

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

The programme focusses on rhino conservation at a regional level but is intended to promote broader conservation of biodiversity, since rhinos are seen as flagship species: they are large mammals with requirements for extensive areas of diverse habitat and need professional management and protection from poachers, so any rhino conservation project tends to become an umbrella for the broader conservation of other species and habitats.

The SADC region as a whole does not lack the required expertise for rhino conservation but such expertise tends to be concentrated in a few countries. Hence good co-ordination is required to share expertise, equipment (e.g. translocation vehicles) and even rhinos at a regional level. In addition to the specific expertise that is required for rhino conservation per se, a broad range of professional inputs are required for holistic rhino conservation requirements since such programmes will have to be made sustainable in socio-political and economic terms as well as biological terms – so there is need for expertise in land-use economics, community outreach, general wildlife management, policy and legislation, etc. To ensure the full range of expertise, a consortium approach makes sense.

The programme is therefore established to provide expertise, specialized logistical support, training, information and catalytic funding in support of SADC regional conservation projects and policies for rhinos as flagship species; such projects and policies are to be aimed at maximizing population growth rates, enhancing overall biodiversity, ensuring economic sustainability, and stimulating local community conservation awareness and involvement in the protection and wise use of these species. By establishing regional co-ordination in the management of the endangered and charismatic rhino species, it is intended that a precedent will be created within SADC so that this co-ordination can be extended to other wildlife species that should be managed at a regional rather than at a local level.

The conditionalities (criteria) for the selection of projects within the programme have been set out in Section 4 of the Technical Framework Agreement.

*Programme goal:* Southern African rhino taxa maintained in viable and well distributed metapopulations as flagship species for biodiversity conservation within SADC region.

*Programme objective:* A pragmatic regional rhino strategy implemented within the SADC region following the acquisition of sound information on, firstly, the constraints and opportunities for rhino conservation within each range state and secondly, the constraints and opportunities for rhino metapopulation management at the region level.

Outputs and activities envisaged over a two and a half year period

*Output #1. Development of institutional arrangements to achieve adequate co-ordination of rhino conservation efforts within and between SADC regional initiatives and international initiatives.*

Activity # 1.1 Facilitate the establishment of national rhino committees for SADC range states which do not already have such committees (avoiding duplication with the RMG). These committees will have lead responsibility for national level implementation of all rhino projects as well as for ensuring the sharing of expertise, equipment, information, etc., with other SADC range states.

Activity #1.2 Facilitate the development and regular updating of national rhino conservation strategies and action plans.

Activity #1.3 Facilitate the establishment and functioning of a SADC Rhino Programme Committee consisting of a national representative from each National Rhino Committee as well as representatives from the international NGO's that are

directly engaged in the SADC Rhino Programme (to meet at least once per year under the chairmanship of the SADC WTCU Coordinator).

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

**Activity #2.1** Facilitate surveys of remnant rhino populations within SADC range states. This activity will be highly dependent upon the security situation which prevails within these areas.

**Activity #2.2** Develop and maintain a SADC regional rhino database (in coordination with the Southern African RMG) through a standardized approach which allows for regular updating, classification of reliability of data, comparative analyses of demographic trends, etc.

**Activity #2.3** Expand this SADC rhino database through GIS to incorporate georeferenced data on pertinent biophysical and human influences, e.g. poaching patterns and threats to rhino habitats.

**Activity #2.4** Support the production of annual rhino status reports for the SADC region (one at a confidential level and one at a level for general dissemination), including assessments of driving forces, constraints, options and opportunities for rhino conservation within the region.

**Output #3.** *Implementation of and/or facilitation of funding for rhino conservation projects that meet the criteria for support under the SADC Rhino Programme.*

**Activity #3.1** Provide expertise, specialised equipment and other support to undertake specific and strategic rhino management and monitoring operations, in accordance with AfRSG recommendations and the decisions of relevant National Rhino Committees, such as translocations, radiocollaring and population surveys.

**Activity #3.2** Assist with the drafting and "marketing" of proposals for donor support or other funding as required to implement significant national rhino conservation projects within the SADC range states.

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

**Activity #4.1** Arrange for specific members of rhino management agencies to be trained ("on-the-job" as far as possible) to undertake specialised activities related to rhino conservation, e.g. radiocollaring, capture techniques, protection, monitoring of individual rhinos, population estimation techniques, provided that the applicability of this training is beyond doubt.

**Activity #4.2** Produce specific technical manuals, in relevant languages, for the use of members of wildlife management bodies who require guidance on aspects of rhino management, monitoring and protection.

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

**Activity #5.1** Produce appropriate leaflets, posters, audio-visual aids, etc., for use in community awareness programmes.

**Activity #5.2** Facilitate the establishment and publicity of informer reward schemes, where feasible, to give members of local communities legal incentives to report rhino poachers.

Activity #5.3 Identify and promote options for local communities to derive tangible and sustainable economic benefits from rhino populations that are conserved within or adjacent to their home areas.

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

Activity #6.1 Provide expertise and other resources to tackle specific regional priorities (as identified by AfRSG) for ecological and biological research, e.g. habitat assessments, population estimation techniques, genetic analyses.

Activity #6.2 Implement pilot projects to test "high-tech" options that may be practical in the regional rhino conservation context (e.g. new radio collar designs, transponder technology, DNA fingerprinting, dung odour analysis, pregnancy diagnosis).

Activity #6.3 Undertake economic analyses of rhino management in a land-use context, including the assessment of scenarios for controlled legal trade in rhino products. Clarify the positive and negative attitudes of stakeholders within SADC range states regarding such options, so that informed debate can take place within the SACE Rhino Programme Committee and policy briefs can be prepared under the auspices of this committee

*Output #7. Effective programme management and reporting established. Activities to be further elaborated as arrangements for programme administration are finalized.*

Activity #7.1 Establishment of Executive Board and selection of Programme Coordinator.

Activity #7.2 Establishment of detailed financial management and reporting procedures.

Activity #7.3 Formulation of general workplan.

Activity #7.4 Formulation of six-monthly technical progress reports.

Activity #7.5 Formulation of six-monthly consolidated financial reports.

Activity #7.6 Final report.

### **3.5 Programme Management for the SADC Rhino Conservation Programme (G. Daconto, CESVI)**

The SADC Regional Rhino Conservation Programme aims to support a co-ordinated regional effort in Southern Africa towards maintaining viable rhino populations. To this end the programme brings together leading rhino conservation expertise from the region; is firmly based on the accumulated regional experience on rhino management; and wants to complement and further support ongoing national and regional rhino conservation initiatives and institutions.

To achieve these broad goals, the programme was conceived through consultations with the key agencies in the region. Programme development took stock of the significant knowledge on rhino conservation gathered over the past. As a result, this programme, funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for Development Co-operation (MAAEE/DGCS) and implemented by CESVI, is executed through a regional consortium which brings together key agencies in the rhino conservation field.