

municipal authorities. The Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya is run by the local Narok and Trans Mara county councils, and in Tanzania the Ngorongoro Area Authority manages Ngorongoro and the surrounding area. South Africa also has seven small, municipally owned and run parks that have a few white rhinos.

In 1999 such municipal and county council local-area authority parks held 39 white rhinos and 42 black rhinos, accounting for about 0.6% of Africa's rhinos. All such black rhinos are of the eastern subspecies; they make up 8.6% of this subspecies in the wild.

Table 3 gives a breakdown by management ownership model of the number of rated populations.

Table 3. Number of *Key* and *Important* African rhinoceros populations by management model in 2001

Management model	Black rhinos			White rhinos		Rated populations	
	Key 1	Key 2	Imp	Key 1	Key 2	Imp	Key & Imp
Communal	1					1	2
Other (Defence/Zoo NRs) <sup>a</sup>							0
Municipal & country council			1				1
Privately owned			1		4	27	32
Private custodianship		4	5				9
State <sup>b</sup>	4	7	12	4	5	15	47
State and private <sup>c</sup>				1			1
State-owned, privately run						1	1
Total	5	11	19	5	9	44	93

<sup>a</sup> Defence/Zoo NRs refer to populations of rhino conserved on Defence Force conservation land or in nature reserves run by zoos.

<sup>b</sup> See also table 2 notes a and b.

<sup>c</sup> Kruger National Park and three adjoining private reserves form one large, contiguous conservation area of 21,413 km<sup>2</sup>. While the majority of white rhinos occur in the national park area, a further 285 are on adjoining private land.

## Progress in developing a Scene of the Crime training course

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Significant progress has been made in the project of developing a Scene of the Crime training course, which is being funded by the SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation. Rod Potter had completed the full series of lecture notes and the project leader had reviewed them by the end of September. The lecture notes are currently being converted into the course handbook by

- adding sections to each chapter outlining the skills the trainees should have by the end of the chapter
- including course exercises and adding space for

the trainees to write up the exercises and add examples from class

- outlining how participants will be assessed on each course chapter and specifying how many marks the exercises in each chapter will count towards the final course mark (some chapters count for more than others).

The course handbook is on schedule to be completed by the next SADC rhino programme consortium meeting on 29 October.

An updated list of the countries and organizations

requesting this training was compiled at the recent September 2002 Rhino and Elephant Security Group of a southern Africa meeting held at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The basic structure of the course modules was outlined at the meeting, and delegates once

again expressed strong interest in this course. When funding for the SADC rhino programme resumes, it is hoped Scene of the Crime training courses can be held in the different range states.

## RESG holds two more meetings

*Richard H. Emslie*

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The resuscitated Rhino and Elephant Security Group of southern Africa (RESG) has held two meetings since the Windhoek meeting reported in *Pachyderm* 31. To save costs, RESG meetings have been designed to dovetail with the meetings of Interpol's Environmental Crime Task Group.

The 11th meeting of the RESG was held on 11 April 2002 in Pilanesberg National Park, South Africa. In addition to reviewing the revised terms of reference, this meeting determined requirements for software and training needs of each conservation agency. Demand for the Law database and training in its use and for Scene of the Crime training courses was high. A list of members with specific skills was drawn up.

The 12th meeting of RESG was held on 19 and 20 September 2002 at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. After the usual country and organizational reports, the meeting was addressed by the Zimbabwean minister of Environment and Tourism, Honourable Minister Cde Francis Nhema.

A representative of the Zimbabwean attorney-general's office gave an informative presentation on scene of the crime management and the expected chain of evidence required in environmental crime

cases. What was said echoed what is being included in the handbook for the SADC Scene of the Crime training course, which is being developed by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Rod Potter (see preceding note).

The meeting was informed of recent progress in analysing horn fingerprinting data, and a number of discussions were held on the use and value of transponders and transponder databases. Once again, RESG reiterated its support for using only Trovan or Destron transponders in the interests of standardization.

Delegates went through RESG terms of reference to make sure the objectives were being addressed, and they listed activities being undertaken. As part of this process, a number of initiatives were identified that needed funding, and the RESG chair, Lovemore Mungwashu, and AfRSG's Richard Emslie were given the task of submitting funding proposals to appropriate bodies.

In addition, the meeting decided that it would be desirable for future country and organizational reports to follow a more standard format, and in so doing help achieve the listed objectives of the group.