

2 SALIENT POINTS FROM THE MEETING, NOTED BY THE FACILITATOR (*A. Wright*)

The discussions, in the main, centred on issues of the programme and how the range states would feature in its implementation. Two fundamental aspects (expected outputs from the programme and the 'conditions' for projects to be adopted or supported by/through the programme) were discussed at length.

2.1 Programme Outputs

The programme outputs developed to date were presented for discussion and 'buy-in' by the range states, namely:

Output #1: Development of institutional arrangements to achieve adequate coordination of rhino conservation efforts within and between SADC range states, and between SADC regional initiatives and international initiatives;

Output #2: Development of a reporting system and confidential database for all rhino populations in SADC range states;

Output #3: Implementation of rhino conservation projects that meet the criteria for support under the SADC rhino programme;

Output #4: Enhanced technical capacity of rhino management within SADC for undertaking the management, monitoring and protection of their rhinos;

Output #5: Enhanced awareness within local communities of rhino conservation obligations and opportunities, in pilot project areas;

Output #6: Better understanding within the region of technical, economic and socio-political factors that are relevant to rhino conservation, and

Output #7: Effective programme management and reporting established.

Outputs # 1, 2, 4 and 6 were considered by the group to be appropriate and should remain as they were. Output # 3 was reformulated to reflect the overall understanding of the 'conditions' projects have to meet, in order to be supported, sponsored or promoted by the SADC rhino conservation programme. Similarly, output # 5 was reformulated to take account of community participation in rhino conservation projects in pilot project areas, as opposed to simply 'raising awareness' as indicated in the original output # 5. Output #7, the management output, was renamed output # 8, and a new output #7 introduced, relating to sourcing of additional funding. This output was developed as a result of the discussions on 'conditions'. It was noted that the funds available to the programme would in no way be sufficient to fund 'all' projects meeting the conditions. As such provision will be made for the SADC Rhino programme to promote projects meeting the laid out conditions and facilitate the raising of the necessary funds from diverse sources. The rationale here is that the SADC programme will of necessity be in an authoritative position to assist individual range states in fund raising for deserving projects.

The updated set of programme outputs are:

Updated Output #1:	Development of institutional arrangements to achieve adequate coordination of rhino conservation efforts within and between SADC range states, and between SADC regional initiatives and international initiatives;
Updated Output #2:	Development of a reporting system and confidential database for all rhino populations in SADC range states;
Updated Output #3:	Rhino conservation projects that meet the conditions for support under the SADC Rhino programme implemented;
Updated Output #4:	Enhanced technical capacity of rhino management within SADC for undertaking the management, monitoring and protection of their rhinos;
Updated Output #5:	Participation and / or enhanced awareness of local communities in Rhino conservation in pilot areas;
Updated Output #6:	Better understanding within the region of technical, economic and socio-political factors that are relevant to rhino conservation;
Updated Output #7:	Funding for additional conservation projects that meet the conditions of the SADC Rhino programme facilitated / promoted;
Updated Output #8:	Effective programme management and reporting established.

2.2 Conditions For Support

Five 'conditions' were agreed upon as necessary to be met by projects requiring support from the SADC rhino conservation programme, namely:

1. Projects must be of a SADC regional nature or importance;
2. Projects must be limited to 'subspecies' *Ceratotherium simum*, *Diceros bicornis minor*, *D.b.bicornis*;
3. Fundamental rhino management issues such as land use economics, community involvement, etc. must be taken into account;
4. Both public and private rhino conservation projects will be considered, and
5. Implementation must make use of existing institutions and linkages.

2.3 Identification Of The Way Forward

All the range states present at the meeting expressed their full support for the SADC Rhino conservation programme. It was agreed that a "Consortium – Range States Forum" meet annually for the purpose of updating members of progress and making necessary decisions for the success of the programme.

It was therefore agreed that range states should submit the names of their 'focal points' to the consortium after consultations and agreement in their home countries. In particular, range state representatives were requested to pay attention to the fact that the forum will benefit from 'consistent representation'. This is taken to mean that given range states should ideally be represented by the same professional official over extended periods. In cases where this is not possible, all efforts must be made by the representative to report fully to colleagues on their return from consortium – range states forum meetings.

It was also agreed that, as far as possible, the dates for the consortium – range states forum should be such as to be able to take advantage of similar gatherings such as the Wildlife Sector meeting (May). However, the meetings should also be planned to synchronize with the project cycle of the regional rhino programme.