

13 000), came back from less than 30 animals. Some researchers place the number as low as 12 animals.

The downlisting result greatly enhances Big Game Parks' policy of sustainable utilization of natural resources and to our ability to manage our rhino population optimally – though the trophy hunting option is unlikely to be taken up for a very long time to come.

BOTSWANA COUNTRY REPORT – MERCY MASEDI

Introduction

Botswana like many other countries experienced the extinction of both black and white rhinos in the 19th century. Rhinos currently found in Botswana are remnants of rhinos introduced into the country from South Africa between 1960 and 1980, and recently in the last decade. We really need to appreciate regional cooperation through the SADC Rhino Regional programme through which we managed to reintroduce quite a good number of rhinos through exchange programmes. We have a total of seventy eight rhinos with Chief's Island holding the largest population in the wild.

Population Distribution

The rhino population distribution is as follows:

COUNTRY DEN	SPECIES	SSP	PARK	TYPE	NUM	SIZE(km²)	RCPE	PROB	SG	TOTAL
BOTS 0.007	WHITE	CSS	MOREMI GR	S	1	>4000	29+2	2		29
BOTS 0.001	BLACK	Dbm	MOREMI GR	S	1	>4000	4			4
BOTS 0.674	WHITE	Css	SANCTUARY	C	1	43	29		29	
BOTS 0.333	WHITE	Css	MOKOLODI	P	1	30	10			10
BOTS 0.171	WHITE	Css	THOLO	p	1	35	6			6

Conservation plan

Our Rhino Management Strategy has been printed and published and is now working. The document is a vision towards rhino conservation and is expected to be a guide in the long-term rehabilitation of the rhino populations in Botswana.

Rhino poaching

No poaching has been reported in Botswana from June 2004 to date but we have a case on illegal possession of two rhino horns smuggled into the country by Zimbabwean nationals, the rhinos are believed to have been killed in Zimbabwe. The case is awaiting trial.

Rhino conservation activities

A study of Khama Rhino Sanctuary to hold black rhinos has been done. However a few technical issues have to be resolved before any further animals could be relocated there.

Constraints

All the rhino transmitters in Mombo are not working, this gives officers a hard time with monitoring and security. They have to rely on ear marking under a difficult and dense terrain. As of now about seven animals have moved vast distances from chief's Island and need to be located and translocated back to Mombo. The operation calls for resources such as the helicopter which at the moment the Department's does not have a pilot. Hence we have to look up to the BDF who

have their own schedules of activities to help to capture the animals. The plan is to do that before Winter.

Conservation measures in place to protect the few black and white rhino population we have:

As noted earlier, Chief’s Island holds the largest rhino population, These animals are monitored daily by our Anti-poaching personnel and fortunately we have the support of the Botswana Defence Force who compliment manpower. The site coordinator has worked hard with training these officers on monitoring procedures.

Committees

Two rhino committees are still in place, the Botswana Rhino management Committee and the Botswana Rhino Security. The Botswana Rhino Management Committee meets annually and when need arises twice to discuss general issues pertaining to rhinos in Botswana. The security group meets quarterly and their contributions have made a great positive impact on the security of rhinos. Through this committee, sister organisations especially the Botswana Defence Force has been able to provide a wing of support with manpower.

Conclusion

We appreciate the role of private concessionaires which helps with monitoring and facilitates transport during translocations. We hope this spirit will reign for good and through that in no time we will have a healthy population.

NAMIBIA COUNTRY REPORT – PIERRE DU PREEZ

1. Conservation plan.

Namibia has developed a Black Rhinoceros Conservation Strategy that concentrates on maximizing population growth rates through biological management, and expanding the range. The logical framework for the strategy is summarized in diagrammatic form below, showing the main strategic objectives and their contribution to the overall goal of Namibia’s black rhino conservation programme.

