Co-Chairs
Michael Knight (1)
Benson Okita (2)

Red List Authority Coordinator
Richard Emslie (3)

Location/Affiliation
(1) Park Planning & Development, South African National Parks, South Africa
(2) Save the Elephants Organisation, Kenya
(3) IUCN, Gland, Switzerland

Number of members
50

Mission statement
To promote the development and long-term maintenance of viable populations of the various sub-species of African rhinos in the wild.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life
- Red List
  i. Regional assessment and Red List of White and Black Rhinos (South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho). (KSR #1)

Capacity building
- Capacity building
  i. First meeting of the East African Rhino Management Group. (KSR #18)
- Scientific meetings
  i. Chair the 20th Southern African Development Community Rhino Management Group Meeting. (KSR #28)

Technical advice
- Paper at International RhODIS workshop on international cooperation in sharing DNA forensic information. (KSR #27)
- Provided advice on proposals submitted for IUCN TRAFFIC analyses. (KSR #26)
- Provided advice at CITES Standing Committee Meeting 69. (KSR #26)
- Positive inputs to supporting documents, interjections and review of submissions at CITES COP17. (KSR #26)
- Presentation to the provincial and national security cluster on priority crimes in South Africa. (KSR #43)
- Comments on Tipping Point – Transnational Organised Crime and the “War on Poaching”. (KSR #43)

Conservation action
- Conservation activities
  i. African Rhino Range State Conservation Plan accepted by all African range states. (KSR #15)
  ii. Development of the Rhino Conservation implementation plans. (KSR #15)
  iii. Rhino Impact Investment Project: sites for impact investment gone through initial selection. (KSR #27)
- Kenyan national strategy for Black Rhino conservation revised. (KSR #20)
- Participated in IUCN Species Conservation Planning Group workshop. (KSR #15)
- Report delivered on possible translocation of White Rhinos to Viet Nam. (KSR #24)

Research activities
- Co-authors of a paper on trophy hunting. (KSR #32)
- Plenary paper at a Wildlife Veterinary Congress.

Communications
- Provided document to CITES Secretariat on the status of African rhinos for CoP17. (KSR #26)
- Reports in Pachiderm journal. (KSR #28)
- Response to queries from media and students improving understanding of rhino conservation issues.
- Expert opinion on a number of scientific research papers.

Documents review
- Expert opinion on a number of scientific research papers.
Acknowledgements

The AfRSG thanks the African Rhino Range States for their continued cooperation. Also the AfRSG would like to thank Save the Rhino International, International Rhino Foundation, WWF Netherlands via WWF ARP and WWF South Africa, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS RTC), Endangered Wildlife Trust, Peace Parks Foundation, African Wildlife Foundation, SANParks, UK’s DEFRA, and Save the Elephants who have supported meetings, the Scientific Officer, Chair and Co-Chair in various ways.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) review of South Africa Biodiversity Management Plan for Black Rhinos; (2) engage in Rhino Impact Investment Project (RIIP).
Proposal development and funding: (1) submit donor applications; (2) complete donors’ reports. Synergy: establish new management partner for AfRSG.
Technical advice: (1) reviewing hunting applications; (2) engage with ex situ (EAZA, TAG, etc.) conservation; (3) providing expert advice to range states and conservation authorities; (4) expert advice to MyPlanet fund.

Increasing diversity of SSC

Membership: Diversify AfRSG.

Policy

Technical advice: Participate on RhODIS advisory board.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

The AfRSG envisions a state in which all African Range States are closely cooperating on the delivery of the African Rhino Range State Conservation Plan drafted in 2016, greater cooperation between East African rhino range states in implementation of a regional meta-population management of the species, the expansion of the rhino range states through the inclusion of Chad, successful implementation and acceptance of impact investment as a model for sustainable financing of protected areas, greater inter- and intra-government engagement in positively addressing rhino poaching, where DNA forensics plays an increasing international role in combating international wildlife trade of rhino horn.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 5/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
- Capacity building (4 activities)
- Communications (11 activities)
- Conservation action (18 activities)
- Increasing diversity of SSC (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 18, 20, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 43