

SADC REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR RHINO CONSERVATION

MEETING OF THE SADC RHINO RECOVERY GROUP (SADC RRG)

MAUN, BOTSWANA
11 MARCH, 2003

PROCEEDINGS



COOPERAZIONE
ITALIANA

ITALIAN COOPERATION

AID 5064



IUCN
The World Conservation Union



PROJECT KEY DATA

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CESVI

SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Coordination Unit

IUCN - The World Conservation Union - Regional Office for Southern Africa

IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group

WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature Southern African Regional Programme Office

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A PREAMBLE

At a meeting of representatives of the SADC Rhino Range States, which convened at Kwa Maritane Lodge, Pilanesberg NP, South Africa in March 2001, the focal points of SADC rhino range states agreed to form two Regional Institutional Structures under SADC for rhino conservation in the constituent range states. Range states that are at the stage of reintroduction or re-establishment of small populations of black or white rhinos (Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia) would form a SADC Rhino Recovery Group (RRG). The RRG would also benefit from the participation of individual representatives from the IUCN/SSC AfRSG, RMG and the SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation (RPRC), which would assist with necessary technical input and capacity building towards the establishment of new rhino populations, management security and monitoring. The existing Rhino Management Group (RMG) would come under the SADC umbrella and continue to focus on the needs of states with existing viable rhino populations and well-developed conservation programmes (South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe & Swaziland).

The SADC Rhino Recovery Group (RRG) was inaugurated at a meeting held at Mangochi, Malawi in May 2002. Each of the SADC RRG range states was represented by its designated focal point, and the director or senior member of staff of the country's Rhino Management Authority (RMA) where attendance was possible. The meeting was also attended by representatives of SADC Rhino Consortium, including the former SADC WSTCU Malawi (Chair), IUCN ROSA (SADC Rhino Programme Coordinator), WWF SARPO, CESVI and IUCN/SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (Chair, also the chair of the SADC RMG). The inaugural meeting agreed on the aims, objectives, structure and function of the SADC RRG, and these were defined within a Terms of Reference, as well as a *modus operandi* for the Group and its office bearers (Chair: Malawi; Vice-Chair: Tanzania). A framework for future activities of the SADC RRG was also developed, including an action plan for the remainder of 2003 including a number of projects which had funding support approved from the SADC RPRC.

A second meeting of the SADC RRG, proceeding of which follow in Section B, was held in March 2003 in Maun, Botswana on the day (11th March) preceding a full meeting of all the SADC rhino range states and members of the SADC rhino consortium. Participants at SADC RRG meeting and their contact details are listed in Annex A, and the agenda agreed and followed at the meeting is provided in Annex B.

B PROCEEDINGS

1 INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

1.1 Welcome (Humphrey Nzima – Malawi, Manuel Enock – SADC FANR, Isaac Theophilus – Botswana)

All participants to the meeting were welcomed by The Chair, Mr Nzima, who was representing both the former SADC WSTCU and the Malawi DNPW. Mr Enock of the SADC FANR introduced himself, and declared his pleasure at attending his first SADC rhino meeting.

On behalf of the host country, Botswana, Mr Theophilus welcomed participants to Maun, the place of reeds. He said that wildlife conservation was very important for Botswana, with tourism income being a significant source of revenue for country, the second highest earner after minerals. Despite initial scepticism, and in light of the former poaching of rhinos to extinction, Botswana had taken the bold decision to move rhinos back to the wild in partnership with private sector. An exchange programme with SANP had been established in order to acquire more white rhinos. A total of 31 white rhinos were anticipated; so far 10 animals had been reintroduced back into wild. Mr Theophilus said that the SADC RRG was an important group, and its members were doing well in terms of re-establishing their rhino populations. The support from the SADC rhino programme had come at right time, and he wished that the programme continues into future and suggested that other organisations come on board. He hoped that the SADC FANR would not delegate natural resources issues to background since the SADC region was dependent on wildlife-based economy.

Mr Theophilus then introduced Mercy Masedi will be new rhino coordinator in Botswana, having taken over from Moremi Tjibae (now warden of Khama RS). He wished participants a productive meeting, and asked them to enjoy a bit of cultural tourism in Maun during their stay.

1.2 Objectives of Meeting (Rob Brett – Programme Coordinator)

Dr Brett listed the Objectives of this second meeting of the SADC RRG, which were as follows:

- To review (and if necessary revise) the Terms of Reference for the SADC RRG
- To review progress on RRG activities since the last meeting (May 2002)
- To present information relevant to developing national rhino conservation programmes to members and discuss these and their influence on reintroduction and recovery projects in RRG member countries
- To present and discuss project proposals developed by RRG countries and regional projects involving RRG countries developed by the SADC rhino consortium
- To review (and if necessary revise) the membership and office bearers of SADC RRG, and its *modus operandi*
- To draft an action plan for the SADC RRG for the next 12 months.

1.3 SADC RRG: overview of Terms of Reference (May 2002) (Roy Bhima - Malawi)

The terms of reference of the SADC RRG, drafted and agreed in May 2002, were revisited in turn through discussion in plenary.

The Botswana delegates stressed the importance of security for rhino populations, and the need for identification of areas for reintroduction. Dr Kampamba highlighted the importance of good coordination by the RRG Chair ensuring that all strategies were included in RRG activities. Mr Chafota said that funding from Italy to the programme had been constrained for the period since the inception of the RRG, and there was a need to ensure that other sources of funds were identified for RRG projects. This was supported by Mr du Toit who suggested the wording of an additional strategy (11.) to be included in the Terms of Reference. The inclusion of this additional strategy was agreed, and together with a minor edit to the Aim of the SADC RRG, a revised Terms of Reference of the SADC RRG was approved (below).

Aim or Objective of the SADC RRG

“to coordinate and facilitate the application of regional resources in re-establishing rhino populations and managing remnant rhino populations, and ensuring their future viability”

Strategies of the SADC RRG

1. Facilitate and assist with the development of national policies, strategies and plans
2. Identify key issues and priority needs, including sourcing of rhinos for reintroduction and regional metapopulation management
3. Facilitate building of capacity in RRG management agencies, including targeted training and staff development, and development of appropriate tools and techniques
4. Assist RRG countries with undertaking assessments of potential areas for reintroduction and prioritise these areas
5. Disseminate information on best practice between RRG members, by use of workshops, publications, exchange/study visits, and staff assignments
6. Follow up on confirmed presence of remnant rhinos and promote surveys of remnant populations
7. Circulate guidelines on the reintroduction of rhinos and consolidation of remnant populations
8. Network and share expertise with regional and continental rhino conservation bodies (SADC RMG, AfRSG, SADC Rhino Programme and donor community, including linkage with RESG on security needs)
9. Monitor and evaluate progress towards achievement of national rhino conservation goals, and the effectiveness of rhino recovery projects that are implemented in RRG countries
10. Assist RRG countries in the development and funding of project proposals, based on identification of common needs, and facilitate the funding of rhino recovery projects in RRG countries
- 11. Assist RRG countries in the development and funding of project proposals, based on identification of common needs, and facilitate the funding of rhino recovery projects in RRG countries**

1.4 RRG Workplan (2002-2003) and Progress with Activities (Roy Bhima – Malawi)

Mr Chafota (SADC Rhino Consortium point of contact for SADC RRG) and Dr Bhima had drafted a plan of activities for the RRG for the period 1 July to 31 December 2002, and these were circulated to RRG members. The proposed activities were reviewed in turn, progress described, and follow-up actions (*in italics*) agreed:

1. National Policies, Strategies and Plans

Zambia – ZAWA should proceed with development of its national rhino strategy with funding from USFW RTCF. Additional technical input was available from SADC RPRC and funding support for participation from representatives from other RRG countries. Delay in provision of approved funds by RTCF were highlighted and discussed.

The SADC Programme Coordinator and Mr du Toit should follow up with the RTCF to ensure that funds agreed were supplied (This was done after the meeting, and it became clear that the reason for delay in provision was that ZAWA had failed to submit a written request for the transfer of funds approved, as required in RTCF procedures supplied)

Malawi – A national plan was still required, although this could possibly be included within a new SANP rhino strategy. Revised proposal was submitted by Malawi to SADC RPRC, for support to the development of an integrated management plan for Liwonde NP. The deficiency of the SANP's planning process for allocation of rhinos was highlighted, including clarity and process on regional allocations.

The Malawi focal point should follow up with RSA focal point, including the continued role of SANP in rhino management at Liwonde. The SADC RPRC should allocate funds towards a project for development of a support framework for making allocations of rhinos on the basis of conservation and business models.

Mozambique – A national plan for Mozambique was needed, to be preceded by the reintroduction feasibility study for Limpopo Park, already approved for support by SADC RPRC.

Mozambique needed the finalised guidelines on reintroduction to guide the feasibility study. In addition, a clear Statement of Intent and Commitment on rhino conservation by the Government of Mozambique was needed to form the basis for a brief preliminary rhino conservation strategy document.

Angola – A mission from SADC rhino consortium to assist with development of Angola's reintroduction options was scheduled for 2003. Although a national plan for Angola was required, this was not needed immediately. As with Mozambique, *a preliminary statement of intent & commitment on rhino conservation by government of Angola was required, and provision of the finalised guidelines on reintroduction of rhinos.*

Drafting of a combined broad policy framework for both Angola and Mozambique was required, including options on out-of-range introductions of rhinos, and it was agreed that a combined policy development workshop for both countries was desirable, which could be linked to recovery projects for other endangered species and their conservation requirements.

2. Priority needs for rhino reintroductions

Dr Bhima said that follow up had been lacking on requests for inputs to the matrix table, and added the proceedings of the last RRG meeting had been received by some members. Dr Brett confirmed that these had been sent out to all participants.

It was agreed that all RRG member representatives should ensure that the SADC rhino programme coordinator has up to date contact details, including physical address for transmission of proceedings and other hard copy by courier (e.g. Fedex, DHL)

3. Capacity Building and training needs

Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia had responded with requests for training courses currently available with SADC RPRC funding. The attrition and transfer of trained and dedicated rhino programme staff by range state management authorities was highlighted as a major concern and constraint to capacity building and institutionalisation of training, and this issue would be revisited at the range states meeting.

Training needs should be included during the RRG meeting planned to coincide with the next AfRSG meeting, including attendance of Angola and Mozambique (dependent on funding from SADC RPRC). The RRG Chair should follow-up with range states on training needs.

4. Assistance with assessments of areas for reintroduction

This activity was currently addressed through SADC RPRC inputs (e.g. policy development, assessment of realistic options, evaluation of specific areas). Angola and Mozambique require provision and use of generic guidelines for reintroduction and drafting of their preliminary definition of intent on rhino conservation (e.g. species, range areas, etc)

5. Best practice and dissemination of information on rhino management

Some documents and task reports on regional projects are already available on SADC RPRC website. Circulation on country-specific projects is dependent on approval of recipient range states, and permission for circulation

6. Surveys on remnant rhino populations

Tanzania – no reports had been received of *D.b.minor* outside existing areas monitored in Selous GR. Mozambique and Angola – these countries still have unconfirmed reports of rhinos from 2002 (Niassa GR, Cuando Cubango province).

Confirmation of presence of rhinos was needed on the basis of compiled information on sighting/spoor/dung of rhinos. A one-page checklist to be used for compiling information and material to confirm presence of rhinos should be drawn up for use by range states with possible remnant rhinos.

7. Guidelines for Reintroductions

The biological component of guidelines had been completed by Mr du Toit. *Management and security guidelines needed feedback from case studies (e.g. a North Luangwa NP security assessment) for general applicability by range states.*

8. Networking with other rhino conservation bodies, and sharing of expertise

The RRG membership had been introduced and contacts established. The RRG Term of Reference would be informed to SADC RMG at its next meeting in June 2003. RRG Chair will be a member of AfRSG.

Notes section of Pachyderm should be used to circulate news on country reintroduction projects (contact details of Editor (Helen van Houten): P O Box 68200, 0100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya; Fax +254 2 570385; Email hvh@iconnect.co.ke or afesg@ssc.iucn.org)

9. Monitoring action towards achieving national population goals of RRG countries

To address this activity, coordination missions by SADC rhino programme coordinator and RRG Chair were proposed.

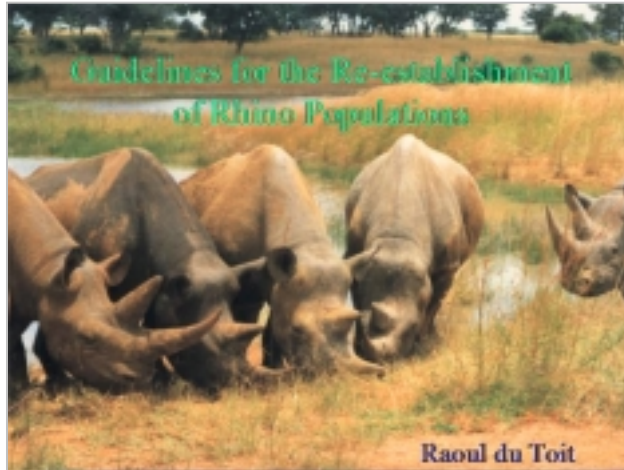
10. Development of project proposals for funding by SADC RPRC

Coordination between RPC and RRG Chair was needed on concepts for projects with good potential for funding by SADC RPRC, particularly where assistance needed from RRG Chair in development of new proposals from RRG countries. The use of the Vice-Chair of RRG was promoted.

2 PRESENTATIONS

(a) Presentations by SADC Rhino Consortium Members

2.1 Rhino Reintroduction Guidelines: Part II (Raoul du Toit)



INTRODUCTION

Looking at **strategic planning** issues

- Not translocation and release procedures
- Recommendations are made on the **ideal scenario**
- This is rarely, if ever, achievable.
- Compromises and variations are inevitable, **within limits**

VIABILITY/SUSTAINABILITY

- Biological**
 - Genetic
 - Demographic
 - Ecological
- Economic**
 - Government support
 - Donor support – from general or specific sources (trust arrangements?)
 - Land-use
- Socio-political**
 - Policy and legal framework
 - Conducive social environment (cultural attitudes, standards of living, law enforcement, external influences, general stability)

GENETIC ISSUES

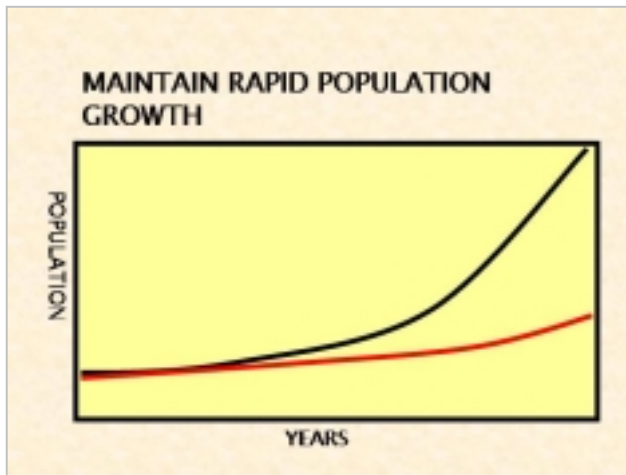
- Need an adequate number of **founder animals**
 - i.e. unrelated
 - effective breeders
- 20** is the currently recommended **minimum**
- Build up to a total population of **over 100**
- So need adequate area of suitable habitat
- Or manage within a **metapopulation** that has at least one other subpopulation of over 100

METAPOPULATION

Is not just the various populations within a region

There has to be a degree of **managed gene flow** between **subpopulations**

One effective breeder per generation (every 5–10 years)



WHY IS POPULATION GROWTH IMPORTANT, GENETICALLY?

The founder population has a genetic pool (alphabet soup of genes).

SAMPLING OF GENE POOL DURING REPRODUCTION

Random selection of founder genes to comprise the gene pool of the next generation

A few samples (births) is only a few ladles of soup

Purple: founder rhinos Blueish calves

A few samples (births) is only a few ladles of soup

Purple: founder rhinos Pinker calves

Rapid sampling scoops out more letters in the same period of time

Purple: founder rhinos

Founders die so the gene pool diminishes if it hasn't been fully sampled = genetic drift

Purple: founder rhinos Births Blueish calves
Deaths 79012 573bc

Planning for maximum rate of population growth

Need to plan ahead – be pro-active, not reactive, because rhino breeding problems take a while to become apparent, are complicated by the introduction scenario, and cannot be quickly rectified

ICI = 2 to 3 years
AFC = 6 to 8 years

Sex ratio generally 1:1

Sources of rhinos
 Theoretically better to get founders from more than one donor population but this is probably not a major concern for rhinos at present (Addo?)
 Draw from the **subspecies** that historically occurred at the re-introduction site

The main constraint on population growth will be habitat/area

Need an adequate area of suitable habitat

Carrying capacity
 Ecological carrying capacity
 Maximum production stocking rate (75% of ecc?)
 In most southern African range states, black rhino maximum production stocking rates are generally one rhino per 10-15 sq km

Needs professional assessment
 Taking seasonality into account

Social carrying capacity
 Increasing a population through introductions is not the same as increasing a population through natural population growth, in terms of social interactions
 For black rhinos, around 1 bull per 25 sq km

Area required

If 20 founders @ 1 rhino/10 sq km = 200 sq km
 If 50% (10) are bulls @ 1 bull/25 sq km = 250 sq km
 Need to allow for population expansion
 So we need something around 250-300 sq km

Waterpoint distribution

relates to social organization
 And poaching patterns

Distribution of permanent versus seasonal water

"Holding effect" of waterpoints

Similarly, patches of habitat (thickets) can "hold" rhinos

Terrain features

Disease concerns

At the release site

- Tryps
- Anthrax

From the source locality

- Tick-borne diseases (detick rhinos)
- TB?
- Zoo rhinos

Management and protection

Manpower and resources

Scouts adequately, trained, motivated and equipped

Men = $\sqrt{\text{Area}}$

IPZ area 400 sq km
Total men required = 20
Base-line scouts in place = 10
Additional men = 10

Total area = 1600 sq km
Men required = 40

NEED EFFECTIVE MANPOWER

Not merely a total number of men

PRIMARY ISSUE IS DETECTION CAPACITY

REACTION CAPACITY IS SECONDARY

SCOUTS NEED BACK-UP AND FACILITATION

- Supervision
- Administration
- Accommodation
- Transport

System for patrol reporting/analysis

System for rhino monitoring

System for maximizing effective patrol time

NEED SYSTEMATIC/STRATEGIC COVERAGE OF AREA/RHINOS

Ensure **monitoring capacity** in place

- Rhino monitoring staff
- Establish reporting system (frequency of sighting)

Database – WILDb – computerization? In situ or at metapopulation level?


Establish identification systems

- Earmatching
- Transponders
- Do at capture if possible
- Naming of rhinos
- Consider "family names" e.g. Red, Green, Blue... Lilongwe, Biantyre, Mangochi...
- Radiocollaring/implants

Ensure capacity for recaptures, veterinary CPSES, etc.

Small populations/areas will entail intensive management in due course to prevent inbreeding and overstocking

Ensure effective informer systems

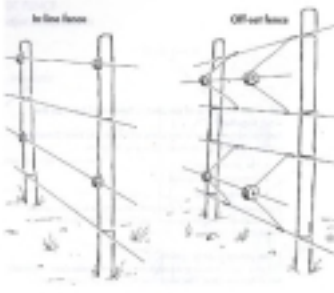


Sensitization of prosecutors and magistrates

Reward systems

Fencing

Consider purpose and cost-effectiveness



EIA of impacts on other species – and manpower drain

Funding

Sustainability...for long-term projects – government support?

Partnerships – with NGOs
international
local – "Friends of ..."



With private sector

Incentives?
Ownership
Custodianship
Conservancies (don't preclude cattle ranching)
Long-term concessions on state land

Avoid pet projects and piecemeal commitments

Policies, plans, coordination



Strategy – framework of policy, goals, objectives and rhino management principles



ZIMBABWE RHINO POLICY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Responsibilities, resources, timing

Action plans


Planned introductions

Incremental introductions via compartments

Discussion

- Mr Theophilus stressed the need for inclusion of guidelines on reward schemes, disincentives and deterrence of poaching, and information on prosecution and securing convictions.
- Mr Kingengo asked that the costs of rhino re-establishment be addressed and if possible estimated
- Dr Emslie said that detection of illegal activity, including detection of carcasses and the deterrent effects of tourists and roads was a very important factor in rhino security.

2.2 Coordination of rhino conservation in RRG countries (Rob Brett)

<p>Coordination Mechanisms in Range State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Rhino Conservation Strategy – Endorsed ✓ Coordination/Technical Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhino Management Authority • Private Sector Participants: Custodians/Owners • Local Rhino Donors/Support Groups ✓ Rhino Coordinator 	<p>Rhino Coordinator Duties (a) Planning and Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Oversee revision and implementation of National Rhino Strategy ✓ Oversee production and implementation of periodic Action Plans ✓ Convene and provide secretariat for meetings of Coordination Committees (e.g. Advisory, Management, Technical, Custodians) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda, Notifications, Minutes, and Follow-up ✓ Draw up periodic action plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions, captures and translocations • Surveys and monitoring programmes • Training Courses • Research projects, including habitat studies 
<p>Rhino Coordinator Duties (b) Status Reporting and Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Compile and Circulate Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population status and performance • Survey and Monitoring programmes • Site selection and inspections • Rhino Horns stockpile data • Training and performance of staff ✓ Maintain rhino populations databases ✓ Monitor expenditure on rhino conservation projects, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure against budgets • Reporting to donors 	<p>Rhino Coordinator Duties (c) Coordination and Liaison with Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure effective and efficient coordination with donors and stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within Rhino Management Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide link from field to headquarters on rhino priorities • Between RMA and Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and monitoring of rhino custodians/owners and custodianship programmes • Liaison between donors • Liaison between areas/activities and donor support groups • Identification and prioritisation of funding needs • Liaison and information-sharing with African Rhino Specialists and other national rhino coordinators 
<p>Rhino Coordinator Duties (d) Representation and Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Secure funding for rhino management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify funding needs • Draft and present funding proposals • Obtain official endorsement of priority projects and proposals ✓ Advise RMA on international matters through coordination committees ✓ Represent Country on regional and continental bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN/SSC AIRSC, SADC RRG/RMG, RESG • Importance of consistent representation from Country 	<p>Placement and Role of Rhino Coordinator within Rhino Management Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Full-time? ✓ Research or Management staff? ✓ Reporting position and Responsibility? ✓ Background and Training required? 

Discussion

- Dr Brooks said that rhino coordinators did not necessarily need a rhino management background, but that it was important that prospective rhino coordinators were identified and prepared at least 12 months in advance.
- Mr du Toit said that the duties identified for a Rhino Coordinator post in Dr Brett's presentation need not be carried out by one individual, and tasks could be split between individuals within an action plan.
- Mr Chafota said that duties of a rhino coordinator would differ between countries depending on stage of development of rhino programme. Dr Kampamba stressed the need for a specific person for coordinating field activities.
- It was recommended that formal agreements or MoUs were needed to define roles and responsibilities of private sector participants in a national rhino conservation programme.

2.3 Sources of funding for rhino conservation and the role of the AfRSG (Richard Emslie)



- SADC Rhino Programme
 - ▶ Limited time span - Till end of 2004
 - ▶ Must be of SADC regional nature or importance
 - May forward good but non-regional proposals ...
 - ▶ Limited to *Css*, *Dbmir*, and *Dbb*
 - ▶ Must make use of existing institutions & linkages
 - ▶ Both public and private considered
 - ▶ Upper limit of \$50 th
 - ▶ Fundamental rhino mgmt issues must be taken into account
 - ▶ Funded projects deal with:
 - Institutional Arrangements, Reporting Systems & Surveys, Technical capacity & training, Community participation, Provision of expertise from SADC region - evaluations & assessments and Tools and technology for rhino conservation

- SADC Rhino Programme
 - ▶ Limited time span - Till end of 2004
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- US Fish & Wildlife Rhino & Tiger Cons.Fund
 - ▶ Maximum usually \$30-\$50 th. Need matching\$\$
 - ▶ Total of \$506,215 for 21 African rhino projects in 2001-2002
 - ▶ Range of topics supported
 - Applied research, Conservation education & outreach, Law enforcement, Surveys & monitoring and Protected area/reserve management
 - ▶ Specific proposal format
 - Contact Dr Karl Stromayer at Karl.Stromayer@fws.gov or visit www.fws.gov to get a copy of detailed request for proposal
 - ▶ Annual awards - want quality proposals -Review process - Don't be put off if you get lots of questions back
 - ▶ Problem - delay in getting funds

- WWF
 - ▶ African Rhino Programme
 - ARP guided by Action Plan with overall objective and 7 targets. Clear focus on *Key* populations and metapopns
 - ▶ Set proposal format and reporting
 - ▶ Two tier process to prioritise and select projects
 1. **AfRSG Criteria**
 - Rated *Continental priority* or *Continentially important* projects
 2. **WWF Criteria**
 - Contributes to ARP programme goal and objective
 - Historical involvement with WWF
 - Falls within WWF Global 200 Eco-region
 - Fits in with "purpose" of WWF sub-regional programme
 - Offers strategic and catalytic possibility
 - Applies lessons learned from WWF/MNC study on what works in rhino conservation
 - ▶ Collaboration & Partnerships
 - AfRSG, TRAFFIC, SADC Rhino Programme

- Frankfurt Zoological Society
 - ▶ Project selection process not as formal as other funding agencies
 - ▶ Track record of significant long term involvement in specific field projects
 - ▶ Sometimes provision/use of fixed wing aircraft
 - ▶ Rhino coordinator based at Ngorongoro, Tanzania
 - ▶ Veterinary assistance to Namibia
 - ▶ North Luangwa Conservation Project
 - ▶ Assistance in Garamba

- International Rhino Foundation (IRF)
 - ▶ Many projects relate to captive breeding
 - ▶ A few major field projects
 - Garamba NP - Northern White rhino main focus in Africa
 - Limited current/past support to Zimbabwe, Tanzania and S.Africa
 - In Asia main focus on Sumatran and Javan rhinos and includes putting rhino protection units in the field
 - SOS rhino
 - ▶ Limited money for field - cooperates with IRF
 - Save the Rhino International
 - ▶ Main focus on field projects

- African Wildlife Foundation
 - ▶ More limited funding available
 - ▶ Specific projects designed and developed with key partners. For both private and state populations.
 - ▶ Range of projects in Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia and S Africa
 - Support for basic needs for surveillance and monitoring of rhino populations
 - Support for re-establishment of populations
 - Promotion & development of technologies and innovative methodologies to make rhino monitoring and protection cost effective
 - Supporting exchange of experiences and lessons learned
 - ▶ Africa office based in Nairobi

- Local country specific opportunities
 - Namibia - NNF and SRT
 - S.Africa - EWT
 - Zimbabwe - Marwell Trust and Zam besi Soc.
 - Etc.
- International Projects
 - UK funded Darwin Initiatives

- Other sources of funding ...
 - Taking businessmen as paying passengers on rhino captures, Science on Safari etc.
 - Setting up "Friends of..." organisation etc. Help in kind & donations (e.g. Pilanesberg Bomas)
 - Revenue generation from sale of rhinos, hunting and tourism



- ### Proposals
- Your chances of getting funding will be enhanced by
 - Submitting proposals which follow required form at for that donor, and taking the trouble and time to put together a good complete proposal.
 - Proposing projects that qualify for AfRSG rating
 - Having matching funds - and showing what you are doing/contributing
 - Building relationships with specific donors - delivering on what you proposed to do and reporting to donor as required and on time
 - Building up a track record of spending and managing past money effectively

- ### Role of the AfRSG
- Encourage - make members aware of different donors
 - Promote effective conservation strategies
 - Rating system for projects
 - Review and comment on proposals at request of funding agencies
 - Assist range states with preparation of proposals (technical comment/commenting on drafts)
 - Field visits to discuss programme - feedback to donor agency (eg Zambia re-intro)

- ### Project rating system
- Continental Priority Projects (P)
 - *Essential* to secure *immediate* survival of viable populations of each taxon of black and white rhino in Africa and are therefore accorded highest priority
 - Must either
 - Involve an existing Key population and
 - Follow a conservation model appropriate for the situation
 - Ensure population increase or stability
 - Include demonstrated commitment through active involvement by the relevant management authority (govt, pvt owner, custodian) and ideally enhance the capacity of these authorities
 - Or
 - Address a national or international issue that is critical to the long term survival of the taxon

- Continentally Important Projects (I)
 - *Important* to survival of of each taxon in the *medium to long term*
 - Must either
 - Involve an existing Key population and
 - Follow a conservation model appropriate for the situation
 - Ensure population increase or stability
 - Include demonstrated commitment through active involvement by the relevant management authority (govt, pvt owner, custodian) and ideally enhance the capacity of these authorities
 - Involve the re-establishment within the taxon's former range of a population initiated within at least 20 founders in area having an ECC of 100+ rhinos and
 - Follow the re-establishment principles and procedures as defined by AfRSG
 - Ensure population increase or stability
 - Include demonstrated...
 - Or
 - Address a national or international issue that is critical to the long term survival of the taxon

- Nationally Important Projects (N)
 - Projects that do not fulfill criteria for P and I continental projects, but are considered important for rhino survival and viability within individual historic rhino range states
 - The following will qualify
 - Rhino surveys
 - Drafting and adoption of rhino legislation, policies, strategies, feasibility studies and action plans.
 - In addition given adoption of appropriate national plan drafted in accordance with AfRSG's best practice guidelines, any project will qualify provided it :
 - Is important for achievement of rhino conserv. goals for the country and
 - Involves the creation, maint, and protection of at least one discrete popn with at least 20 founders (or commitment to achieve this number) and ECC of 50+

(b) Presentations by Rhino Focal Points of SADC RRG Range States

Each of the focal points appointed by each of the SADC rhino range state provided a summary presentation on the status of rhino conservation in their countries. Each representative had been requested to provide feedback on in-country activities under the SADC RPRC. Presentations were followed by some questions and discussion.

2.4 Angola (Nkosi Luta Kingengo)

Planning and Coordination

Rhino Management Authority: Instituto de Desenvolvimento Florestal (IDF)

Rhino Strategy conservation (year): to be outlined

Action planned: Information collection on the historical area of distribution

Co-ordinating Committees: not yet instituted

Focal Point for SADC Programme: Nkosi Luta Kingengo, IDF

Alternate Focal Point: Carlos Henrique Mutula, DNAF (Direcção Nacional da Agricultura e Floresta)

Collaboration with other SADC Range States

Commitments to other SADC Range States: Namibia should be approached

Rhino numbers: no information available

Monitoring and reporting: Information from IDF representative in Kuando Kubango Province indicates the occurrence of Black Rhino.

Requirements for survey and Monitoring: Surveys and monitoring required in all historical areas of distribution.

Manpower and Resources for Rhino Conservation

Scout density (General information):

National Level: total of 570 Scouts

Kissama National Park: 20 Scouts (1 per 500 km²).1, 260 ex-combatants will be admitted as scouts to reinforce the service

Vehicle density: 1 (Kissama National Park)

Operating budget (US\$): No specific budget, the budget approved will cover during the year 2003 all activities relating to wildlife and forestry management and preservation.

Salaries (\$ p.a.): IDF:

Scout: 900 \$/m./a.

Expertise: Several biologists, vets and some IDF staff trained in wildlife management at Mweka College and Mozambique, but no experience with Rhinos.

Equipment: None

Participation in Rhino Conservation

Community: Should be integrated once confirmed the presence of the Rhino in the historical area or reintroduced in one of the National Parks.

NGOs: Kissama Foundation devoted to Kissama NP plan to reintroduce the White rhino in that NP.

Private Sector: ORCA, Lda is devoted to Iona NP plan to reintroduce the Black rhino once their presence in the Park is not confirmed

Legislation for Rhino Conservation

Protected status of rhinos: Rhinos are listed in Appendix I under the Regulamento de Caça(1957) and Decreto Executivo Conjunto nr 36/99 and 37/99 of 27 January.

Penalties: Poaching of rhinos, and illegal possession of rhino horn: adequate

According the above Decreto the tax of the animal is of 11.600 UCFs (Unidade de Correção Fiscal. Presently 1 UCF= 20 Kz, 0.30 \$). This tax is multiplied by 7. Imprisonment if failure to pay the total of the penalties.

Safari Hunting of rhinos; Hunting of rhinos is prohibited by the Regulamento de Caça and Decreto nr 6/99

Live Sales of rhinos: to be permitted under the Regulamento de Caça

Ownership: State is the ownership of all wild animals existing in their wild habitat according to the Regulamento de Caça. Game can be privately owned if re-introduced to game farm or concession area.

Trade and Import/Export In Rhinos

CITES authority: Instituto de Desenvolvimento Florestal - IDF

Licences required: CITES import/export permits Veterinary certificate from exporting country is required. Licence issued by the National Directorate of Animal Production is also required.

Past translocations: exports: none

Past translocation: imports: White rhino (1968): 10 from Natal Park to Kissama NP.

Stock: The occurrence the animal in the historical area should be confirmed and assessed

Control: Horn and other illegal trophies are stored in the National Department of Administration and Finance of the IDF.

Horn fingerprinting: Project involvement: No involvement in the FP project.

Discussion

- Mr Kingengo said that lack of funding had meant that there had been no activities. There were no salaries for staff. He added that information had been received on presence of rhinos in Kuando Kubango province, where sources had confirmed resemblance of the rhinos sighted to white rhinos.

2.5 Botswana (Mercy Masedi)

Background information

The rhino population has in the past been affected by hunting and poaching that led to their extinction in Botswana between 1880 and 1890. Reintroduction programme adopted by the country in 1967 coincided with an increase in rhino poaching and this did not spare the lives of those newly relocated. Attempts by both the Department of Wildlife and National Parks and the Botswana Defence Force to bring the situation under control did not bear any fruits, and as a result, the remaining animals were relocated to Khama Rhino Sanctuary between 1992 and 1996 where they are under maximum protection. Since then various relocation or reintroduction has been done in Botswana at various places like Mokolodi Nature Reserve, Tholo Ranch and Mombo.

Botswana's rhino population is doing well. Ten additional rhinos were received from South Africa in November 2002 and to date the number has reached fifty-three. Twenty one more rhinos are expected in April /May this year. All are expected to be relocated to Moremi Game Reserve (Mombo). Preparations are being made to arrange for their arrival. The bomas are being renovated to be ready to accommodate the animals.

Conservation Plan

The Botswana Rhino Management Strategy was adopted by all rhino stakeholders and the Botswana Rhino Management Committee instituted. The document is a vision and meant to be an outlook of the whole rhino industry. The document will be printed and published very soon.

Committees

- (a) The Botswana Rhino Management committee is chaired by the private sector as we are partners in conservation and they have played an important role in rhino establishment in Botswana. The secretariat is from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks.
- (b) Another committee in Maun has been established; it is composed of Botswana Police Service, Botswana Defence Force, and DWNP. The committee meets regularly after two to three months in Maun. Its focus is mainly on the security of the rhinos at Mombo in Moremi Game Reserve.

Rhino Conservation Activities

The Anti-poaching personnel are doing a good job to monitor the movements of rhinos. We have lost only one rhino due to territorial fights since 1993. We hope the status quo remains. Our law enforcement Agency are always on the look out for any illegal activities. Since our conservation activities are in partnership with the communities, they also play a vital role to protect their resources.

Rhino populations estimate for 2003

Species Sub –species	White rhino			Trend	Black rhino				
	C.s. <i>Cottonin</i> (northern)	C.S <i>Simum</i> (Southern)	Total		D.b bicornis (south - Western)	D.b longipes (western)	D.b michaeli (eastern)	D.b minor (southern- Central)	Total
Botswana		51	51					1	1

Country	Species	SSP	Park	Type	Num	Size	RCPE	Prob	SG	Total	Trend	Den
Bot	White	Css	Moremi GR	G	1	>4000	14	2		16	U	0.004
Bot	White	Css	Sanctuary	S	1	43	23			23	U	0.535
Bot	White	Css	Mokolodi NR	P	1	30	9			9	U	0.300
Bot	White	Css	Tholo Ranch	P	1	350	4			4	U	0.011

A lonely black rhino was captured from the Chobe National Park and relocated to Khama Rhino Sanctuary.

SADC projects already done

- Rhino conservation and management strategy. Through the assistance of SADC rhino projects a workshop was held for a discussion paper on the strategy. As a result of that meeting our rhino strategy was born.
- Funding for the Rhino Conservation Strategy was also from SADC rhino project.
- Training of trainers on rhino monitoring-two members of staff were trained, and one was in the past engaged in training DWNP staff in Mombo on rhino monitoring.
- Assessment of Mombo and Khama Rhino Sanctuary on their suitability for both black and white rhinos was done. The two areas were found to be suitable for the two species and a report was done.
- A rhino database was done and is functional at Mombo and Khama Rhino Sanctuary and it is still to be installed in a computer in Gaborone.

Training

A two-day meeting was held in Maun last December by the SADC Rhino Specialist to introduce about sixteen wildlife officers to the rhino database. The database was installed in Maun Research office and they are to forward the data to the national database on quarterly basis.

SADC Projects waiting for funding

The following projects are still awaiting SADC sponsorship:

- A computer for rhino monitoring, which will have the database and based in head quarters.
- Training of staff. It is important to develop expertise in rhino management. Study tours are important to countries that have been successful in rhino management. An attachment for two to three weeks to successful rhino project will do.
- Training of staff on scene of crime and law enforcement. It was long agreed that this will be done in all range state countries. We hope it will be done this year.
- A project proposal for funding of a project on monitoring, security and biological management has been submitted. With the impending arrival of rhinos from South Africa, the security issue is very important and there is need for a well-defined programme on security, monitoring and biological management.

The following are proposed as future needs from SADC rhino project:

- Microchips and readers to mark some of our rhinos that are not marked and those that are born.
- A radio transmitter that could specifically detect where the animal is within a shorter time is needed because it has been observed that it takes time and costly to locate rhinos that are in the wild.
- Sponsorship for study tours so as to learn from other rhino range states.
- Facilitation on acquiring of black rhino.

Conclusion

There is good coordination between the private sector and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks. This spirit is expected to revive the rhino population.

Recommendations

Study tours to countries with successful rhino conservation need to be done to develop capacity. For any programme to be successful there should be trained personnel to execute it. Botswana has in the past lost its rhinos due to poaching. We are now trying to prevent history from repeating itself. Therefore the need for capacity building is paramount.

Discussion

- Mr du Toit expressed concern over size and capacity of Khama RS for black rhino. Mr Theophilus said that there were negotiations with land holders to exchange land and extend the sanctuary to reach 80 sq km in total. There had been no follow up from management of KRS, and DWNP were encouraging them to move fast on this. Mr du Toit said that Khama RS could be used as part of a rhino metapopulation, but there was need to link the sanctuary with the Moremi release site. The extended sanctuary would still only be suitable for handling small numbers animals (e.g. orphans) and was not prime breeding site. Rhinos from Khama RS could be used to populate other areas. Mr Theophilus anticipated much moving of rhinos between populations in Botswana. At present there was a very lonely female at Khama RS, moved from Chobe area. Dr Emslie suggested the possible use of Khama RS for surplus males.
- Ms Masedi said that Botswana's needs from the SADC RPRC included sponsorship of study tours, and facilitation for the acquisition of black rhinos from other SADC countries.

2.6 Malawi (Roy Bhima)

Introduction

Malawi has one population of black rhinoceros, *Diceros bicornis minor* that is located in fenced sanctuaries in Liwonde National Park. Three pairs of male and female were introduced from South Africa in 1993, 1998 and 2000. The first pair produced two male calves in 1997 and 1999. The second pair produced a calf in early 2000. Another calf was born in October 2001. Two deaths have since occurred. In 2000 the first male adult died and a pregnant female from the third pair died. The rhino population is currently seven. During a three-day water hole count from 18 to 21 October 2002, observers noted that they saw all seven. There were no indications of newly born calves.

Prior to the introductions in Liwonde National Park, the species had been declared extinct in 1990. In the 1980s the species was confined to Kasungu National Park and Mwabvi Game Reserve only. Kasungu National Park had between 10 to 20 individuals in 1984 (Jachmann, 1984) while Mwabvi had 6-7 individuals. In 1990, these animals were not seen anymore.

Strengths

The introduction of the rhino in Liwonde National Park is intended to build a strong population in the country. As a critically endangered species worldwide and in the country, the rhino was declared a protected species soon after it was introduced in the country. This meant that the species would be accorded appropriate management priority. This ensures adequate protection to the species. The population is kept in a fenced sanctuary and protected by a team of six scouts. The park has one Warden, a Research Officer and five scouts' camps. These will ensure that the rhino are given the right attention in all areas of management.

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife has been attempting to construct a boundary fence at Liwonde National since the rhino were introduced, but this has not been possible due to limited funding and vandalism to the small fence that has been constructed. The Malawi Government introduced the Pro-Poor Expenditure (PPE) funds for Government activities intended to minimise poverty amount local people in July 2000. One of the major activities in the Department of National Parks and Wildlife under this programme is to purchase fencing materials for the Liwonde National Park perimeter fence. It is hoped that the entire park (about 250 km perimeter) will be fence by 2005. The will reduce wildlife/human conflicts around the park. A wildlife public awareness campaign around the fence will also be funded under the PPE budget to minimise vandalism of the fence.

There has been the Malawi Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) Project in the park that has conducted scouts training programmes. These have assisted with the patrolling of the park to ensure that poaching is controlled. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife has recently signed a new ten-year contract with FZS to assist it with various areas of management, and a new FZS project manager has started work in the park. The project will improve some infrastructure of the park that will be beneficial to the management of the rhino. The project is already working on the upgrading of the management plan of the park through a consultant Dr R Malpas. A participatory approach involving senior members of staff at Headquarters and at the park is being used. The project will improve other resources such as radio equipment and roads. It will also enhance community-based management to improve relationship with neighbouring communities. The presence of the project in the park will definitely be of great importance.

Ecological work in the park has been carried since the park was established. The vegetation was first mapped in the 1970s and has been monitoring the vegetation inside and outside the rhino sanctuary all along. We intend to improve on the monitoring of the vegetation because there are intentions to release the rhino from the sanctuaries to the greater park and there are fears of are still going on.

Weaknesses

The major weakness affecting development of rhino conservation is funding. Although the DNPW has provided a rhino scouts team to protect the rhino, it has not provided any extra funding to the Liwonde National Park recurrent budget for the Park Warden and the Research Officer to undertake other routine work such as inspections, monitoring movements and controlling fires. The Warden and the Research Officer are located 30 km away from the rhino sanctuary and often, they have not been able to visit the sanctuary because of lack of funding. Because of the same problem, the focal point has not been able to visit the sanctuary as well.

The Department has relied a lot on the support it has received from the "J&B Circle of Friends". This is a group of businessmen who have voluntarily supported the rhino project. Although the J&B Circle of Friends has supported that the project all along, their support is not guaranteed to continue forever. Some times, there has been little collaboration between these people and the Park Warden.

The rhino population is currently very small. Its recovery rate is very low and would be affected by inbreeding. Translocation costs have been paid by others such as the South African Parks Board and the J&B Circle of Friends. The DNPW will not afford to pay any translocations and will continue to rely on others. This is a major weakness. Contact with SANP has not been maintained.

Opportunities

The South African National Parks Board and the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife have had a very good relationship that has led to the transfer of some rhino from South Africa to Malawi. The South Africans provided the rhino and did the capturing and transfers. It is hoped that this relationship will continue to exist.

The J & B fraternity which includes the 'Care for the Rare' (UK) Programme and the 'Circle of Friends' have contributed some funding. The 'Care for the Rare' Programme funded some of the transportation from South Africa while the "Circle of Friends" have funded transportation from Chileka Airport in Blantyre to Liwonde National Park and have supported the rhino on a daily basis in the park. The role that the FZS Management Project will play has been pointed out under "strengths" above.

The Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi WESM has provided some expertise to the management of the rhino in Li r. C.O Dudley who is a member of the Society has done some ecological monitoring in the park and the sanctuary in particular. Prof. Dudley has continued to render his time to undertake some ecological surveys in the park, although travelling from Blantyre to the park has become expensive.

Threats

The heavy reliance of the Liwonde Rhino Project on external funding as has been shown ' above is an issue of concern. This cannot be relied upon completely as the donors may provide their funding on an ad hoc basis and the DNPW may not have a say on how the funding would be used. It is important that the

DNPW must have its own rhino funds that it may use as it so wishes. Poaching is a threat. Many wire snares intended to kill animals have been recovered from the park. None have been collected from the rhino sanctuary yet. It is important to maintain strict anti-poaching activities both in the rhino sanctuaries and in the park at large. Any laxity may lead to the poaching of a number of rhino individuals before the law enforcement team realises. Poachers have also set the park on fire. Fires have gone into the sanctuary causing a threat to the lives of the rhino. These illegal fires can be controlled by firebreaks and early burning programmes.

As the rhino numbers increase, the rhino sanctuary may become too small resulting into stress. There would be need to increase the size of the sanctuary. Dudley (2002) suggests a carrying capacity of 8-10 adults for sanctuaries 1 and 2 and 4-6 adults for sanctuary 3. There is pressure to limit the building of additional sanctuaries as this may hinder east-west movements of elephants in the park. The present rhino number for the whole sanctuary is 7. With new translocations and reproductions, the sanctuary will soon reach its capacity. It is therefore important to start thinking seriously about how the rhino will be treated as the population grows.

SADC Rhino Programme Activities

The SADC rhino project has supported work on the rhinos in Liwonde. Support has been given to undertake some ecological work. A report titled "Institutional and Ecological evaluation and development of guidelines for future management of black rhino in Liwonde National Park, Malawi (Chafota, Dudley & Labuschagne 2002) was from Chafota, Dudley & Labuschagne (2002) produced with funding from SADC rhino project. It is hoped that another project to establish a Rhino Stakeholders Committee and to monitor the vegetation of the park will be funded.

References

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- Dudley, C.O. (2002) Ecological evaluation for Liwonde National Park, Malawi with respect to the development and management of a viable population of black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*). 25pp.
- Jachmann, H. (1984). Status of the Mwabvi rhino (*Diceros bicornis*). *Nyala* 10(2): 77 -90.

Discussion

- Dr Bhima said that observations in Liwonde NP by stakeholders had checked on and confirmed the numbers reported (7). There were problems with sustainable funding for the park. In past year funding had been secured from Poor Expenditure Fund. This government programme had funded construction of 50 km of perimeter fencing around Liwonde NP. There had been much vandalism in the past, and snaring using wire derived from fence. People were now learning about importance of fence with an education programme. Liwonde NP had received new funding from Frankfurt Zoological Society, with a 10-year contract signed for support to the park (12 months ago) including a project manager based at LNP. The project was assisting Liwonde NP in all areas of management, including improvement of infrastructure, and development of a management plan. The project had deployed Dr Malpas from FZS to look at management plan for Liwonde NP. The J & B circle of friends are still supporting the rhino project, and the Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust were helping with construction of boundary fence. There had been no communications with SANP who provided Malawi with rhinos in years past. Past support from SADC included the ecological and institutional evaluation (Dudley, Chafota and Labuschagne) which had provided important guidelines for future management. Dr Bhima had submitted a revised proposal to SADC RPRC for funding of a stakeholders meeting, including the different organisations mentioned with the objective of developing a plan for rhino management in the park. Vegetation monitoring costs were also requested.
- Mr Chafota said that Liwonde is an interesting ecological system. There was need to strike a balance on management of the park for rhino or other species. He asked of other parks were available for translocation of other species from Liwonde NP.
- Mr du Toit suggested that, in order to avoid future vandalism of the fence, mesh wire be used for construction of the perimeter fence, which cannot be used for creating snares.

2.7 Mozambique (*Felismina Longamane Langa*)

Background

Rhino conservation legislation is currently the Game Law of 1999, under which regulations were approved in 2002. Rhinos in Protected Areas belong to state. Others may own rhinos if they are controlled on their own land.

Rhino status

Reports were received of the presence of rhinos in Niassa GR.

Planned SADC RPRC support for activities in 2003-2004

- (a) Feasibility study for the reintroduction of rhinos to Mozambique (draft DNFFB/CESVI proposal)
- (b) Rhino Conservation Strategy for Mozambique
- (c) Training courses in rhino monitoring, management and security

2.8 Tanzania (*Mathew Maige*)

Introduction

Black Rhino active conservation is not that old in Tanzania. The early attempts of managing rhinos started slightly before rhino poaching outcry during late 1970's and early 1980's. Soon before the countrywide operation against poaching of wildlife, decrease of sensitive species including rhinos made the Government to request for a general survey country-wide. This was the time when it was realised that rhinos were on verge of extinction in the country. Attempts to rehabilitate local populations then started, spearheaded by FZS. Ngorongoro Crater became the centre for the FZS activities. The Selous was far from consideration because the survey revealed that most rhinos in the Selous were poached and what remained could not be substantiated. At later date, around 1989, sporadic sighting of *D.b.minor* in the Selous was heard for the first time.

Status of Rhino Population Recovery

A few years down the line, an enthusiastic rhino admirer who was running a photographic safari camp started the Kidai Rhino Project. Since then, the Selous Rhino Project took shape. Together with that, another follow up was done in the Lukuliro area of the vast Selous Game Reserve.

Today, the two areas have become fairly active towards rhino patrols to protect whatever was in the thick bushes. It started without knowing if there were a few individuals in the areas but recently has confirmed a number (still not known) exists at both Kidai and Lukuliro. Sporadic sightings of rhinos have been recorded totalling 16 individuals. We can conclude with confidence that there are more rhinos in the Selous and the 2 populations known so far are reproducing. Tanzania and well wishers need to put in more efforts to protect and continue to investigate of their numbers and distribution.

Summary on the SADC Rhino Programme Support

Inputs provided:

- (i) Advice in the field on rhino survey methodology
- (ii) Advice in the field on steps to ensure ongoing, cost-effective monitoring and protection of rhinos within the survey area, based on relevant experience from Zimbabwe.

We have taken actions on some but we still need support to take actions on the remaining items. I am trying to convince Selous Game Reserve authority to understand the reason for identifying a team of rangers to work on rhino protection only, but it is evident that there are too few rangers for assigning a few to rhino project alone. A proposal to be submitted includes:

- Improved rhino monitoring for Selous Game Reserve Sub-population (February, 2003)
- Law enforcement and ranger training in Selous Game Reserve (Feb. 2003)

The Wildlife Division did request funding from another source with a Project Proposal entitled: Selous black rhino protection project. This was submitted to European Union effective from June 2003-March 2005

Discussion

- Mr Maige stressed the training needs of Tanzania as priorities for support from the SADC RPRC. They had submitted a major request for EU funding for supporting full-time patrols at rhino sites in the Selous GR. It was recommended that coordination between stakeholders involved in rhino conservation in the Selous could be improved with a coordination meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, including the WWF project for the eastern sector (Lukuliro).

2.9 Zambia (George Kampamba)

Introduction

Zambia was a strong hold of the biggest population of black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*) in the region. The rhino were decimated in the seventies because of its horn. After over two decades down the line, under emotions, sorrow and bad memories of the sad loss of black rhino, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has renewed her interest in re-establishing the population of this depleted species. The black rhino re-introduction has been a matter of concern by Parliament since late 1990. The driving force has been to develop Zambia as a country in which a well-protected and viable black rhinoceros population will contribute to enhanced biodiversity, economic, spiritual and social well being of the public and the country as a whole, and the Zambian wildlife estate for present and posterity. In order to attract further international support for re-introductions the Government of the Republic of Zambia has demonstrated strong commitment through the Zambia Wildlife Authority regarding management strategies for as embedded in the 5-year Strategic Plan. One of the objectives of wildlife conservation in Zambia is species re-introduction to original range under intensive protection.

Partnership for Black Rhino Re-Introduction and Future Management in North Luangwa NP

The key supporter in this project is the Frankfurt Zoological Society. The Frankfurt Zoological Society has a long-standing relationship with the Zambia Wildlife Authority in Zambia and are currently working together under a ten-year agreement with the Zambian Government to manage the wildlife resources in the North Luangwa National Park (see map for the Park). Frankfurt Zoological Society has been in the area for over 15 years under an agreement with the government of Zambia. The current agreement was signed in 1998 focusing on conservation of the wildlife resources in the National Park, development and maintenance of infrastructure. The target area for the project, the North Luangwa National Park, is therefore managed under an intensive resource protection programme.

Activities on Black Rhino Re-Introduction to North Luangwa National Park

In 2001 the IUCN SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation agreed to support a scientific study for putative rhino range suitability within North Luangwa National Park and to coordinate the re-introduction programme with the Zambia Wildlife Authority and the various stakeholders. To determine the basis for re-introducing black rhino to the North Luangwa National Park a technical assessment of rhino habitat suitability was carried out with support from the IUCN/SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation. Following the study the Zambia Wildlife Authority updated the Government of the Republic of Zambia and Parliament about the project to further secure both political and government support. In April 2002 the Director General of the Zambia Wildlife Authority, Mr. Hapenga M. Kabeta, headed a delegation to South Africa to discuss the programme for rhino reintroduction project for North Luangwa National Park and to confirm the availability of black rhino. In principle it was agreed during that visit that the 5 animals would be made available for the re-introduction project in Zambia. It was also agreed that South African National Parks should satisfy it self on the security of the black rhino in the target area.

On the basis of the above requirement the following were agreed upon as the way forward:

- An expert from South African National Parks to visit North Luangwa National Park to ascertain the strategies for security of black rhino once introduced
- The SADC Rhino Conservation Programme should coordinate the rhino re introduction project,

- The Chief Executive Officer of South African National Parks to inform the Minister of the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism,
- Zambia Wildlife Authority to prepare a draft agreement for comment by South Africa National Parks on the rhino project,
- Zambia Wildlife Authority and South Africa National Parks to develop a memorandum of understanding for the two governments
- The vision for Zambia Wildlife Authority on the development of a founder rhino population should be broadened to establish contact with the KwaZulu Natal Parks Board and North West Province for more animals.

Proposed Agreement between South African National Parks and Zambia Wildlife Authority

Firstly, South African National Parks and Zambia Wildlife Authority acknowledged the objective of the IUCN SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation to re-establish black rhino population in its former regional range. Following the above Zambia Wildlife Authority developed a draft Agreement for co-operation on the re introduction of the rhino to Zambia and other aspects of national park management and development. The general agreement is to develop Zambia as a country with a well-protected and viable black rhinoceros population. The technical aspects proposed were that there shall be endeavours to build capacity within the Zambia Wildlife Authority through cooperation with South African National Parks on projects to be jointly developed. The draft has gone to both governments and a meeting to consider the out come from the governments has been proposed. Zambia would like the meeting to take place this year 2003.

Black Rhino Re-Introduction is Promising

In December 2002 Zambia received confirmation and support of the project from South African National Parks following the endorsement of the North Luangwa rhino re-introduction by the IUCN/SADC Rhino Conservation Programme as well as the favourable approval by South African National Parks' scientific, veterinary and security staff to further the conservation of black rhino in the sub-region. South African National Parks agreed to make available to Zambia five black rhinos, two males and three females. In order to improve the animals' settling period the introduction exercise is planned to take place between April and May during the cold months. These animals originated from an exchange programme with Frankfurt Zoological Gardens.

White Rhino in Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Livingstone

The population of white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) was introduced to Zambia in 1994. Since then the population has stagnated at 5 individuals. This status prompted an investigation, which took place 2001 with support from the IUCN/SADC Regional Rhino Conservation Programme. The study recommended an introduction of new individuals to the population to improve the situation. Zambia has so far not secured new individuals because un affordable costs of the animals. Following the above Zambia proposes a swap of two adult animals.

Policy for Rhino Management

As reported on during the RRG inaugural meeting at Club Makokola, Malawi (24-25 May 2002), Zambia has developed a working paper for formulation of a Policy for rhino management. This document requires the participation of various stakeholders to formulate the rhino policy. It was against this background that Zambia signed an Agreement with US Fish and Wildlife (US\$ 16,500) for support in 2002. These funds for consultative meetings and workshops have not been not been made available and consequently the policy has not been formulated. The Zambia Wildlife Authority has sent several reminders to Karl Stromayer but there has been no response.

Conclusion

The rhino conservation project in the North Luangwa National Park in Zambia has attracted the political support and interest in re-establishing the population. To establish a viable rhino population 5 individuals are not ideal. The project is therefore the initial step in the right direction and is based on the principle of phased introduction to ensure animal safety and adaptation. Following the above and the intention to establish a founder population in the next three years Zambia requests this meeting for continued support to the rhino recovery programme to ensure that more animals are solicited for.

3 PROJECT PROPOSALS

Project proposals developed by RRG range states were described in brief by the respective range state focal points and discussed. The proposals were divided between those with focus or application to an individual range state, and those with a regional focus or application.

(a) Projects for individual range states

- (i) The following are new or revised proposals that have been submitted for funding support by the SADC RPRC:

Botswana

- *Evaluation of monitoring, security and management of the Mombo IPZ rhino population (M Masedi)*
- *Purchase of a computer and training of Khama RS staff on rhino database management (M Tjibae)*

Discussion: Mr Theophilus said that the Mombo project would concentrate on white rhino.

Malawi

- *Towards a long-term plan for a viable rhino population in Liwonde National Park, Malawi: Establishment of a Rhino Stakeholders Committee and an ecological monitoring plan (R Bhima)*

Discussion: Dr Brett said that a budget was required for the Liwonde proposal. Mr Chafota said that the FZS funding for the management plan needed to be separated from funding requested from SADC RPRC. Mr du Toit said that the objectives of DNPW for the park need to be clarified as part of the management planning process (including SADC RPRC technical input), and a commitment from SANP for inclusion in the process was also required.

Tanzania

- *Improved training for rangers and rhino monitoring in the Selous GR, Tanzania (M Maige)*

Discussion: Mr Maige said that as part of the project proposal submitted, a communications trailer was needed, and also a Kiswahili manual for training of trainers in rhino monitoring. Mr du Toit said that review of support by stakeholders was needed to clarify the needs and coordinate support allocated, as a step in the process of agree on a vision and action plan for management of the Selous rhinos. Dr Brooks recommended a coordination mission to Tanzania by the programme coordinator to facilitate this.

- (ii) The following proposals have already been approved for funding support by the SADC RPRC in semesters 8-9:

Angola

- *Evaluation of areas and options for the reintroduction of rhinos to Angola: policy framework development (N Kingengo)*

Zambia

- *Evaluation of areas and options for reintroduction of rhinos to Zambia II (Kafue, LZNP, etc) (G Kampamba)*

Discussion: Dr Kampamba said that ZAWA were expecting that the study in Kafue NP would provide the basis for a five-year plan of rhino reintroductions in future, for both black and white rhinos. This could include public-private partnership, and he asked for further information and reference material from the regional on private-state initiatives. Mr du Toit said that a new Zambia rhino strategy needed to include a framework for private sector participation.

Mozambique

- *Evaluation of Coutada 16 and Zinave NP, Mozambique, for future rhino conservation (F Langa/G Daconto)*

(b) Regional Projects

Several regional proposals (or phases of ongoing approved projects) have been submitted for funding support by the SADC RPRC. Feedback has been received from range states on those courses at which they would like to have participation during the last meetings of the SADC RRG and RESG.

- *Law Enforcement/Intelligence Database: installation and training (RESG)*
- *MicroTrack program: microchip database development, implementation and Training (RESG)*
- *Scene of Crime Investigation: Training Courses (SADC RPRC)*
- *Rhino Monitoring: Training Courses: Instructor training (SADC RPRC/AfRSG)*
- *Rhino Monitoring: Training Missions to individual countries (SADC RPRC/AfRSG)*

Discussion: Mr Theophilus asked that Botswana (and other RRG countries) be informed and provided with information on training courses supported in other countries (e.g. the Scene of Crime investigation courses in Namibia, etc).

4 SADC RRG ACTION PLAN FOR 2003-2004

Based on the proposals submitted and the follow-up activities planned in the last year, an action plan for SADC RRG activities from 1 June to 31 December 2003 was drafted by the SADC rhino programme coordinator at the meeting. This was then finalised by the RRG Chair after the meeting with input from RRG members and SADC consortium, and the plan of activities is presented below. A critical need was for improved coordination by the RRG Chair and communications between the RRG Chair and RRG member country representatives in order to monitor RRG activities and facilitate support.

SADC RRG Activities for the Period 1st June-31st December, 2003

Strategy	Proposed Activities
<p>1: National Policies, strategies and plans</p>	<p>1.1 Zambia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must proceed with development of strategy with USFW RTCF funding. SADC RPRC will assist with resolution of USFW RTCF funds. Additional technical input will be available from SADC RPRC with facilitation of focal points from other RRG countries. • Must also submit a proposal for evaluation of other areas in Zambia for reintroduction of rhinos. The RRG Chair will be kept informed of the progress. <p>1.2 Malawi:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must proceed with the development of Liwonde NP Management Plan, with input from SADC RPRC evaluation report of Liwonde integrated into plan. DNPW to define priorities for Liwonde NP regarding rhinoceros conservation and/or biodiversity conservation. • Follow-up with SANP on continued role in regional metapopulation management of rhinos between Malawi and South Africa. Malawi RRG Focal Point to write to SANP's Dr. Mike Knight with copy to SADC RPRC. <p>1.3 Mozambique:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must draw up statement of intent and commitment on rhino conversation by government as basis for rhino strategy. Copies of statement must be sent to RRG Chair and SADC RPRC. • Must develop rhino management policy document. SADC RPRC would provide technical support if needed. <p>1.4 Angola:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must draw up statement of intent and commitment on rhino conversation by government as basis for rhino strategy. Copies of statement must be sent to RRG Chair and SADC RPRC. • Use preliminary assessment mission by SADC RPRC to assist with development of rhino management policy document. <p>1.5 Tanzania:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must elaborate rhino monitoring plan, incorporating training needs and database management in order to elaborate demographics of Selous GR subpopulations. <p>1.6 Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must develop regional metapopulation plan involving RRG and RMG countries. This must be done as soon as possible as regional plan may be needed for country plans.

Strategy	Proposed Activities
<p>2. Priority needs for rhino reintroductions</p>	<p>2.1 General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and prioritise common needs for each RRG country for reintroduction and management programmes. The RRG chair will review last year's Matrix Table and circulate it again to RRG Country Focal Points for approval. <p>2.2 Zambia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must review management requirements for successful implementations of the first phase of rhino reintroduction to North Luangwa NP, including training needs for law enforcement staff.
<p>3. Capacity building and training needs</p>	<p>3.1 General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RRG working group must participate in next AfRSG meeting, including attendance of Angola and Mozambique (dependent of funding from SADC RPRC). • RRG Chair to follow-up with RRG range states on training needs, confirm requests for training inputs available from SADC RPRC and develop training plan and schedule for RRG countries. <p>3.2 Tanzania:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable training programme of rangers and monitoring of the Selous GR rhinos. Send programme to RRG Chair and SADC RPRC <p>3.3 Angola and Mozambique:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and nominate staff for instructor training in monitoring and law enforcement training. <p>3.4 Zambia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Training/awareness workshop for judiciary with media representation • Conduct orientation study for two ecologists and orientation and management experience for veterinarian within SADC Region.
<p>4. Assist with assessments of areas for reintroduction</p>	<p>4.1 General:</p> <p>Currently addresses through SADC RPRC inputs (e.g. policy development, assessment of realistic options, evaluation of specific areas). Angola and Mozambique generic guidelines to use for preliminary definition of intent (e.g. species, range areas, etc).</p> <p>4.2 Mozambique:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To carry out a feasibility study for the reintroduction of rhinos to Limpopo National Park. May need assistance from SADC RPRC.
<p>5. Best practices and dissemination of information on rhino management</p>	<p>5.1 General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish circulation for SADC RPRC task reports. SADC RPRC to circulation reports to RRG member states. • SADC RPRC will make available task reports and other relevant documents on regional projects on SADC RPRC website.
<p>6. Surveys on remnant rhino populations</p>	<p>6.1 Angola and Mozambique:</p> <p>To follow-up and confirm rhino presence in Cuando Cubango Province and Niassa GR using checklist of information developed by SADC RPRC.</p>
<p>7. Guidelines for reintroduction</p>	<p>7.1 General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific RRG countries to provide input from case-studies to management and security guidelines for general applicability by range states. SADC RPRC to conduct case studies. • SADC RPRC expert to complete and circulate reintroduction guidelines to RRG countries.

Strategy	Proposed Activities
8. Networking with other rhino conservation bodies, and sharing expertise	8.1 General: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RRG ToR to be informed to SADC RMG at meeting in June 2003. • RRG Chair to be member of AfRSG. • RRG Chair to use Notes section of 'Pachyderm' on a six-monthly basis for circulation of news from RRG countries on country reintroduction projects.
9. Monitoring action towards achieving national population goals of RRG countries	9.1 General: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure minimum 6 monthly coordination between RPC and RRG Chair • RRG Chair to submit 6 monthly progress reports (end of June, end of December 2003) in order to incorporate issues of concern into SADC RPRC planning and reporting cycle.
10. Development of project proposals for funding by SADC RPRC	10.1 General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPC and RRG Chair to coordinate on concepts for projects with good potential for funding by SADC RPRC, particularly where assistance needed from RRG Chair in development of new proposals from RRG. • Promote use of Vice-Chair of RRG in proposal development.

5 RRG OFFICE BEARERS

The office bearers of the SADC RRG of the Group were reviewed. There was motivation to reduce the terms of office bearers to two years. Following discussion, this was rejected, and current the term of service (below) retained:

Office Bearers

Chair (Malawi)

Vice-Chair (Tanzania)

Length of Service

Chair: 3 years

Vice-Chair: 3 years

Focal Points: service for duration of appointment by range state

6 OTHER BUSINESS







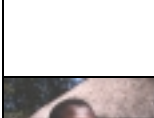


6.1 Any Other Business






Dr Kampamba asked for information about how to engage with the SADC secretariat, and the mechanism of how the former SADC WSTCU was to be replaced by the SADC Secretariat. A presentation to be given at the SADC range states and consortium meeting by the SADC FANR representative would address this specific question.

6.2 Concluding Remarks and Closure of SADC Rhino Recovery Group Meeting

Mr Nzima reviewed the progress of the meeting, and noted that all its objectives had been achieved. The future of the RRG clearly depended on improved coordination with and between member countries and with the SADC Secretariat, and identification of sustainable funding for its core activities. There were several reintroduction and recovery projects already underway in range states that were already showing promise and success. With that he thanked participants for their contributions and Botswana for hosting the meeting, and declared the meeting closed.

ANNEX A LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX B AGENDA

Session I Chair: Humphrey Nzima

08:30	Welcome and Opening	(Chair, Botswana)
08:45	Self-introduction by participants	(Chair)
09:00	Objectives of RRG Meeting	(Chair, Rob Brett)
09:10	SADC RRG: overview of Terms of Reference (May 2002: Malawi)	(Chair)
09:30	RRG Workplan (2002-2003) and Progress with Activities	(Chair, Plenary)
10:00	Coffee/Tea Break	

Session II Chair: Roy Bhima

Presentations from SADC Rhino Programme

10:20	Rhino Reintroduction guidelines: Part II	(Raoul du Toit)
10:40	Coordination of rhino conservation in RRG countries	(Rob Brett)
10:50	Sources of funding for rhino conservation and role of AfRSG	(Richard Emslie)

Presentations by Rhino Focal Points of RRG Range States: (Status of country reintroduction/recovery programmes; Feedback on SADC Rhino Programme support)

11:00	Angola	(Nkosi Luta Kingengo)
11:20	Botswana	(Mercy Masedi)
11:40	Malawi	(Roy Bhima)
12:00	Mozambique	(Felismina Longamane Langa)
12:20	Tanzania	(Mathew Maige)
12:40	Zambia	(George Kampamba)
13:00	Lunch	

Session III Chair: Humphrey Nzima

	<i>Project Proposals</i>	(Plenary Discussion)
14:00	Presentation and discussion of proposals (a) Projects for individual Range States (b) Regional projects	
15:30	Coffee/Tea break	
15:50	Action plan for 2003-2004	(Plenary Discussion)
16:00	RRG Office Bearers	(Chair)
16:15	Any Other Business	(Chair)
16:30	Concluding Remarks and Closure of RRG Meeting	(Chair)