

A working group of experienced professional hunters and wildlife experts meet on workshops twice a year to attend to all relevant matters. A gremium consisting of Ronnie Rowland, Ernst-Ludwig Cramer and Kai-Uwe Denker verifies all decisions.

The concept of the *Erongo Recordbook* rests on two legs. The one leg is related to the areas from which animals to be registered in the new record book, come from. The following criteria apply:

- a) only animals hunted within the historic natural distribution range and in natural habitat of the species in question may be registered
- b) only animals hunted under free-range conditions (i. e. the animal has to be able to retreat beyond the reach of hunters by crossing the border of the hunting area) may be registered
- c) only animals hunted in areas, where at least one of the large African carnivore (lion, leopard, cheetah, spotted hyena, African wild dog) occur and exercise their natural role within the ecosystem, may be registered.

The second leg is related to the age of the animals hunted for trophy hunting purposes. We realise the damage that can be done by taking prime breeding bulls from the animal population in question. The *Erongo Record Book* strives to create incentives to hunt old animals past their prime and to discourage the hunting of well endowed young animals and prime breeding bulls. The trophy animals are categorized in the following age groups:

- a) immature animals (for example buffalo with soft bosses) – animals in this age group do not qualify for entry, irrespective of trophy size
- b) mature animals – the sum of the trophy measurements of animals in this age group is multiplied with age factor **1.0** to establish the score
- c) old animals – the sum of the trophy measurements of animals in this age group is multiplied with age factor **1.1** to establish the score

In this way the trophies of old animals past their prime score higher than younger animals of the same trophy size. In case of animals where brooming of horn tips is prevalent (for example roan antelope) additional measurements highlight the trophy potential of worn trophies and add further points (in case of the roan the ridge section of the longer horn is added to the sum of circumference and length of the longer horn and multiplied with the relevant age factor to give the score).

A group of experts has made intensive studies into ageing the various African game animals. In the case of horned trophy animals, for example, the age is determined on factors like hardening of horn bases and ageing of horn cells. Further indicators like ossification of scull fissures, tooth wear and wear on horns are taken into account. Various indicators for different animal species have been determined. The group of experts meets on workshops twice a year. A gremium of three experienced Professional hunters verifies all decisions.

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African Rhinoceroses – Latest trends in rhino numbers and poaching (compiled by Richard H Emslie, IUCN/SSC African Rhino (AfRSG) and Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG))

An update to Doc 54-2-Annexe 2 from the IUCN Species Survival Commission's (IUCN/SSC) African Rhino Specialist Group to the CITES Secretariat pursuant to Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15)

The CITES Parties, through Resolution Conf 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) mandated IUCN/SSC's African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG), Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG) and TRAFFIC to prepare a report for the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) "on the national and continental conservation status of African and Asian rhinoceros species, trade in specimens of rhinoceros, stocks of specimens of rhinoceros and stock management, incidents of illegal killing of rhinoceroses, enforcement issues, and conservation actions and management strategies, with an evaluation of their effectiveness" and "measures by implicated states to end illegal use and consumption of rhino parts and derivatives". This report (Emslie et al 2012¹) was submitted to the CITES Secretariat and is included as Annexe 2 to the CITES Secretariat's report on rhinos for CoP16 (Doc CoP16-54-02-rev 1). This report gave African rhino numbers as of the end of December 2010 and continental poaching statistics by country up to the end of September 2012. The report however indicated that the AfRSG should be able to provide Parties at CITES CoP16 with updated rhino numbers as of December 2012. This document serves to provide Parties with updated numbers and poaching statistics that were compiled at the recent 11th meeting of IUCN SSC AfRSG held in Kenya from the 17-22 February 2013.

Status and Trends

¹ Emslie RH, Milliken T, and Talukdar B (2012) *African and Asian Rhinoceroses – Status, Conservation and Trade*. CoP16, Doc. 54-2-Annexe 2 CITES Secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland.

Despite high and increasing levels of poaching, both rhino species have continued to increase in the wild, with white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) up from 20,165 in 2010 to 20,405 and black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) up from 4,880 in 2010 to 5,055 (see Table below).

Species	White Rhino			Black Rhino				Total
	<i>C.s.cottoni</i>	<i>C.s.simum</i>		<i>D.b.bicornis</i>	<i>D.b.michaeli</i>	<i>D.b.minor</i>		
Subspecies	Northern	Southern	Trend	South Western	Eastern	Southern Central	Trend	
Angola				1			Min	1
Botswana		185	Up			9	Up	194
Kenya	4	394	Up		631		Up	1029
Malawi						26	Up	26
Mozambique		1	Down			?	?	1
Namibia		524	Up	1750			Stable	2274
South Africa		18910	Up	206	68	1770	Up	20954
Swaziland		84	Stable			18	Up	102
Tanzania					100	27	Up	127
Uganda		14	Up					14
Zambia		10	Up			27	Stable	37
Zimbabwe		283	Down			422	Down	705
Total	4	20,405		1,957	799	2,299		25,464

The majority of Africa's (black and white) rhinos (98.0%) continue to be conserved by four range States: South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe (Table 1). Botswana, Tanzania and Swaziland each conserve over 100 rhinos with smaller numbers in Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, Mozambique and Angola. While numbers of both species have continued to increase, the continued escalation in population growth has slowed.

Poaching and illegal killing

From 2006 through to 20 February 2012, a minimum of 2,387 rhino were reportedly poached in 11 of the 12 rhino range States in Africa. The data shows that poaching escalated significantly since September 2012, and especially in the last quarter of 2012. The 2012 continental total reached 745. This represents a 43% increase from 2011-12.

Further information on this subject can be found in a recent paper by Dr Brian Child: *The sustainable use approach could save South Africa's rhinos*. S Afr J Sci. 2012;108(7/8), Art. #1338, 4 pages. [http:// dx.doi.org/10.4102/sajs.v108i7/8.1338](http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/sajs.v108i7/8.1338)

NEWS FROM AFRICA

Which Way Zambia? Comment from Peter Flack

Over a dozen years ago, I attended the SCI Convention at which Zambian officials were also present promoting hunting in their country, when, without sufficient notice to or consultation with the stakeholders in the industry, hunting was summarily banned in the country. The decision was so shocking in its unexpected suddenness and subsequently wreaked such havoc throughout the hunting industry and the rural areas where most of it was conducted, it was assumed, and incorrectly as it has turned out, that such almost inexplicable behaviour could not be visited upon the same country twice. At that time, hundreds of people lost their jobs and the safari outfitters and professional hunters who together had paid tens of thousands of dollars to attend hunting conventions in North America and Europe to promote and market hunting in Zambia, wasted all that time, effort and money and were made to look embarrassingly uninformed about affairs in the country they were marketing.

Rumour had it that the real reason behind the ban was to deprive a presidential candidate of the money paid as bribes for the illegal award of hunting concessions. He and his supporters were supposed to have been using the funds to secure votes for his election.

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org