

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	1
1.0 DARWIN PROJECT INFORMATION	2
2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND	2
3.0 PROJECT PURPOSE AND OUTPUTS	3
3.1 AIMS	3
3.2 OUTPUTS	3
3.3 REVISIONS TO OBJECTIVES.....	3
4.0 PROGRESS	3
4.1 HISTORY OF PROJECT PRIOR TO REPORT PERIOD	3
4.2 SUMMARISED PROGRESS.....	3
4.2.1 Activities To-date	3
4.2.2 Adjustments and Slippage	5
4.2.3 Additional Outputs and Activities	5
4.3 APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGIES	6
4.3.1 Research	6
4.3.2 Training.....	7
4.4 DISCUSSION OF CONSEQUENCES, RESULTS AND IMPACTS.....	7
4.4.1 Research	7
4.4.2 Training.....	8
4.5 CONSTRAINTS WITH PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT	8
4.6 WORKPLAN FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD.....	9
5.0 ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REVIEWS	9
6.0 PARTNERSHIPS	9
6.1 COLLABORATION WITH HOST COUNTRY PARTNERS.....	9
6.2 OTHER PARTNERSHIPS	9
7.0 IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY	10
8.0 POST-PROJECT FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES	11
9.0 OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES AND DISSEMINATION	11
9.1 OUTPUTS	11
9.2 DISSEMINATION.....	12
10.0 PROJECT EXPENDITURE	13
11.0 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LESSONS	13
12.0 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS	14
ANNEX 1	15
Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year:.....	15
ANNEX 2	16
A Pilot Survey of Attitudes towards Black Rhino (<i>Diceros bicornis</i>) in Sanitatas and Torra Conservancies, Kunene Region, Namibia.....	16
ANNEX 3	17
Stakeholder Workshop on Biological Management Options for the Kunene Black Rhino	17

3.0 Project Purpose and Outputs

3.1 Aims

This project aims to build local capacity to continue the monitoring and management of black rhinos on communal land in Kunene. The project also aims to improve knowledge of both the biological and anthropogenic factors, primarily uncontrolled tourism, limiting the population growth and available range of the Kunene rhino population. This information will be made available both for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), and for local communities and conservancies, who have a stake in the survival and health of this key rhino population.

3.2 Outputs

The project consists of three components: firstly, an assessment of the habitat suitability and carrying capacity of the current and previously occupied range areas of the black rhino in North-West Namibia; secondly, an evaluation of the impact that human activities, especially tourism, are having on the distribution, movements and interactions of rhinos, in order to devise recommendations to better control access into the current range area; thirdly, to build capacity locally to co-ordinate wildlife monitoring and tourism development programmes that maximise community benefit and black rhino population growth in the region.

3.3 Revisions to Objectives

The proposed objectives have not been modified over the last year. The only modification to the operational plan followed delays carried over from the last reporting period when the MET delayed in formally appointing a Tourism Officer. Approval from the MET's training committee came through in this reporting period and modifications were made to the operational plan (see section 4.6). This has not been discussed with the department as this did not impact objectives and no significant delays have occurred to the project.

4.0 Progress

4.1 History of Project Prior to Report Period

Prior to April 2003 the project successfully met targets to ensure the project was on course to achieve its original outcome. Outputs included: strong partnerships; appointing a MET candidate as the Tourism Officer, providing a clearer exit strategy; and, appropriate methodologies.

Activities of the Project Officer have focused on: attending meetings in Namibia with local partners; co-ordinating the five yearly Kunene census of black rhino, started in August 2002; and, the collection of ecological and human-induced disturbance (HID) data to build a spatially explicit habitat suitability model. The Tourism Officer and other co-ordinator were identified from Namibian partners to undertake training in the UK at DICE. Some delays in the formal appointment of the MET candidate and illness of the SRT candidate did delay the fieldwork collection activities, although this had no effect upon project outputs.

4.2 Summarised Progress

4.2.1 Activities To-date

In April the Project Officer supported the land use planning activities for a new tourism tented camp in the core rhino area, the Palmwag Rhino Camp. This camp provides a long term "field

plot” where protocols were developed for collecting data on the behavioural responses of rhinos to tourists. Data collection began the following October (see below), as part of the study to examine the extent to which the rhino population is under impact from HID. Ground truthing of Ecological Land Units (ELU’s) continued in April, as part of the habitat assessment to refine the first draft of the habitat suitability model. Also, the Project Officer attended the April quarterly planning meetings of the conservancies.

The census of black rhino continued from March to May, as part of compiling ongoing monitoring data on black rhino to use in the final analysis. In May, the Project Officer liaised with in-country partners over rhino conservation efforts in Kunene, during the bi-annual meeting of the MET Rhino Technical Advisory Group (RTAG).

Training was provided to MET and conservancy field-staff taking part in the March to May census. Further training was provided after the census through on-the-job fieldwork with SRT vehicle and camel based patrol teams. Experienced SRT staff, and materials and methods developed by the IUCN/SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG), were used during this training.

In June the Project Officer attended the IUCN AfRSG Southern African Rhino Management Group (RMG) meeting at Palmwag Lodge in Kunene as part of the Namibian delegation from the MET and the project’s other in-country partner, SRT. Arrangements were made to acquire clearance from the MET’s training committee for the appointed Tourism Officer to undertake studies at DICE. Towards the end of June, the Project Officer assisted a consultant from the AfRSG who visited the project to refine methods to determine browse availability across the southern African region.

In July 2003 the BBC screened the activities of the project on the Really Wild Show. A press release was issued by the University of Kent and tapes were forwarded to the Darwin Secretariat. The Project Officer also returned to the UK to begin the preliminary analysis of census data on black rhino and to draft a survey to explore community attitudes to rhino and future management goals.

The Project Officer returned to Namibia to continue fieldwork in September 2003. In the same month, Namibian co-ordinators from in-country partners began their MSc training at DICE (Simson Uri-khob from SRT; and, Michael Sibatani from MET as the Tourism Officer). A press release was issued by SRT and picked up in the local press in Namibia www.economist.com/na/2003/12sep/09-12-15.htm#top

Data collection on the behavioural response of rhino and other wildlife to HID commenced in October. The Project Officer also attended the October quarterly planning meetings of the conservancies and confirmed dates with Torra and Sanitatas conservancies to undertake a pilot survey of community attitudes to test the first draft of the survey.

In November, pilot surveys involving 40 interviews were undertaken with local subsistence farmers from sites in both the historical and current range. These preliminary field trials suggested that farmers held comparably positive attitudes towards black rhino, suggesting community support exists for re-introducing black rhino into the sampled area of the former range. However, further surveys in the former range are required to assess this satisfactorily.

In December, preliminary analysis of HID data on rhino was inconclusive. Results were used to refine methodologies and target the Palmwag Rhino Camp as a focal area to explore the long-term impact of tourism on distribution and behaviour of rhino. The annual steering committee meeting was held in early December, attended by both the Project Leader and Project Officer, and local Namibian partners.

In January, the Project Officer attended the quarterly planning meetings of the conservancies to feedback results of the pilot survey and Darwin Project progress. Plans for further surveys were presented and the meeting offered an opportunity for further liaison with community and NGO partners.

In February, the project officer attended a three day MET workshop refining the collection and storage of rhino data. Liaison continued during February and March with the two Namibian students at DICE, to refine protocols and workplans for their fieldwork in May and June. Monies were secured by the Project Officer to cover additional costs of fieldwork by the students from the United Nations Development Programme Global Environment Fund (UNDP/GEF) Small Grants Programme. Also, the Project Officer gave a presentation on preliminary findings and research goals at the Wilderness Safaris Annual Conference held in Swakopmund, Namibia.

In March, the Project Officer organised a three day workshop for Kunene stakeholders, hosted by the research section of SRT, to disseminate national rhino census results and preliminary research findings to begin to assess how the interactions of rural livelihoods and economic incentives for communities might shape future biological management goals for black rhino. This was attended by 63 delegates with consensus reached that biological management of rhino in Kunene is needed, as long as communities benefit appropriately.

4.2.2 Adjustments and Slippage

Some further slippage on the workplan has resulted from the illness of senior SRT staff and the Project Officer having to supervise the SRT monthly patrol programming, payroll and activities at basecamps. Awaiting clearance for the appointment of the Tourism Officer with the MET's training committee has also caused some unforeseen slippage in data collection prior to the students beginning their studies at DICE (see section 4.5). However, these delays have had no impact on the project's key outputs, other than adjustments to the candidate's fieldwork studies. Indeed, the delays have benefited the MSc students, because completion of the pilot studies in October and November 2003, has allowed more refinement of their projects to better meet the outputs of this project (see 4.3.1 for details on these approaches).

4.2.3 Additional Outputs and Activities

Additional outputs by the Project Officer have aimed at complimenting the outputs of the Darwin Project. This included establishing facilities to accommodate visiting research groups, initiated in the last report period. In September, the Project Officer supervised construction of these facilities at the SRT Rhino Centre in Kunene. Also, additional funding was secured to cover the costs of workshops to disseminate results and support SRT's ongoing patrol programme. Funds were also secured to cover short-falls in the budgets for air travel from Namibia to the UK for the Project Leader, Trainees and Project Officer. This short-fall was caused by the strengthening Namibian Dollar and larger than anticipated ticket price increases.

Collaboration with other programmes includes: a study to improve indices of available browse, and the condition of browse, for assessing black rhino carrying capacity; collaborating with a

study to construct a pedigree of the Kunene black rhino, to determine levels of reproductive skew amongst males; support with an MET project to assess training needs for MET, SRT and conservancy field-staff; and, supporting a MET study to refine a database model to meet the Namibian National Meta-population Management Goals.

4.3 Approaches and Methodologies

4.3.1 Research

The collection of demographic data on the black rhino continues, through the ongoing patrols of the SRT. As with the census, completed in May 2003, both sightings and midden data are captured to determine presence and absence of black rhinos for the final analysis. The collection of these data follows protocols developed by the AfRSG and presented in the last annual report.

The construction of a GIS to determine habitat suitability continues. Delays in the public release of a higher resolution digital elevation map (DEM) have prevented further refinements to the model (for more information see: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/srtm/>). However, ground truthing following methods designed in the first reporting year is ongoing and this will not hamper the final analysis.

Following pilot studies in November 2003 of both community attitudes (Annex 2) and the response of wildlife to HID, notably tourism, field studies for the two Namibian students have been drafted. The SRT candidate, Simson Uri-khob, will carry out the study of community support for black rhino in the historical range. The design of the survey follows recommendations from the pilot study. The Project Officer and two volunteer students will support data collection in May and June 2004. The pilot study of HID impacts clearly displayed difficulties in what constitutes disturbance and quantifying levels of disturbance. Understanding these impacts relies on including both ecological and anthropologic data into the GIS model. Final analysis of HID will be carried out at the end of the project.

The MET candidate, Michael Sibatani, will explore the sustainability of rhino tourism throughout the Kunene range as a means of providing economic incentives in support of both the costs of rhino conservation and development objectives for communities in the area. The study method will comprise of structured questionnaires and interviews. A questionnaire survey will be carried out on visitors booked for rhino tracking safaris at two of Wilderness Safaris' camps to examine their level of satisfaction. A similar survey on market opportunity will be carried out with visitors and tour operators who are not booked on these tracking safaris, but are staying at lodges surrounding the Kunene rhino range. A survey on the community's perception of introducing rhino tracking in their conservancies and the associated ecological and cultural impact of these activities will also be conducted. Interviews with officials from local NGOs and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in both the Kunene Region and at Head Quarters will also be conducted.

The Project Officer has acquired access to Ministry of Water Affairs, Ministry of Veterinary Services and Ministry of Agriculture databases to assess the historical trends in livestock numbers and the distribution of boreholes across Kunene. Letters have been submitted to MET to acquire access to annual reports from MET regional offices on rainfall data; and surveys of wildlife and livestock distribution from aerial and ground monitoring. This will complement the current dataset and enable focal studies of livestock trends at "key" sites to act as case studies of where access to water could have resulted in changing HID impacts on rhino over time.

Studies of paternity in the population, and any genetic variation that may exist in the Kunene population, continues using DNA extracted from dung and bone samples. The study forms an additional output for the project and uses protocols set up in the last report period.

4.3.2 Training

Namibian students from in-country partners began their MSc training at DICE (Simson Uri-khob from SRT; and, Michael Sibatani from MET). A press release was issued by SRT and picked up in the Namibian local press <http://www.economist.com.na/2003/12sep/09-12-15.htm#top>. The students have completed the coursework stage and will begin fieldwork for the dissertation component in May 2004. Projects have been designed and are undergoing field trials.

Training of field rangers from MET, SRT and conservancies continued during the rhino census completed in May 2003. Methods to address training needs follow the points raised in the Project Officer's response to the review of the last annual report. The Project Officer has collaborated further with the final design of the national accredited training programme for field-staff, finalised with the support of the IUCN/SADC Regional Rhino Programme. This will begin in May 2004 and be implemented by a consultant employed by the SADC Programme.

4.4 Discussion of Consequences, Results and Impacts

4.4.1 Research

Data collection is ongoing and final analysis will begin in July 2004. A final fieldwork season is planned for October 2004. Preliminary results from a pilot survey of community attitudes towards black rhino in Sanitatas and Torra Conservancies is included in Annex 2.

The collection of ecological data during the Kunene rhino census involved spot assessments of 434 water points in the Kunene range. The status of these water points was made on location and they have been monitored over the year to determine if these represent temporary or perennial water. To support the habitat model over 640 individual plants, across 80 vegetation plots were visited prior to the Project Officer returning the UK in July 2003. Data on access to water and the impact on browse species bordering the Kunene range, where communal farmers and rhino share these resources, will form a key part of ecological and HID data collection in the following quarter.

Since October 2003, data from over 100 sightings have now been collected. These two sites will form ongoing "field plots" to monitor the impact of HID beyond the Darwin Project, as well as providing data for the final analysis.

Bone samples from 42 historical mortalities from the 1970's and 80's were collected in August and September 2003. Laboratory work at Sheffield University suggests assigning paternity will now be possible, following results in the last report period suggesting low levels of polymorphism. The dataset of dung samples now stands at 129, some of which are duplicates to test storing samples in ethanol compared to silica beads. The aim is to have a full collection of samples from three distinct areas of the range, representing more than 50% of the Kunene population, for analysis before the end of the year.

4.4.2 Training

Accuracy of patrol data captured by SRT ranger trackers has improved over the duration of the project. Two patrol teams are now using ID forms to capture and quantify HID impacts to form part of the exit strategy to monitor any long-term changes in rhino behaviour or breeding in responses to HID. Field trails are in place with two others teams using ID forms that include refinements to capture any disturbance to rhino arising from monitoring. Two additional GPS receivers have been acquired by the Project Officer and field staff have been trained in the use of these units. Patrol teams from SRT have also been collecting dung samples to assess paternity in the population of black rhino, and this involves learning procedures to collect and store specimens in ethanol or silica beads. Currently all training has been “on-the-job” or involved short workshops at the SRT Rhino Centre.

The Namibian students complete their final exams, as part of the coursework phase of the DICE MSc training, at the end of April 2004. The dissertation phase begins with fieldwork in Namibia during May. They return to the UK in July, with the Project Officer, to begin their analysis and write up phases.

4.5 Constraints with Progress of the Project

SRT’s Executive Director, Blythe Loutit, has been undergoing chemotherapy treatment in Windhoek since August 2003. Understandably, she has not been able to support month end activities and programming of the SRT field staff, in the absence of SRT’s Field Director, Simson Uri-khob, while he undertakes his MSc training at DICE. The Project Officer has therefore been called on to support the SRT staff programming, monthly payroll and supervision of the SRT Rhino Centre and SRT staff at the Palmwag Rhino Camp.

However, Rudi Loutit has joined SRT on retiring from the MET as of April 2004. This will enable the Project Officer to focus again on Darwin Project outputs rather than SRT management issues. Despite her illness and to the project’s benefit, Blythe was able to attend the Darwin Steering Committee meeting held up at the SRT Rhino Centre in December 2003.

The appointment of the MET Tourism Officer required approval from the MET’s Training Committee. The time taken to seek this approval resulted in the selected student not being able to collect any field data prior to starting studies at DICE in September 2003. However, the nominated candidate is the Chief Control Warden from Etosha National Park and the Skeleton Coast Park (which fall on the Kunene Range). This guarantees long-term sustainability of future tourism planning activities in the region. To ensure sufficient data are collected prior to July two volunteer students will assist the project in May and June 2004. Simson Uri-Khob’s illness during the last report period has not caused any further problems or further slippage to the project.

4.6 Workplan for Next Reporting Period

WORKPLAN - Michael Hearn (DICE/SRT) Darwin Project																	
PURPOSE	ACTIVITIES	PARTNERS	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec						
Monitor Population health and optimise rhino growth rates	Assist co-ordination/participate in monthly patrols for the collection of rhino & ecological data	SRT/MET & Conservancy															
	Database reports																
Determine stocking levels of current range and areas for reintroduction	Refined 2nd GIS of habitat suitability during fieldwork	SRT/MET & Round River Students															
	Collect rainfall data																
	Participation in annual wildlife census																
Determine perceptions of communities within current & historical range	Finalise survey of Community Attitudes	SRT/MET (Simson Urkhob)															
	Fieldwork to implement questionnaire																
	Analysis and produce report																
Explore representation of male rhino in population/paternity	Ongoing Collection of rhino dung to extract DNA	SRT/MET & Uni. Sheffield															
	Analysis of dung samples in the UK																
	Produce report																
Determine HID (Human-Induced Disturbance) impacts on black rhino	Collection of HID data from Palmwag Rhino Camp and the southern range	SRT/MET, private operators & Round River Students															
	Collection of tourism entry point data at Ugab, Hoanib, Aub (Tourism permits into the Palmwag Concession)																
	Collate human and wildlife data from government databases																
	Record flight distance of other wildlife in range area																
Economic sustainability of tourism as an incentive to communities	Supervise MET student during study on visitor satisfaction; capacity of communities; and, viability and "willingness to pay" of this market	MET/SRT (Michael Sibalatani)															
	Analysis and produce report																
Training /capacity building	Ongoing training of field-staff	SRT/MET, Conservancy & SADC Rhino Prog.															
	Assist co-ordination of theoretical training of fieldstaff																
	2 Namibian students undertake fieldwork for dissertations studies as part of Msc training																
	Analysis and write up of dissertations																
Co-ordination/feedback	Ongoing liaison with Partners	All partners															
	1/4 planning meetings of conservancies committees																
	Feedback meetings to steering committee members																
	Steering committee meeting																
	Analysis of data and report writing in the UK																
Data presentation/workshops	Attend IUCN AfrSG meeting in Kenya	All partners															
	Final Workshop to draft management plan																

5.0 Actions taken in response to previous reviews

A response was forwarded to the secretariat in June 2003 following a review of the last annual report. This provided clarity on concerns raised by the reviewers. No changes or refinements to the project were required following the review. Therefore, no discussions were required with project partners.

6.0 Partnerships

6.1 Collaboration with Host Country Partners

The majority the Project Officer's time has been spent in the host county, so providing direct collaboration between the UK and partners in the host country. During the last year the Project Office has maintained collaboration the MET rhino coordinator at ad hoc meetings and through input provided at the annual steering committee meeting of this Darwin Project. The Project Officer continues to be seconded to the SRT, the other host partner, as Director of Research ensuring close collaboration. Expertise and support for the programme in the last year has been provided by DICE, scientists at the MET's Etosha Ecological Centre; and, social scientists from the MET's Wildlife Integration for Livelihood Diversification Project (WILD). This has enabled refinements to methodologies for community surveys and the GIS techniques used to assess habitat suitability for black rhino.

6.2 Other Partnerships

The Project office assisted a visiting AfrSG consultant, Keryn Adcock, to collaborate with a study to refine methods to determine browse availability. This gives a regional focus to the assessment of habitat suitability and the carrying capacity of the black rhino range in Kunene

being undertaken as part of this Darwin Project. The AfRSG RMG meeting in May 2003 provided collaboration with other projects in the region focussing on the biological management needs of black rhino to support this project.

Collaboration with projects implemented by the IUCN/SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation and the MET has supported the design of a training module for field-staff; and, a national database, tailored to Namibian needs, to allow comparable analysis across different populations and management units.

7.0 Impact and Sustainability

Data collection continues in the Kunene Region of Namibia, so the profile of this Darwin Project has been high in the target area of the host country. The number of conservancies registered in Kunene has increased from ten to seventeen in the last year and capacity for biodiversity has increased with in-country partners supporting the formation of management plans and institutional networks for these conservancies. Dissemination of Darwin Project findings and activities has supported these goals.

Partnerships, detailed in section 6.0, have further enhanced the profile of this project, ensuring buy-in towards the final outcome of this Darwin Project and that preliminary findings are incorporated into the ongoing activities of these partners to meet broader biodiversity needs. These activities include: the drafting of conservancy management plans recognising black rhino needs; recommendations from preliminary findings shaping MET management intervention strategies in Kunene; and, the implementation of broader land use needs in Kunene through the Governors Office (drought relief work, drilling of boreholes, improving the road network and providing other services to Kunene residents such as radio, television and electricity) that recognise resource needs relating to successful management of the black rhino, and the wider biodiversity goals associated with this.

The annual wildlife census in Kunene is in its third year. Conservancies, MET and SRT collaborate to undertake a regional road-based count of larger mammal species. The Project Officer assisted by providing vehicle support. Increases in the major species of springbok, oryx, zebra, kudu and ostrich were recorded. Annual audits of field records from the Kunene registered conservancy's indicates reductions in illegal hunting, though reports of problems associated with sharing resources with wildlife (damage to water points, loss of livestock to predators) has increased. This suggests incentives for biodiversity conservation objectives (such as tourism) are outweighing the costs of living with wildlife for some Kunene residents who are members of income earning conservancies.

Results from the five yearly Kunene of black rhino census also indicate a further increase in numbers. However, growth in some areas of suitable habitat still suggests density-dependent factors limit growth. This was one of the motivating factors for the research component of this Darwin Project. The impact of this project will be realised on completion of the analysis and hosting of the workshop to produce recommendations for intervention strategies to stimulate growth in these areas and provide incentives for communities from black rhino conservation measures to ensure sustainability beyond this Darwin Project.

8.0 Post-Project Follow up Activities

Though this project is nearing completion it relies on the final outputs to show the success of its aims and objectives. This will then display strong commitment and capacity by host country partners to fulfil the project's exit strategy and the final outcome.

9.0 Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

9.1 Outputs

Table 1 describes and quantifies the outputs of this project in the last year. The project met all its agreed outputs for the last year. Additional outputs of the Project Officer over the year included: securing funds for the ongoing activities of SRT; establishing permanent "field plots" at the Palmwag Rhino Camp and in the southern range with protocols to collect HID data on tourism impacts on rhino; and, hosting of a stakeholder workshop on biological management goals for the Kunene black rhino (Annex 3).

Table 1. Project outputs, following guidelines on standard output measures

Code No.	Quantity	Description
	Apr.–Dec. '03	
2	2 co-ordinators	Begin MSc course in September at DICE
5	4 staff	Full time local staff from SRT received on-the-job training and guidance in protocols used for collecting rhino data, dung from rhino and ecological data while working with the British Project Officer employed on the Darwin Project
6A	26	SRT, MET and Conservancy staff received training at monthly workshops during census (April & May) and on-the-job during ongoing patrols.
6B	4 weeks	Training undertaken during the census
8	20 weeks	Field work: Census and ongoing patrols; HID from October on rhino and other wildlife on response to tourism; pilot survey of community attitude; habitat data in April 2003; ecological data on water access throughout the year; and, meetings with partners.
14B	1	Attended and presented material at southern African Rhino Management Group (RMG) meeting in May 2003 in Namibia
15B	1	Local press release in host country on MSc training in September 2003
17B	1	Steering committee meeting with in-country partners
17B	3	Conservancy quarterly planning meetings with conservancies
18B	1	In July 2003 the BBC screened the activities of the project on the Really Wild Show.
22	2	The collection of HID data on effects of tourism on rhino at two "field plots", for data needs in final analysis and post Darwin Project
23	GBP225,000.00	Host partners and donors provide vehicle, salaries of field-staff and accommodation costs to project
	USD10,000	Additional funding sourced to host the workshop on

	USD20,000	biological management options for the Kunene black rhino
5	Jan.–Apr. '04 10 weeks	Additional funding sourced for the flights and 10 weeks fieldwork in Namibia for the two co-ordinators training at DICE
8	4 local staff	Fieldwork to collect rhino demographic data, dung from rhino, and ecological data involving SRT staff
6A	26	Full time field-staff received on-the-job training of data collection techniques
6B	4 weeks	SRT, MET and Conservancy received on-the-job training during ongoing patrols.
14A	1	3 day workshop organised by the Project Officer on biological management options for the Kunene black rhino, as a prelude to the Darwin Project final workshop
17B	2	Conservancy quarterly planning meetings with conservancies

9.2 Dissemination

The Project Officer attended a meeting of the Rhino Technical Advisory Group on the 20th May 2003 in Windhoek to update all MET partners on developments with the Darwin Project activities. The Rhino Management Group (RMG) of Southern Africa held a meeting in June 2003 in Namibia. The Project Officer presented preliminary findings to the RMG at this meeting. Both these dissemination activities allowed input and refinements to methodologies from national and regional scientists, and other rhino specialists.

Dissemination of project findings continued at quarterly planning meetings during the last year, targeting: community stakeholders; MET CBNRM unit staff; and, other support service NGO's (IRDNC – Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation; and, NACOBTA – Namibia's Community Based Tourism Association). Dissemination with key partners, including the Regional Governor, senior traditional leaders, MET, SRT, IRDNC and NACOBTA, occurred at the annual Darwin Project Steering Committee meeting in December.

A Workshop hosted by the Project Officer, supported by the IUCN/SADC Regional Rhino Programme, in March 2004 allowed dissemination to a wide range of stakeholders. It was attended by 63 delegates and allowed all 12 conservancies bordering the Kunene rhino range, and traditional authorities in these areas, the first opportunity to meet under one roof to discuss biological management of black rhino in Kunene. Key Regional Government, MET, SRT and NGO partners also attended. This workshop was a major step forward towards the Darwin Project meeting its aims and objectives. This strengthens the exit strategy and further enhances dissemination networks prior to hosting of the final work. The proceedings are included in Annex 3.

Dissemination to private sector tourism partners occurred in February at Wilderness Safaris' annual conference held in Swakopmund, Namibia. This secured valuable support for studies of HID assessing the impacts of tourism on rhino, and the sustainability of setting up further rhino tracking ventures in Kunene to provide incentives to communities to co-exist with black rhino.

The dissemination networks enhanced to-date by the Project Officer will continue to function beyond the project period as they are institutionalised within MET (e.g the RTAG) and within the conservancy programme (the conservancy quarterly planning meetings). On completion of training in the UK the Namibian coordinators will be able to “plug-in” to these networks to continue to disseminate activities and results beyond the Darwin Project.

10.0 Project Expenditure

Table 2. Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)

Item	Budget	Expenditure
-------------	---------------	--------------------

Please note: agreement has been sought and given by the Darwin Secretariat to carry over this under-spend, which arises because the collaborators’ stipends still remain to be paid for the period April to September 2004, as they complete their MSc programme. The under-spend has partly been compensated for by an over-spend on tuition fees. This arose due to increases in the fees between submitting the proposal and the students starting their programme in September 2003, but the University’s request of the Darwin Secretariat to consider this issue has not been resolved.

11.0 Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

Training of field-staff follows protocols and guidelines set out by the AfRSG and forms part of a SADC Regional Programme to improve rhino monitoring. Training beyond this Darwin Project will be covered through a year long contract between the IUCN/SADC Rhino Programme and the MET, implemented by an SRT senior staff member acting as a consultant, Rudi Loutit. This will allow the monitoring programme of the SRT, and staff trained on-the-job by the Project Officer, to be evaluated and further enhanced beyond the Darwin Project.

Methodologies were set up in the first year using the input of DICE and MET scientists; and, IUCN/AfRSG protocols have been used for the collection of rhino data. Any refinements to these methodologies during dissemination of preliminary findings (e.g. the MET RTAG) received input from these specialists (e.g. MET Rhino coordinator, AfRSG scientists), ensuring monitoring and evaluation of the protocols used over the last year.

The University of Kent's finance department continues to provide rigorous accounting procedure for the project and activities have continued to be under the guidance of SRT, a registered Welfare Organisation (W.O 53) in Namibia.

12.0 Outstanding achievements

This project relies on the analysis of research data; and, training of field staff and Namibian coordinators, none of which will be completed until December 2004. Therefore, it would be premature to release findings of the research, or any of the outstanding achievements, at this stage in the project. Also, due to security concerns, the release of data on black rhino requires approval from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. MET endorsement of the project findings is essential, and early release of preliminary findings might jeopardise the outcome of this project.

ANNEX 1

Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year:

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress & Achievements April 2003-Mar 2004	Actions required/ planned for next period
<p>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation of biological diversity, • The sustainable use of its components, and • The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
<p>Purpose: The development of a MET and community-driven programme that contributes to improving livelihoods and conservation in the region Secure protection of mega fauna and optimise black rhino growth rates in line with metapopulation goals of the national population of black rhino.</p>	<p>An increase in wildlife numbers in the project area</p> <p>Increased benefits to communities to enrich livelihoods</p> <p>Land use plans that make provision for black rhino</p>	<p>Stakeholder workshop in March '04 achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informed stakeholders; • allowed community input to rhino management; • reached consensus on broad management needs; and, • provided the necessary platform for this project's outcome to have the desired impact 	<p>Involvement in the game count in June to assess wildlife trends</p> <p>Surveys of community on attitudes to reintroduction of rhino in the former range</p> <p>Dovetail activities of this project with the newly registered conservancies' management plan drafting process</p> <p>Final workshop to develop options to: maximise rhino growth; and, create incentive for communities to co-exist with black rhino</p>
<p>Outputs: A sustainable monitoring programme for the black rhino co-ordinated and run by Namibian staff</p>	<p>Established monitoring teams operating in the area</p> <p>Ongoing growth of the black rhino population</p>	<p>Project Officer's input to the national accredited training programme</p> <p>In May the Project Officer completed co-ordinating the 5 yearly census of black rhino</p> <p>Monthly planning and programming of patrol teams by the Project Officer</p>	<p>Analysis of data collected during the this Darwin Project</p> <p>Training of field-staff with the accredited National Programme</p> <p>Finalise training of MET & SRT co-ordinators, to allow a clear exit strategy</p>
<p>Capacity to make informed decisions regarding development of tourism and management of black rhino</p>	<p>Improved monitoring programme for black rhino</p>	<p>Training of co-ordinators at DICE is ongoing</p>	<p>10 weeks Fieldwork and analysis in the UK, until September 15, for the co-ordinator's dissertation studies, in partial fulfilment of MSc training.</p>
<p>A better understanding of rhino conservation factors within the region</p>	<p>Appropriate development of tourism enterprises that minimise the disturbance to black rhino</p>	<p>The Palmwag Rhino Camp opened in April '03.</p> <p>Developed rhino viewing protocols with Wilderness Safaris and SRT staff at camp to minimise disturbance</p>	<p>Data collected on: visitor satisfaction and HID at Rhino Camp; ecological data; and, rhino demographic data will be analysed.</p> <p>Studies of the market for rhino viewing will explore the sustainability of using this as an incentive for communities to co-exist with black rhino</p>

ANNEX 2

A Pilot Survey of Attitudes towards Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) in Sanitatas and Torra Conservancies, Kunene Region, Namibia

By:
Alexis Hollinger, Linky le Roux, and Michelle Maley
Round River Conservation Studies

&
Michael Hearn
DICE/Save the Rhino Trust
PO Box 2159
Swakopmund
Namibia

December 2003

Equipment Supplied by:



SAVE THE RHINO TRUST

Additional Support from:
The US Fish and Wildlife Service – Rhinoceros and Tiger Fund
The Peoples Trust for Endangered Species
&



ANNEX 3

Stakeholder Workshop on Biological Management Options for the Kunene Black Rhino

**Palmwag Lodge, Kunene Region
3 - 4 March 2004**

WORKSHOP REPORT

**By:
Michael Hearn & Bertus Kruger**