

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON RHINOCEROSSES

*This document has been prepared by the working group on Rhinoceroses in relation to agenda item 51 and submitted at the request of the Standing Committee at its fourth session.*

The working group recommends that the Standing Committee adopt all of the recommendations outlined below. These combine and supersede the recommendations included in both the reports of the Working Group on Rhinoceroses (SC66 Doc. 51.2) and the Report of the Secretariat (SC66 Doc. 51.1)

**All Parties**

- a) encourage all Parties to:
  - i) make every effort to effectively implement Resolution Conf 9.14 (Rev CoP 15) and the strategies and proposed actions developed by the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force, made available to Parties as an Annex to Notification to the Parties No. 2014/006 of 23 January 2014;
  - ii) ensure that national level measures are in place for the management of imported rhinoceros horn trophies, including addressing the issue of alteration and transfer of such trophies, to ensure that rhinoceros horns acquired as legal hunting trophies remain in lawful possession; and
  - iii) consider South Africa's National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA), under which a permit is required to possess rhinoceros horn in South Africa, whether it is an individual horn or a number of horns, or any part, product or derivative of a rhinoceros horn, as a possible model that could be drawn upon by Parties to develop national level measures for the management of rhinoceros horn.
- b) request Range States of African and Asian rhinoceroses and all Parties that have stocks of rhinoceros horns and derivatives thereof to declare the status of their stocks of rhinoceros horns and derivatives before 20th April 2016 in accordance with a format to be circulated by the Secretariat as referred to in recommendation m) of this document;

**India**

- c) encourage India to remain vigilant in its efforts to combat rhinoceros poaching and illegal rhinoceros horn trade to further suppress current poaching levels, in particular in Kaziranga National Park.

## **Mozambique**

- d) note that Mozambique has failed to comply with the Recommendations agreed by the Committee at SC65 in a timely manner.
- e) request Mozambique to enhance its efforts to progress the implementation of its NIRAP, and in particular to achieve the full implementation of the following priority actions outlined in its NIRAP by 30 June 2016:
  - i) finalize the regulations of the new conservation law and secure approval of the Council of Ministers;
  - ii) finalize and secure approval of the revised regulations on the application of CITES provisions in Mozambique;
  - iii) issue an administrative circular by the President of the Supreme Court addressed to all courts about the serious nature of illegal trade in wildlife, in particular as it affects Mozambique, the international obligations of Mozambique to address this, and the need for strict application of legislation and penalties in accordance with new legislation;
  - iv) put in place a system to collect information and follow up on the prosecution of wildlife crime cases in court, to monitor successful prosecutions and penalties applied, as well as failures to prosecute successfully, and key reasons for these successes or failures; and
  - iv) carry out an independent audit of Mozambique's current systems for the storage, management and security of confiscated wildlife products, and identify key needs and opportunities for improved management and security and implement its recommendations.
- f) request Mozambique to report on the further measures taken to implement the priority actions in recommendation e) paragraphs i) to v), and any other actions taken in its NIRAP, to the Secretariat by 30 June 2016 in a format provided by the Secretariat.

## **South Africa**

- g) encourage South Africa to regularly review the measures it has implemented in relation to rhinoceros hunting in order to limit the possible abuse of the permit system and to ensure that these measures remain current and are adapted in a timely manner as may be needed to address any new identified trends.

## **Viet Nam**

- h) request Viet Nam to:
  - i) consider the increased use of specialized investigation techniques and initiate investigations and follow up on information gathered from the smugglers recruited by those managing and organizing the illegal trafficking;
  - ii) incorporate specific provisions that apply to CITES-related offences in the new Penal Code, including the possession of CITES specimens acquired in violation of the Convention, and to engage with the Secretariat as may be needed, for legal assistance in the development of legislative measures aimed at tackling illegal trade in wildlife and to ensure effective domestic enforcement and prosecution of arrested offenders;
  - iii) provide a further progress report to the Secretariat by 30 June 2016, so that the Secretariat can make the report available to the Standing Committee at SC67. This should build on the previous reports provided to SC65 and SC66, and in particular cover:
    - progress made with the incorporation of CITES-related offences in the new Penal Code and other relevant laws;
    - progress made in accordance with Resolution Conf 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) to ensure that any product purported to be rhinoceros horn is treated as such for enforcement purposes;
    - arrests, seizures, prosecutions, convictions and penalties for offences involving the illegal possession and trade of rhinoceros horn detected at border points or domestic markets in Viet

Nam, as well as failures to prosecute successfully, and key reasons for these successes or failures;

- activities conducted under existing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to enhance international co-operation to combat the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn;
- measures implemented to reduce the demand for rhinoceroses horn in domestic markets, including progress towards adopting a robust programme of standardised surveys of consumers to more accurately assess trends in demand; and
- measures implemented to reduce the engagement of Vietnamese citizens in the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn in other countries.

#### **Zimbabwe**

- i) encourage Zimbabwe to remain vigilant in its efforts to combat rhinoceros poaching and illegal rhinoceros horn trade, and to enhance its efforts to suppress escalating poaching levels.

#### **Mozambique and South Africa**

- j) encourage Mozambique and South Africa to:
  - i) conclude the signature of the MoU Implementation Plan, and consultations and sign-off of the 2015/2016 Action Plan and the Terms of Reference as required in the MoU signed by them, described in paragraph 37 of document SC66 Doc. 51.1, as a matter of urgency;
  - ii) progress the draft treaties on extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters submitted to Mozambique by South Africa, as described in paragraph 39 of document SC66 Doc. 51.1, as a matter of urgency; and
  - iii) invite Mozambique and South Africa to jointly submit a report to the Secretariat on progress made with the matters outlined in recommendation j) i) and ii), by 30 June 2016, so that the Secretariat can make the report available to the Standing Committee at SC67.

#### **South Africa and Viet Nam**

- k) encourage South Africa and Viet Nam to make every effort to further enhance their bilateral collaboration, to ensure that rhinoceros horn samples from specimens subject to criminal investigation are collected and submitted for DNA analysis, in accordance with relevant legislation regulating the exchange of such specimens.

#### **The Working Group on Rhinoceroses**

- l) request the Working Group on Rhinoceroses to:
  - i) compile a list of relevant studies, workshops, campaigns and other initiatives on reducing demand for rhinoceros horn, taking into account reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Decision 16.85 paragraph c);
  - ii) produce a brief synthesis report covering approaches, methods, best practices and challenges experienced that can assist Parties in further enhancing the effectiveness of their demand reduction strategies; and
  - iii) report on the results of the work conducted, including any findings and recommendations, to the Standing Committee at its 67th meeting.

#### **Secretariat**

- m) request the Secretariat, in collaboration with the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC, to review the rhinoceros horn stock declaration form that was previously developed pursuant to Decision 14.89, by 31st January 2016; and through a Notification to the Parties, ascertain the information referred to in recommendation b) of this document.

- n) request the Secretariat to forward the following draft decision for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

*17.xx The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *subject to external funding, contract a consultant to:*
- i) engage with Parties that reported against Decision 16.85 paragraph c) and any other Parties as may be appropriate to identify best practices and challenges experienced by these Parties in their development and implementation of long-term demand reduction strategies or programmes to combat trafficking in wildlife;*
  - ii) engage with Parties that reported against Decision 16.85 paragraph c) and any other Parties as may be appropriate to identify best practices and challenges experienced by these Parties in their implementation of strategies or programmes to enhance community awareness about the economic, social and environmental impacts of trafficking in wildlife, and to encourage the general public to report wildlife trafficking to appropriate authorities for further investigation;*
  - iii) conduct a review of existing demand reduction studies and material, and the outcomes of demand reduction workshops and other initiatives that have taken place in recent years;*
  - iv) conduct a review of existing strategies or programmes to enhance community awareness; and*
  - v) prepare a report on the basis of the findings made through the activities outlined in paragraphs i) to iv) in this decision, together with recommendations, on how to further enhance the effectiveness of such strategies or programmes to reduce demand for illegal wildlife specimens and to enhance community awareness.*
- b) *report on progress on the implementation of the present Decision at the 69th and 70th meetings of the Standing Committee.*

#### **IUCN and TRAFFIC**

- o) request the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC to include an analysis of the information provided by the Parties on stocks of rhinoceros horns and derivatives thereof referred to in recommendation b) of this document, in their reporting to the Secretariat pursuant to Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) and for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **Secretariat and the Working Group**

- p) request the Secretariat and the Working Group on Rhinoceroses to evaluate the reports submitted in accordance with recommendations f), h) iii) and j) iii) above, and report their findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 67th meeting.

#### **Standing Committee**

- q) invite the Standing Committee to consider, at its 67th meeting, whether Mozambique has made adequate progress with the implementation of its NIRAP, or has made insufficient progress which requires compliance measures to be taken in accordance with Resolution Conf 14.3.