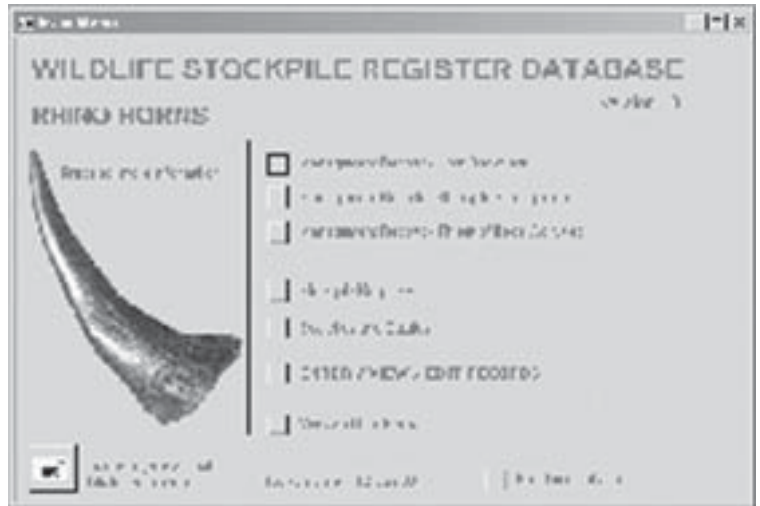- Which species are the horns coming from and what are horn measurements?

Stockpile administration, checks and balances:
- Are all the horns from discovered natural mortalities actually being stockpiled?
- Are all the horns seized by law enforcement agencies being stockpiled?
- Are both horns being collected when possible?
- Are all the horns being marked and identified adequately and where are they stored?
- Is there an effective registration process and does it meet audit requirements?
- Is there a record of horns removed from the stockpile?

Results-based field monitoring:
- Are mortalities being detected fast enough?
- What level of understanding do we have of rhino mortality causal factors?
- Are field patrols collecting acceptable levels of horn?
- Are all the horns collected being stockpiled in a timely manner?
- What is the law enforcement success rate through recovery of illegally sourced horns?

The Wildlife Stockpile Register Database main menu.

TRAFFIC is the world's largest wildlife trade monitoring programme, a joint programme of WWF, the World Wide Fund for Nature, and IUCN, the World Conservation Union, working in close cooperation with the secretariat of CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. TRAFFIC has over 25 years of experience working on rhino horn and elephant ivory trade issues including over 10 years of focusing on stockpile management. Interested range states should contact TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa at traffictz@raha.com regarding the software and to obtain assistance to strengthen stockpile management practices.

AfRSG's training course in rhino monitoring revised and training courses for instructors held

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The AfRSG's revised Sandwith training course for field rangers in rhino monitoring techniques has recently been revised by Keryn Adcock and Richard Emslie with primary funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund (USF&W RTCF), and some additional funding from the Italian-funded SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation (SADC RPRC).

The trainer's manual has also been extensively revised and desktop published and is now produced in .pdf format, greatly cutting down file sizes. The structure of the modules has been modified, so that with little modification the course can be made a South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) accredited course. At the start of each module a number of text boxes outline 1) the rationale behind the module,

Trainee rhino monitoring instructor prepare training modules for presentation, Nakuru, Kenya.

field rangers, and 2) because, like the Scene of the Crime course, trainees get a second chance to pass a test if they fail it the first time round. In practice those who easily passed most modules clearly were the 'right stuff' to be good instructors, those that were borderline appeared to be borderline instructors, and the few who were a little off the pace clearly needed to improve before they could become instructors. However, those who did not manage to become accredited as instructors first time round still greatly improve their ability to monitor rhino. Thus the pass mark to become accredited as instructors seems to have been set at the right level.

2) its purpose, 3) the learning assumptions (what you need to know or be able to do before doing the module), 4) the specific outcomes (what a person assessed as competent in the module must be able to know or do after training), 5) the assessment criteria (how trainees can be tested to determine if they have mastered each of the listed specific outcomes) and 6) the performance criteria (what it means to have passed or failed the assessment tests for this module—some modules being compulsory for one to become accredited). Rather than binding the whole trainer's manual as one document as before, the modules are now filed as stand-alone documents separated by dividers in a lever-arch file. This and the .pdf file format make it easy for new modules to be emailed, printed out and inserted to replace old modules.

Another feature of the revised course is that for the first time accreditation tests have been developed for instructors. In the two training-of-trainers courses held to date with the revised course (in Pilanesberg, South Africa, and Nakuru, Kenya), the pass mark for each module has been set at 80%. This may seem high, but this was because 1) those being tested were trainers and therefore the standard set should be higher than that for

Apart from ensuring that trainees work on the course, one main advantage of the accreditation tests is that it enables course instructors to determine who has not yet mastered what. Follow-up instruction can then, on a one-to-one basis, focus specifically on where a particular trainee needs assistance. The process of accrediting instructors not only helps maintain monitoring standards, but it also provides a mechanism to assist field officers decide which field rangers' data are likely to be accurate and reliable and therefore can be used in subse

Reviewing the finer points of assessing black rhino condition, Nakuru, Kenya.

quent data analyses that inform biological management decision-making. Importantly, this process also provides a way to more formally recognize the skills of field rangers that might otherwise go unnoticed, and in this way it helps boost morale.

The A3-size poster sets for the course have been revised, and many more example photographs have been included for trainees to practise on. The AfRSG is particularly grateful to Derek Brown and Kirsten Bond for kindly providing many of their digital rhino photographs for use in the course. Additional new posters on ageing and condition assessment have been added, as well as a poster showing the importance of rhino monitoring and the role of monitoring in biological management. This poster shows why data quality in monitoring is critical by showing the link between the results of monitoring and making decisions on the management actions required to keep populations healthy and productive. The 60 posters have now been printed back to back and can be more conveniently stored in correct order in an A3 lever-arch file.

Another new feature of the revised course is that an A5-size trainees' booklet has been produced. This summarizes key lessons from the course and includes key posters such as the ageing series and condition assessment charts. The booklet, to be given to all field rangers who are being trained using the course, will provide them with a summary of key components that they can consult later. It has been designed to be relatively cheap to produce. The initial version was produced in English. More recently a revised Swahili version has been produced as part of the new UK Darwin Initiative black rhino project in Kenya. At the June 2003 SADC Rhino Management Group (RMG) meeting in Namibia requests were received for the new trainees' booklet to be produced in other local languages including Afrikaans, Damara-Nama, Matabele, Otjiherero, Ovambo, Portuguese, Shona, Swazi and Tswana. Some RMG members have offered to assist with translations.

For the first time sets of small laminated pocket cards have been produced as a field aid to assist rangers correctly age and assess the condition of a black rhino. These cards have been designed to be handed out to all field rangers taking the course. The new pocket cards have been well received. They are weatherproof and easily fit into a shirt pocket. The four double-sided making up a set are bunched together using a small key ring. One card shows the AfRSG-recommended A–F ageing series and how to more accurately age animals less than one year old, based on horn growth patterns. The other cards show the key body areas to look at when assessing black rhino body condition, with pictures illustrating each of the 5 standardized AfRSG condition scores from 1 to 5 and using the standardized scoring system AfRSG recommends for assessing condition. Apart from assisting rangers in the field, these cards should further contribute to standardizing ageing and condition assessments. Rusty Hustler of the North-West Parks and Tourism Board plans to produce a similar set of cards for the white rhino in the near future.

As part of the revised course, small booklets of field recording forms, each booklet containing 10 rhino ID forms, have been mass produced for distri-

Presenting a training module to a volunteer audience, Nakuru, Kenya.

bution with the course. Separate booklets have been produced for black rhinos and for white rhinos.

The first instructor's course using the revised course was held at Pilanesberg National Park in South Africa's North-West Province in early July 2003 with funding from USF&W RTCF and SADC RPRC. Course compilers Keryn Adcock and Richard Emslie together with North-West's Rusty Hustler and Gus van Dyk co-presented the course, in which 19 participants were accredited as trainers. Those attending came from Bostwana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa (Ezemvelo-KZN Wildlife, SANParks, North-West Parks and Tourism Board, and Tswalu, a private rhino reserve), Tanzania (Wildlife Division) and Zambia. Encouragingly a number of those trained on the course have already started training field rangers back on site.

The second training-of-trainers course was held in Nakuru, Kenya, as part of a newly started, UK-funded Darwin Initiative Project, called 'Building capacity for the conservation of a Critically Endangered species', being undertaken in collaboration with the rhino programme of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). Course participants came from each of the KWS rhino reserves, the Masai Mara reserve, a community-run group ranch, and a number of the main private custodianship populations. The course was presented by Darwin Fellows, AfRSG's Richard Emslie and Keryn Adcock, and the Zoological Society of London's Dr Raj Amin. The Kenyan rhino co-ordinator, Martin Mulama, also helped organize the course and assisted with the examinations, and 18 of those who attended this course were accredited.

A great number of course sets are being produced compared with previous editions. Once minor changes have been made to the course modules in the light of lessons learned from the two courses given to date, more ID sets will shortly be distributed throughout the continent to those who need course sets. If you wish to receive training as a trainer or if you would like to receive a course set, please write to me, providing details of your reserve and your motivation to take the course. Also, if you have sets but require more ID field recording form booklets, trainees' booklets or pocket card sets, please contact me. If you want trainees' booklets produced in a local language, you will be asked to provide translations of the English text.

Finally the compilers of the revised course would like to thank experienced trainers Rob Blok, Craig Reid, Rusty Hustler and Raj Amin for their very valuable comments and suggestions on improving the course.

Rhino and Elephant Security Group update

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Since the last report in *Pachyderm* 33, the Southern African Rhino and Elephant Security Group (RESG) has continued being active, holding further meetings at the Garden House Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia (July 2003), and at the Phillip Sanders Resort of the Free State's Department of Tourism, Economic and Environmental Affairs, near Bloemfontein, South Africa (October 2003). As usual the RESG meetings were held back to back with subregional meetings of Interpol's Environmental Crime Task Group.

In both RESG meetings delegates presented country and agency reports. The RESG terms of reference were reviewed at the Lusaka meeting and, subject to a few minor modifications, were adopted. A number of invited presentations were given at the Bloemfontein meeting.

On behalf of programmer Rose Hamilton, Richard Emslie gave a presentation to illustrate the features of the Law/Information Database. This database has recently been completed with additional joint funding from Ezemvelo-KZN Wildlife and the Italian-funded SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation (SADC RPRC). The software is currently undergoing final field testing and debugging before being released. With SADC RPRC funding and the kind permission of Ezemvelo-KZN Wildlife, the database is to be installed in a number of conservation agencies throughout the region. From January 2004, RESG secretary Samantha Watts will train staff in its use. Agencies who wanted training completed letters of intent at the RESG meeting. Some outstanding questionnaires detailing their hardware and soft