

Table 1. Total number of rhinos (black (bl) & white (wh)) known to have been poached in South African reserves since 1990.

Year	No. rhino (bl, wh)
1990	8
1991	5
1992	15
1993	13
1994	26
1995	10
1996	6
1997	5 (5,0)
1998	11 (11,0)
1999	11 (11,1)
2000	12 (12,0)
2001	9 (9,0)
2002	18 (17,1)

Budget cuts to conservation organisations continue to plague the conservation activities of these organisations, notably Eastern Cape, and Limpopo Provinces. The later has seen an almost total collapse in any form of monitoring.

4. Future challenges

- Survival of the conservation organisations in the face of decreasing operational budgets.
- Boost the growth rate of flagging *D. b. minor* populations through removals and meta-population approaches.
- Increase support for other conservation initiatives (nationally & regionally).
- Increase rhino introductions into suitably large areas such as KNP.
- Draft a strategic conservation plan for black & white rhinos in SANP during 2002.
- Review the SA black rhino strategic plan in 2003.

2.2.4 Zimbabwe (Florence Msipa)

CURRENT STATUS OF RHINOCEROS IN ZIMBABWE

1. Black rhino population statistics as at December 31 2002

Area	Recent Census	Probable	Speculative
State Land			
Chipinge	20	1	
Matopo	17	3	
Matusadona	65	2	
Sinamatella	95	6	
Subtotal	200	12	
Private Land			
Bubiana	70	30	
Chipangali	6		
Chiredzi	23		
Gourlays Ranch	30	5	
Imire	5		
Iwaba	14		
Malilangwe	39	1	
Midlands Conservancy + Twin Rivers	54	3	
Save Valley	86	4	
Subtotal	327	43	
TOTAL	527	55	

2. White Rhino Population as at 31 December 2002

Area	Recent Census	Probable	Speculative
State Land			
Kyle Recreational Park	19		
Lake Mcllwaine	19		
Main Camp	12		
Matopo	55	20	
Nyamaneche	7		
Sinamatella	11		
Forestry	7		
Subtotal	130	20	
Private Land			
Cecil Kop	2		
Eldorado	3		
Iwaba	21		
Malilangwe	57		
Samanyanga	16		
Save Valley	8		
Sondelani	3		
Subtotal	110		
TOTAL	240	20	

3. Observed Births: 2002-2003

Area	Year	Black Rhino	White Rhino
Malilangwe	2002	3	11
Save Valley	2002	1	3
Sinamatella	2002	8	1
Matusadona	2002	2	
Matopo	2002	3	2
Midlands	2003	1	
Lake Chivero	2002	4	
Total		22	17

4. Rhino Population trends

The estimated population was 464 individuals in 2000. By December 2001 the black rhino population was estimated at a probable 524, but could have been as low as 405. At December 2002 the expected population was 576 individuals. The white rhino population was estimated at 218 individuals by 2001. Now the estimated number is 240 individuals.

5. Rhino Mortality

Year	Black Rhino	White Rhino
2000	6	
2001	9	3
2002	11	6
2003	7	
Total	33	9

5.1 Locations of Black Rhino Deaths 2002

Area	Date	Age/Sex	Cause of Death
Matusadona	28 March	Male subadult	Poaching
Matusadona	Est April	Adult	Poaching
Iwaba	15 April	Adult female	Old age abortion
Iwaba	July	Adult male	Old age

Area	Date	Age/Sex	Cause of Death
Malilangwe		Subadult male	Fighting
Malilangwe	June report	Adult male	Fighting
Bubiana		Adult male	Sick/fight
Bubiana	September report Peregwe	Calf	Unknown. Presumed snared bones recovered
Bubiana	September report Sovelele	Calf	Unknown. Presumed snared bones recovered
Imire	25 April	Calf	Disease
Midlands	November report	Subadult male	Injury, horns not recovered

5.2 Locations of White Rhino Deaths 2002

Area	Date	Age/Sex	Cause of Death
Cecil Kop	12 October 2002	Subadult male	Sick
Iwaba		Adult female	Unknown
Matopos	2002	Adult male	Fight
Matopos	2002		Fight
Matopos	2002		Fight
Matopos	2002		Fight

5.3 Locations of Black rhino Deaths 2003

Area	Date	Age/Sex	Cause of Death
Matusadona	11 February	Adult male	Poaching/shot
Sinamatella	January	Adult female	Poaching/shot
Sinamatella	January	Adult female	Poaching/shot
Sinamatella	January	Calf female	Poaching/shot
Sinamatella	February	Adult unknown	Poaching/shot
Sinamatella	February	Adult female	Poaching/shot
Sinamatella	February	Adult unknown	Poaching/shot

6. Rhino Management

Rhino conservation in Zimbabwe continues to be guided by the Zimbabwe Rhino Policy and Management Plan that was last reviewed in 2000. In 2001 provincial committees and a National Rhino Management committee was set: up in order to decentralise rhino coordination. This has proved to be quite fruitful as more information about rhino population status is now more readily available from the different provinces. These committees are required to meet at least three times per annum.

7. SADC Regional Rhino programme Input

The SADC Regional Rhino programme is greatly benefiting Zimbabwean rhino management

a) Already the *Wildb* database is up and running at:

- Save Valley Conservancy
- Bubiana Conservancy
- Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy
- Matopos IPZ
- Sinamatella IPZ
- Matusadona IPZ

It is expected that the database shall be made available for more rhino sub-populations. Lake Chivero, Lake Mcllwaine and Chipinge IPZ are proposed areas. The *Wildb* database will also be expected to start running at a provincial level and then at a National level.

The unavailability of a computer has somewhat hampered the installation of this programme at Head Office. It is hoped that an additional programme for areas where rhino sightings are not regular or easy will be developed.

- b) In conjunction with Marwell Trust Zimbabwe, the SADC Rhino programme has trained two Ecologists and 14 scouts on rhino monitoring. This training has been most useful as trained personnel feel they are now more competent in the field and readily share their experience with other staff. The continuation of such training is therefore most appreciated by the department
- c) It is hoped that the SADC Rhino programme will be able to play a brokering role for beneficial movement of rhinos within the region especially with countries needing to restock their rhino populations.
- d) While the Authority has not tendered any project for funding for this period the continued support and consultative role played by the programme is much appreciated.

8. Limitations and Problems faced in Rhino Management Issues.

The greatest challenge currently faced in rhino management is the transition of the department into an Authority. This has proved to be a very slow process with its own repercussions:

- Low scout density in rhino areas as result of no recruitment taking place since 2000
- Lack of and ageing transport fleet affecting scout reaction and deployment
- General low morale, as improved terms of service still awaited.

Also the current shortages being experienced by the country has affected anti-poaching activities in some areas. Plains game snaring continues to pose a threat to rhino populations in affected areas. Removal of snares on rhinos is on going.

9. Expected solutions

A workshop held at St Lucia's last year in July, came up with recommendations on rhino management actions to be carried out. Among these were the following:

- Translocation of rhinos from high risk areas on private land This was successfully done for Bubiana Conservancy
- Identification of areas for setting up new IPZs. Gonarezhou is one area that is being targeted for a feasibility study.
- Maintenance of current rhino populations. Gourlay's ranch has four Departmental scouts have been placed to over look the situation. There has been no poaching of rhino.
- Another workshop is ear-marked for the first week of April 2003 and it is expected to be as fruitful as the last one.