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## Conservation of and trade in African rhinoceros – South Africa

August 2004

### a) Status of captive and wild rhinoceros populations

#### *Status of Black Rhinoceros (Diceros bicornis) populations*

	Numbers
Provincial Government Nature Reserves and South African National Parks (SANP)	1 121
Private / Community Land	165
<b>TOTAL (South Africa)</b>	<b>1 286</b>

#### *Status of White Rhinoceros (Ceratotherium simum simum) populations*

Provincial Government Nature Reserves and South African National Parks (SANP)	7 422
Private / Community Land	2 884
<b>TOTAL (South Africa)</b>	<b>10 306</b>

### b) Summary of incidents of illegal hunting

#### *Incidents of illegal hunting of Black Rhinoceroses (Diceros bicornis)*

Three (3) incidences of illegal hunting of Black rhino were reported for the period 2002 to 2004. Arrests were made relating to these incidences.

#### *Incidents of illegal hunting of White Rhinoceroses (Ceratotherium simum simum)*

Twenty-four white rhino were illegal hunting in the period 2002 to 2004. Arrests were made relating to all these incidences.

### c) Summary of incidents of illegal trade in rhinoceros parts and derivatives

#### *Incidents of illegal trade in Black rhinoceros (Diceros bicornis) parts and derivatives*

No incidences of illegal trade in Black rhino parts and derivatives were reported for the period 2002 to 2004.

### ***Incidents of illegal trade in White rhinoceros (Ceratotherium simum)***

Three (3) incidences of illegal trade in White rhino parts and derivatives were reported for the period 2002 to 2004. Arrests were made relating to these incidences.

**d) Status, type and frequency of law enforcement activities and monitoring programmes for all major rhinoceros populations**

Major rhinoceros populations are found on provincial reserves in KwaZulu-Natal and in South African National Parks

**KwaZulu-Natal:**

All reserves with rhino are patrolled on a daily basis at a density of one field ranger per 10 square kilometres. Patrolling is undertaken on foot and / or horseback. All major reserves with rhino have a mobile Anti-Poaching Unit (APO) each, consisting of 6 – 10 men. An intelligence network and a prosecutions section to ensure successful convictions back up all reserves. NGO's such as WWF make enormous contributions towards the purchase of specialised monitoring and compliance equipment. Attached, please find the terms of reference of the Rhino Security and Management Group of KwaZulu-Natal (Appendix I).

**South African National Parks:**

The white rhino populations are counted each year as part of the census for all large herbivores in the Kruger National Park. Black rhino are counted in a 100 000 ha study area as well as during the elephant and buffalo helicopter count.

With regards to law enforcement efforts and monitoring, there are daily patrols comprising either foot, bicycle and vehicle patrols in all the South African National Parks. The game rangers report on any mortality found during these patrols.

The poaching incidences reported for SANParks were followed up and the following arrests were made:

2002	-	9 people arrested
2003	-	7 people arrested
2004	-	0 (5 suspects identified, arrests are pending)

**e) Status of development and implementation of national legislation and national conservation action plans**

“Conservation plan for the black rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* in South Africa” (Brooks and Adcock, 1997). All conservation agencies and private owners use the conservation plan for black rhino to guide their management of black rhino. The first version of the plan was accepted in 1989.

“National strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of wild populations of southern white rhino *Ceratotherium simum simum* in South Africa”. This strategy has been approved as national strategy.

The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004) has been signed by the President and was enacted on 1 September 2004. The national legislation makes provision for the protection of species as well as regulating all activities involving protected species.

Provincial legislation makes provision for the protection of rhino as specially protected species.

**f) Status of marking, registration and control of rhinoceros horn stocks**

All provinces and SANP mark rhino horn stocks and keep registers of all legal stocks as well as horns confiscated during law enforcement activities. Rhino horns are marked with a number that includes a code for the locality it was found and a serial number. The SANP allocates numbers that are based on the same numbering specifications as prescribed for elephant tusks and internal auditors audit the register and stockpile annually. The number is attached to the horn by means of either a plastic or metal disc with the number punched into the plastic or metal. In some cases the number is written on the horn with permanent ink. Most of the rhino horns are also micro-chipped with either Trovan or Destron microchips. A decision has been taken recently that all rhino horns will be micro-chipped in addition to other marking methods being used.

Rhino horns are stored in strong rooms to which only a limited number of people have access. For security purposes two officials each have one of the keys, needed to unlock the strong room, in their possession. Therefore, both must be present to obtain access to the strong room. In some instances the main strong room is not on the same premises as the offices of the provincial conservation authority and the location is considered confidential.

Due to the amendment of provincial legislation and the enactment of the national legislation (Act 10 of 2004), private rhino owners will be obliged to register rhino horn in their possession with the relevant authorities. This will improve the regulation of horn in private ownership, which has been a concern.