

Savé Valley Conservancy

Rhino Poaching

2011



Brief History countrywide



- Zimbabwe 1988 – 1 700 Black & White Rhino
- Zimbabwe 1993 – rhino population poached down to 370
- Zimbabwe Government approved custodianship of rhino to SVC 1995
- Zimbabwe's Rhino population stands at

705 animals only

Rhino custodianship

Rhino are a National Asset under private custodianship and at substantial cost to the Save Valley Conservancy Members

Rhino History SVC:

- By 1995: 31 Black and 6 White rhino were introduced
- 2004/5: introduced another 20 white rhino
- By 2006: the population had increased to 124 Black and 32 White rhino, a total 156 rhino
- Since 2000 some 82 rhino where poached in the SVC alone. Compared to natural death of 12 animals.
- 2011: SVC today has 149 rhino remaining.
- Poaching now exceeds reproduction rate.

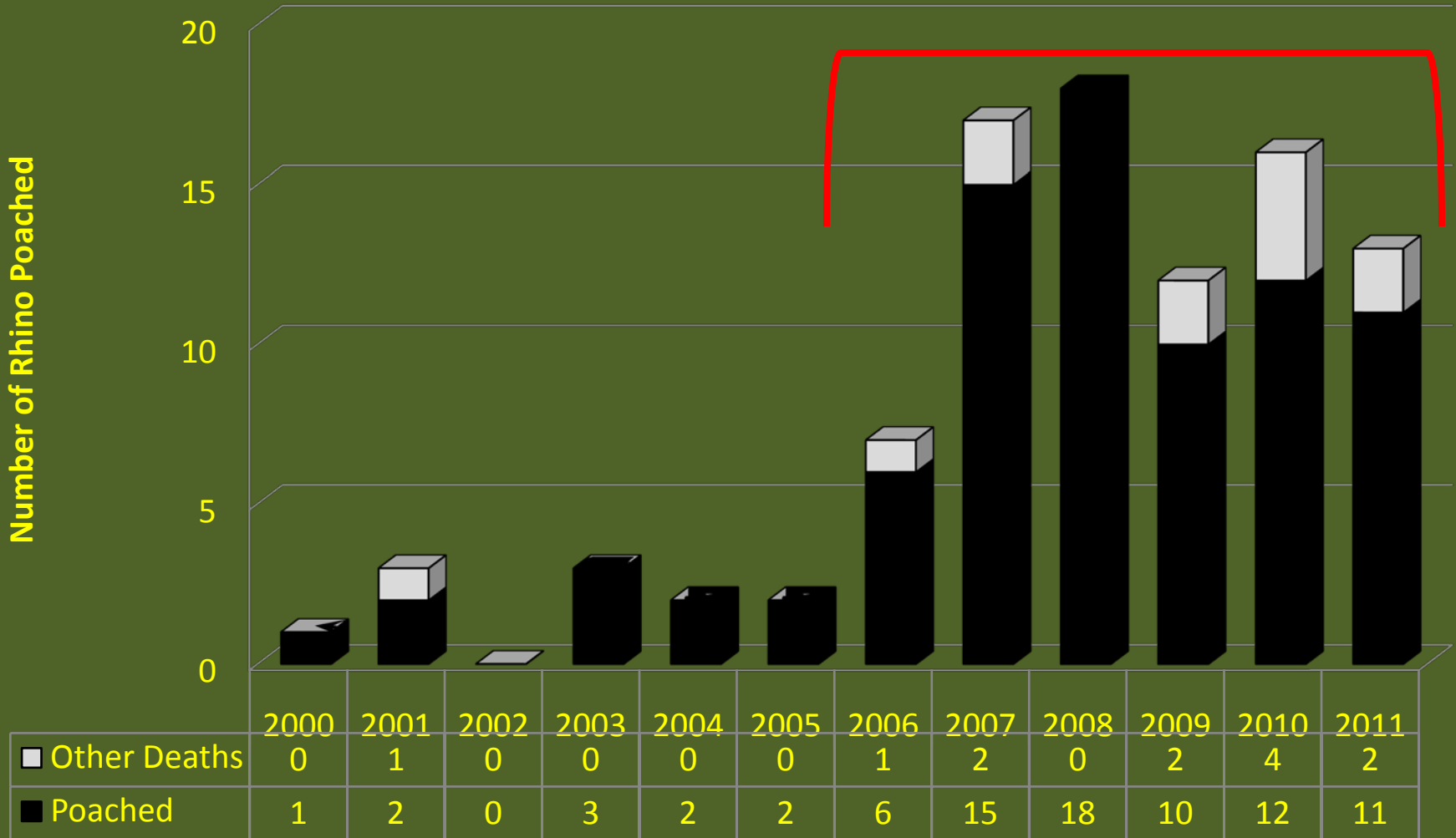


POACHING

AN INTERNATIONAL TRAGEDY
The Save Valley Situation



Statistics on Rhino Poached in SVC



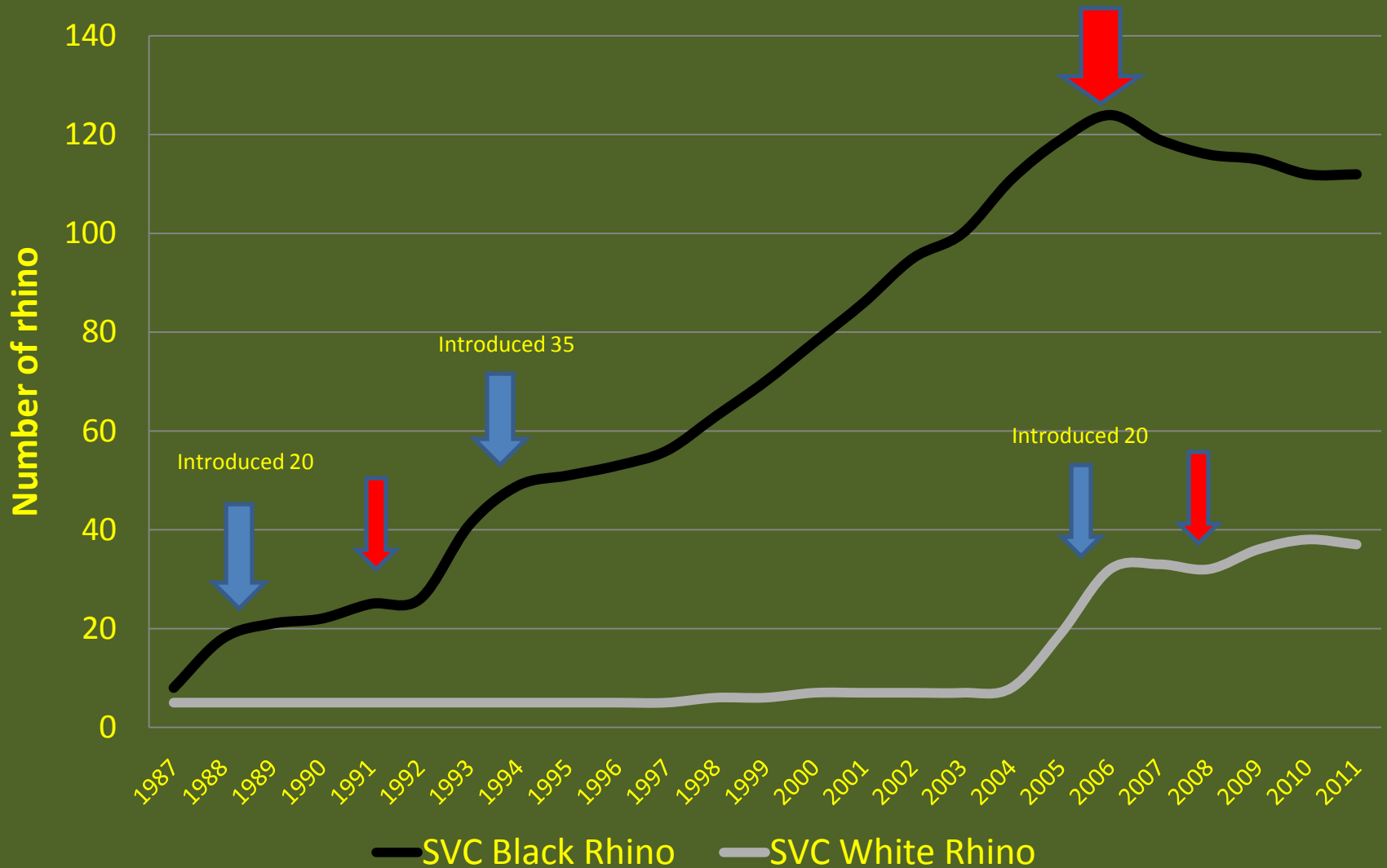
Total of 82 rhino poached since 2000

Rhino Poaching Statistics 2010 & 2011 only

- Number of attempts to kill rhino - 29
- Number of rhino killed - 23
- Number of rhino poachers arrested – 20
- Number of rhino poachers convicted – 9 (45%) (4 poachers pending trial)
- No middle men or syndicate organisers have been arrested



Rhino Population Growth Curve



Causes for Rhino Poaching within the SVC

- Poverty
 - Failed Zimbabwean Economy
- Greed
- Political Instability
 - Lack of political will for law enforcement
- Land Reform Policies
 - 30% of SVC settled where rhino occur
 - Region V – poor agricultural yields fostering poaching
 - Increasing poverty
- Asian Market Demand

CURRENT ANTI-POACHING MEASURES WITHIN SVC

- SVC Anti-poaching Unit
 - Reaction unit established
- Lowveld Rhino Trust
 - Monitoring unit
- Individual SVC Members
 - Supporting the above

Save Valley Anti-Poaching Unit



SVC Anti-poaching Unit

- Current Situation:
 - Formed November 2010 and Operational March 2011
 - Total Manpower of 17 men
 - Annual Cost of U\$ 140 000
 - Currently upgrading weaponry from shotguns to rifles to counter poachers using automatic weapons
 - Additional tracking and search tactics taught to scouts



Lowveld Rhino Trust

Monitoring Role

- Daily Rhino Monitoring Teams – 12 men
- Tracking, De-horning and Notching Operations
- Treatment and Movement of injured animals and animals at risk



SVC Members

Supportive Role

- Game scouts – 200 men
 - Daily monitoring and patrolling of the SVC
 - Annual cost U\$ 677 000-00

For Anti-Poaching Efforts to be affective

- The following priorities need to be addressed:
 - Identification of body responsible for processing Intelligence
 - Investigtion into the funding sources behind poachers.
 - Identification of those aiding and abetting poachers
 - Investigate source of firearms used by poachers
 - Investigate smuggling routes

Challenges within

- Corruption
 - Corrupt officials within the law and conservation agencies
- Poor Resources in Government Agencies
 - Lack of resources, skill and political will
- Lack of awareness of the magnitude of the problem, its effects on Tourism & Conservation



Support & Equipment needed



- Aircraft - SVC extensive area 3400km²
- Secure radio communications
- Funding for Rhino Anti-Poaching Unit
- Turning Government agencies responsibilities into actions

Immediate Solutions:

- Joint Approach
 - Government agencies and Private sector liaison
 - Indemnity for scouts, Information sharing, Joint operations
- Effective law enforcement
 - Professional investigations by police and National Parks
 - Judiciary to hand down deterrent sentences as allowed by the law
- Government commitment to
 - Strong Political recognition of the challenges and resolve
 - Education as per LRT program approved by Ministry of Education (police, magistrates, prosecutors, schools & communities)

Solutions involving our neighbours:

- Present Community / RDC involvement:
 - Expansion of existing Community involvement:
 - SVC Trust owns the progeny from 20 introduced rhino
 - SVC Trust members have benefited from the € 2,2 mio EU / Parcel irrigation project
 - Bikita RDC received Umkondo JV project arranged by SVC
 - Nyamgambe Wildlife project incorporated in the SVC
 - Further 70,000 ha for community participation / inclusion in to the SVC
 - With Political and Financial Support above projects can be significantly expanded.

WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!



Jenny
December 2005



Jenny
September 2009