

# **PROJECT: BLACK GHOSTS**

## **WESTERN BLACK RHINO LOCATION AND RADIO TAGGING PROJECT**

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## **Table of Contents**

1. Summary
2. History of the Western Black Rhino
3. The Road Forward
4. Project Objectives
5. Expedition 2003
6. The People Behind the project
7. The Expedition: Phase one
  - 7.1 Radio Communication
  - 7.2 Administration and Traditional Rules
  - 7.3 Mobile Tracking teams
  - 7.4 Tracking
  - 7.5 Material and Methods
  - 7.6 Veterinary and Scientific Objectives
  - 7.7 Full Time Monitoring
  - 7.8 Sociological Survey
  - 7.9 Timing
  - 7.10 Funding
  - 7.11 Budget
8. Final Summary
9. Contact details
10. Research.
11. Map. Distribution of the four subspecies of Black Rhino on the African continent
12. Supporting Documentation :
  - WWF Cameroon Black Rhino Location and Identification Project Report
  - The Cameroon Black Rhino Conservation Strategy Technical Mission Meeting
  - Phase One Budget

# **The Western Black Rhino**

*(Diceros bicornis longipes)*

## **1. SUMMARY**

The subspecies was considered extinct by the late 80's when Dr Hubert Planton brought evidence that some 60 individuals still remained free ranging in Northern Cameroon. The international community was formally informed of the situation between 1989 and 1992 (San Diego rhino conference, 1991, and African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG), 1992). The subspecies was recognised at the 1996 Cincinnati rhino conservation meeting by the WWF, IUCN and its affiliate AfRSG and is presently on the IUCN's Red list as critically endangered. The population over the last two decades has been reduced, by poaching from a few hundred individuals to its present population estimates of less than 10 individuals scattered over a 25 000 sq. km area. There are four subspecies of black rhino in Africa, *D.b.longipes*, represents the most distant and thus most important genetic population of the species *Diceros bicornis*. There are no known captive individuals in zoos or parks anywhere in the world today, and thus emphasizing the importance in conserving the last remaining population.

After several detailed action plans in the last decade little progress has been made for the long-term protection of these animals, last year, 2001 a location and identification project conducted by WWF in collaboration with the IUCN/AfRSG and other NGO's was launched in response to this, over 40 signs and tracks of these rhino where logged using a GPS in Northern Cameroon, but no sightings where confirmed although sightings where and are still being reported.

Controversially past efforts have failed to establish the viability of a minimum founder population as a result the IUCN and the WWF can no longer support efforts in Cameroon as conservation funding is limited in general and there are only so many projects they can justify perusing. Any recovery program would be expensive over an extended period, so there would have to be a reasonable likely hood of success.

Dr Hubert Planton who has spent 12 years in Northern Cameroon working with the local communities and wildlife is recognized as the authority on these rhino. Together with other top field wildlife veterinarians and rhino capture experts on the continent we intend putting a private expedition together for 2003. In this we are calling upon hunters in a once in a lifetime opportunity to participate and through this to fund the expedition. This will give them the opportunity to dart hunt one of the most endangered animals alive today and to contribute to possibly the last effort to find and fit radio transmitters to the remaining individuals.

## **2. HISTORY OF THE WESTERN BLACK RHINO**

The subspecies was considered extinct by the late 80's when Dr Hubert Planton brought evidence that some 60 individuals still remained free ranging in Northern Cameroon. The international community was formally informed of the situation between 1989 and 1992 (San Diego rhino conference, 1991, and African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG), 1992). The subspecies was recognised at the 1996 Cincinnati rhino conservation meeting by the WWF, IUCN and its affiliate AfRSG and is presently on the IUCN's Red list as critically endangered. The population over the last two decades has been reduced by poaching from a few hundred individuals to its present population estimates of less than 10 individuals scattered over a 25 000 sq. km area. This last surviving population constitutes a gene pool that has adapted to its specific environment, and is thus a unique ecotype. There are no known captive individuals in zoos or parks anywhere in the world today.

Prof Eric Harley from the Dept. of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, UCT, South Africa, has done a comprehensive genetic study on the subspecies of Black Rhino and despite only having one good sample of DNA from *D.b.longipes*, he was able to do what is called an "assignment test" which is a way of showing how closely related the individual is to the other main groupings (minor, michaeli, and bicornis) see attached map. It turns out to be not closely related at all (probably the most distant of the subspecies one from another)

In past times, the natural range of the black rhino included the majority of the West and Central African savannah landscapes. The species, like many others in Africa, has suffered great losses due to hunting and poaching particularly in the beginning of the 20th century. Beginning in the 1930s, when the administration introduced strong protection measures, a spectacular rehabilitation of the numbers of the northwestern black rhino (*Diceros bicornis longipes*) was observed. Afterwards, efforts to protect wildlife declined progressively and the adverse effects have become clearly visible since the 1980s, including the eradication of the largest population of the subspecies in the Central African Republic, the disappearance of the smaller population in Chad and the progressing threat to the last nucleus, which still survives in Cameroon. Cameroon had asked for help to protect its rhinos in 1980. Unfortunately this has not been heard and the situation of its wildlife in general, despite being an important part of its former development, did nothing but degrade. The actual number of its rhinos, which are the only representatives of the subspecies *longipes* on earth, counts a mere ten individuals. A rescue programme for these animals financed by the Coopération Française should have become operational in 1995. However, the programme was rapidly absorbed in a larger programme for the management of biodiversity in general, for which the financing after five years of negotiation was still not forthcoming. As a consequence, a major part of the funds that were initially reserved for the protection of the rhinos has been redistributed to profit other activities, and the security of the rhinos has not sufficiently improved.

The small numbers of surviving rhinos are confronted with multiple problems: increasing human population, poor application of laws, insufficient political goodwill. It is possible that the Cameroon government at its highest level is not aware of the situation and its consequences. A radical change of the political will could greatly facilitate the mobilisation of financial and technical assistance specifically aimed at saving the rhinos. All efforts have to go in this direction if one does not wish the extinction of the subspecies, which has been anticipated for 20 years. All means to avoid this extinction

are known and potentially available. (Extract from Pachyderm no 27 Jan – Dec 1999 pg 86–87)

The last survival action plan was put into place in November 2000 via the Cameroon Black Rhino Conservation Strategy Technical Mission Meeting in Yaoundé Cameroon, (see supporting document), suggested and organised by IUCN's French Committee (attendance: IUCN, AfrSG, WWF, MINEF, NC Zoological Society).

Here the following conservation goals and objectives were put in place :

***Long Term*** Conservation Vision for Cameroon's Black Rhino :

A genetically and demographically viable population of at least 50 animals within historical range in the wild by 2050.

***Medium Term*** Goal

By 2006, a consolidated and expanding population

***Short Term*** Goal

Verify a minimum number of animals and their demographic structure with concrete evidence - completed by end 2001

By 2002, to secure a population of known individuals (minimum 5 animals with at least 3 females).

Last year (2001), a four-month expedition was launched in response to this meeting, conducted by WWF Cameroon (please see supporting document, WWF Cameroon Black Rhino location and Identification project, Final Report). Dr Michael Kock, a veterinarian who has worked in the fields of wildlife health and conservation for the last 25 years, led the expedition. Although unsuccessful in locating specific rhino he was able to establish that there are at least 8 or more rhino in the two rhino areas he based his search. This came through over 40 independent recordings of rhino tracks and other signs, although one could not be sure if the same individuals were recorded more than once as the terrain is extreme and only very few good quality tracks could be determined for comparison purposes.

The difficulty in locating and estimating the population size in Northern Cameroon in contrast to other areas could be due to the following:

1. Very low black rhino numbers in a large wilderness area.
2. Very difficult terrain with poor definition of rhino spoor on uneven ground.
3. Rapid growth of vegetation, making spoor detection problematic.
4. Questionable collaboration and communication with the trackers employed

One alarming observation also mentioned was in one of the two known rhino areas he encountered 45 different poachers camps, mainly targeting large mammals, sadly it is only a matter of time until the population is totally wiped out.

The IUCN and the WWF have now pulled out of this project in Cameroon due to the lack of funding, as conservation funding is limited in general and there are only so many

projects that they can justify pursuing, further to their opinion any recovery programme in Cameroon would be very expensive over an extended period, so there would have to be a reasonable likelihood of success. The failure to establish the presence of a minimum founder population (5 unrelated rhinos - at least 3 females and 1 male) during the 2001 expedition made this improbable.

### **3. THE ROAD FORWARD**

Over the last year a number of sightings have been reported to the authorities and although rare they still continue to be seen every few months or so. At present the Cameroon government, through their wildlife department are supportive of efforts that would lead to the long-term conservation of these animals. I have spoken to Mr Koulagna the Director of wildlife and protected areas, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Cameroon, who has expressed his commitment and support for this project, we intend meeting in September.

If successful in finding these animals various conservation organizations would have a responsibility to pursue this issue once again. I have also become aware that certain branches of the IUCN and various other conservationists still support the process. (IUCN's French Committee, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

All that said though it is a complicated affair in which a long-term conservation strategy would have to be put in place. Once the animals are found what is to become of them? In the 2000 Rhino conservation meeting a proposal was put forward to establish a sanctuary in Northern Cameroon in which the rhino would be relocated and protected. This is an expensive solution and as the demographics of the population is still unknown, the process has not progressed. An alternative solution and by far the most cost effective might be to establish custodianship for the rhino outside Cameroon, possibly in South Africa where infrastructure is already in place. This as in the other examples of Black Rhino held in trust in South Africa, from Namibia and Tanzania, is an effective means of conserving these animals, although in this case I believe Cameroon would prefer a local solution is reached, and thus to keep the Rhino in their natural habitat. This will be one of the main issues discussed in the September meeting with the Cameroon authorities

### **4. PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

#### **Phase One**

To secure a minimum number of viable individuals, defined as 5 unrelated rhinos of at least 3 females. This would include darting and fitting each rhino with a radio transmitter, and to monitor each rhino for a defined period of time in order to gather critical information about the population.

#### **Phase Two**

To secure a long-term conservation strategy that will ensure the long-term survival of the subspecies (*D.b.longipes*) as laid down in the 2000 Black Rhino Conservation Strategy Technical Mission Meeting in Yaoundé Cameroon. Defined as: A genetically and demographically viable population of at least 50 animals within historical range in the wild by 2050.

## **5. EXPEDITION 2003**

Wildlife funding is a complicated affair and unfortunately sometimes the right thing to do is not always what is needed to be done. When people are starving, funding for wildlife conservation is not the right thing to do for most. On the other hand no doubt saving these rhino will bring money and activities through tourism and research, and thus in this situation funding for wildlife will be a key factor of sustainable rural development for the years to come.

What we are proposing is not conventional and I would hope it would be controversial.

In a joint multi media venture, bringing conservation, hunting and the media together we propose; "The Last Hunt for the Black Ghosts, of Cameroon".

In this the world's best big game hunters will be called upon to track down and find the last ten Western Black Rhino. Rather than using firearms as is traditional on safari, these huntsmen will be armed with tranquillizer guns in the race to save this population from extinction.

Never before, has a scientific expedition been opened up to the elite huntsman.

The selection process for this hunt will be exclusive. The buy in: expensive. The prize: phenomenal. The action: non-stop. The drama: extreme.

Never, in the history of hunting, have the stakes been so high that to win would save a population and to fail would be unforgivable.

This will be the greatest hunt of the century!

## **6. PEOPLE BEHIND THE PROJECT**

### **Campbell Scott**

My company Djuma Game Reserve owns and runs three commercial luxury game lodges in the Northern Sabi Sands Game Reserve, South Africa, (<http://www.djuma.com>).

I am one of the present owners and was one of the founders of AfriCam.com (<http://www.africam.com>), the largest wildlife Internet site on the web, with a usage of over 35 million hits a month. Over the last two years I have developed a reality TV programme, "Savages", in partnership with the Big Brother people, Endamol, in which we explored many different ways of bringing wildlife and TV together.

I have also traveled extensively throughout Southern and East Africa on a number of expeditions, including one to West Africa. In 2000 I competed in the cross Atlantic yacht race The Cape to Rio and look forward to my next adventure in Cameroon.

### **Hubert Planton**

I have recently joined forces with Hubert Planton, who is recognized as the leading expert on the Western Black Rhino. He is a field wildlife veterinarian who has been involved for the past 20 years in several conservation programs, as well as major disease surveys, mostly in the Central African region (12 years in Northern Cameroon) but also

in eastern and southern parts of the continent. Free ranging wild mammal capture, and the use of 3-axes microlights to assist in wildlife management work has been part of his daily occupations for a number of years.

He has led and still leads the conservation effort to save these great animals and is only one of a handful of people who has worked in the area for an extended period of time, and is the only foreigner to have seen these rhinos for the last 10 years. Over the years he has become well respected by the local leaders in Northern Cameroon, as well as the international scientific and conservation communities. He continues to work with many conservation organizations worldwide and is a member of the African Rhino Specialist Group.

## **7. THE EXPEDITION: PHASE ONE.**

The success of this expedition, over other expeditions will be in the combined utilization of a number of resources. This includes the commitment and support of the Cameroon authorities, local communities and other organizations living and working in these areas. There is no substitute for local knowledge and in combination with some of the top field wildlife veterinarians, and rhino capture experts on the continent today it is only the opportunity that remains the stumbling block, of success.

Key factors which highlight this expedition over past expeditions:

1. Multi point communications network
2. Three simultaneous ground location/ tracking teams supported via a base camp.
3. Full time occupation of location/tracking teams in the field over the duration of the expedition.
4. Support and co-operation of local villagers and hunting operators in search area.
5. The use of known, skilled personel for the gathering of information and the location of the rhino.

### **7.1 Radio Communication**

A radio communications network is already in place, and was used during the 1995-1999 surveys. HF transceivers do exist in most of the protected areas, and this is the best and cheapest way to communicate. An additional set of 4 portable HF units should be purchased. VHF cannot be used in this mountainous area except for specific and short distance communications. To increase the distance, relay stations for a VHF network would have to be installed but would be a very poor and an unreliable investment due to damage that men and or elephants can cause, thus cutting all communications. The HF communication network would aim to link strategic rural communities, hunting concession operators and conservation bodies in the search area. The idea is to work closely and develop communication channels between these entities living and operating in the rhino's range. The use of satellite phones must also be considered in areas where the HF network is limited.

### **7.2 Administration and Traditional rulers**

As is the case in many countries, wild animals in Cameroon are "res nullius", i.e. don't belong to any private owner, but to the State. Administration is represented at almost all

levels by civil servants, and they have the power of law enforcement. But these authorities do not necessarily know exactly what happens in remote places, small villages, and in the bush. Another power is in place, under the authority of the traditional rulers, or Lamibbe. These used to be in charge of wildlife management for ages, and they still have control on the hunting community, they know who does what and where. They are likely to gather information quickly on the remaining rhinos, as well as assist in communication with hunters/poachers. As they have the possibility to wipe out all remaining rhinos within a few weeks, one can consider that they have played a role in the sub species' survival. Both authorities have a role to play in our initiative, both must be partners and find their interest. If we are providing budget, ideas, etc., we shall not achieve our goals without them.

Step one of the project will consist of meetings with the administrative authorities and visits to key traditional rulers in order to make sure we have their full support, and they will benefit the operation on the long term.

On the short term, a rewarding system on the basis of each rhino found and protected has to be put in place for the traditional rulers and their staff (down to village heads and trackers).

### **7.3 Mobile Tracking Teams**

To cover the search area effectively the tracking teams will have to be mobile. This will also ensure quick response times to areas where sightings have been reported. Although these vehicles would be used for the initial phase, they will also be used for further research and monitoring in the future. Two standard second hand 4WD vehicles will be purchased through a contact in Europe, and then shipped to Cameroon prior to the expedition. In conjunction with these vehicles, two motorbikes, purchased locally in Cameroon and one microlight aircraft will be required.

### **7.4 Tracking**

Hubert Planton will lead the expedition, using his experience and contacts both in Cameroon and internationally. Over the years he has developed relationships with some of the top trackers in the area, some of whom are ex-poachers, they constitute the greatest knowledge base of the area and the where a bouts of the last remaining rhino. The success of this expedition will be in the cooperation of all the communities, government departments and other groups and organizations that operate in and around the rhino areas. Full time discussions with the rural communities and sociological surveys (see below) conducted by a specialized and independent team will aid not only in finding these animals but also in establishing a longterm understanding and value of these animals amongst the communities.

The use of incentives for the community leaders, traditional rulers, trackers, etc will maintain participation of all these entities over phase one. The conditions in which the trackers will work will be extreme, these rhino are known to cover distances of over 50 km in a day, and once fresh tracks are found they must be followed at all costs. This could involve spending many days at a time out in the bush. These tracking teams would be backed up by the rest of the expedition, bring supplies, replacements, etc if and when needed. Once the tracking teams are close to a rhino the veterinarian and professional

hunters will be brought in for the final action. There are three areas in which small groups of rhino are known to exist. These areas have been the main areas in which all past efforts have targeted. We would like to widen the search into other areas where the habitat type would suggest suitable habitat in which rhino's might still survive. There is very little known of these areas, even in Northern Cameroon this area remains very low in human habitation, and no passed expedition has explored these areas in any detail.

## **7.5 Material and methods**

As soon as possible next year (2003), 3 to 5 priority areas will be selected. A group of the best trackers will be selected on their knowledge of the area and tracking skills one team will be sent to each area. One game guard will be included in each team. No matter the method they use, they know the region, the animals and their habits; they will share bonuses with informers.

Each team will be provided with positioning and communications equipment and will carry nothing but the most indispensable load in order to stay full time in the bush without having to walk back to base camps. GPS fixes will be logged daily on a regular basis, and short reports given via HF transceivers daily to the general supervisor who will enter them on a GIS software in order to monitor efforts.

Field teams will not be left alone, two field supervisors will be in charge, one on the western sectors, the second one on the eastern sectors, each day they will join a different tracking team to make sure continuous efforts are made and motivation is kept at the highest level.

At this stage, two motorbikes and one 4WD truck will be used to move from one field team to another, the second 4WD vehicle will allow the programme leader to keep contacts with both authorities and field teams, and to work with field teams as often as possible.

Depending on availability and funding, the use of an ultra light aircraft would allow keeping close contact every day with all field teams via VHF communication. At the same time it would show the people that supervision does exist, and that poachers can be spotted easily from the air (GPS positions of poacher's camps transmitted by radio to MINEF's APU)

## **7.6 Veterinary and Scientific objectives**

The objective of this expedition is to fit radio transmitters to each of the rhino's horns, and to gather serum, blood smears, tissue samples, horn samples, external parasites and body measurements for disease, genetic, ecological and horn finger-printing reasons. Any subsequent conservation efforts would be dependent on the viability of this population as well as the ease at which these individuals can be located and monitored. These rhino would have to be darted on foot and due to the extreme conditions under which this expedition would have to work, only the best field veterinarian expertise would be needed. Having Hubert Planton leading the expedition, and with his expertise as a field wildlife veterinarian the skills are already in place.

We have also made contact with Pete Morkel, Rhino co-coordinator for the Frankfurt Zoological Society; who was involved with a previous project in Cameroon, which involved darting of these animals. Mike Kock, and Pete have been involved in several hundred black rhino immobilisations, relocations and boma management operations since the late 1980s, and given the right opportunity both would be interested in participating. It also seems possible that their time and resources could be covered by other organisations.

### **7.7 Full time monitoring**

Each rhino tagged will be monitored, full time, as soon as a radio transmitter is fitted in the horn. One monitoring team will be in charge of each rhino area. With cameras, GPS, telemetry and communication equipment, they will have to follow the animals, find and see them on a daily basis and provide pictures and GPS positions for each animal. Rewards will be given for each sighting, at various levels, and specific efforts will be made to follow rhino not monitored for longer than a day.

The use of an ultra light aircraft, if useful during the first stages, will be of a very high importance for monitoring, allowing the monitoring team to get all radio signals within a few hours and to confirm that each animal is in or near its known home range. Any abnormal movement of a radio signal should be immediately followed by an intensive search of the animal.

All data will be gathered by the project leader and logged in the GIS.

Data collection will allow a better understanding of the subspecies' biology, and after a few months it will provide part of the guide lines needed for deciding the next step.

### **7.8 Sociological survey**

A small team (two, three person maximum) will move from village to village in the rhino range and in the cities of the province. The team will collect any information showing the role of the rhinoceros in the local history, traditions and life. The team leader will conduct the discussions with the authorities (both administrative and traditional) and the villagers, while the assistant will note what is said and done behind the scene.

This information will be critical to the success of the project's phase two, and are as important as the information provided by biological studies and monitoring.

A forestry engineer who has been involved in conservation projects in Western and Central Africa will be in charge of this work. This engineer has extensive knowledge of the importance of habitat conservation, not only for wildlife conservation but also for the traditions, of the rural communities, and for their survival and local development. This will allow the project to gather additional data on the role of wildlife, mainly black rhinoceros, in local traditions. This knowledge is critical to the success of the attempt, as it will teach us what the local population need, want, and is ready to do in order to keep these unique rhinos alive.

The best solution for future management will be suggested through the people's attitude towards the black rhinoceros.

## **7.9 Timing**

Weather is favourable in January, and most of February; March and April are probably the worst months, with daily temperatures over 42 to 45 °C; it is risky to dart such an endangered taxon during these periods. Therefore we would like to be ready to make use of January and February next year 2003 and then again in late April through to the end of July, giving us four to five months on the ground.

## **7.10 Funding**

Our intention is to source a small group of people, to form a partnership, who will fund and participate in the expedition. This will allow a unique opportunity for these individuals to make a real difference, on an individual level, as well as give them the opportunity to dart hunt the most endangered subspecies alive today. The expedition will be run in order to maximizing the client's needs without compromising the objective of the expedition.

We have selected one of the top hunting safari operators who has had experience working in Cameroon to cater to the clients needs.

Coenraad Vermaak Safaris, (<http://www.cvsafaris.co.za>) is one of the longest established hunting outfitters in South Africa. Coenraad having been in the Hunting industry for many years, is well respected, and has worked all over Africa including Cameroon, he is an integral part of making this expedition a reality.

We envisage splitting the clients into consecutive, two-week periods, this means we would be able to take 3 to 4 hunters in January/ February and 6 to 7 from late April to the end of July.

Conventional funding and additional funding through other conservation organizations at this stage of the expedition is extremely unlikely, as mentioned before both the WWF and IUCN have had to move funds into other potentially more rewarding projects. It is unfortunately come to this stage where unless we can find a group of individuals willing to take the risk these animals will be lost forever.

## **7.11 Budget**

Please find supporting document, the budget for phase one. This will cover all costs associated with this phase. We have made allowances to cover the client's basic expenses once on location in Cameroon, this includes basic food and accommodation. Any special requests, requirements and the use of the professional hunting outfitter is not included.

Some of the consultation and service fees can possibly be ameliorated through other joint ventures with scientific organizations and institutions in the form of time and resources.

## **8. FINAL SUMMARY**

It is often that projects like these rely heavily on individuals who can't and will not rest until all possible avenues are pursued in an effort to save the ever-decreasing natural diversity of our planet. There are people out there in the world today who will, and would

have done something if they were given the means and the knowledge before hand. We can only hope that through each hand that this document moves its moves to those people in the world who can make a difference. It is not a document that can be left aside in hope that someone will take care of it. There is only one bus and it is leaving for good.

## **9. CONTACT DETAILS**

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## **10. RESEARCH**

Dr Martin Brooks,  
Head Scientific Services  
KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife South Africa  
Chairman: AfRSG and RMG

Dr Pete Morkel,  
Rhino Co-ordinator  
Frankfurt Zoological Society

Dr Martin Tchamba,  
Director of Programme  
WWF Cameroon  
2001 expedition

Dr Michael D. Kock  
BVet Med MRCVS MPVM  
2001 expedition

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Location and Identification  
Project Report 2001  
Dr Michael D. Kock

Peter Hitchens  
Authority Black Rhino

Louis Liebenberg  
Cyber Tracker Conservation

Eric H. Harley, Ph.D., M.D.  
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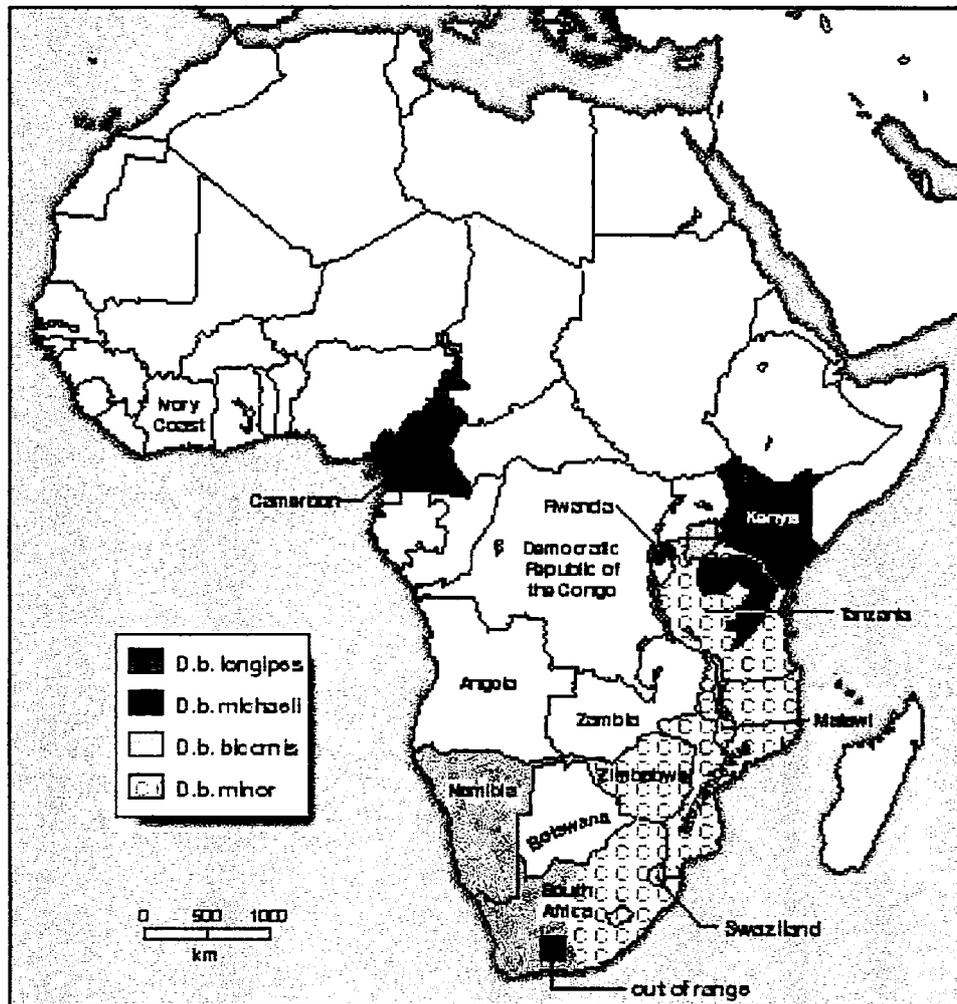
Dr Hubert Planton,  
ONVF, MRCVS  
IUCN France

Denis Koulagna Koutou  
Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas  
MINEF, Cameroon.

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**11. DISTRIBUTION OF THE FOUR SUBSPECIES OF BLACK RHINO ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT**



: year 1 = location, radio-marking and protection phase

	unit	quantity	unit price €	cost for year one = 2003	
				€	US \$
<b>Preparation phase : Apr-Dec 2002</b>				<b>42,702.52</b>	<b>40,567.40</b>
Campbell Scott					
working hours @ 300 Rd/hr	hrs/mth	55	27.60	13,662.00	12,978.90
office running costs @ 2000 Rd/mth	ls/mth	1	217.39	1,956.52	1,858.70
travel & accomodation @ 3000 Rd/mth	ls/mth	1	276.00	2,484.00	2,359.80
Hubert Planton					
working hours @ 40 €/hr	hrs/mth	45	40.00	16,200.00	15,390.00
office running costs @ 300€/mth	ls/mth	1	300.00	2,700.00	2,565.00
travel & accomodation @ 300€/mth	ls/mth	1	300.00	2,700.00	2,565.00
Director of Wildlife					
travel & accomodation	l s	2	1,500.00	3,000.00	2,850.00
<b>Equipment</b>				<b>126,860.00</b>	<b>120,517.00</b>
telemetry : transmitters		10	310.00	3,100.00	2,945.00
telemetry : receivers		2	1,250.00	2,500.00	2,375.00
telemetry : aircraft receiver kit		1	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,850.00
dart gun and accessories		1	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,185.00
used 4WD vehicles		2	21,000.00	42,000.00	39,900.00
motor bikes		2	2,300.00	4,600.00	4,370.00
ultra light aircraft + accessories		1	32,000.00	32,000.00	30,400.00
hand held VHF unit, amateur band		6	460.00	2,760.00	2,622.00
VHF, air band		2	1,000.00	2,000.00	1,900.00
portable HF units		4	2,500.00	10,000.00	9,500.00
GPS		4	400.00	1,600.00	1,520.00
tools	l s	1	1,000.00	1,000.00	950.00
12V/220l/gas fridge		1	1,000.00	1,000.00	950.00
camping equipment : tents & sleeping	l s	1	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,750.00
camping equipment : other items	l s	1	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,850.00
photo camera (digital)		3	1,000.00	3,000.00	2,850.00
video camera (digital)		1	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,850.00
office equipment	l s	1	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,750.00
<b>Supplies and consummables</b>				<b>38,950.00</b>	<b>37,002.50</b>
4WD vehicles running cost x 2	km	40000	0.50	20,000.00	19,000.00
motor bikes running cost	km	15000	0.15	2,250.00	2,137.50
ultra light aircraft running cost	hrs	300	40.00	12,000.00	11,400.00
maintenance, radios	l s	1	1,000.00	1,000.00	950.00
photo & video	l s	1	500.00	500.00	475.00
maintenance, telemetry	l s	1	500.00	500.00	475.00
drugs	animal	10	150.00	1,500.00	1,425.00
other veterinary medicines	animal	10	30.00	300.00	285.00
other anaesthetic/monitoring equipment	animal	10	30.00	300.00	285.00
sampling and conservation	animal	10	30.00	300.00	285.00
dental acrylic	animal	10	15.00	150.00	142.50
dental inprinting	animal	10	15.00	150.00	142.50
<b>Staff, consultant &amp; services</b>				<b>283,500.00</b>	<b>269,325.00</b>
supervisor	man/mth	12	12,000.00	144,000.00	136,800.00
support missions (captures)	man/mth	2	12,000.00	24,000.00	22,800.00
support mission (security)	man/mth	3	8,000.00	24,000.00	22,800.00
support mission (sociology)	man/mth	3	6,000.00	18,000.00	17,100.00
travels	l s	7	1,500.00	10,500.00	9,975.00
Campbell : hrs + office + travels = equipt	ls/mth	12	5,000.00	60,000.00	57,000.00
biological/sanitary analysis	animal	10	150.00	1,500.00	1,425.00
genetic analysis	animal	10	150.00	1,500.00	1,425.00
<b>Local staff</b>				<b>148,400.00</b>	<b>140,980.00</b>
head, field research teams x2	man/mth	16	4,000.00	64,000.00	60,800.00
section rangers x5 : bonuses	man/mth	60	300.00	18,000.00	17,100.00
bonus per rhino found	l s	10	1,500.00	15,000.00	14,250.00
bonus/rhino seen during monitoring	animal/yr	100	10.00	1,000.00	950.00
trackers/porteurs	man/mth	120	350.00	42,000.00	39,900.00
drivers	man/mth	24	350.00	8,400.00	7,980.00
<b>Other bonuses</b>				<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>
head of state	l s		?		?
minister	l s		?		?
bonus/rhino alive/year (traditional rulers)	animal/yr	10	1,500.00	15,000.00	14,250.00
village leaders	animal/yr	10	500.00	5,000.00	4,750.00
<b>sub total :</b>				<b>660,412.52</b>	<b>627,391.90</b>
<b>Miscellaneous 10%</b>				<b>66,041.25</b>	<b>62,739.19</b>
<b>Grand total :</b>				<b>726,453.77</b>	<b>690,131.09</b>

# **OPERATION : BLACK GHOST MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

Memorandum of agreement made and entered into by and between the following parties:

**AFRICAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP**

Herein duly represented by the Chairman, Dr Martin Brooks

**CONSERVATION FORCE**

Herein duly represented by John Jackson the 3<sup>rd</sup>

**CAMEROON MINISTRY OF ENVIROMENT AND FORESTS**

Herein duly represented by the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, Denis Koulagna

**IUCN FRENCH COMMITTEE**

Herein duly represented by the Director, Sébastien MONCORPS

**INTERNATIONAL RHINO FOUNDATION**

Herein duly represented by the Program Director, Tom FOOSE

## **1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

**Phase One**

To secure a minimum number of viable individuals, defined as 5 unrelated rhinos of at least 3 females. This would include darting and fitting each rhino with a radio transmitter, and to monitor each rhino for a defined period of time in order to gather critical information about the population.

**Phase Two**

To secure a long-term conservation strategy that will ensure the long-term survival of the subspecies (*D.b.longipes*) as laid down in the 2000 Black Rhino Conservation Strategy Technical Mission Meeting in Yaoundé Cameroon.

Defined as: A genetically and demographically viable population of at least 50 animals within historical range in the wild by 2050.

## **2. RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT**

The responsibility of each party is to ensure that within their capabilities and means all possible efforts are made to ensure a viable long-term conservation strategy is put in place. This can be limited to the time at which the viability of the population is confirmed.

**SIGNED .....**

**DATE .....**