

2 PRESENTATIONS

(a) Presentations by Consortium Members

2.1 Structures supporting rhino conservation and levels of rhino coordination (Martin Brooks)

It is important for rhino conservation to have **coordinating structures and networks**, in order achieve the following:

- Set species survival goals and strategies
- Develop national rhino action plans
- Refine rhino management techniques
- Share information and expertise
- Build capacity
- Develop priority programmes
- Ensure effective implementation

There are broadly three **levels of coordination**

1. Continental: IUCN/SSC AfRSG
2. Regional: SADC RMG, SADC RRG (SADC Rhino Programme), RESG
3. National: Nation Coordination Committees (implementation), in the SADC region currently in operation in Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia (?)

IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG)

Objective: "to promote the long-term conservation of Africa's rhino and where necessary, their recovery to viable levels"

Membership: Range State Representatives and Rhino Experts

Main Activities:

- Continental Objectives and strategy
- Assist with national rhino plans
- Determine rhino status and trends
- Identify conservation priorities
- Develop techniques
- Provide information, advice and cooperation

SADC Rhino Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation (SADC RPRC)

Consortium: SADC WSTCU, SARPO, AfRSG, ROSA, CESVI

Conditionalities:

- Only activities involving sharing expertise or exchanging rhinos between SADC range states
- Limited to rhino subspecies occurring in more than one SADC state

Main activities:

- Support develop coordinating structures
- Facilitate the development of national rhino action plans
- Develop rhino management techniques and guidelines
- Support surveys, ecological evaluations and reintroduction feasibility studies
- Provide training
- Promote rhino conservation awareness and community involvement

SADC Rhino Management Group (RMG) of Southern Africa

Formed in 1989, for black rhino conservation only

Membership:

- State Conservation Agencies: South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe
- Private Rhino Owners
- Rhino Experts
- RESG of SA

Main activities:

- Ensure conservation objectives and programmes in place
- Develop and promote appropriate techniques

- Debate key/controversial issues
- Evaluate performance of populations
- Manage South Africa's black rhino plan

Rhino and Elephant Security Group (RESG) of southern Africa

Goals:

- To develop guidelines, strategies and databases for the effective and efficient protection of African rhino and elephant populations
- To assist agencies, communities and private landowners to minimise poaching and the illegal trade in products

Membership:

- Government representatives and NGOs within SADC range states

Activities:

- Detailed in current Terms of Reference (endorsed at meetings in 2001 (South Africa) and 2002 (Zimbabwe))

National Committees

These are operational in several countries (e.g. Namibia) and are an essential component in a successful national rhino conservation programme, along with a conservation strategy and action plan and its endorsement and implementation. Implementation of plans depend on commitment from the government rhino management authority.

The key points were: (a), to maintain linkages between coordinating structures, and (b), to ensure commonality and consistency of representation from range states at regional and continental rhino conservation bodies or groups.

2.2 SADC RMG: background, achievements and common benefits (Martin Brooks)

Aim

“to provide coordination, research and management advice to assist the conservation agencies and private landowners in achieving the various national metapopulation goals for black rhino”

Membership

- State Conservation Agencies
- Private Land Owners
- Rhino Owners
- RESG

Activities

- Ensure conservation objectives and programmes in place
- Develop and promote appropriate techniques
- Debate key/controversial issues
- Evaluate performance of populations

RMG main focal areas/achievements

- Subspecies recognition
- Historical ranges of subspecies
- Private ownership/custodianship
- Use of surplus male black rhino
- Game scout training
- Population monitoring
- Management to maximise rate of increase
- Property suitability and Ecological Carrying Capacity (ECC)
- Introductions
- Evaluating population performance