

5 PRESENTATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

5.1 Criteria for funding support by the SADC Rhino Programme (Rob Brett – Programme Coordinator)

The agreed criteria or conditions for funding support by the SADC Rhino Programme were listed:

1. Projects must be of a SADC regional nature or importance. The Programme will concentrate on rhino projects and policies that area of a regional nature (e.g. those which involve sharing of expertise between SADC member states, involve sharing or exchange of their rhinos, are conservation models for potential replication elsewhere in the region, and/or have regional economic or political implications).
2. Projects must limited to 'subspecies' *Ceratotherium simum*, *Diceros bicornis minor* and *D.b.bicornis*. The Programme will be limited to rhino 'subspecies' whose historical range included more than one SADC state and whose future metapopulation management is also likely in involve more than one SADC state (i.e. southern African subspecies: *Ceratotherium simum*, *Diceros bicornis minor*, *D.b.bicornis*).
3. Fundamental rhino management issues as well as land use economics, community involvement, etc. must be taken into account. The Programme will be primarily concerned with fundamental rhino management issues and with clearly relevant aspects of land-use economics, community interaction, applied research, etc. It will endeavour to assist SADC rhino range states, to the extent that they request, with the establishment of proactive measures to protect their rhinos from poaching, but will not become involved in law enforcement or in the investigation of illegal activities. Information on numbers and distribution of rhinos will be kept to the level of confidence that is specified by each range state.
4. Both public and private rhino conservation projects will be considered. The Programme will include public and private sector rhino conservation projects
5. Implementation must make use of existing institutions and linkages. The Programme will be designed and implemented to complement existing institutions and their linkages, particularly the SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Co-ordination Unit, existing national and regional rhino management committees (notably the Southern African Rhino Management Group) and the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG).

Discussion: Dr Brett said that the project proposal format had been amended to include (a) a section on sustainability of the project to be funded; and (b) a 'model' proposal for guidance of applicants or proponents of proposals. There was discussion of endorsement process within range states. There was agreement that it would be necessary in future for private sector and NGO proponents from individual countries to clear or get endorsement for their proposals by their country rhino management authority.