

Continuing with the agenda, Bertus Kruger outlined the presentations to be given: continental perspective on rhino conservation; exploring the national rhino programme; and, focusing on Kunene research findings regarding the black rhino.

A series of questions were posed to delegates to serve as an ice breaker and to set the scene for the rest of the workshop. These questions include:

- 1. How do we see the future of black rhino?**
- 2. Should numbers increase?**
- 3. What is the direction we should take and how do we reach consensus on a common vision?**
- 4. What options and possibilities exist for us to reach these goals?**

As a final note, Bertus Kruger stressed, *“The structure of the workshop is to allow everyone a voice in this process through plenary and group work sessions.”*

2.3 Presentations

2.3.1 African View on Rhino Conservation

2.3.1.1 Presentation by Mr. Raoul Du Toit, (WWF Zimbabwe)

The presentation gave a background on where rhinos occur; the physical differences of black and white rhino; and, the impact of poaching and the resulting change in distribution. The driving forces behind rhino poaching were described, highlighting that locally very little of the published value of rhino horn is realised from poaching, *“The value of rhino is realised through good management.”* An example from Botswana’s reintroduction of rhino, as a SADC regional programme, was highlighted to describe the role of the SADC programme. The concept of biological management was outlined: its impacts on growth of black rhino; the impact on vegetation; and, the role of translocations to maximise growth. The role of extension work was presented and in referring back to the Grootberg meeting he emphasised that consensus was reached that growth of rhinos numbers was a priority. In speaking about biological management Mr. Du Toit finished by stressing, *“Biological management of rhino is similar to livestock farming principles, something everyone in this room is aware of.”* For a summary of the slides used in the presentation see Appendix Three.

2.3.1.2 Questions

In response to the presentation, the following questions, comments and answers were entertained:

Obed (Committee member), Anabeb Conservancy: In translocation of animals, say to South Africa, should the animal die, what would happen?

Du Toit: This would be a failure. In moving rhinos we need to consider why and where to take them to ensure they have good habitat and the area is secure. We should spend as much time considering where we take them to, as we do where we take them from.

uNAIBEB (Field Officer), Dora !Nawas Conservancy: rhinos have been translocated to other parts of the world. Why have we not considered parts of Namibia prior to other parts of the world.



Figure 3. Delegates during presentations and discussions on biological management options and case-studies

rdTOIT (WWF), Zimbabwe: Spreading the risk allows us to not have all our “eggs in one basket”. Examples were given on what happened in Zambia and should all the rhinos be here, the species would have been lost. This gives you options that allow you to “trade” rhinos to support rhino conservation programmes.

aUARIJE (Field Officer), Omatendeka Conservancy: First you need to reintroduce these rhinos into the conservancy areas where they used to occur. The Kunene Region has not reached the carrying capacity yet. Namibia and Kunene should be first. You cannot give food away while your kids at home are hungry.

rdTOIT (WWF), Zimbabwe: I agree and it is not one or the other, you should first prioritise – you are right. However, with the options available, continental goals can also be met.

2.3.2 Namibian Perspective on Rhino Conservation Programme

2.3.2.1 Presentation by Mr. Pierre du Preez, MET Rhino Co-ordinator for Namibia.

Pierre, as the senior scientist for MET, began by outlining the process behind the translocation of black rhino to Botswana (mentioned in rdTOIT’s presentation) – this was a gift from the President of Namibia, originally it had been two and later increased for conservation goals.

Introducing his talk, pdPREEZ stressed the importance to see Kunene in the national perspective when developing a vision for management of black rhino in Kunene. As background, the vision for the Namibian rhino strategy was outlined. Collaboration across the continent was highlighted in the conservation of the white rhino, and the lesson’s learnt from this joint