

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.