

Update on CITES developments relevant to rhino conservation: is there any need for regional coordination in consumptive utilization of rhinos? (R. Emslie)

CITES CoP

- Black rhino hunting proposals from Namibia and South Africa
- Annotated downlisting of Swaziland's southern white rhino
- Reporting under CITES Resolution 9.14(rev)

Issue of MVP's

- Many national rhino plans have metapopulation goal of 2000 – based on original estimates from Franklin and Soule's estimate of Ne of 500 equiv. To at least 2000.
- However more probably 5000-7000 needed to ensure long term genetic variability (see p104 Pachyderm).
- **Does this mean we now need regional subspecies metapopulation goals?**

Presentation of latest draft of SADC Regional Strategy for Rhino Conservation (R. du Toit)





SADC REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR RHINO CONSERVATION

SADC REGIONAL RHINO CONSERVATION STRATEGY 2005-2010



GOAL
Southern African rhinos maintained as flagship species for biodiversity conservation and wildlife-based economic development, within viable and well distributed populations.



OBJECTIVE (for five-year time horizon)
By 2010, regional populations of each subspecies increased by 25% above their levels in 2005 and showing significantly wider distribution within the region as well as significantly greater economic relevance to the people of the region.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES
SADC commitments and instruments

SADC Treaty and Declaration (Chapter 3, Article 5);
 SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement (and the Implementation Plan for this Protocol);
 the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

Integrate with other regional initiatives

Sustainable use

Intraregional debate on policy
 Coordination, marketing?

International support

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Must achieve socio-economic benefits
 BUT biological management considerations must be paramount

Principles of conservation biology

Subspecies:
Diceros bicornis bicornis (south-western, or "desert" subspecies)
Diceros bicornis minor (south-central sub-species)
Diceros bicornis michaeli (eastern sub-species).
Ceratotherium simum simum (southern subspecies)
Ceratotherium simum cottoni (northern subspecies).

Not be redistributed beyond their natural, historical ranges unless compelling conservation reasons to do so are demonstrated.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Every introduction process should follow "best practice" as recommended by the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group

New breeding groups established with 20+ founders
 ECC > 100 rhinos in each area.

OR realistic plans IN ADVANCE of restocking, to prevent inbreeding and overstocking, through translocations and exchanges of rhinos.

For each subspecies, regional metapopulation sizes of over 2,000 animals are ultimately intended and the various sub-populations must be managed as elements of these regional metapopulations

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Population growth rate of at least 5% per annum will be expected for each population.

Pro-active management to keep population density below ECC.

Captive or semi-captive breeding of rhinos not encouraged.

Output: Mechanisms maintained and enhanced for regional collaboration in rhino conservation.

Streamlining regional coordination mechanisms within the SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation, under the auspices of the SADC Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR). RESG etc.

Enhancing sub-regional coordination mechanisms (metapopulation strategies)

Networking existing and new rhino conservation projects within the sub-region.

Promote SADC RPRC as model for another region (e.g. East Africa) or for other species

Output: Biological management of rhinos facilitated at a sub-regional level.

Supporting viable projects for rhino re-introduction, linked to destocking of areas that are at or near carrying capacity, or are insecure.

Continue to source rhinos for reintroduction/population reinforcement, including inter-governmental brokering

Mobilizing key elements of technical support for rhino monitoring and management

Support SADC Rhino Recovery Group (RRG) and its activities





Output: Capacity for rhino conservation retained and enhanced.

Mainstream training courses and materials developed in Phase I within regional training institutions; encourage accreditation of training courses; mentor programmes.

Develop auxiliary support for governments in the form of a regional service providing rhino monitoring functions and capacity-building ("auditing" of rhino populations through periodic aerial or ground-based surveys and in-service training of field staff, developing and utilizing a regional network of highly experienced rhino trackers, bush pilots, survey designers and data analysts, etc.)

Develop auxiliary support for governments in the form of a regional service providing rhino veterinary functions and capacity-building (drug-immobilizations for translocations, treatment of injuries, attachment of radiotelemetry devices, etc.)

Assist range states with selection, cultivation and support of rhino focal points/coordinators (identifying gaps in Terms of Reference and including training opportunities and mentor/attachment programmes)




Output: Technical assistance for rhino managers in range states





SADC REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR RHINO CONSERVATION

TRAINING IN SCENE OF CRIME INVESTIGATION COURSE REPORT: SWAZILAND
Rod Potler
Training course manual on crime scene procedures and techniques for investigation and successful prosecution

Provide rhino conservation expertise to and between SADC range states

Support standardized status reporting on rhino populations and performance, for improved rhino management in the SADC region (SADC RMG support), including spatial analysis as required

Update and disseminate manuals, software, tools and technologies developed during Phase I

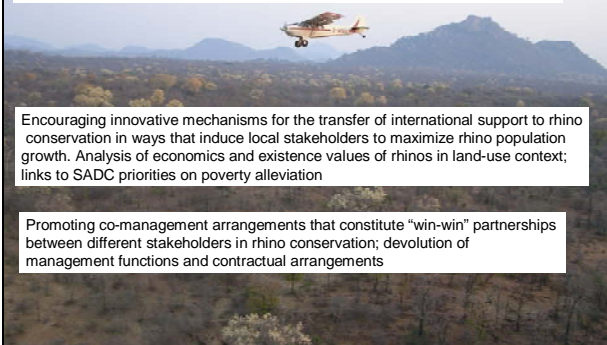





Output: Innovative approaches to rhino conservation identified and encouraged within the region.

Identifying and encouraging opportunities for commercial and community-based wildlife production systems that sustainably integrate rhinos, to the economic benefit of the stakeholders in those systems.

Encouraging innovative mechanisms for the transfer of international support to rhino conservation in ways that induce local stakeholders to maximize rhino population growth. Analysis of economics and existence values of rhinos in land-use context; links to SADC priorities on poverty alleviation

Promoting co-management arrangements that constitute "win-win" partnerships between different stakeholders in rhino conservation; devolution of management functions and contractual arrangements



Output: Awareness of rhino conservation increased within the sub-region.

Promoting awareness of rhino conservation at a local community level.

Undertaking awareness programmes at sub-regional and national level.

