

## **B BRIEF PRESENTATIONS BY RANGE STATES**

### **ANGOLA COUNTRY - NKOSI LUTA KINGENGO**

The meeting was informed that two years after the Makokola meeting the country was busy undertaking surveys in three provinces; Namibe, Cunene and Kando Kubango. A picture was sent to local communities involved in the process to avoid confusions between hippo and rhino. Information provided indicated that rhinos do not exist in Angola at this point in time. Further information is being awaited from Kuando Kubango. The meeting was informed that in March Dr Brett visited Angola and worked with local counterparts on a draft rhino policy for Angola. Final comments from coordination are being waited for so that a final submission can be made to cabinet. The meeting was also informed that at present a national biodiversity strategy is being developed and Rhino is key to this exercise. At this point eventually a proposal can be made to re-introduce rhino in Angola, Ethosha being the most secure area in the country.

Some of the questions/comments raised after the presentation included:

M. Brooks – if the draft policy is coming in Angola what is the future of rhino conservation in? It is a springboard for rhino conservation?

Dr Emslie – We need to know what management model is envisaged? Does it have to do with private sector engagement or only government responsibility?

Response – a meeting was held to bring on board private sector into the conservation agenda. We need to take cognizance that private sector in the country is still weak but efforts are being made to attract private sector.

### **MALAWI COUNTRY REPORT – ROY BHIMA**

The meeting was informed that the country had just 9 animals after the population was extinct in 1988. The founder animals came from South Africa in 1998 and 2000. They have been several births with only two deaths. Two bulls fighting. Female died and nobody knows why. The animals are located in rhino sanctuary which is 3/4 fenced. Frankfurt Zoological Society provided assistance in the security of the parks. Other donors are also assisting in the development of management plans. The country has 10 years contract with FZS but they have decided to pool out. Major constraint is on funding. The country have a nice scout protection team and MGT team is located very far way, which is what is causing problems in data collection and management. Some supporters are becoming like the owners of the rhinos. Some donors do not like the areas of the sanctuary and there are some disagreements in the mgt approach creating divisions among partners.

The meeting was informed that opportunities exist with different donors. SaN Parks, Wildlife of Malawi have been of great assistance. Majedje??? is being management by African Parks (a company from South Africa).

Major threats can be viewed as associated to external funding limitation; poaching is difficult to control. Frequent climate variability is also affecting the vegetation. This programme has assisted in the past but currently it is no longer there.

Some of the comments/questions made to the Malawi presentation included:

Dr du Toit – rhino to be subject to another stage of the dialogue?

We should come up with another rhino mgt plan. After the 2004 RRG Workshop we haven't met to look into the way forward.

Dr Emslie – sustainability is in a longer term. There is a need for some retention in revenue to re-invest in conservation. Is there any option of re-looking into this revenue retention issue?

Response from the presenter - there are many different views on this and you are correct that this was one of the reasons Frankfurt pulled out.

Dr Brooks – The issue also has to do with the viability of the population. Having them in a sanctuary it undermines such viability. How to handle this?

Response from the presenter – the park is fenced.  $\frac{3}{4}$  is fenced and views are being discussed to pool down the fence of the sanctuary. This is dividing the park into sections. How best can we manage the rhinos in the park without a sanctuary?

Dr Knight – we need not to lose sight of the reason behind the sanctuary. We need to look at it in a phased approach, supporting to other species.

It was noted that 300sqm in the lower Shire valley. In 1980-90, elephant population disappeared. It became just a wilderness area. African Parks came in and started re-introducing animals, fencing the area, introducing roads and mobilizing local communities. They have introduced new species and two translocations have occurred.

Dr Emslie – recommended best re-introduction practice to be near 20 founders as criteria. If you take down the fence animals will have a wider range area. Once numbers have built up you can then trans-locate.

## **SWAZILAND REPORT SUBMITTED BY GEORGE MBATHA**

### **1. Priorities for Rhino Conservation in Swaziland**

Our priorities have barely changed from the previous submission in 2003.

**Introductory Boma at Hlane** The costs have escalated, bringing the total to E 230 000 from the previous total of E 200 000, but it is still urgently needed for translocated rhinos.

**Ground Support for Rangers** We have yet to acquire the two motorcycles to increase security at Hlane. Again the costs have escalated and the cost is now about E 66 000.

**Expansion of Range – Hlane** Expansion always remains a priority. A study is being undertaken to justify / motivate His Majesty to agree to the inclusion of Ndvukuyamangedla and Grand Canyon areas into Hlane on the basis of expanded range for black and white rhino. This expansion would enable Hlane to support enough animals to make this an AfRSG continentally key population with ECC of +100 black rhino (Adcock 2002), and to bring to reality the recommendations of the Adcock study of 2002. This would be a first step towards possible participation in the KZN Wildlife / WWF rhino range expansion programme. Such a possibility would give teeth to any motivations directed at the Head of State.

**Hlane fencing** (To include Ndvukuyamangedla if possible). Quote +/- E79 000 per kilometre. Motivation similar to 1 and additionally it would expand important vulture nesting range south of Nzotho, currently not being used due to disturbance by humans. Their adjoining section of Hlane supports the highest density of tree nesting vultures in the world.

Fencing lines excluding Ndvukuyamangedla is 22km; and including is 42km. The Simunye section remaining is 4km.