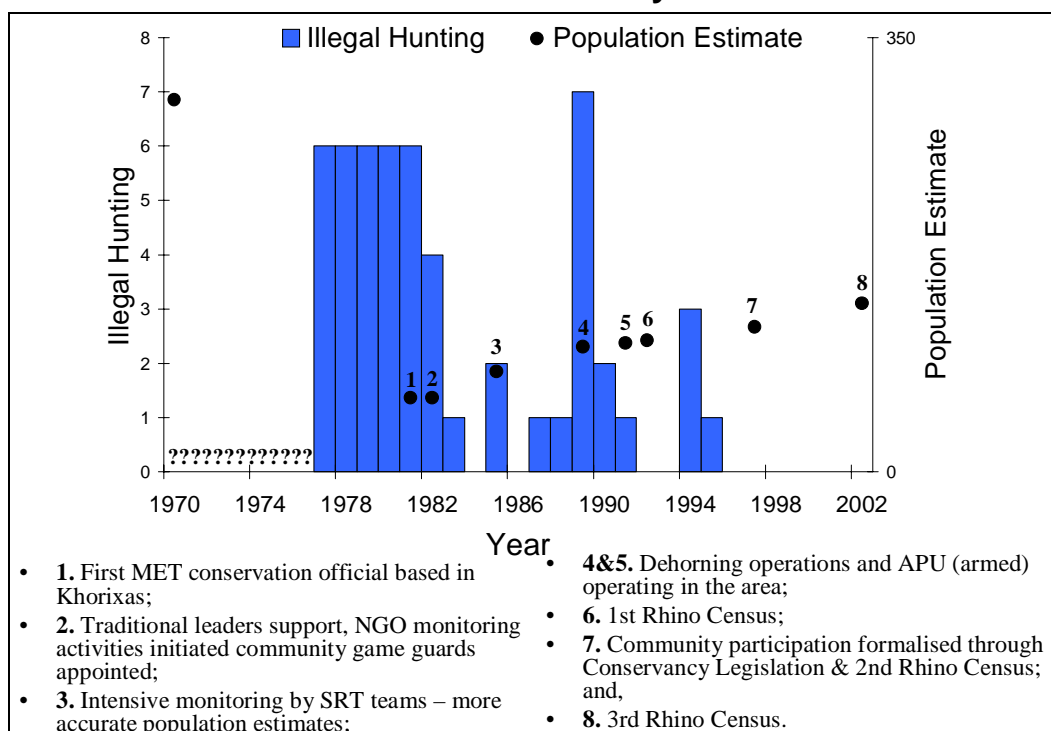
Growth matters alot...

- Biological Mgmt
 - ▶ Key component of successful rhino conservation
 - ▶ Small differences in growth rate >> big differences in numbers
 - ▶ Meet goals quicker
 - ▶ Genetic conservation ✓
 - ▶ Help achieve required 5%+ growth

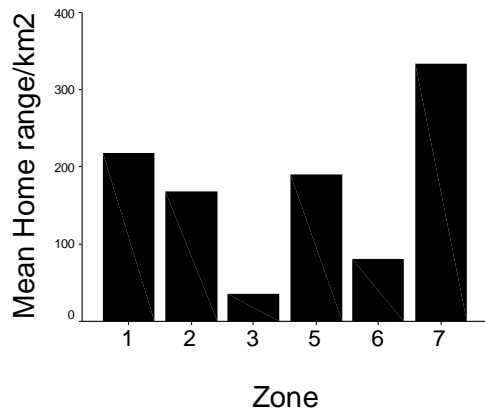


APPENDIX FIVE

Kunene Status and Results of SRT Study:



Home Range of Rhinos



Sex Ratio – Rhinos () less than ten years



Female



10



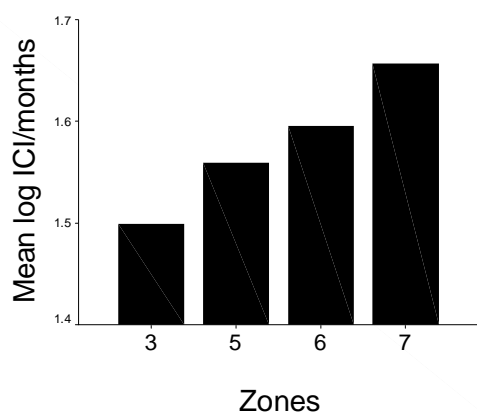
Male



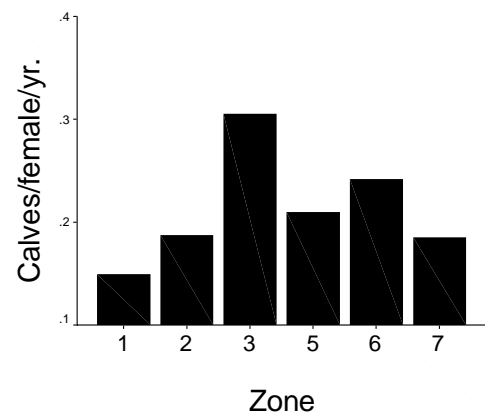
15

:

Calving Interval



Breeding Performance



SUMMARY

- Successful conservation measures have seen the black rhino in Kunene increase in numbers
- Breeding is limited by access to key resources (food and water)
- Where rhinos were heavily poached, and where removals took place in 1989, growth is high & the sex ratio is good – Z3
- Where numbers are high and the habitat is good growth is very low – Z5&Z6
- Biological management aims to stimulate growth and provide animals for restocking the historical range

APPENDIX SIX

Field Trip to Rhino Camp:



Figure 8. A Group of 35 guests join Save the Rhino Trust trackers on a search for black rhino near the Rhino Camp.



Figure 9. Guests enjoy a good sighting of a rhino, named Speedy.