

Black Rhino conservation plan adopted

From a news release dated 22 March 1990

A conservation plan to ensure the survival of the Black Rhino in South Africa, Namibia and the states of Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Transkei and Venda has recently been adopted by all the major conservation authorities and funding organisations in the region.

The Black Rhino now finds its last secure refuge in southern Africa, where one third of the world's population is conserved. While the species has generally been well managed in the region, the Black Rhino populations here have now acquired international significance, and the threat of poaching is increasing as the numbers dwindle elsewhere. The populations are generally small and fragmented, raising the problem of genetic variability that can threaten survival in the long term.

The conservation plan already being implemented by the conservation authorities in Natal, KwaZulu, Cape Province, Bophuthatswana, Namibia and the National Parks Board was adopted as a matter of urgency to direct conservation authorities towards common regional goals for each

of the three Black Rhino subspecies present, and to ensure that the very best management techniques are applied.

The Rhino Management Group (RMG) will keep the plan up to date. The RMG's main role will be to evaluate the effectiveness of current programmes, develop new strategies and provide management advice to the conservation authorities. It will also identify research and conservation priorities for Black Rhino as a guide for funding organisations.

"We strongly believe that the co-operative spirit of the plan, its strategies and the activities of the Rhino Management Group will greatly enhance the survival prospects of the Black Rhino, both in southern Africa and in the rest of Africa," said Dr Martin Brooks, RMG's chairman.

RMG MEMBERSHIP

Conservation authority
Representatives

Dr Martin Brooks (Chairman),
Natal Parks Board
Mr Peter Conant, KwaZulu
Bureau of Natural Resources
Mr Tony Ferrar,

Bophuthatswana National Parks
Board

Dr Anthony Hall-Martin, National
Parks Board

Dr Eugene Joubert, Directorate
of Nature Conservation, Namibia
Mr Niel van Wyk, Cape
Directorate of Nature and
Environmental Conservation.

Selected rhino experts

The Hon Richard Emslie
Mr Peter Hitchins

EWT not involved in 'Save the Black Rhino' pledge day

The Star newspaper of 19 May 1990 reported that the certified amount raised from the 'Save the Black Rhino' pledge day (conducted by way of an SABC/TV Telethon) was R1 003 386. The newspaper reported that about R450 000 was spent on prizes, R40 000 went to the fund raising agency and R70 600 went to the TV personality who anchored the event. Supporters of the Endangered Wildlife Trust are advised that the Trust was in no way involved with this fund raising effort which was conducted by the Rhino & Elephant Foundation.

Derek Ritchie (*Chairman*)



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