

## **Mozambique (*Felismina Longamane Langa*)**

### **Summary**

In the last year a national committee was created for rhino conservation, including representatives chosen from the provinces. Unfortunately, due the lack of funds, it has not been possible to hold a meeting of the committee up until now.

### **Evidence of Rhino Presence**

In 2000, there was new evidence of the presence of rhinos in Mozambique:

1. Spoor of two rhinos was reported from villagers within Sinave National park, after floods.
2. In November 2000, three rhinos crossed the border from Kruger NP to Coutada 16. These animals were taken back by SANP.

### **Rhino conservation Goals**

- Long Term of existence of rhino ensured;
- Anti-poaching unit established;
- Conservation profile of Mozambique increased;
- Number of rhinos known

There is a plan to set up an IPZ for rhino within Coutada 16, and reintroduce 10 rhinos. As soon as funds have been obtained, the priority will be the fencing of an area in Coutada 16 where rhinos can be reintroduced in order to fulfil these goals.

### **Discussion**

Mr du Toit wondered how firm was the rhino report from Sinave, and if it was likely that these were hippos. Ms Langa said that the rhinos that moved into Coutada 16 were repatriated to Kruger NP without Mozambican involvement. There was a proposal to change the status of Coutada 16 as a rhino protected area. In Mozambique, there was now a fine for rhino poaching of 1 billion meticals (USD 90,000), under a new law approved in 1999, with no option of a custodian sentence.

## **Namibia (*Rudi Loutit*)**

### **Introduction**

Namibia's black rhino *D.b.bicornis* population currently numbers 735. The country population is made up of 2 Key 1 populations (Etosha NP and Kunene region), one Important 1 population in Waterberg Plateau Park, the metapopulation on ten ranches under the MET Custodianship scheme and the two small rhino groups at Hardap Game Park and Mangetti Game Camp in the Kavango Region.

### **Etosha NP**

Rhino in Etosha are primarily monitored during the dry season at permanent water points, where they drink regularly at night. The method is to observe as many rhino as possible at each different waterpoint, during the full moon periods. Rhino are photographed during these full moon counts, for individual recognition. There are currently more than 2000 photographs of individual rhino in a database. Photos are linked to the relevant individual rhino and particular waterpoint counts. This allows for the viewing of all photos of a particular rhino of the photos taken during a particular waterpoint count. 64 waterpoints are covered each year during the full moon periods from July to September inclusive. Only 8% of individual rhino are opportunistically observed at waterpoints and 5% of recorded sightings of individuals are made by chance in the field, during routine patrols. Ear-notching of clean rhino continues and in 1999-2000 a further 61 individuals were notched. Some rhino were fitted with transmitters and tracked to provide information on movement patterns, drinking frequency and number of waterpoints used. Ear-notching commences in the Namutoni area in March 2001.

### **Kunene Region**

Black rhino in the Kunene Region occur in eight ecozones covering the total range area of the population. Ecozones are based on differences in terrain, geology, and rainfall patterns, differences in the availability of food and water and the resulting differences in rhino density, breeding and