

CONVENTION SUR LE COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL DES ESPECES
DE FAUNE ET DE FLORE SAUVAGES MENACEES D'EXTINCTION



Soixante-deuxième session du Comité permanent
Genève (Suisse), 23 – 27 juillet 2012

NOTE AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE RHINO WORKING GROUP MEETING,
HELD AT SC62 AT LUNCHTIME ON 23 JULY 2012

The attached document has been submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*, as Chair of the Working Group on Rhinoceroses in relation to agenda item 47.1, on *Rhinoceroses – Report of the Working Group*.

Members of the rhino working group met on Monday lunchtime to consider how to proceed with a view to being able to identify and recommend short and medium term actions to tackle the continuing crisis facing rhinos in the wild, as requested of the group under its terms of reference paragraph 3 a) iii), as well as how to complete the task identified at paragraph 3 a) ii).

The group noted that whilst the crisis was continuing several good stories were emerging both in terms of cooperation, effort and outcomes in some countries and these needed to be learnt from and built upon.

The group concluded that measures to improve enforcement efforts in source-, transit and destination countries and demand reduction strategies focus on destination countries and their nations, were necessary.

To that end the group identified the following key actions as necessary for the group to be able to deliver recommendations for the Standing Committee and CoP to consider:

1. The development of ideas for a demand reduction strategy based on its current understanding of the evidence of traditional cultural practices and beliefs about the medicinal and beneficial properties of rhino horn, and other modern/more contemporary uses, taking account of but not limited to the experts' meeting on messaging to reduce consumer demand for tigers and other endangered wildlife species, convened by TRAFFIC and WWF and endorsed by the Global Tiger Forum, in Hong Kong, 22 - 23 November 2011. The strategy should also take account of the recent TRAFFIC study into the evidence of the medicinal properties of rhino horn, and its conclusions, updated as necessary. (http://www.traffic.org/general-reports/traffic_pub_gen47.pdf)
2. That Parties should consider taking opportunities to raise the crisis that is currently facing rhinos in the wild, at the highest possible level to gain support for action, including but not limited to the forthcoming 67th Ordinary session of the UN General Assembly
3. That, whilst the group welcomed the information provided to it in response to Notification 2012/14, by 8 countries and the European Union, it would further request information from those countries detailing the outcomes of actions implemented to try to tackle the ongoing crisis. Information on outcomes of the efforts taken would assist the group in assessing what measures were or could be more or less successful when transferred to or adopted by other countries.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

4. The Standing Committee calls on Vietnam, a country that the working group acknowledged was a key player in the ongoing trafficking crisis, to provide the working group with information requested in Notification 2012/14, together with the additional information requested at 3 above.

To that end the chair of the working group would contact Vietnam to request that it answers to some or all of the following questions in particular:

- a. the legislation governing rhino horn trade and penalties for illegal trade
- b. measures implemented to prevent illegal import and trade in rhino horn
- c. current ongoing activities to combat illegal rhino horn trade.
- d. Specific enforcement actions over the past three years to prevent illegal trade in rhino horn and the results of such operations.
- e. is a multi disciplinary approach followed to prevent illegal rhino horn trade and if so which authorities are involved?
- f. measures implemented to prevent rhino horns from going into commercial trade. For example, are owners of such horns mandated to hold possession licenses? Are they allowed to give away or sell the horn in their possession? Are there specific legislation for this purpose?
- g. what measures are in place to monitor the retail market?
- h. efforts to curtail advertising of rhino horn, including via Internet; and
- i. are the use of rhino horn as a palliative medicine for cancer in any way allowed?
- j. what are being done to curtail the use of rhino horn as an additive to drinks, etc.?
- k. provision, in a table, detailing how many seizures of rhino horn they have made, how many people have been arrested, how many convictions and the sentences rendered, etc.
- l. feedback with regard to progress made in the stock check of rhinoceros hunting trophies to verify the use of such trophies .
- m. details of steps taken where results of such verifications indicate that individuals are no longer in possession of the horns imported as trophies.
- n. are there legislation in place to facilitate international cooperation?
- o. information of measures implemented to facilitate international cooperation with all other countries in the region as well as South Africa.
- p. challenges experienced in ensuring effective international cooperation.

To enable the working group to make timely consideration and recommendations, the matters outlined in points 1, 3 and 4 above will require the submission of information to the working group chair and the Secretariat (for immediate circulation to the working group members) by 3 September if recommendations are to be possible by October 4.

It was further requested that members of the working group confirm their email details to the chair of the working group (trevor.salmon@defra.gsi.gov.uk) to ensure the swift circulation of documents

The working group members requested that the Standing Committee endorse these recommendations and that the Secretariat assist in obtaining the information requested from Vietnam.