- Training needs assessment – SADC Rhino Programme, Rob Blok.
- Scene of the crime training – SADC Rhino Programme, Rod Potter.
- Instructors course Pilansberg – AfRSG/SADC Rhino Programme.
- In service training of rhino monitors ENP – MET, R. Loutit (SADC Consultant)

b. Rhino programme support

- Mobile boma – SADC Rhino Programme
- National Rhino Data Base – SADC Rhino Programme

c. Initiatives

- Biological management of the Kunene populations – translocation of founder groups within the former range.
- Expanding custodian programme to communal conservancies – Uukwaluudhi and possibly 2006 - Naye-Naye
- Biological management of the ENP population to maximize growth, identifying sub populations in ENP – Capture 2002/3/4/5.
- Adapting the full moon monitoring in ENP to concentrate on indicator water holes for the collection of demographic data.
- Assessment of the feasibility to translocate a founder black rhino breeding group to Namib Naukluft Park (Naukluft section).
- Trophy hunting of black rhino males (CITES Cop 13)

TANZANIA COUNTRY REPORT – BONAVENTURA MIDALA
1.0 Introduction

Rhino conservation and management in Tanzania has continued to receive top priority in various sites where rhinos still exist. We have two subspecies of black rhino populations in the country. The subspecies *Diceros bicornis michael* is confined to the northern part of the country mainly in the Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation area. The other subspecies *Diceros bicornis minor* is found in the southern part of Tanzania with Selous Game Reserve being the current main stronghold. This report highlights on the progress made in protection and conservation of rhino populations during the period from March 2003 to March 2005.

2.0 Rhino Status

The rhino populations in Tanzania occur in scattered discrete localities that include the Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Selous Game Reserve and Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary in Mkomazi Game Reserve.

- **Serengeti National Park:** Two known black rhino populations exist in the park. They are found in the southern and northern parts of the park. The number of rhinos has steadily increased from 3 animals in 1994 to 22 animals (2004), with 14 rhinos in the southern zone and 8 rhinos in the northern zone respectively.

- **Ngorongoro Conservation Area:** The number of rhinos in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area has slightly increased from 17 animals in 1994 to 19 animals, in 2004.

- **Selous Game Reserve**: Efforts to protect, secure and monitor the few remaining rhinos in the Selous have been consistently intensified and improved resulting to steady

increase of the rhino population. The number of rhinos has significantly increased from 26 rhinos in 1991 to 44 rhinos in 2004.

- **Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary**: The sanctuary has seven (7) surviving rhinos out of the eight that were re-introduced from South Africa. The sanctuary lost one male (Sub-adult) that died of a nervous system malfunctioning. The females in Mkomazi Rhino sanctuary have not bred on reason that the three bulls in the sanctuary are subordinate to alpha female. Plans are underway to translocate bulls between Mkomazi and Ngorongoro.

Table 1. Rhino population numbers and distribution

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION PRESENTED

3.0 Rhino Monitoring and Protection

Tanzania has continued to improve surveillance and monitoring techniques in order to ensure adequate security in rhino zones. Among the techniques used include the following:

- **Patrol schemes:** Routine and emergency patrols are carried out in and outside Protected Areas. The evident success of patrol schemes in the reporting period is that no rhino carcass or any signs of rhino poaching have been found.

- **Night surveillance and observation:** is undertaken by observing and photographing the animals. For example this technique has proved to be precise in providing data of individual animals.

- **Footprint tracing:** This technique allows for immediate recognition of an individual by comparing the fresh spoor with known copies of other animals and a crucial quick decision can be taken to determine whether it is a 'new' rhino (undocumented) or it is a known one (already recorded). Although this technique has been applied in the Selous, it has a set back of being applicable in only favorable substrate conditions, which are not common in the rhino zones.

- **Aerial surveillance:** Regular aerial surveillance flights are undertaken to indicate preferred rhino habitat by vegetation types, eco-zones and water availability during dry season. This technique also function as aerial detection of poaching activities and carcasses of big game such as rhino and elephants. Aerial reconnaissance flights have significantly increased the range and effectiveness of the successful location of poachers' camps and relaying the exact coordinate to the ground team for effective arrest and poacher camp location.

4.0 Rhino Management Plan

Tanzania is committed to put in place mechanisms that will ensure the lasting recovery of the black rhino. Tanzania has a draft rhino management plan outlining the steps that need to be taken to continue protect, conserve and maintain the present steady increase of the black rhino. The draft management plan is in the process of being finalized to become operational.

5.0 Training and Rhino monitoring techniques

Training and capacity building is an ongoing activity and every opportunity is taken to further expand knowledge of rhino monitoring teams. During the reporting period four rhino survey specialist from Zimbabwe, sponsored by SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation assisted our monitoring team in rhino monitoring techniques and additional training. Rhino

monitoring techniques training course on Rhino Crime Scene Procedures is schedule to take place in early May 2005.

6.0 Threats to Rhino populations

The main threats facing the small populations of black rhino include the following: -

- **Poaching:** Despite of the existing security system in the rhino zones yet the rhinos that move out of the intensive protected area are considered unsafe and therefore prone to poaching.
- **Inbreeding:** This is particular to Moru Kopjes and Ngorongoro Crater meta populations, where there are dominant bulls which for a long period have had an opportunity to breed with most of the females including their own daughters resulting into a threat of severe inbreeding potential within these small populations.

- **Competition for home range:** Fully-grown bulls compete for home range resulting into severe fighting and dominant bulls displacing other bulls to unsafe areas.

- **Diseases:** Tick borne disease has resulted into increased calf mortality in the Ngorongoro Crater.

7.0 Way Forward

Tanzania intends to implement various strategies in order to improve her performance in the securing and protection of the rhinos. Emphasis will be on:

- Maintain high level of security in rhino zones by strengthening, equipping and training field patrol units.
- Translocate the dominant breeding bull out of the Ngorongoro crater to Mkomazi Rhino sanctuary in order to boost breeding.
- Review and operationalize the Management Plan for the black rhino.
- Establish and maintain information exchange with neighboring countries
- Maintain and effectively manage rhino protection database.

8.0 Conclusion:

Conservation of black rhino in Tanzania is an expensive undertaking and requires financial and material commitment. Consequently, the increasing rhino population in Tanzania is encouraging hence calls for support from all stakeholders.