11TH SAVANNA SCIENCE NETWORK MEETING

03 – 08 MARCH 2013
KRUGER NATIONAL PARK
SKUKUZA

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS
SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

Investigating the behavior and physiology of a re-introduced black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) founder group in Namibia with emphasis on camera traps

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In this study we investigated the spatial and temporal behavior of a 4 individual black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) starter group that was re-introduced to a private game farm in proximity to the Etosha National Park in Namibia. The first two rhinos arrived one year prior to our investigation and we stayed for a period of 4 month.

The overall objective was to evaluate the success of this specific re-introduction by investigating: 1.) spatial behavior, 2.) social interactions, 3.) physical conditions and 4.) daily / monthly activity patterns.

The data is suggesting a clear preference for one water area in the north-eastern section of the study area (51 % of the total number of pictures taken). Furthermore, the pictures taken at the different water areas confirm a bimodal circadian activity pattern for the rhinos. The index for social association was highest for the only male and one of the females during the first half of the study period (March-April 2012) and the same male and another female during the second half of the study period (May-June; shift in social organization). Camera trap pictures as well as direct sightings indicate a physiological well-being of the rhinos and we could not see any signs of serious intra specific aggression.

First data let us assume that this specific re-introduction was successful and that camera traps are an efficient tool to judge on the success of translocation procedures. This approach could also be used in other areas of this species' distribution range in the future.