

2.10 Zambia (George Kampamba)

Introduction

The commitment of the Government of the Republic of Zambia to co-operate in the management of biodiversity constituents such as rhino is enshrined in international instruments such as Technical Cooperation Agreements. The Zambia Wildlife Authority acknowledges the fact that the North Luangwa National Park had Zambia's highest rhino population prior to 1970. It is against this background that the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Zambia Wildlife Authority decided, in 1992 and 2000 regarding rhino management, to implement the reintroduction of the white and black rhino respectively for biodiversity conservation.

Feasibility Black Rhino Re introduction in North Luangwa National Park

The intention by the Zambia Wildlife Authority is to establish a founder population of black rhino in the North Luangwa National Park. In this regard the Frankfurt Zoological Society in a long standing relationship with the Zambia Wildlife Authority is currently working under a ten year agreement with Zambia to manage the wildlife resources in the North Luangwa National Park and to support the reintroduction of black rhino to the Park.

Zambia recognizes, as a positive factor, the SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation's support to the scientific study for putative rhino range suitability within North Luangwa National Park and for accepting to coordinate the reintroduction programme in Zambia with the various stakeholders and our key supporters.

The study also established the suitability of black rhino putative range in South Luangwa National Park as an opportunity. The Zambia Wildlife Authority needs a total of 20 black rhino in order to establish a viable founder population in North Luangwa National Park in the next three years. Out of the 20 black rhino five animals have been negotiated in principle with the South African National Parks.

Following the above, Zambia has undertaken the following:

- The Park Ranger in charge of the rhino programme and his deputy have been employed
- Twenty eight Wildlife Police Officers have been committed by the Zambia Wildlife Authority to the rhino programme
- Material for the sanctuary were purchased and construction will soon start
- Uniform, field equipment and other materials for the rhino programme have been purchased
- Arrangements are underway to send the Wildlife Police Officers for training in South Africa

Management of White Rhino in Mosi-oa-tunya National Park

The SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation also supported the study of the white rhino population in Mosi-oa-tunya National Park. Concerns were raised by Zambia over the failure by the animals to reproduce since 1995, thus the need for an investigation. The study revealed that there was need for introduction of new individuals to the small existing population. Since that study, the Zambia Wildlife Authority has not secured new animals for translocation to Mosi-oa-tunya National Park.

We however, believe that there is window of opportunity through support from the Rhino Recovery Group, the IUCN/SADC Programme for Rhino Conservation and other key supporters that Zambia Wildlife Authority will develop programmes to introduce new animals to Mosi-oa-tunya National Park in order to build and strengthen the capacity in white rhino management.

The World Bank is presently supporting the rehabilitation of the existing electric fence, extending the electric fence and supporting a public awareness campaign for Mosi-oa-tunya and Kafue National Parks. Reviews of the General Management Plans for Kafue and Mosi-oa-tunya National Parks and studies of Critical Species and Habitats in the two target National Parks will be commissioned next month, June 2002. These activities will contribute to raising the management profile of the Mosi-oa-tunya National Park for rhino management and biodiversity conservation.

Policy for Rhino Management in Zambia

Against the background that Zambia had the largest historic rhino range in Africa and that the North Luangwa National Park had one of the largest rhino populations in Africa prior to 1970, the objective of

the Zambia Wildlife Authority and SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation was to re-establish a black rhino population in its former range. The plan is to develop the national founder population in North Luangwa and through appropriate policy provide for private sector participation in rhino conservation. The Zambia Wildlife Authority is subsequently determined to develop a specific rhino management policy in Zambia, a management strategy and actions. With the support from US Fish and Wildlife, Zambia Wildlife Authority will finalise the rhino policy during the year 2002.

Collaboration

I wish to also inform this inaugural meeting that the Zambian Delegation headed by the Director General of the Zambia Wildlife Authority visited South Africa and met with the South African National Parks' Executives in Pretoria and Kruger National Park. It was agreed, during the visit, to co-operate on the re introduction of rhinoceros to Zambia and other aspects of national park management and development. There was an agreement in principle that the South African National Parks will provide the initial black rhinos to Zambia Wildlife Authority. A Draft Agreement for collaboration and cooperation on rhino management between the South African National Parks and Zambia Wildlife Authority has been developed. Further plans to contact the Kwa Zulu Natal Wildlife for more rhino for feasibility of reintroduction are also being made by the Zambia Wildlife Authority.

Way forward

On the basis of the political support and cooperation from other stakeholders Zambia Wildlife Authority embarked on consolidating preparations and plans to receive the rhino including the capacity necessary to safeguard the black rhino in North Luangwa National Park Zambia Wildlife Authority will continue to work closely with its partner Frankfurt Zoological Society in terms of management and monitoring of the rhino. Zambia Wildlife Authority will pursue the spirit of collaboration and exchange information on the management and monitoring of the Rhino with South African National Parks based on an Agreement. The Zambia Wildlife Authority is proposing to jointly develop with South African National Parks a memorandum of understanding on national park management for long-term cooperation. The Zambia Wildlife Authority will avail the North Luangwa National Park Rhino Reintroduction Project for international inspection

Conclusion

The Zambian Government and the Zambia Wildlife Authority are convinced that with the co-operation among the Rhino Recovery Group Members and with support from the Rhino Management Group and the SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation, Zambia will once more develop as a country in which a well-protected and viable black rhinoceros population contributes to enhance economic, spiritual and social well being of the public and the country as a whole and the Zambian wildlife estate for the present and posterity. In this regard we are inviting a verification mission to the North Luangwa National Park on a regular basis to assess the facilities, security arrangements and preparations by Zambia Wildlife Authority to receive the initial breeding population of five black rhino for the North Luangwa National Park. Zambia Wildlife Authority will continue to explore new projects and opportunities through collaboration for building more capacity within the institution for biodiversity conservation.

Discussion

(Rhino Security in NLNP) Mr Chafota asked about the initiatives with World Bank and FZS, and ZAWA's response to the studies funded by SADC rhino programme. He highlighted the need to address the factors which caused decline of rhinos in the past, and the need to work with communities to ensure integrity of sanctuary fencing. Dr Kampamba said that FZS had been in area for 13 or 14 years. Security assessments would be made before going ahead, including removal of factors which caused extinction Training and retraining of staff was in place. On fencing and communities, there was a public awareness campaign, to inform the nation about developments. Specifically around NLNP, in human settlements, the core area and buffer system in the GMAs, they was information about the reintroduction programme.

Mr Sinkamba, the area warden for NLNP, said that there was improving community participation, with useful development in the last month. Local chiefs came into park where they have constructed community camps, and park funds had been recycled to communities. On operations, NLNP was well managed, probably the best in Zambia. Poaching incidence was very low, and the park had adequate

resources with support from FZS. There was a control room on 24 hrs watch with 10 patrols in place, and aircraft available for monitoring and anti-poaching.

(Mosi-oa-Tunya NP) Dr Kampamba said that the management profile of the park had been improved through need to include rhinos. Mr Theophilus asked about the security at Mosi-oa-Tunya. Dr Kampamba said that they had only lost one animals after dehorning, and a second after immobilisation.

(Sustainability) Mr Tjibae asked what would happen if the present donor leaves. Dr Kampamba said that the GoZ had decided to transform the authority. Through order No 12 of 1998, all revenue can be retained by ZAWA. This is not yet up and running, and there were teething problems specifically due to lack of revenue available from hunting. There had been reduced staffing in ZAWA, but improved conditions of service. ZAWA still needed some donor support. He added that there had been agreement with SANP specifically on provision of black rhinos. Joint programmes were planned to further develop capacity in ZAWA. The ZAWA/SANP agreement was in draft form at this stage, to be followed by a government-to-government MoU.