

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

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| <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.