

2.7 Mozambique (*Felismina Longamane Langa*)

Background

Rhino conservation legislation is currently the Game Law of 1999, under which regulations were approved in 2002. Rhinos in Protected Areas belong to state. Others may own rhinos if they are controlled on their own land.

Rhino status

Reports were received of the presence of rhinos in Niassa GR.

Planned SADC RPRC support for activities in 2003-2004

- (a) Feasibility study for the reintroduction of rhinos to Mozambique (draft DNFFB/CESVI proposal)
- (b) Rhino Conservation Strategy for Mozambique
- (c) Training courses in rhino monitoring, management and security

2.8 Tanzania (*Mathew Maige*)

Introduction

Black Rhino active conservation is not that old in Tanzania. The early attempts of managing rhinos started slightly before rhino poaching outcry during late 1970's and early 1980's. Soon before the countrywide operation against poaching of wildlife, decrease of sensitive species including rhinos made the Government to request for a general survey country-wide. This was the time when it was realised that rhinos were on verge of extinction in the country. Attempts to rehabilitate local populations then started, spearheaded by FZS. Ngorongoro Crater became the centre for the FZS activities. The Selous was far from consideration because the survey revealed that most rhinos in the Selous were poached and what remained could not be substantiated. At later date, around 1989, sporadic sighting of *D.b.minor* in the Selous was heard for the first time.

Status of Rhino Population Recovery

A few years down the line, an enthusiastic rhino admirer who was running a photographic safari camp started the Kidai Rhino Project. Since then, the Selous Rhino Project took shape. Together with that, another follow up was done in the Lukuliro area of the vast Selous Game Reserve.

Today, the two areas have become fairly active towards rhino patrols to protect whatever was in the thick bushes. It started without knowing if there were a few individuals in the areas but recently has confirmed a number (still not known) exists at both Kidai and Lukuliro. Sporadic sightings of rhinos have been recorded totalling 16 individuals. We can conclude with confidence that there are more rhinos in the Selous and the 2 populations known so far are reproducing. Tanzania and well wishers need to put in more efforts to protect and continue to investigate of their numbers and distribution.

Summary on the SADC Rhino Programme Support

Inputs provided:

- (i) Advice in the field on rhino survey methodology
- (ii) Advice in the field on steps to ensure ongoing, cost-effective monitoring and protection of rhinos within the survey area, based on relevant experience from Zimbabwe.

We have taken actions on some but we still need support to take actions on the remaining items. I am trying to convince Selous Game Reserve authority to understand the reason for identifying a team of rangers to work on rhino protection only, but it is evident that there are too few rangers for assigning a few to rhino project alone. A proposal to be submitted includes:

- Improved rhino monitoring for Selous Game Reserve Sub-population (February, 2003)
- Law enforcement and ranger training in Selous Game Reserve (Feb. 2003)

The Wildlife Division did request funding from another source with a Project Proposal entitled: Selous black rhino protection project. This was submitted to European Union effective from June 2003-March 2005

Discussion

- Mr Maige stressed the training needs of Tanzania as priorities for support from the SADC RPRC. They had submitted a major request for EU funding for supporting full-time patrols at rhino sites in the Selous GR. It was recommended that coordination between stakeholders involved in rhino conservation in the Selous could be improved with a coordination meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, including the WWF project for the eastern sector (Lukuliro).

2.9 Zambia (George Kampamba)

Introduction

Zambia was a strong hold of the biggest population of black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*) in the region. The rhino were decimated in the seventies because of its horn. After over two decades down the line, under emotions, sorrow and bad memories of the sad loss of black rhino, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has renewed her interest in re-establishing the population of this depleted species. The black rhino re-introduction has been a matter of concern by Parliament since late 1990. The driving force has been to develop Zambia as a country in which a well-protected and viable black rhinoceros population will contribute to enhanced biodiversity, economic, spiritual and social well being of the public and the country as a whole, and the Zambian wildlife estate for present and posterity. In order to attract further international support for re-introductions the Government of the Republic of Zambia has demonstrated strong commitment through the Zambia Wildlife Authority regarding management strategies for as embedded in the 5-year Strategic Plan. One of the objectives of wildlife conservation in Zambia is species re-introduction to original range under intensive protection.

Partnership for Black Rhino Re-Introduction and Future Management in North Luangwa NP

The key supporter in this project is the Frankfurt Zoological Society. The Frankfurt Zoological Society has a long-standing relationship with the Zambia Wildlife Authority in Zambia and are currently working together under a ten-year agreement with the Zambian Government to manage the wildlife resources in the North Luangwa National Park (see map for the Park). Frankfurt Zoological Society has been in the area for over 15 years under an agreement with the government of Zambia. The current agreement was signed in 1998 focusing on conservation of the wildlife resources in the National Park, development and maintenance of infrastructure. The target area for the project, the North Luangwa National Park, is therefore managed under an intensive resource protection programme.

Activities on Black Rhino Re-Introduction to North Luangwa National Park

In 2001 the IUCN SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation agreed to support a scientific study for putative rhino range suitability within North Luangwa National Park and to coordinate the re-introduction programme with the Zambia Wildlife Authority and the various stakeholders. To determine the basis for re-introducing black rhino to the North Luangwa National Park a technical assessment of rhino habitat suitability was carried out with support from the IUCN/SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation. Following the study the Zambia Wildlife Authority updated the Government of the Republic of Zambia and Parliament about the project to further secure both political and government support. In April 2002 the Director General of the Zambia Wildlife Authority, Mr. Hapenga M. Kabeta, headed a delegation to South Africa to discuss the programme for rhino reintroduction project for North Luangwa National Park and to confirm the availability of black rhino. In principle it was agreed during that visit that the 5 animals would be made available for the re-introduction project in Zambia. It was also agreed that South African National Parks should satisfy it self on the security of the black rhino in the target area.

On the basis of the above requirement the following were agreed upon as the way forward:

- An expert from South African National Parks to visit North Luangwa National Park to ascertain the strategies for security of black rhino once introduced
- The SADC Rhino Conservation Programme should coordinate the rhino re introduction project,