

requesting this training was compiled at the recent September 2002 Rhino and Elephant Security Group of a southern Africa meeting held at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The basic structure of the course modules was outlined at the meeting, and delegates once

again expressed strong interest in this course. When funding for the SADC rhino programme resumes, it is hoped Scene of the Crime training courses can be held in the different range states.

## RESG holds two more meetings

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The resuscitated Rhino and Elephant Security Group of southern Africa (RESG) has held two meetings since the Windhoek meeting reported in *Pachyderm* 31. To save costs, RESG meetings have been designed to dovetail with the meetings of Interpol's Environmental Crime Task Group.

The 11th meeting of the RESG was held on 11 April 2002 in Pilanesberg National Park, South Africa. In addition to reviewing the revised terms of reference, this meeting determined requirements for software and training needs of each conservation agency. Demand for the Law database and training in its use and for Scene of the Crime training courses was high. A list of members with specific skills was drawn up.

The 12th meeting of RESG was held on 19 and 20 September 2002 at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. After the usual country and organizational reports, the meeting was addressed by the Zimbabwean minister of Environment and Tourism, Honourable Minister Cde Francis Nhema.

A representative of the Zimbabwean attorney-general's office gave an informative presentation on scene of the crime management and the expected chain of evidence required in environmental crime

cases. What was said echoed what is being included in the handbook for the SADC Scene of the Crime training course, which is being developed by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Rod Potter (see preceding note).

The meeting was informed of recent progress in analysing horn fingerprinting data, and a number of discussions were held on the use and value of transponders and transponder databases. Once again, RESG reiterated its support for using only Trovan or Destron transponders in the interests of standardization.

Delegates went through RESG terms of reference to make sure the objectives were being addressed, and they listed activities being undertaken. As part of this process, a number of initiatives were identified that needed funding, and the RESG chair, Lovemore Mungwashu, and AfRSG's Richard Emslie were given the task of submitting funding proposals to appropriate bodies.

In addition, the meeting decided that it would be desirable for future country and organizational reports to follow a more standard format, and in so doing help achieve the listed objectives of the group.