

3 PRESENTATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

3.1 Criteria for Funding Support by the SADC Rhino Programme (Rob Brett, Programme Coordinator)

The agreed criteria or conditions for funding support by the SADC Rhino Programme were listed:

1. Projects must be of a SADC regional nature or importance. The Programme will concentrate on rhino projects and policies that area of a regional nature (e.g. those which involve sharing of expertise between SADC member states, involve sharing or exchange of their rhinos, are conservation models for potential replication elsewhere in the region, and/or have regional economic or political implications).
2. Projects must limited to 'subspecies' *Ceratotherium simum*, *Diceros bicornis minor* and *D.b.bicornis*. The Programme will be limited to rhino 'subspecies' whose historical range included more than one SADC state and whose future metapopulation management is also likely in involve more than one SADC state (i.e. southern African subspecies: *Ceratotherium simum*, *Diceros bicornis minor*, *D.b.bicornis*).
3. Fundamental rhino management issues as well as land use economics, community involvement, etc. must be taken into account. The Programme will be primarily concerned with fundamental rhino management issues and with clearly relevant aspects of land-use economics, community 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.
4. Both public and private rhino conservation projects will be considered. The Programme will include public and private sector rhino conservation projects
5. Implementation must make use of existing institutions and linkages. The Programme will be designed and implemented to complement existing institutions and their linkages, particularly the SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Co-ordination Unit, existing national and regional rhino management committees (notably the Southern African Rhino Management Group) and the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG).

Discussion

Mr du Toit recommended that the independence of proposed projects be used in rating procedure, since this would improve sustainability. Mr Nzima asked about the minimum conditions for funding support from the programme. Dr Brett said that the 5 conditions had to be satisfied, but the criteria for rating project proposals by the SADC Consortium still needed further development.

3.2 Presentation and Discussion of Project Proposals for funding in Semesters 4-6 (Martin Brooks, AfRSG Chair)

Each of the project proposals developed by range states and members of the SADC consortium were described in brief by the proponents (if present) or by the range state focal points or consortium representatives involved. Each proponent identified the primary output of the SADC rhino programme to which the proposed project would contribute. Each presentation was followed by queries, comments and discussion from plenary.

Following serial numbering of each proposal submitted at the October 2000 Consortium meeting, each proposal was numbered, and all are listed in Annex D, including summary information on each. The project proposals themselves (including subsequent revisions) have been compiled into a separate document for information and circulation to range state focal points.