

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.

CESVI is an Italian NGO active in the development and environment sectors in a number of countries world-wide. CESVI implements projects funded by the Italian Cooperation, the European Commission, other donors and through public fund-raising. CESVI is the contractor for the Rhino Conservation Programme.

The regional implementing consortium was established before the programme inception, based on a Technical Framework agreement signed by the consortium partners, SADC Secretariat and MAAEE/DGCS. This agreement identifies the rationale, goals, objectives and expected results of the programme.

Goals, objectives and conditionalities of the programme have been presented by other speakers at this workshop; this presentation provides a brief summary of the fundamental programme management aspects included in the agreement and the management set-up developed during the inception phase.

Programme planning is co-ordinated and supervised through an Executive Board composed of representatives of each partner organisation within the consortium. The Board is responsible for:

- ◆ review and endorsement of workplans and reports;
- ◆ appointment of the Programme Co-ordinator;
- ◆ progress review and monitoring of the activities of the programme.

The Executive Board will meet regularly to review and approve workplans and reports and thus ensure a truly co-ordinated regional effort. The Programme Co-ordinator is responsible for overall technical co-ordination and supervision of the implementation, reporting to the Board on technical matters and through this and CESVI to DGCS.

The programme, started in September 1999, will last three years. The programme budget is 4,4 billion lire or approximately 2,2 million US Dollars. The programme is planned through a semi-annual cycle, whereas funds are released by DGCS every six-months upon reviewing the progress of the programme and the financial reports.

The inception phase had the following main goals:

- ◆ to undertake detailed consultations among consortium partners to define operational roles and responsibilities; in particular an initial consortium meeting was organised in November 1999;
- ◆ to prepare detailed administrative and management guidelines for the implementation of the programme: a protocol has been agreed upon by the partners and submitted to DGCS;
- ◆ to define the terms of reference of, select and recruit the Programme Co-ordinator: the selection is being finalised; and, last but not least,
- ◆ to undertake consultations with the range states on programme planning, to gather views, inputs and recommendations from national institutions responsible for rhino management, which will be the ultimate beneficiaries of the programme.

This workshop has been convened to this end, as initial consultation with the range states before the formulation of the operational plan for the project. Based on the recommendations arising from this workshop, the consortium will develop the general three-year workplan and a detailed workplan for the second semester.