

REVISION OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE BLACK RHINO & MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE WHITE RHINO'S IN KENYA (2007-2011)



Eastern Sub species of the Black Rhino - Diceros bicornis michaeli

Kenya Wildlife Service held a three-day rhino technical experts workshop at Izaak Walton Inn – Embu to revise and update the **Conservation and Management Strategy for the Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*)**

& Management Guidelines for the White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) in Kenya (2007-2011). The deliberations of the workshop held from June 27 to 29, 2011 will guide the conservation of the black rhino and white rhinos in Kenya for the next five years.

Since the presidential decree in 1985, to establish a rhino conservation programme after a massive poaching crisis, Kenya has become a major player in Africa with the 3rd largest black rhino population after South Africa and Namibia. Kenya has over 600 animals and growing at over 6 % per annum. This has been the result of dedicated effort from wildlife department employees, private landholders, communities, county councils and their local and international partners. This effort must continue as the numbers remain relatively low and the species remains critically endangered. Kenya also holds a population of 365 southern white rhino's, both a contribution to the conservation of this species globally but perhaps more important as a possible reservoir of white rhino for Northern Africa, given the likely extinction of the Northern sub-species. Four (4) Northern white rhino were introduced in Ol Pejeta Conservancy in 2009 with an aim of breeding them and latter reintroduce them back to the former ranges in Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan.

Conservation and Management Strategy for the Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) & Management Guidelines for the White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) in Kenya

During the next few years, Kenya will move into a new phase of conservation of black rhino's. This fourth edition of the 5 year Conservation and Management Strategy for Black Rhino in Kenya, retains the vision of conserving in-situ at least 2000 black rhinos as outlined in the 2007 -2011 management plan and conservation strategy. It will however include revised goals and strategic objectives aimed towards increasing black rhino numbers considering the enormous challenges facing rhino conservation in Kenya and other rhino ranges in the world. We have draft

policy guidelines on exotics and donation of wildlife species in Kenya which are on the process of being finalised. Management Guidelines for the White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) in Kenya will be guided by these policy guidelines among other management aspects specific to the Southern and Northern white rhinos as outlined in the management guidelines.

Vision

2000 Eastern Black rhinos (*D. b. michaeli*) conserved in natural habitat in Kenya

Mission

To establish and maintain a viable population of black rhinos in their natural habitat in collaboration with stakeholders

Overall Goal

Black rhino numbers projected to increase by at least 5% per annum with poaching eliminated and additional areas secured for population expansion to reach a confirmed total of 800 rhinos by end of 2016.

To achieve this, the strategy will be to enhance rapid population growth of the current black rhino population in Kenya mainly through emphasis on a combination of biological management and law enforcement that formed the basis of the 1993, 2001, 2007 plans in addition to communication, advocacy and wider engagement.

Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective 1: Eliminate Illegal Killing of Rhinos and Illegal Trade of Rhino Products

- To have specific focus on major threats to rhinos
- Links closely with SO *“Raise awareness and gain public support at local, national and international levels towards rhino conservation and management”* to advocate for appropriate law and public support

Strategic Objective 2: Monitoring for Management

- Maintain a standardised monitoring and reporting protocol to provide information for efficient protection, meta-population management and programme implementation

Strategic Objective 3: Biological Management

Achieve and maintain a 6% per annum growth rate in well established sanctuaries and a minimum of 5% pa at national level (total 800 animals by 2016)

Strategic Objective 4: Population Expansion

Secure new areas and make policy interventions for rhino population expansion

Strategic Objective 5: Raise Awareness and Gain Public Support (Local, National and International) towards Rhino Conservation and Management.

- To communicate the Strategy to a wide range of stakeholders (using appropriate approaches)
- To gain public support for rhino conservation at the local, national, regional and international levels
- To secure sufficient resources for strategy implementation
- Dissemination of progress/results of strategy implementation to motivate and inspire
- To strengthen and promote Public, Community and Private partnerships and initiatives/projects linked to rhinos

Strategic Objective 6: Implement a Coordination Framework and Enhance Capacity for Effective Strategy (Strategic Plan) Implementation.

- To ensure efficient and effective implementation of the strategic plan for the Conservation & Management of Kenya's rhinos

- To ensure continuous review and up-dating of the strategic plan
- To ensure involvement of all primary stakeholders in rhino conservation
- To ensure sufficient and appropriate resources are identified and made available for effective implementation (human, financial, technical, equipment etc.)
- To promote collaboration and sharing/pooling of resources (human, financial, technical, equipment etc.)
- To promote and ensure good communication amongst primary stakeholders in rhino