

WWF Project ZR0009.02

**GARAMBA NATIONAL PARK,
MONITORING AND RESEARCH**

Annual Report 1993

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objectives

The overall objectives of the monitoring and research project are to contribute to maintaining and improving the conservation of the ecosystem. Means of achieving these objectives are : the collection of information on priority issues, the provision of feed-back for planning, implementation, monitoring and development of conservation and management activities, and through generating an active field presence.

Activities are principally:

1. Continued monitoring and reporting on the rhino population.
2. Basic monitoring of the whole ecosystem and of poaching and anti-poaching activities.
3. Carrying out and promoting research on priority aspects of the ecosystem
4. Training and the establishment of standardised systems for the long term continuation of the monitoring.
5. Contribution to planning and feed-back on the results of activities.

Specific objectives for 1993 were:

1. To continue monitoring the rhinos.
2. To facilitate the monitoring and research by radio-telemetry involving the immobilisation and data collection on six rhinos.
3. To carry out biopsy darting of the rhinos to obtain material for genetic analysis to assess the potential for in-breeding problems, and at the same time to up-date the identifications.
4. To carry out specific studies on the rhinos of:
 - a) feeding ecology
 - b) communication
 - c) Inter-individual and age group relations relative to the known individuals and the sub-adult identifications verified through genetic analysis.
5. To carry out a general aerial census of the whole ecosystem.
6. To continue burns and vegetation monitoring in the fire experimental blocks and exclosure plots.
7. To carry out vegetation measurements related to rhino and elephant studies and habitat mapping.
8. To prepare a Rhino Conservation Action Plan for Zaïre and to develop project proposals for the Rhinoceros Range States Meeting at UNEP in June.