

Project Update: November 2014

Due to poor security, the upsurge of snare poaching and thus the need to enhance monitoring effectiveness, a new capture operation was mounted in October 2014 with the aim of fitting transmitters on two yet untagged black rhinos in Liwonde National Park. The 13.5 year old cow and her 33 month old female offspring had evaded our immobiliser dart several times in the recent past. The peak of the dry season with its vegetation minima and good visibility lent conducive conditions to conduct the capture. We managed to dart and treat the two rhinos in 2 days. The campaign lasted for a mere 3 days and involved national parks trackers, a dart gun operator, a veterinarian and my research team. During anaesthesia all indicators were monitored and DNA samples were also taken. The implanted VHF horn devices will help us to locate these two elusive individuals much easier during the forthcoming rainy season.



Left: Amanda and darted juvenile. Right: Pumping legs of darted female.



Left: Removing horn piece for drilling. Middle: Shifting female. Right: Successful team