



Rhino & Elephant Foundation



THE ILLEGAL HUNTING OF RHINOCEROS WORKSHOP

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BACKGROUND

At the Rhino Conservation Workshop held in the Kruger National Park in September 1988 the following resolution was passed:

RECOGNISING that Southern Africa now holds a large proportion of the remaining black rhinoceros populations in Africa, and has a national and international responsibility for their conservation:

RECOGNISING that efforts to protect the black rhino elsewhere in Africa have failed dismally because

- an inadequate number of conservation staff were deployed to protect very large areas
- an inadequate budget was provided to support these staff
- staff were inadequately trained in anti-poaching techniques
- no attempts were made to enlist the participation and support of adjacent rural populations

NOTING that, until now, there has been little co-ordination of these conservation efforts, the South African and International delegates attending the Rhino & Elephant/Game Rangers Association of Africa Rhino Conservation Workshop at Skukuza RECOMMENDED jointly to Directors of government agencies:

- (a) that sufficient staff establishments be deployed in protected areas to undertake law enforcement
- (b) that adequate budgets be provided to support this staff establishment.
- (c) that if these budgets cannot be provided, smaller areas should be protected to the required specifications of paragraphs (a) and (b)
- (d) that staff are adequately trained for the task in hand
- (e) that programmes be established wherever rural communities abutt onto National Parks and to encourage the participation and co-operation of local people in protected area management
- (f) that conservation agencies throughout Southern Africa co-ordinate their efforts in achieving these goals through a series of future meetings such as this one.

To give effect to this resolution Mr Nick Steele, Director of the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources, was assigned the task of convening a special Workshop, the purpose of which is to produce a comprehensive blue print or guide for the prevention of the illegal hunting of rhino.

This Workshop was held at the Wildlife Society's Environmental Centre at Treasure Beach from the 21st to 23rd June 1989. This document is a record of the resolutions passed and recommendations made at the Workshop.

DELEGATES ATTENDING

- Mr Nick Steele: Director, KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources
- Mr Barry Marshall: Chief Nature Conservator, Communications, KBNR
- Mr Peter Conant: Head of Research and Planning, KBNR
- Mr Ian Thomson: Chief Nature Conservator, Tourism, KBNR
- Mr Brian Stevens: Chief Nature Conservator, Management, KBNR
- Mr Desmond Archer: Regional Principal Nature Conservator:
Ingwavuma Patrol Area, KBNR
- Mr Ed Ostrovsky: Principal Nature Conservator, Tembe Elephant
Park, KBNR
- Mr Graham Wiltshire: Principal Nature Conservator, Ndumo Game
Reserve, KBNR
- Mr Mduduzi Mchunu: Principal Nature Conservator, Mahlabatini
Patrol Area, KBNR
- Mr Gerald Bye: Investigations Officer, KBNR
- Mr Peter Hitchins: Senior Warden, Kangwane Parks Corporation
- Mr Arie van Wyk: Senior Warden, Kangwane Parks Corporation
- Mr Laurent Changuion: Warden, Kangwane Parks Corporation
- Mr Bruce Bryden: Chief Ranger, Kruger National Park
- Mr Johan Verhoef: Chief Information Officer, Kruger National Park
- Mr Gerhard Otto: Head of Security, Kruger National Park
- Mr Clive Walker: Vice Chairman, Rhino & Elephant Foundation
- Mr L. Rammutla: Senior Education Services Officer, Bophuthatswana
National Parks & Wildlife Management Board

Mr Willie Boonzaaier: Chief Warden, BNPWMB
Mr David Cook: Assistant Director, Conservation, Natal Parks Board
Mr Derek Potter: Assistant Director, Recreation, NPB
Mr Simon Pillinger: Conservator Southern Zululand, NPB
Mr Drummond Densham: Chief Conservator North, NPB
Mr John Forrest: Conservator West, NPB
Mr Nico Snyman: Conservator Investigations, NPB
Mr Laurie Oates: Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation, Transvaal Provincial Administration
Mr Nicolas Cole: Mliwane Nature Reserve, Swaziland
Mr David Reynolds: Manyeleti Game Reserve, Gazankulu
Facilitator: Mr Alan Mountain, Development and Communication Consultants, Durban

WORKSHOP FORMAT

It was decided that the Workshop should deal with the subject matter under three headings, namely:

MANAGEMENT (Chairman Mr P. Conant)
COMMUNICATIONS (Chairman Mr B. Marshall)
LAW ENFORCEMENT (Chairman Mr I. Thomson)

Delegates were divided into three Working Groups, each assigned to one of the aspects described above. Members of the Working Groups were required to consider and debate their respective subjects in detail and then report their recommendations to the full group in plenary session. Here the recommendations were then debated further, and where necessary, the respective Working Groups were requested to reconsider various aspects of their recommendations which the full group did not accept or on which they required additional clarification. The amended recommendations were then re-submitted to the full group for formal acceptance as a unanimously accepted resolution from the Workshop.

The Workshop began with an opening address given by Mr Keith Cooper, Director of Conservation of the S.A. Wildlife Society. A copy of his paper is appended to these documents.

Mr Cooper's presentation was followed by a video showing of the film "Rhino War", and a scenario setting by Mr Nick Steele, Director of the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources.

RESOLUTIONS

1.0 M A N A G E M E N T

1.1 THE REMOVAL OF HORN AS A POACHING DETERRENT.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT it should be recommended to GO's and NGO's as well private owners of rhino that they do not consider removing rhino horns as a deterrent AND that alternatives, such as relocation should rather be considered.

The removal of rhino horn was not considered to be an acceptable management strategy and therefore it was felt by delegates that rhino populations under such dire threat as would necessitate such drastic action, should rather be relocated.

A C T I O N : To be noted by all conservation authorities holding rhino populations

1.2 LEGALISE THE SELLING OF RHINO HORN AND INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF MANUFACTURING RHINO PRODUCTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

1.2.1 Qualified support for the sale of rhino horn and rhino products should be given. Sales should be conditional upon:

(a) Funds obtained from the sale of rhino horn and rhino products to be channelled back into conservation, preferably rhino conservation.

(b) Strict controls on the sale of rhino horn must be imposed in order to ensure that it does not create opportunities for abuse. Unless this is done it could result in increased poaching.

1.2.2 The Rhino and Elephant Foundation should take the initiative in investigating the following:

- : The viability of selling rhino horn and rhino products directly to end users and establishing permanent marketing links with these buyers
- : The feasibility of manufacturing rhino products in Southern Africa
- : Pan-African cooperation

In order to try and rationalise the present unacceptable situation, where rhinos are being poached indiscriminately and exorbitant profits are being made by ruthless middlemen and poachers, it was felt that consideration should be given to the organised and controlled selling of rhino horn and rhino products to end users. In order to do this the manufacture of rhino products in Southern Africa must be investigated. Particular emphasis should be given to the manufacture of traditional medicines and Arabian dagger handles in South Africa. In order to do this a panel of experts should be appointed under the auspices of the Rhino and Elephant Foundation. It was recommended that the panel should comprise:

- : An internationally recognised authority on rhino conservation
- : An authority on precious metals and diamond trading who would be able to advise the panel on exchange control, legal matters and commodity trading
- : A financial expert who is familiar with international trade and corporate finance
- : Representatives from the traditional user group.
- : A marketing expert who could advise on the establishment of marketing channels and undertake negotiations in the market place

It was noted that until now no official attempt has been made to communicate with the sellers of rhino horn in the Far East and that this should happen with a view to establishing direct, legal and controlled marketing links. It was felt that by doing this the middle men and poachers could be cut out and a legitimate trade in rhino horn established with the proceeds going to conservation. In support of this view it was noted that when the Inyangas and other traditional healers were engaged in discussion regarding the illegal medicinal plant trade in Natal and KwaZulu, they themselves put forward very practical solutions. Since it is not in the interests of rhino horn traders to see the rhino become extinct the view of the delegates was that they too would like to become involved in finding a lasting solution.

It was noted that there may be considerable market resistance to products not manufactured by traditional manufacturers in their country of sale and so this aspect will require careful investigation.

It was also noted that the black market rhino trade will try and discredit the South African manufacture of these products. Therefore a pro-active communications campaign will be required to counteract this by seeking international recognition for this initiative as well as recognition and support from the IUCN and CITES.

A C T I O N : Mr Clive Walker of the Rhino and Elephant Foundation. To report back to the Convenor on progress within five weeks of the date of the Workshop.

1.3 THE MANUFACTURE OF ARTIFICIAL HORN

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the manufacture of artificial horn is unlikely to succeed as a strategy for decreasing the poaching of rhinos. This is because people in the trade are unlikely to accept it in place of real rhino horn. However, the feeling of the group was that if a private company wished to pursue the production of artificial rhino horn they should not be discouraged from doing so.

1.4 THE HOLDING OF RHINOS ON PRIVATE LAND

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the holding of rhinos on privately owned land is an important management strategy, especially in regard to the protection and further breeding of rhino populations. However, it was unanimously agreed that this should be subject to strict control and acceptance by the private owner of a minimum code (determined by the Rhino Management Group) of rhino management practice.

A C T I O N : Rhino Management Group and private owners of rhino populations

1.5 BOUNDARY CONTROL

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

1.5.1 Boundary fences are not an entirely effective means of keeping poachers out of a reserve, but they serve an essential function of keeping rhinos within the reserve. Therefore fences should be sufficiently strong enough to fulfil this purpose.

1.5.2 Boundary fences should also carry warning notices as such notices will assist with prosecutions.

It was noted that where boundary fences do not exist there is an added responsibility on management to ensure that the boundary is well marked.

A C T I O N : All conservation authorities holding rhino populations

1.6 DECREASING RHINO DENSITIES

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT decreasing densities as a means of making poaching more difficult in those areas where rhinos are under immediate threat is not a viable option. Instead rhinos in these areas should be totally relocated to safer areas. The decision to remove the animals should be left to the discretion of the conservation authority responsible for the region.

A C T I O N : All conservation authorities holding rhino populations

1.7 CAPTIVE BREEDING SCHEMES

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT there is merit in a captive breeding programme and it was recommended that this should receive further attention by the Rhino Management Group in the short term.

A C T I O N : The Rhino Management Group

1.8 ANTI-POACHING PATROLS

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT an integrated system of mobile units and permanent camps is the best strategy for combatting poaching in the field. A key word in the strategy is unpredictability.

A C T I O N : All conservation authorities holding rhino populations

1.9 GAME SCOUT MANAGEMENT AND INCENTIVES

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT an incentive bonus scheme in certain anti-poaching situations may have merit and that this should be investigated in those cases where senior management feel that it might be appropriate.

It was noted that there was a strong rejection by the group of any action that may be construed as management "buying" the loyalty of its staff. It was further noted that there should be no formalised system of rewarding staff for informing on other members of staff. This was seen as a negative and demotivating measure which would enhance distrust and instability. Instead it was resolved that there should be a positive attitude of trust exhibited by management towards all members of staff.

A C T I O N : All conservation authorities holding rhino populations

1.10 GAME SCOUT STATUS

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the status of Game Scouts should be enhanced. They are the men on the front line and they have to carry a heavy burden for which they do not receive sufficient recognition and reward.

A C T I O N : All conservation authorities

1.11 GAME SCOUT SELECTION

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT academic qualifications should not be the major criterion used in the selection of Game Scouts, although an ability to read and write is desirable. It was noted that all recruits should be screened and security checked before being employed. Care must also be taken when employing staff who have been employed in other reserves. A rigorous selection process should include the provision for a probationary period.

A C T I O N : All personnel responsible for recruitment and employment of Game Scouts

1.12 GAME SCOUT TRAINING

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

1.12.1 One of the greatest potential weaknesses in the present strategy for combatting poaching is the inadequate training that game scouts receive, therefore there is a great need for intensive training programmes to be instituted as soon as possible.

1.12.2 That the Rhino and Elephant Foundation, working in association with Col. G. Otto of the Kruger National Park, to convene a training workshop which will be held around October (1989) and will be specifically geared towards the combatting of rhino poaching.

It was noted that the workshop will be orientated towards improving the training methods used for Game Scouts.

Col. Otto was also requested to arrange a meeting with those members who will be at the Training Workshop and who were present at this Workshop, with a view to obtaining feedback on the implementation of resolutions passed at this Workshop. This information is to be reported back to the Convenor, Mr. Nick Steele, as soon as possible.

Delegates were requested by Col Otto to arrange for the Training Officers of their respective organisations to send him copies of their training programmes. Delegates were requested to do this as soon as possible so that he can assess these prior to the workshop and design the content of the Training Workshop accordingly.

A C T I O N : Col. G. Otto; The Rhino and Elephant Foundation; and the Training Officers of relevant conservation authorities.

1.13 GAME SCOUT DEPLOYMENT

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the deployment of Game Scouts recruited locally should be done sensitively, since undue pressure could be brought to a man's family. It was noted that this does not mean that local recruitment should not take place, indeed the opposite is true since this is one demonstrable benefit for local residents from having a game reserve in the area.

A C T I O N : Management of conservation authorities

1.14 EMPLOYMENT OF SENIOR STAFF - OFFICER SELECTION

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT in order to ensure that the best suited people are employed as potential officers, they should first be employed in the field as cadets for a period of between one and two years. After this period of induction, if they are deemed suitable, they should be sent to a technikon for full time study for an appropriate nature conservation diploma.

A C T I O N : Conservation authorities and Technikons

1.15 THE PRESENT CURRICULUM FOR THE NATURE CONSERVATION DIPLOMAS OFFERED BY THE TECHNIKONS IS NOT CONSIDERED SUITABLE.

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend to technikons that they review current curricula in co-operation with user groups to ensure that they adequately address such subjects as field craft and communications.

It was noted that past curricula for nature conservation diplomas were not considered to be suitable because there was not enough emphasis on communications and field craft training. However this appears to have been partly remedied in the revised curriculum for the national diploma in nature conservation.

A C T I O N : Conservation authorities, Conservation Training Officers and Technikons

1.16 HEAVY EMPHASIS ON ADMINISTRATION IS REDUCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FIELD STAFF

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT a reassessment of the administration burden placed on field staff by Head Office is required.

It was noted that an increasing amount of purely administrative work is being placed on field workers. The result is that officers are unable to get out of their offices and into the field in order to provide the guidance and supervision of staff that is required to combat the approaching threat of rhino poaching.

It was further noted that if all the administration procedures presently required by Head Office are to be retained then the appointment of additional administration staff is necessary.

A C T I O N : Administrative procedures to be reviewed by all conservation authorities at senior head office level.

1.17 ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION IS IMPERATIVE AND THEREFORE BUDGETS MUST BE INCREASED AND ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF FUNDS MUST BE FOUND.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

1.17.1 Adequate funding for conservation in general and the combatting of the illegal hunting of rhino in particular is a top priority.

It was noted that there is an urgent need to address current conservation budgets and funding programmes, not only at organisational level but also at national level. Budget planners and decision makers should be urged to place conservation funding higher in the list of national priorities because it is currently a very low priority. Unless adequate funding for conservation is made available, the prevention of illegal hunting of rhinos will inevitably fail. Therefore conservation leaders, politicians and all concerned persons should urge governments to give immediate attention to increasing the budgets of those responsible for rhino conservation in southern Africa in order to enable them to be effective against poaching.

A C T I O N : Conservation leaders to lobby politicians.

1.17.2 New sources of funding need to be found as a matter of extreme urgency. In this regard the role of N.G.O's in supplementing funds for rhino conservation needs urgent attention.

A C T I O N : Rhino and Elephant Foundation

1.18 THE NEED TO APPOINT A FULL-TIME COORDINATOR

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT there is a need to appoint a full-time Coordinator. It was resolved that he should be appointed by the Rhino and Elephant Foundation and he will be responsible, inter alia, for the following:

- : Liaising with conservation authorities on funding requirements
- : Following up on projects funded through the REF and other NGO's and reporting back to donors
- : Collecting and collating information on rhino poaching prosecutions and disseminating the information to all relevant conservation authorities

A C T I O N : Mr Clive Walker of the Rhino and Elephant Foundation who will report to the Convenor within five weeks of the date of the Workshop.

1.19 STAFF MOTIVATION IS A KEY FACTOR IN PREVENTING THE ILLEGAL HUNTING OF RHINO

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend to conservation authorities holding rhino populations that they give high priority to the improvement of motivation at three levels:

- : Improving internal communications with staff
- : Improving training
- : Adequate remuneration

It was emphasized that the motivation of staff was considered to be a key factor in countering the illegal hunting of rhino.

A C T I O N : All conservation authorities holding rhino populations.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 THE NEED TO ELEVATE THE STATUS OF COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the status of the communications function within nature conservation should be elevated to a much higher priority than it is accorded at present. Therefore a communications programme should become an integral part of the management strategy for combatting the illegal poaching of rhino. Communication costs should accordingly be reflected as equal and unassailable cost items in conservation management.

It was noted that because the dividends of improved communication are only realised in the long term, it is often bypassed and relegated to a low management priority. Experience throughout the world has revealed however that such action is to the detriment of the organisation and may even lead to its ultimate demise.

It was recommended that in those reserves where rhino occur, an analysis should be done of the threats to the rhino populations in that reserve. This analysis should take into account both the management and communication aspects of the problem.

A C T I O N : Proposed Rhino Communications Group (See Resolution 2.6 below) AND all conservation authorities holding rhino populations

2.2 THE IMPORTANCE OF PASSING BENEFITS FROM THE RESERVE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT where benefits can be passed on to the local community on a sustained yield basis this should be encouraged and should be formally negotiated with the local tribal authorities.

It was recommended that reserves which contain populations of rhino should be made relevant to the surrounding people through a strategy of education coupled with permitting a sustained use of natural resources from the reserve. It was felt that such action should help to elicit a positive response from the local community towards the reserve. (See item 2.7 below for further discussion on the importance of creating a favourable attitude amongst the local community towards the reserve). Furthermore through this action of passing benefits on to the community it should be possible to portray rhino poaching as an anti-social

act and the rhino poacher as an anti-social person who is actually stealing a resource from the community and therefore should not be supported.

It was noted that benefits could include natural resources, such as reeds, thatching grass, firewood; employment; revenue; education and recreation.

A C T I O N : Proposed Rhino Communications Group and Senior Management of conservation authorities

2.3 THE PRECLUSION OF LEGAL TRADING IN RHINO HORN AS REQUIRED BY C.I.T.E.S. IS COUNTER PRODUCTIVE

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT all the facts regarding the legal trading in rhino horn should be communicated to the public so that the public can judge for itself as to the merits and demerits of such trading. This task should be undertaken by the proposed Regional Rhino Communications Group (See item 2.4 below).

A C T I O N : Proposed Rhino Communications Group

2.4 A REGIONAL RHINO COMMUNICATIONS GROUP SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

2.4.1 A Regional Rhino Communications Group should be established with representatives from both GO's and NGO's concerned with rhino conservation. A prime task for the Communications Group would be to cooperate with the IUCN Rhino Specialist Group in formulating a communications action plan for inclusion in the National Rhino Strategy.

2.4.2 The Rhino and Elephant Foundation working in liaison with the Convenor of this Workshop should determine an action plan for the establishment of the proposed Regional Rhino Communications Group. The R E F are required to submit their proposals to the Convenor for further action within two months from the date of this Workshop.

Delegates emphasized that it is essential for communications to form an integral part of the national strategy for combatting the illegal hunting of rhino. Therefore the proposed Rhino Communications Group should, inter alia, address the following:

- : Identify target audiences at local community, national and international level and devise a communications strategy for each identified target audience

- : Devise a strategy for pan-African cooperation
- : Devise a strategy for dealing with the rhino horn traders
- : Coordinate fund raising activities

A C T I O N : Mr Clive Walker of the R E F and Mr Nick Steele of the KZBNR

2.5 NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS SHOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN COMBATTING THE ILLEGAL HUNTING OF RHINO

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT NGO's should play an important role in combatting the illegal hunting of rhino by coordinating activities related to:

- : Pan-African negotiation
- : Negotiation with rhino horn traders
- : Awareness campaigns
- : International contact
- : Fund raising

It was noted that NGO's are better placed than GO's in dealing with sensitive issues where political considerations preclude inter-government and international contact. It was felt that because of their independence from government, NGO's could be particularly useful in communicating with other conservation agencies in Africa, as well as with the broader international community. At a local level NGO's could provide useful contact with those communities who do not trust GO's. NGO's therefore are key participants in the Rhino Communications Group and they have an important role to play in carrying out the tasks recommended by that Group.

It was further noted however that as far as rhino management and law enforcement etc is concerned, GO's are better placed to handle these aspects. It was felt by the Working Group to be important that these distinctions should be clarified and maintained.

2.6 THE PROBLEMS OF RURAL POVERTY AND RHINO POACHING

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT any proposed regional strategies for resettling people adjacent to reserves should include participation by conservation authorities in the planning process so that the implications on the reserve can be taken into account.

It was noted that people have been forced to settle on impoverished land adjacent to reserves and this has resulted in overcrowding and the exacerbation of the problems of rural poverty, which in turn impacts on the illegal hunting of rhinos. Delegates drew attention to the contrast between the islands of

resource rich, pristine wilderness in the reserves and the stark sea of rural poverty and environmental degradation surrounding them. It was agreed that this heightens the general sense of antagonism towards conservation that presently exists in many of these communities. This atmosphere of festering discontent has a number of consequences of which two are relevant here:

- 1: It will aid and abet the illegal hunting of rhinos in the short term
- 2: In the advent of political change it may become impossible for future political leaders to resist pressure from discontented, land hungry villagers not to disband the reserves and throw them open for human settlement.

Political leaders were urged to take cognisance of these realities. Once again communication with the local communities surrounding the reserves was highlighted as an essential component in the strategy for combatting the illegal hunting of rhinos.

A C T I O N : Proposed Regional Rhino Communications Group

3.0 LAW ENFORCEMENT

3.1 PENALTIES FOR RHINO POACHING

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

3.1.1 The penalties contained in the draft legislation to be promulgated in terms of the new Environmental Conservation Act be supported.

3.2.2 All government agencies should support, and as far as possible implement, identical or similar legislation such as that in the new Environmental Conservation Act as a matter of urgency.

It was noted that it is not possible to institute mandatory minimum penalties for poaching as this would encroach on the freedom of the court to exercise discretion. However, in order to ensure that the crime is correctly viewed in the light of the grave circumstances surrounding the survival of black rhino, conservation agencies should ensure that good communications are established with the judicial authorities in their area.

It was noted further that with the current high rate of inflation and escalating prices obtained for rhino horn, a maximum sentence of R100 000 may not prove to be an effective deterrent. It was therefore recommended that this situation be reviewed once case histories are to hand and the effectiveness of the penalties can be assessed.

Delegates also noted that changing the status of game reserves to enable poaching to be listed under Schedule 1 offences (such as stock theft, robbery etc.) in order to enable anti-poaching forces, under dire circumstances, to shoot rhino poachers on sight was not considered a feasible solution because of legal problems and moral concerns.

3.2 THE NEED FOR EXPERT EVIDENCE IN LEADING EVIDENCE

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT expert evidence should be led by the prosecutor, using a professionally prepared general format which makes use of expert and verifiable information, in order to establish aggravating circumstances.

It was noted that a general format has been prepared by the Natal Parks Board and it is recommended that this format should be used by all agencies involved in rhino prosecutions.

A C T I O N : N P B and all conservation authorities holding rhino populations.

3.3 THE NEED TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON RHINO TRIALS

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT information regarding rhino trials should be disseminated to all relevant conservation bodies, through the coordinator to be appointed by the Rhino and Elephant Foundation. (See item 1.17 above)

It was noted that it is essential for a watching brief to be kept on trials regarding rhino poaching in order to assess legislation effectiveness. Furthermore the dissemination of information on rhino poaching trials will keep the various conservation bodies updated and informed and this information will help to modify strategies when necessary.

A C T I O N : Rhino and Elephant Foundation

3.4 THE ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT intelligence gathering plays an important role in combatting the illegal hunting of rhino and therefore it must become an integral part of any anti-poaching strategy. In order to give effect to this all conservation officers are required to disseminate intelligence to one another and to the South African Police.

It was noted that intelligence gathering should occur at three levels:

- OPERATIONAL : At this level is the ground operator who gathers basic information on a daily basis
- TACTICAL : This level equates with middle management personnel who are responsible for collating information gathered at the operational level and for disseminating this information either upwards to the Strategic Level, or sideways (at Tactical Level) to colleagues and other relevant conservation agencies, or downwards to the Operational Level for operational follow up.
- STRATEGIC : At this level all intelligence data collected from the Tactical Level nationally and from international sources should be collated and disseminated internally and externally through a centralised computer data bank.

It was noted that the SAP already have a centralised computer data bank and therefore they are capable of fulfilling the intelligence gathering function at Strategic Level.

It was further noted that domestic intelligence gathering is necessary, but it is an extremely sensitive matter that needs to be individually handled with utmost discretion by each conservation agency.

A C T I O N : All conservation authorities

3.5 RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF PRIVATELY HELD RHINO PRODUCTS

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT either: (a) a moratorium for a limited period should be declared in respect of rhino products presently held privately so that they can be surrendered to a controlling authority and no questions would be asked;

or: (b) where an individual wishes to retain such rhino products he/she will be required to furnish a sworn affidavit as to how he/she came to be in possession of such product. It should be noted that such action could result in:

(1) A possible investigation

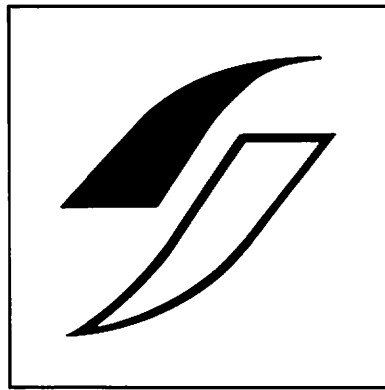
(2) If the conservation agency is satisfied that the person has acquired ownership of the rhino product in an acceptable and legal manner, then a permit to hold such product could be issued subject to certain conditions - such as the product may not be sold, swapped, traded, exchanged or disposed of in any manner unless prior approval has been obtained.

A C T I O N : Rhino Management Group

3.6 THE EMPLOYMENT OF HONORARY OFFICERS

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT honorary officers should be enlisted to assist with the control of the illegal hunting of rhino.

It was noted that such officers should be carefully selected and screened and should be used for specialised and specific tasks for which they have a particular expertise. It was also noted that it may be necessary to consider payment for certain services.



Rhino & Elephant Foundation

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