

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		Trend				
					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.