



Species Survival Network

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Southern white rhino <i>Ceratotherium simum simium</i>	Near threatened	CITES App. I (South Africa/Swaziland populations App. II)
Northern white rhino <i>Ceratotherium simum cottoni</i>	Critically Endangered *	CITES App. I
Black rhino <i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Critically Endangered	CITES App. I
Indian (greater one-horned) rhino <i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>	Vulnerable	CITES App. I
Javan (lesser one-horned) rhino <i>Rhinoceros sondaicus</i>	Critically Endangered	CITES App. I
Sumatran rhino <i>Dicerorhinus sumatrensis</i>	Critically Endangered	CITES App. I

*probably extinct in the wild

CoP15 Doc. 45.2 (Kenya). REVISION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 9.14 (REV. CoP14) ON CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN AFRICAN AND ASIAN RHINOCEROSSES.

Proposed revisions to Res.Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP14):

- Introduce range and consumer States consultation and review of the IUCN/TRAFFIC report;
- Strengthen the role of the Standing Committee to give it a clear mandate to make recommendations on non-compliance with Resolution Conf. 9.14;
- Introduce an obligation for consumer States to report on measures to reduce consumption of Rhino parts and derivatives, and mandate IUCN / TRAFFIC to report on these measures;
- Clarify the mechanism whereby range and consumer States provide information to IUCN and TRAFFIC for inclusion in their reports, including timeframes for reporting;
- Provide a mechanism to monitor range and consumer State reviews of the adequacy of enforcement and trade control measures in their conservation and management plans;
- Introduce an option for stockpile destruction or use for scientific and educational purposes;
- Provide for the CITES Rhino Enforcement Task Force into the resolution and inscribe its mandate.

SSN VIEW: SUPPORT Doc. 45.2, and the associated Doc. 45.1 (addendum) from the Secretariat regarding the convening of a joint CITES Ivory and Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force.

Background and Further Recommendations

The West African black rhinoceros is extinct. The Northern white rhino survives only in captivity. Populations of black rhino in Zimbabwe, white rhino in Zambia, Sumatran rhino in Malaysia and, probably, lesser one-horned rhino in Indonesia and Viet Nam, are in decline.

While legislation in range and consumer States exists to protect rhinoceros populations, current enforcement efforts, including penalties, are inadequate as deterrents to poaching. Failure to control the illegal trade in rhino horn and inadequate controls leading to the misuse of hunting trophies continue to have serious negative consequences. Poaching for horn remains the major threat to global rhino populations. Poaching levels have increased substantially in some areas, particularly in Zimbabwe and South Africa which between them account for 95% of the more than 500 reported poaching incidents on the continent since 2006. Kenya reported the highest poaching levels in 2009 since the establishment of the Rhino Conservation Programme in 1985.

There are significant discrepancies between reported export and import of rhino hunting trophies, and of live white rhinos, originating from South Africa. These discrepancies suggest that the legal trade is not being adequately monitored and recorded by the CITES Management Authorities in the countries concerned.

Doc 45.1 (Annex) on *African and Asian Rhinoceroses – Status, Conservation and Trade*, compiled by the IUCN/SSC Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC:

- provides detailed information on the status of rhinos in Africa and Asia, and highlights the alarming level of poaching on both continents;
- details the alarming increase since 2006 in illegal trade in rhino horn, both in horns taken from poached animals and in stolen horns from natural mortalities, government stocks and private collections;
- highlights the increasing trend of private ownership of rhinos and their horns in South Africa (horns from privately-owned rhinos remain the property of the owners in South Africa, even though some of these individuals are believed to be involved in illegal export of horns);
- details the substantial trade in live white rhinos from South Africa, and records alarming discrepancies between export and import figures, particularly in relation to the export of rhinos to China and Viet Nam (the possibility of horn harvesting in China is raised in the document); and
- indicates significant discrepancies between export and import figures for trophies from hunts of South Africa's white rhinos (listed on Appendix II), particularly concerning exports to Viet Nam and China (these discrepancies may indicate that trophy hunting is being used by some individuals as a cover for illegal commercial trade).

CoP15 Inf. 32, submitted by South Africa, provides information on steps the country has taken to improve the security of rhinos within South Africa.

The Species Survival Network commends South Africa for implementing a temporary prohibition on the export of live rhinos in the light of the concerns detailed in Doc. 45.1 (Annex). Lifting of this prohibition should be contingent on rigorous cooperative enforcement by both exporting and importing Parties to reduce the scope for possible abuse. It is understood that South Africa has new national CITES regulations pending. It is hoped that these will facilitate increased law enforcement co-operation between the Provinces and between South Africa and its neighbours.

SSN urges Parties to consider the following recommendations:

Measures to reduce rhino poaching and illegal trafficking of rhino horn, and increased penalties for those apprehended as a result, should be adopted in all range States. This should include (but not be limited to):

- increased co-ordination of enforcement actions and trade monitoring both within and between Asia and Africa;
- utilisation of existing regional wildlife crime enforcement agencies such as ASEAN-WEN and the Lusaka Agreement;
- establishment of specialised and dedicated multi-agency enforcement units with the capacity and resources to gather and analyse intelligence, and co-operation among these units at the international level via the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime, an initiative that should receive the full support of CITES Parties and multi-lateral donors; and
- utilisation of sniffer dogs, trained on rhino horn (and possibly ivory), at the main exit points for international passenger baggage, freight, courier packages and diplomatic bags.

Reporting and control of rhino horn stockpiles by all range and consumer States need to be improved:

- Government rhino horn stocks present a major security problem, and where possible these stocks should be destroyed. At the very least a comprehensive identification and security system should be implemented by all states holding stocks of rhino horn, and stocks should be reported to the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC for inclusion in their report on the Conservation Status of African and Asian Rhinoceros Species as recommended in Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP14).
- The private stockpiling of rhino horns should be made illegal. All stocks currently held by individuals, and all horns from rhinos in private ownership that are not hunting trophies or specimens held specifically for educational purposes, should be surrendered to the State.

Hunting permit validity should be limited to prevent multiple use or other abuses. Permits should be linked to trophy identification mechanisms in order to ensure future traceability. Importing countries should implement an appropriate identification and tracking system for hunting trophies to ensure that trophies do not enter domestic trade.

SSN also recommends the following actions:

- The reported poor enforcement, low prosecution rates and small penalties in Zimbabwe should be considered a priority for any future analyses by the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC in their report to the Secretariat on the Conservation Status of African and Asian Rhinoceros Species recommended in Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP14).

- A detailed inventory of imported live rhinos currently in captivity in China and Vietnam should be provided to the CITES Secretariat. The species, sex, age (where possible), current location and breeding records of all captive rhinos should be included in the International Rhino Stud Book.
- Prohibitions on domestic trade in rhino horn in importing countries should include trade in horn from captive animals. Horns should not be removed from captive rhinos even at the point of mortality.
- A definition of “appropriate and acceptable destinations” needs to be established for export of live white rhinos from Appendix II-listed populations, including a requirement that those destinations only use live specimens for the purpose stated on the export permits.
- Increased research is urgently needed into the trade routes for, and usage of rhino horn within, consuming States.
- Increased consumer education covering all main consuming States should be a priority. This should include efforts to ensure that Africa-based Asian communities understand the protected status of rhinos and other CITES-listed wildlife.
- A survey of the status of rhino populations in Malaysia and Viet Nam (and, if possible, Indonesia) should be carried out, and a report prepared at the earliest opportunity for consideration by the CITES Animals and Standing Committees.