

Sindisa Foundation

Innovative Conservation

Short Term Funding

Rhino Anti-Poaching Unit

Save Valley Conservancy

Zimbabwe

Private and Confidential

November 2008

Rhino Anti-Poaching Unit
Save Valley Conservancy

The Save Valley Conservancy (SVC) has lost, through armed poaching, more than 30% of its female rhino breeding stock in the last 5 years. Eighty percent (80%) of those animals have been lost in the last two years with the greater proportion being killed by poachers this year. The rate of killing, within the SVC and in the southern African region, continues to grow. Every rhino population is at risk.

The Conservancy finds itself seriously constrained in its efforts to control the poaching. Much of the poaching has occurred on and immediately peripheral to areas within the Conservancy that have been occupied illegally during the land resettlement process. The Conservancy is unable to patrol these properties with its own personnel. The only means by which these areas can be effectively patrolled is by partnering with the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (NPAWMA). Recent discussions with local commanders have indicated a renewed commitment to assist in the war against rhino poachers. They, however, have few resources.

In addition, given the extent of the poaching threat that is being dealt with in the remainder of the Conservancy, the SVC does not have the resources to extend its operations into the occupied areas. However, the SVC realizes that under current circumstances there is an urgent need to upgrade and expand its existing anti-poaching forces and activity. This will be done, firstly, by re-training and re-equipping existing forces. Secondly, there is an opportunity, and a critical need, to capitalise on the Government agency interest and support with an immediate and concentrated reaction to the onslaught.

The Conservancy, therefore, proposes to establish a new “Rhino Anti-Poaching Unit” in conjunction with the ZRP and PAWMA using personnel from all three units. The Unit will maintain a number of clandestine, strategic observation points at key locations and will have immediate reaction forces stationed within the affected areas. Furthermore, continuous foot patrols will be conducted with PAWMA and ZRP personnel to monitor each rhino and react to threats. While the priority requirement is to protect the remaining rhino on the ground, the ultimate intention is to apprehend, prosecute and remove the poachers and those directing the whole business.

The Conservancy has collected a considerable body of information about the poaching, the individuals involved on the ground and the links to distribution lines. This information needs to be collated and integrated into the database of the Lowveld Rhino Trust – the local rhino conservation coordinating agency - for distribution to local, regional and international conservation and law enforcement agencies.

Rhino are one of the worlds most threatened species and the south eastern Lowveld currently holds 70% of the Zimbabwe population. The current onslaught has the potential to eliminate both black and white rhino from the area and set both rhino and general wildlife conservation efforts in the area on an irreversible downward slide. Every success the poachers have, gives them and others the impetus and confidence to continue to kill.

The Save Valley Conservancy and its partners, the Zimbabwe Republic Police and the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority desperately need help to contain the deteriorating situation by implementing the measures outlined above. An outline of the costs involved in implementing the proposal is given below.

Clive Stockil
Chairman, Save Valley Conservancy
Email : clives@senuko.com

The Issue

Africa must conserve its share of the world's wildlife heritage and, despite the political situation, Zimbabwe is a key part of that and needs to play its role. It is up to us to find a way of doing so now. Once the politics changes it may well be too late. All those on the ground who are enduring the dangers and hardships of operating under the current order deserve our help. The Sindisa Foundation, with the Save Valley Conservancy, is trying to find a way to do that by raising the funds and controlling their application to the problem. We need to counteract the threat **now**.

David Peddie

Sindisa Foundation

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For further information please contact Clive Stockil or David Peddie

Contributions

Contributions in any form – financial or material – will be effectively applied to the task at hand. The channels we use to apply donor contributions ensure that they are protected from political interception and transparency is ensured by our UK Charity Commission registration (No 1110494).

Direct

Jenny Worrall

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Bank : CAF Bank
Branch : West Malling
Branch Code : 40-52-40
Account Name : Sindisa Foundation
Account Number : 00013624

Please indicate "Save Valley Conservancy Rhino Anti-Poaching Fund" with any contribution

Gift Aid forms are available on www.sindisafoundation.org.uk

Online

Please use our secure site managed by Just Giving. Your donation and Gift Aid will be forwarded directly to the Sindisa Foundation CAF Bank account.

www.justgiving.com/sindisa

www.justgiving.com/saverhino

Rhino Anti-Poaching Unit

Budget

Set-Up Cost

Item	Unit Cost US\$	No	Cost US\$	Comments
Scout equipment	25.00	20	500.00	Uniforms, webbing, packs, bags
Camping equipment	400.00	1	400.00	OP - tarpaulins, water cans
Radios	500.00	6	3000.00	Motorola hand-held
Binoculars	100.00	6	600.00	OPs and patrol groups
Total Set-up Cost			4500.00	

Operating Cost

Item	Unit Cost US\$	No per Month	Cost per Month US\$	Comments
Scout wages	50.00	12	600.00	Excluding ZRP and PAWMA
Rations	25.00	20	500.00	Monthly packs
Vehicle (km)	0.50	4000	2000.00	Patrols and re-supply
Aircraft (hrs)	100.00	10	1000.00	Surveillance
Data collation (days)	100.00	2	200.00	Legal and field
Informant rewards	250.00	4	1000.00	Paid on conviction
Total monthly cost			5300.00	
Four Month Operation			21200.00	

