

the Italian NGO CESVI, which is actively involved in the environment and development sector; and last but not least, the SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Co-ordinating Unit, which chairs and guides the Consortium.

It goes without saying that in the implementation of this programme, the guidance by, the contribution and the active participation of national institutions is of paramount importance. This early consultation taking place at our workshop, is indeed planned at the inception of the programme with a view to enabling the relevant range states bodies to provide their objective views and constructive contribution towards the project drive and SADC goals. It is the utmost objective of the Italian Development Co-operation that the range states directly benefit from the programme and contribute with their experience to its regional pursuits. I trust that together with their genuine concern on the current needs for regional biodiversity conservation, all range states will share a sense of ownership of the programme.

We look forward with great interest to the discussion which will take place during these two days. The recommendations arising from this workshop will constitute a solid reference basis for programme planning and implementation during the next three years. Your task and constructive contribution today and tomorrow are going to be extremely important to this end.

3.2 Background to the Programme (H. Nzima, SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Coordination Unit, Malawi)

Agreement has been reached between a consortium of agencies to implement a regional programme of rhino conservation within SADC member states. The project is funded by the Italian Government to the level of approximately US \$2.4 million, over three years. This has happened following years of negotiations. The participating agencies are as follows:

SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Coordinating Unit (henceforth referred to as SADC WSTCU);

IUCN - The World Conservation Union, Regional Office for Southern Africa (henceforth referred to as IUCN-ROSA);

The Africa Rhino Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN - The World Conservation Union (henceforth referred to as AfRSG);

WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Southern African Regional Programme Office (henceforth referred to as WWF-SARPO);

CESVI Cooperazione Sviluppo (henceforth referred to as CESVI).

The specific roles of these partner agencies are specified in Section 5.

The programme will concentrate on rhino projects and policies that are 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).

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 to involve more than one SADC state (i.e. Southern African subspecies: *Ceratotherium simum*, *Diceros bicornis minor*, *D.b.bicornis*).

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.

The programme will include public and private sector rhino conservation projects.

The programme has been designed and implemented to complement existing institutions and their linkages, particularly the SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Coordination Unit, existing national and regional rhino management committees (notably the Southern African Rhino Management Group) and the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG).

Priorities for action within the programme will accord with the regional rhino conservation priorities, to be periodically determined by the implementing consortium using criteria that are outlined by AfRSG.

The programme implementation will be steered by an Executive Committee comprising representatives of the implementing agencies and chaired by SADC WSTCU.

In October 1999 the implementing consortium developed a budget and a work plan for a four-month inception phase, the main component of which is this workshop of rhino range states within SADC.

3.3 Institutional Roles of Partners in the Consortium (Y. Katerere, IUCN-ROSA)

The regional consortium includes the following institutions:

SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Coordination Unit: chairs the Consortium and provides the linkages with SADC structures for decision-making on regional rhino conservation policies and programme implementation arrangements;

IUCN - The World Conservation Union: will provide support and assistance to the SADC-WTCU in motivating and coordinating the Programme at political and technical levels; the Rhino Programme Coordinator will be hired through IUCN and will be responsible chiefly of the direct supervision and coordination of the Programme implementation;

IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group: will provide scientific leadership on the direction and prioritisation of rhino conservation activities;

WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature Southern African Regional Programme Office: will provide technical support to the Programme and will implement, in conjunction with the relevant rhino management authorities, specific rhino projects as identified within the Programme.

CESVI will undertake the management of Programme's finances and administration, Programme monitoring and will facilitate programme management and reporting to the donor.

3.4 Overview of SADC Rhino Programme (R. du Toit, WWF-SARPO)

The Technical Framework Agreement for the programme is between SADC-WSTCU, IUCN-ROSA, AfRSG, WWF-SARPO, CESVI and was signed in July-September 1999