

(b) Presentations by Rhino Focal Points of SADC RRG Range States

Each of the focal points appointed by each of the SADC rhino range state provided a summary presentation on the status of rhino conservation in their countries. Each representative had been requested to use SWOT headings (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) for their presentation summaries and also to provide feedback on in-country activities under the SADC RPRC. Presentations were followed by some questions and discussion.

2.5 Angola (Nkosi Luta Kingengo)

Summary

The last meeting attended by the focal point for Angola was the stakeholders' meeting for the SADC rhino programme in South Africa in March 2000. Since that time two activities were planned:

- (a) field activities
- (b) collection of data from all of Angola, including the use of questionnaires.

Field activities had not been possible due to financial constraints and instability prevailing in the country. However, from questionnaire replies received, there were positive indications of the possible presence of rhino from four provinces:

- Kwanza North and South
- Namibie province
- Kunene province
- Kuando-Kubango province

In addition a report of one white rhino had been received during a field survey in Kissama NP in December 2001.

Discussion

(Surveys) Mr du Toit remarked that hopefully Angola was coming out of war phase. Since the rhino situation was probably similar to that of the giant sable, maybe it would be best to combine coordination of surveys with other species. He asked if there were plans for a national survey of wildlife. Mr Kingengo replied that there were plans for surveys of elephant, rhino and giant sable.

(Strategy) Mr Kingengo said that there was no rhino conservation strategy in place, and the development of this would be preceded by the wildlife survey. Wildlife conservation activities in Angola fell under the IDF, which included departments for wildlife and inland fisheries. There was a National Directorate for Protected Areas, and it was necessary to consolidate activities for the wildlife department.

(Legislation) Mr Kingengo said that wildlife legislation comprised the *Regulamento de Caça* of 11 December 1957, and this had been revised through a more recent revised executive decree and agreement between ministers of finance and agriculture (No 36/99 of 27 January 1999). Summary details of this revision were provided to the SADC RPRC coordinator.

2.6 Botswana (Moremi Tjibae)

Introduction

Botswana, like other SADC rhino range state, is in the process of rebuilding her rhino population, which was in the past decimated by poaching to the extent that it was on the brink of extinction. To achieve this recovery, rhino sanctuaries or reserves have been established, and these areas accommodate the majority of rhinos in Botswana. These areas afford maximum security or protection to rhino, whose movements are monitored on daily basis. Recently two white rhinos have been spotted in the wild in Moremi Game Reserve. These are the only rhinos in Botswana who are not monitored on daily basis. Their chances of contribution to the population growth are minimal as they live an isolated life. Attempts will be made in future to relocate them to an area where their chance of contributing to the country's rhino population recovery will be higher.