

now not be available at less than R3,000 per hectare. A realistic budget on this item would therefore be R20 million.

2. Introductory boma at Hlane National Park

New bomas are an essential priority at Hlane to accommodate and settle new arrivals of rhinos. The original bomas are 35 years old, are now obsolete and have to be replaced. The cost would be approximately R150,000. It is not wise to free release rhinos into new areas. Rhinos have to be settled in confinement and settle before release to optimise on habitat acceptance, and to minimize chances of accidents and onward flight. Mkhaya has been assessed for carrying capacity for black rhino and we are almost at this figure now, so very soon translocations will be necessary. Therefore this construction of a boma is a top priority in terms of facilitating rhino requirements on the ground.

3. Ground Support for Rangers: Two 4 x 4 vehicles and two motor cycles – a security imperative

The Rangers on the ground are the nucleus around which rhino protection is made possible. Remove the custodians in the bush and their commitment, and no amount of political support will save Africa's rhinos. However it is also true to say that political support for the Rangers is pivotal to their success as custodians. In Swaziland we have both the political support and the commitment of the men at the sharp end in place. The former in the shape of the Head of State, who has taken Nature conservation under his own portfolio, so placing it under the highest authority in the land, and the latter in respect of the Rangers, whose effective law enforcement reputation runs rampant ahead of them. The Rangers however have to be adequately enabled – which is most effectively done by efficiently servicing them with their needs on the ground. Such needs cover a whole spectrum from deliveries of such essentials as food, water and other supplies to their remote pickets and patrolling grounds in the bush, as well as to mobilize them with rapid reaction potential.

The first essential in facilitating the above is a 4x4 Pick-up for each park where rhinos are protected – Hlane and Mkhaya. Two such vehicles at approximately R110,000 each requires R220,000. Motorcycles are used on each park for the cost-effective maintenance of low cost high security discipline and control of the Ranger force. They provide quick cheap access to any point on a troublesome fence line or to spot check reports of rhino sightings. This we have found to be an essential tool in security checks. Two of these machines will cost approximately R40,000.

These then are Swaziland's top rated priorities in her rhino protection and conservation programme. If none of these fall into the scope of donor aid then an additional requirement would be the habitat and carrying capacity assessment of Hlane National Park for black and white rhinos, and the revised assessment of Mkhaya Game Reserve, for the same purpose.

### **Tanzania (Mathew Maige)**

#### **Background**

Tanzania is the only East African member state to SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation. The presence of more than three discrete *D.b.minor* populations that need to be quantified in the Selous GR, qualified Tanzania to become one of the countries for inclusion in the programme. Tanzania does not have more than 20 year of active rhino conservation requiring development of special mechanisms for managing the national rhino population. It is probably during the last 10 years that concerted efforts to manage this species have been realized by a few wildlife managers in the country. Due to this reason the country requires a lot more of technical support from SADC Regional members with such technology.

#### **Rhino Population Status**

Two black rhino subspecies occur in the country, *D.b.michaeli* in the north covering the Ngorongoro highlands through the Serengeti plains. A re-introduced population of *D.b.michaeli* is located about 200 km East of the Kilimanjaro in a sanctuary within the Mkomazi GR. *D.b.minor* is found in small pockets in the Selous GR and few remaining stragglers in most of the southern highlands. However, the *D.b.minor* population in the Selous remain largely unknown and require concerted effort to

establish their numbers and distribution and other demographic parameters in some of the known habitats in the Selous. This is one area of utmost importance for which country requests assistance.

The *D.b.michaeli* population in the Serengeti is steadily increasing since our last meeting with an additional birth early this month making the number to be 8. This is realized from a founder population of 2 females and one male put together at one locality in 1996.

The Ngorongoro Crater has lost a total of 5 animals since mid-2000. Lions preyed upon one calf in May 2000 and the mother of the fateful calf died in September 2000. It has recently been brought to the attention of NCAA that the mother might have died of serious injuries (possibly following an encounter with an elephant or sustaining injuries after falling off the crater rim). However, more dramatic this year, an unconfirmed Babesiosis (a tick-borne protozoan disease) is suspected to have claimed the lives of a one-year female calf (August 2000) and two cows, both in January 2001. As I present this information, the Permanent Secretary and the Director of Wildlife are visiting the Ngorongoro to listen to a report by veterinary experts. A prolonged drought that claimed lives of many other herbivores including some 300 buffalos on the Crater floor is suspected to have contributed greatly toward poor animal health and consequently boosted tick-borne disease attacks following poor animal conditions.

### **Measures taken to safeguard the crater population**

Between 23 and 29 January 2001, Dr Peter Morkel, with Tanzanian vets, embarked on a prophylactic treatment of the remaining crater population (13 animals) by darting them with a dose of *Berenil*. After the treatment, further investigation was recommended to involve experts from outside Tanzania. Everybody is worried as to whether the unconfirmed disease will spare this rhino population. The *D.b.michaeli* in Mkomazi is doing fine while expectations of new calves from this re-introduced population (since 1997) are haunting the author.

### **Discussion**

Mr du Toit said that there appeared to be problems with administrative issues in Tanzania. The 1997 national rhino strategy had been approved but not endorsed, and the MoU for the Selous Rhino Trust had not been approved. There was little enablement of rhino conservation effort by the Government of Tanzania. On the strategy, Mr Maige said that there had been problems of resentments by successive Directors of Wildlife of their predecessors, and individual internal clashes were responsible. There would be a new workshop to review the rhino strategy document. A meeting of the rhino steering committee was pending. On the MoU, there had been a problem of inclusion of a clause relating to tax-free exemption; SRT is a charity, so not exempt. Mr du Toit asked if the SADC forum could assist on the ratification of the strategy. Mr Maige said that there was no need for intervention on MoU.

### **Zambia (George Kampamba)**

#### **Introduction**

Wildlife in Zambia is the main basis for tourism development. The Ministry of Tourism is entrusted with the responsibility to foster ahead Zambia's economic development through tourism. The level of management profile and participation by constituent stakeholders will determine how Zambia realises consumptive and non-consumptive tourism potential in full.

#### **Transformation from national parks and wildlife service to Zambia Wildlife Authority**

The process of change from a Government Department to an autonomous company, the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA), took effect on 01 November 1999. The Ministry of Tourism provides policy guidance to the Zambia Wildlife Authority. The Zambia Wildlife Authority was established by the Government of the Republic of Zambia and is governed by Zambia Wildlife Act, No. 12 of 1998. The Board of Directors heads the Authority (Zambia Wildlife Authority, 1998). The primary objectives of ZAWA are as follows:

- To control management of National Parks for conservation and enhancement of wildlife ecosystem and biodiversity;
- To promote opportunities for the equitable and wise use of resources in National Parks;