

counted for. Regular localizations have been made since then, giving a better understanding of their distribution and numbers. There have been three births this year and there are now 17 individuals accounted for, so there are hopeful signs that the population is beginning to recover. A patrol post was established at the Garamba River near the rhino concentration area. The post is manned continuously by guards of IZCN who are deployed, rationed and paid allowances by the project.

Regular reconnaissance flights have been made to locate poachers' camps and the information passed to respective patrol posts. All information is charted and a picture of the poaching pattern is being developed. The presence of an aircraft is also a deterrent to poachers, and poaching of rhino and elephant has been significantly reduced. An aerial sample strip count survey was conducted with particular reference to large ungulate distribution. Routine maintenance on vehicles is an ongoing exercise and refurbishment of the Park workshops is well advanced.

The second phase from January 1986 onwards is the implementation and continuation of routine park management practices, training of personnel and refurbishment of the remaining park infrastructure.

An associated extension project is being proposed and it is hoped that the elephant domestication centre will be redeveloped by capture of young elephant. A plan to improve on the anti-poaching system is in process of development and would be a logical continuation of the project.

Development of tourism would help provide greater long-term security for Garamba National Park and the rhinos by enabling the Park to earn some revenue. There is already a good campsite which was improved by FAO, and a ten-year agreement has been made with a tourism group to invest in further development for tourists such as river excursions.

In January 1985, WWF supported a high-level IUCN delegation visit to President Mobutu to draw attention to the plight of the northern white rhino. The President pledged his personal support to the work of the WWF project.

Zambia

Project 1757

Save the Rhino Trust

WWF Expenditure 1984/85 — \$50,931

(Total since 1980 — \$488,822)

Project Executants: Government of Zambia, Save the Rhino Trust Ltd.

Participating Organizations: Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD); Department of National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Objectives: To carry out anti-poaching field operations, so as to eliminate commercial poaching and benefit rhino, elephant and other species.

The Save the Rhino Trust has been operating in Zambia since 1980, combating the ever-increasing commercial poaching of rhino and elephant.

In 1984 and 1985, the Trust received major donations from NORAD, which enabled the anti-poaching operations to continue and to extend to a fourth unit. With the increase in funding, SRT was able to purchase a Safari Lodge in Luangwa Valley which provides a capital investment that generates income for anti-poaching and also increases public awareness of the problems caused by poachers.



Rhino poachers arrested in Zambia. Poaching, especially of rhinos and elephant, continues in spite of the efforts of the Save the Rhino Trust. Photo: WWF/Save the Rhino Trust

In 1984, WWF supported a visit from a radio specialist, Mr Howard Wood, who inspected and overhauled the radio equipment of the Trust, and managed to improve considerably the range of the VHF equipment used in the field.

The Trust has continued to sponsor research on elephant and on black rhino, but in 1984 this was interrupted by a serious injury to the biologist, Dr Leader-Williams, who was charged by a rhino and was out of action for six months.

Whilst anti-poaching results expressed in terms of poachers caught and firearms seized continue to indicate a job well done, the Trust is becoming increasingly aware that its small anti-poaching units face an uphill task in protecting rhino and elephant populations within the vast areas of the wildlife sanctuaries. Even permanent protective patrols within key areas of South Luangwa National Park have failed to halt poaching within those areas. Mobility must be greatly increased to enable gangs sighted in the NP to be cut off upon returning to the Muchinga Escarpment. In spite of its expense, the Trust must consider obtaining the use of an aircraft on a more permanent basis.