

the elephant. The implications therefore if this project is not undertaken are that the only rhino population available in the country would head for demise. The population may not be revived, as there has not been any reproduction since 1995. This situation needs to be investigated. We have to find a way for continued propagation.

Conclusion

Zambia recognises the rhino program and the facility as vital for conservation of biological diversity and contribution to the development of the national economy through enhanced tourism. The SADC Program has the potential to propel rhino conservation in Zambia to greater heights and the valuable support to ZAWA will help in achieving the set goals and aspirations of our people. Last but not the least I want to thank the consortium for their support to the course of rhino conservation and the SADC Regional Program for Rhino Conservation, the organisers of this meeting.

Discussion

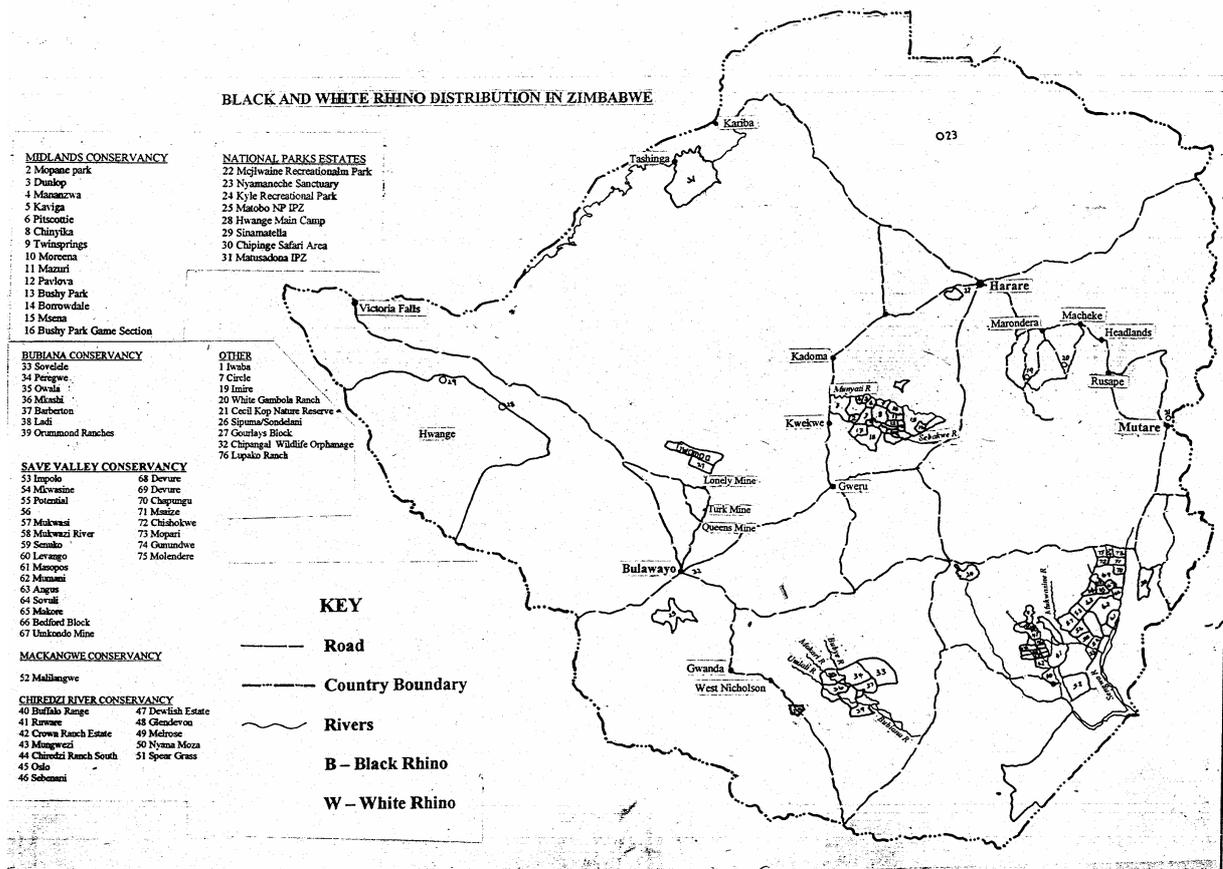
It was generally felt that the fenced area for white rhinos as Mosi-oa-Tunya NP (10 ha) was far too small, and could be the main reason for the lack of performance by this small population.

Zimbabwe (Florence Msipa)

Population

The current black rhino population is still estimated at 460 individuals and the white rhinos at 200 individuals.

Distribution/Range



There are five major conservancies in the country, namely, Bubiana, Save Valley, Chiredzi River, Malilangwe and Midlands Black rhino conservancy. The first four are collectively known as the lowveld conservancies. In addition to the five, there are 6 small conservancies (single farmer), two breeding programmes, four IPZs, two recreational parks, a sanctuary, a nature reserve and a forestry area.

Annual Growth Rate

The Zimbabwean rhinos are estimated to be recovering at an annual growth rate of 9 percent per annum. In some areas such as Gourlays Block and Sinamatella the growth rates are as high as 12 and 11% respectively. In the Midlands the growth rate is estimated to be as low as 3% per annum.

Mortality

Poaching

There have been no confirmed incidents of rhino poaching for the year 2000 to end of February 2001. An adult male caught in a snare in one of the conservancies later died after the snare was removed. The cause of death was believed to be stress as the animal was very old. Another rhino moved out of a conservancy through a broken fence last year. To date the rhino has not been located. Two black rhinos were discovered at an advanced stage of decay this February. Cause of death is still to be established.

Other

Elephants killed a rhino on Iwaba. Another died in the later part of the year in a conservancy as a result of fighting, and lions in Matusadona killed a calf.

Management and Research issues

Ear notching

Ear notching operations were successfully carried out in Malilangwe and Macllwaine Recreational Park last year. A similar operation at Matusadona was not successful. A rhino database is to be implemented in April this year with Sinamatella, Matusadona and hopefully the Midlands as target areas. Information for the database will be collected from ear notching, radio collaring and sightings of rhinos. A need to carry out a census in Matusadona and the Midlands in order to generate more information about rhino status in the two areas has been identified. This will be done at the same time as the ear notching and radio collaring operations. A programme for ear notching and radio collaring activities for the year will be implemented in the last week of March.

Law enforcement

There are many areas in the country where manpower densities need to be increased as well as the overall effectiveness of law enforcement monitoring.

Limitations

At the annual stakeholders workshop in October 2000, limitations to successful rhino management were identified and some recommendations made. The resultant document awaits directorate approval. Lack of skilled manpower, equipment and finances remains a problem.