environmental affairs
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear Mr Scanlon

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RES CONF. 9.14 (REV. COP15) (CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN AFRICAN AND ASIAN RHINOCEROS)

Your request to South Africa to report on the implementation of Res. Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) in the context of Decision 16.89 paragraph c), which directs the Secretariat to "examine the implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) in particularly South Africa and Zimbabwe.....", refers.

Please find attached the report from South Africa on the implementation of Res. Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) to enable the Secretariat to examine the implementation of the Resolution. It should be noted that some of the information previously submitted by South Africa as required in terms of CITES CoP Decisions and recommendations are also contained in the attached report and it will be appreciated if all reports could be considered by the Secretariat in examining the implementation of the Resolution.

Yours sincerely

Ms Nosipho Ngcaba
Director-General
Department of Environmental Affairs
Letter signed by: Ms S Mancotywa
Designation: Acting Deputy Director General: Biodiversity and Conservation
Date: 30/09/2015

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SOUTH AFRICA: REPORT – IMPLEMENTATION OF RES CONF. 9.14 (REV. COP15) (CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN AFRICAN AND ASIAN RHINOCEROS)

The CITES Secretariat requested South Africa to report on the implementation of Res. Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) in the context of Decision 16.89 paragraph c), which directs the Secretariat to "examine the implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) in particularly South Africa and Zimbabwe.....". To enable the Secretariat to examine the implementation of the Resolution, a report was requested in a letter of 22 June 2015.

Since this letter, South Africa submitted extensive reports as requested by the 65th Standing Committee to CITES and although the CITES Secretariat indicated that these reports incorporated adequate information for the Secretariat to conduct its work in accordance with the provisions of Decision 16.89 paragraph c), a report on the specific requirements contained in Res Conf. 9.14 (Rev CoP15) has been prepared for submission to the CITES Secretariat.

Res. Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) requirement directed at Parties / rhino range States	**Status of Implementation – South Africa**
In Res Conf 9.14 (Rev CoP15), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention URGES (actions directed to Secretariat or Standing Committee excluded):	
a) all Parties that have stocks of rhinoceros horn to identify, mark, register and secure such stocks	Rhino horn stock management All information relating to rhinoceros horn is captured on databases maintained by organs of States (Conservation departments and entities) and are audited annually. A national database has been developed and all information (private and government owned stockpile information) is in the process of being captured on the national database. *Legislative provisions:* *1. National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004* In terms of Section 56(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004) (NEMBA) permits are required to possess any specimens of species listed of NEMBA. The white rhino is listed as a protected species and the black rhino is listed as an endangered species in terms of Section 56(1). Permits are therefore required to possess rhino horn, whether it is an individual horn or a number of horns, or any part, product or derivative of a rhino horn.

	2. *Threatened or Protected Species Regulations, 2007* In terms of Regulation 70 of the Threatened or Protected Species Regulations, the rhino horn must be marked by means of a micro-chip. 3. *Norms and standards for the marking of rhinoceros and rhinoceros horn, and for the hunting of rhinoceros for trophy hunting purposes* (Government Gazette No 35248 Notice No 304, published and implemented on 10 April 2012) (N&S) (Note: Preceded by Norms and Standards for the Marking of Rhinoceros Horn and Hunting of White Rhinoceros for Trophy Hunting Purposes, published in Government Gazette No. 32426, Notice No. 756): The following is required in terms of the N&S: • Information to be captured and measurements: o Micro-chip number; o Base circumference; o Inner length (anterior) and outer length (posterior) of each individual horn, o Weight of each individual horn; o Photographs of each horn; o External marking if rhinoceros horn or part thereof is 5cm or more in length (indelible ink or punch die) (formula: ZA/serial number/year/weight • Marking requirements in N&S apply to all live rhinoceros and all individual detached rhinoceros horn, whether in private or state possession 4. *Proposed amendments to the Norms and standards for the marking of rhinoceros and rhinoceros horn, and for the hunting of rhinoceros for trophy hunting purposes.* The N&S are currently being revised, and the following provisions relating to the marking and safe-keeping of rhinoceros horn are proposed to be included: (a) The safe keeping of rhinoceros horn in an unmovable safe as approved by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) in terms of Standard 953-1 or 953-2; and (b) In the case of marking a rhinoceros or rhinoceros horn by means of a microchip, only a 10-digit microchip approved by the SABS or the International Organization for Standardization may be used. These proposed amendments will be published for public participation in due course.
b) all Parties to adopt and implement comprehensive legislation and enforcement controls, including internal trade restrictions	1. *National moratorium – Prohibition Notice in terms of Section 57(2) of National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004)*

and penalties, aimed at reducing illegal trade in rhinoceros parts and derivatives	A national (local) moratorium was announced (published on 13 February 2009 in the Government Gazette No 31899 Notice No 148), to prohibit, with immediate effect, the trade of individual rhinoceros horns and any derivatives or products of the horns within South Africa, and to remain in place until further notice. 2. *The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004) (NEMBA)* NEMBA makes provision for: (a) a decision to issue a permit, to be deferred if the applicant is under investigation for the contravention or failure to comply with any provision of this Act, or (b) for a permit to be refused or cancelled if, among others, a person has been convicted of an offence in terms of this Act, or (c) for a permit to be suspended if the permit holder is under investigation for the contravention of or failure to comply with any provision of this Act or any condition of the permit. 3. *Penalties - NEMBA* Upon conviction of an offence in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004), the Act makes provision for the following penalties: (a) A fine not exceeding R10 million, or an imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten years, or to both such a fine and such imprisonment; or (b) If an offence involves a specimen of, among others, a listed threatened or protected species (e.g. rhinoceros), a fine either in terms of (a), or a fine equal to three times the commercial value of the specimen or activity in respect of which the offence was committed, whichever is the greater. 4. *Penalties – Threatened or Protected Species Regulations* Upon conviction of an offence in terms of the Threatened or Protected Species Regulations, 2007, the Regulations make provision for the following penalties: (a) imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years; (b) a fine not exceeding R5 million, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding R10 million or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years or in both instances to both a fine and such imprisonment; or (c) both a fine and such imprisonment. 5. *The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Regulations, 2010*

The CITES Regulations promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004), require the following in terms of ports of import, export or re-export:

(a) specimens of CITES-listed species, including rhinoceros, may be imported, exported or re-exported only via the following ports:

Land Ports

Beit Bridge Border Post
Lebombo Border Post
Jeppes Reef Border Post
Golela Border Post
Ramatlabama Border Post
NaKop Border Post
Vioolsdrift Border Post
Maseru Border Post

Airports and Harbours

Cape Town International Airport
King Shaka International Airport
O.R Tambo International Airport
Port Elizabeth International Airport
Kruger - Mpumalanga International Airport
Cape Town Harbour
Durban Harbour
Port Elizabeth Harbour

6. *Penalties – CITES Regulations*

Upon conviction of an offence in terms of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Regulations, 2010, the Regulations make provision for the following penalties:

(a) a fine not exceeding five million rand or imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding R10 million or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years; or
(b) both such fine or imprisonment; or
(c) in the case of repeated offenders, a fine or imprisonment or both a fine and imprisonment as referred to in (a) above and being banned from ever applying for a permit to trade in CITES listed species again.

	In addition to the biodiversity legislation mentioned above, a number of other Acts as well as the common law is also of particular relevance in relation to rhino cases and used to charge criminals (for example, in addition to the offences set out in the biodiversity legislation, charges often also include trespassing, illegal possession of firearms/ammunition and even murder). The Customs and Excise Act is also used to charge criminals involved in illicit trade involving rhino and the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA) covers aspects relating to racketeering and organised crime. A person convicted of racketeering under POCA may be fined up to R1000 million or to life imprisonment.
d) Range States to be vigilant in their law enforcement efforts, including the prevention of illegal hunting, the early detection of potential offenders and the application of appropriate penalties to act as effective deterrents	<u>Specific measures to address illegal hunting / misuse of legal hunting</u>: 1. To ensure that rhinos are hunted in a legal manner and in accordance with the conditions of the hunting permit, it is a requirement in terms of the Norms and standards for the marking of rhinoceros and rhinoceros horn, and for the hunting of rhinoceros for trophy hunting purposes that each hunt must be attended by an official of the relevant issuing authority, but preferably an Environmental Management Inspector (EMI). 2. Prior to the issuance of a hunting permit, the application is referred to the Department of Environmental Affairs for (a) verification of the credentials of the foreign hunter, with his or her country of usual residence; and (b) to ensure that any particular foreign hunter hunts only one white rhino per 12-month period. 3. The Norms and standards for the marking of rhinoceros and rhinoceros horn, and for the hunting of rhinoceros for trophy hunting purposes require the collection of samples of the blood and horns of each live rhino darted (whether for translocation or treatment or any other management purpose), or of each detached horn, for DNA analysis. <u>Law enforcement interventions:</u> 1) Illegal killing of rhinos and the illegal trade in rhino horn declared as a priority crime and elevated this to the National Joints Security Committee (NATJOINTS) in South Africa. It is also considered a national intelligence priority. 2) A national project, called "Operation Rhino" was initiated 3) A NATJOINTS Priority Committee on Wildlife Crimes, which includes all other relevant co-opted stakeholders, was also established. 4) The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) of South Africa is working closely with everyone involved in the cases of illegal killing of rhinos and the illegal trade in rhino horn and dedicated prosecutors have been assigned to rhino cases in some provinces. Courts have imposed harsh sentences in a bid to deter offenders. 5) The SA National Defence Force has deployed troops along the eastern boundary of the Kruger National Park (KNP) as part of its mandate to control the international borderline of South Africa. 6) Efforts to detect wildlife crime at the ports of entry and exit were strengthened with the increased capacity from SA Revenue Service Dog Detector Unit as well as deployment of the Green Scorpions at OR Tambo International

	Airport. Training for ports officials has also been introduced through the roll-out of the national training and awareness programme on the Illicit International Cross Border Movement of Endangered Species which commenced in August 2014 and continues in accordance with the programme. 7) Numerous anti-poaching interventions are being implemented by South African National Parks (SANParks) as well as the provincial parks authorities. Listing all of these interventions would not be possible in this document. It is worth noting that SANParks received an initial grant funding of R254.8 million in 2014 to support anti-poaching operations in the Kruger National Park, including measures in the Intensive Protection Zone. This incorporated the establishment of 'Air Mobility' capacity' and included the purchase of a first helicopter through the grant funding in September 2014. Subsequent to the initial grant funding, the Howard G Buffet Foundation granted SANParks an additional R37.7 million to purchase a second Airbus AS350 B3e helicopter to further increase the capacity of flight operations in the KNP. This funding also assisted in setting up the Mission Area Joint Operations Centre (MAJOC) in the Kruger National Park, which is fully functional. 8) Numerous Technology Projects have been implemented, including the use of tracking technology, night vision equipment with thermal imaging and high quality depth perception. 9) The Global Environmental Fund (GEF) – UNEP Rhino Project aimed at improving the effectiveness of efforts to combat wildlife crime in South Africa's Protected Area System, focused on rhinoceros, with the three primary outcomes focused on the: a) Use of forensic technology to combat rhino poaching and the illegal rhino horn trade (including the strengthening of forensic capability); b) Information sharing and analysis for more effective law enforcement among national actors to tackle rhino poaching and the illegal trade in rhino horn; and c) Cooperation and exchange at the international level to tackle poaching and the illegal trade along the whole trafficking chain. Since the signing of the Project Co-operation Agreement with UNEP in May 2014, the following points summarises what has been done in relation to this project: a) space for SAPS environmental forensic laboratory has been identified and numerous engagements with SAPS to take this aspect of the project forward; b) transferred funding to the University of Pretoria Veterinary Genetic Laborastory to increase capacity to process rhino DNA routine samples and to cover the costs of DNA kits; c) fully equipped forensic trailers procured and handed over to three provinces and SANParks; d) engagement with South African Judicial Awareness Institute on arrangements for magistrates awareness raising sessions, which took place from 24 – 27 August 2015;

	e) co-financing partners / project management meetings; f) commenced filming of law enforcement training DVD's relating to rhino crime scenes; and g) advanced crime scene management training courses took place in early November 2014 and September 2015 10) The Rhino Protection Programme (RPP) aimed at strengthening the protection of rhino populations and curbing poaching. Many of these activities are done in collaboration with Mozambique. The project includes making provision for the upgrading of field communications technology used by rangers, as well as a shared radio communications system across the international border; provision of training and equipment; anti-poaching and counter-trafficking programme as well as the deployment of sniffer dogs on trafficking routes; research and information gathering capabilities; assessment and evaluation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).
e) that law enforcement cooperation among range and implicated States be increased through the existing international, regional and national law enforcement mechanisms and, where necessary, through the creation of such mechanisms in order to curtail illegal trade in rhinoceros horn; where an implicated State in this Resolution is a State or citizen(s) of a State significantly implicated or involved in legal and/or illegal trade in parts and derivatives	Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Anti-Poaching Strategy At the SADC Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources meeting in Maputo on 3 October 2013, the Ministers decided that a comprehensive anti-poaching strategy must be developed and adopted by SADC and that a co-ordination Unit within the Secretariat be established, whose primary role would be to coordinate natural resources related to law enforcement and monitoring illegal harvesting of the resources. A workshop was held on 21 and 22 October 2014 in Johannesburg to commence the development of a SADC Anti-Poaching Strategy. In addition to presentations from most of the SADC countries. Attendees agreed that a SADC strategy would need to address the broader aspects of illegal trade and associated activities in addition to focusing on the anti-poaching aspects. A draft Strategy was circulated and the final draft was discussed and validated at a meeting held in Johannesburg from 26-28 August 2015. Wildlife Enforcement Network of Southern Africa (WENSA) The first meeting to discuss the establishment of a WENSA was held in October 2013. One of the resolutions of this meeting was to operationalize existing international, continental, and regional wildlife protection commitments and initiatives, and implement relevant SADC protocols, by establishing a network of national wildlife law enforcement agencies to be known as WENSA. This initiative was presented to NATJOINTS and South Africa responded by supporting the initiative but recommending that the WENSA Committee be created within the SADC structures and assume responsibility for the specific objectives in the SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement that relate to wildlife law enforcement. A follow-up workshop was held on 30 – 31 October 2014 with the aim of: ➢ Reviewing the draft terms of reference for the WENSA; ➢ Agreeing on the composition of and rules of procedure for the WENSA Steering Committee. ➢ Reflecting on the hosting, institutional and financial arrangements for the WENSA Secretariat. ➢ Clarifying the role of the WENSA vis-a-vis the SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement,

	Convention on International trade in Endangered Species and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force. African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) March 2015 The illegal wildlife trade featured prominently on the agenda of the AMCEN meeting, which took place from 2 – 6 March 2015 in Cairo, Egypt. At the Ministerial segment of the meeting, Minister Molewa addressed her African colleagues and highlighted the effects of rhino poaching and the illegal wildlife trade in general on South Africa. A Decision on an African Common Strategy on Combatting Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora was adopted by the AMCEN (Decision 15/2). International Conference on Illegal Exploitation and Trade of African Wild Flora and Fauna – Congo Brazzavile (April 2015) South Africa participated in the international conference, held in April 2015 in Brazzaville, Congo, organised by the Government of Congo and the AUC, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Interpol, the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations and other key partners. The conference considered how to achieve a better conservation of Africa's flora and fauna through specific joint projects, unified approaches and modalities combining efforts among key stakeholders, with the support of partners and donors. The parties at the conference also took forward the further development of the African Common Strategy on the Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, which had begun at the AMCEN meeting. Rhino Range States Meeting & Rhino Range States Action Plan The department hosted two Rhino Range States meeting in October 2014 in Kruger National Park and in July 2015. The objectives of the meeting were to: ➢ share information relating to interventions implemented to secure populations and ensure rhino's long-term conservation; lessons learnt; priority actions to be implemented; and to identify key areas of cooperation; and ➢ develop a framework action plan for the conservation of rhino in Africa. A framework for an African Rhino Range States Action Plan was developed at the meeting in 2014 and the department offered to support the process to develop and finalise the action plan. The meeting in July 2015 was aimed at developing the framework document into a draft Action Plan. Ministerial dialogue on illegal trade in rhino horn: February 2015 Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa and senior Departmental managers of the Department attended the

	CITES Ministerial Dialogue for Key States concerned with the Illegal Trade in Rhinoceros Horn in Geneva, Switzerland, on 13 February 2015. This dialogue and meeting of senior officials was convened at the request of South Africa, and proposed to the CITES Secretariat on the margins of the UN Environmental Assembly in 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together Key States concerned with the illegal trade in rhino horn to discuss and identify priority areas for enhanced bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation to address both the supply and demand for rhino horn, and to secure further political commitment to implement appropriate activities and cooperation. In attendance were senior officials responsible for implementation, oversight and enforcement of the Convention as well as members from the CITES Secretariat, the World Customs Organisation (WCO), Interpol and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which from the Consortium International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC). The Ministerial dialogue followed a two-day Senior Officials meeting at which national customs, police and wildlife authorities worked with experts from ICCWC partner organizations to prepare recommendations on well-targeted interventions and specific areas of cooperation. The Parties assessed progress and current initiatives that are underway to tackle the illegal trade in rhino horn and identified specific priorities for short and medium term action, both those that need to be delivered nationally as well as those that require co-operative action, including support from the ICCWC partners. They also discussed various interventions to address rhino poaching and the illicit trade in rhino horn, including the abuse of trophy hunting provisions to obtain rhino horn. Progress on the implementation on the actions: *Short-term actions to be implemented immediately:* 1. Collect samples for DNA forensic analysis from seized rhinoceros horns, within 45 days of a seizure, in support of timely follow-up investigations; *PROGRESS: This in on-going but seizures are not always reported by the CITES Parties where the seizures occurred and we mostly read about it in the media.* 2. Share DNA profiles with relevant national rhinoceros focal points and/or relevant national competent authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination; *PROGRESS: On-going if an when needed.* 3. Where interested, request implementation of the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme; *working on this issue.* 4. Where interested, request implementation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit; *PROGRESS: Was not needed yet.* 5. Request ICCWC partners to provide anti-money laundering training; and 6. Request South Africa, on behalf of key States, to consider the GEF-UNEP rhino project as a source of funding to

	implement actions with international scope. *Short-term actions to be implemented within six months:* 7. Develop a Standard Operating Procedure on seizure reporting for national rhinoceros focal points and/or relevant national competent authorities, outlining procedures for alerting relevant national and international authorities about seizures and other available associated information, led by the Czech Republic and supported by South Africa on behalf of key States; *PROGRESS: South Africa provided a draft document to the Czech Republic in April 2015* 8. Share information on key smuggling routes and concealment methods among national rhinoceros focal points and/or relevant national competent authorities; - *PROGRESS: Done on a continues basis in meetings of the National Biodiversity Investigators Forum (NBIF) as well as the NBIF Rhino Sub-Committee nationally.* 9. Develop a Standard Operating Procedure for the collection and analysis of samples from seized rhinoceros specimens and the submission of samples or DNA profiles to the RhODIS database in South Africa, led by South Africa on behalf of key States; *PROGRESS: A final draft guideline is currently being prepared for comment by key States. It was agreed with the CITES Secretariat that the final guideline document will be published as a Notification on the CITES Website for access by all Parties.* 10. Establish a CENcomm closed user group for national rhinoceros focal points and/or relevant national competent authorities, led by the WCO on behalf of ICCWC, and for WCO to provide support as appropriate; 11. Where possible, each country to identify fugitives involved in rhinoceros poaching and illegal rhinoceros horn trade and request INTERPOL to include them in INTERPOL operations and issue Red Notices or other applicable Notices; *PROGRESS: Currently being discussed in South Africa.* 12. Encourage INTERPOL National Central Bureaus to grant access to INTERPOL's I-24/7 global database and communication system for national rhinoceros focal points and/or relevant national competent authorities; 13. Engage with the business sector, particularly the transport industry (airline companies, courier companies and shipping companies), to support interventions to address rhinoceros-related crimes and raise awareness; *PROGRESS: The Department has engaged various Airlines in South Africa an offered its assistance in training Airline cargo personnel to be on the lookout for illegal shipments. A full day training session with South African Airways Cargo officials already took place at the end of June 2015.* 14. Encourage increased training of and collaboration between investigators and prosecutors; *PROGRESS: Ongoing engagements between investigators and prosecutors in South Africa with a Prosecutor Training Conference scheduled to take place in November 2015.* 15. Raise awareness of the serious nature of rhinoceros-related crimes among the judiciary of the key States and encourage appropriate deterrent penalties *PROGRESS: As part of inter departmental collaboration between the*

	Department and the South African Judicial Education Institute (within the Department of Justice), the Derpartment hosted a Judicial Colloquium on Biodiversity Crime in August 2015 where one hundred and fifty magistrates from district and regional courts across the country attended the awareness raising session on environmental crime, with a particular focus on rhino. <u>Memoranda of Agreements</u> *1) Cambodia:* On 29 May 2015 South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the fields of Biodiversity Conservation and Protection with Cambodia. This is the first agreement to be entered into between South Africa and Cambodia. The Implementation Plan putting into action the terms of the formal environmental agreement between the two countries was also signed. The main focus of the MOU is to promote cooperation between the parties in the field of biodiversity conservation and protection, compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and other relevant legislation. The envisaged forms of cooperation include the exchange of relevant information and documentation on biodiversity conservation and protection; promoting technical exchange visits of experts, policy makers, regulators and law enforcers; organising seminars, workshops and meetings; and undertaking collaborative projects. *2) Vietnam:* The MoU between the government of Republic of South Africa and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was signed in December 2012. Through our awareness and demand management programmes youth were able to travel to South Africa to be exposed to issues related to rhino conservation. In June and July 2015, 22 Vietnamese school-going youth who, as winners of the Wild Rhino Competition run at schools in Ho Chi Minh City, embarked on a 5-day educational wilderness trail facilitated by the Wilderness Leadership School in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal. They also participated in educational workshops where they were assisted in developing strategies on how to share their message of conservation with their community. *3) Mozambique:* The Implementation Plan developed in terms of the MoU that has been signed in 2014 and is now under implementation. A significant element of this Plan was the joint launch of the specialized Fauna Bravia Anti-Poaching Unit at Massangir in southwestern Mozambique in Mach 2015. In support of the Fauna Bravia Anti-Poaching Unit, working with the Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) under the Rhino Protection Programme, South Africa will be delivering anti-poaching equipment

	to Mozambique. In the same event PPF will deliver a small plane called the Savannah lightsport aircraft that will be assisting in anti-poaching initiatives.. In support of Mozambique developing socio-economic opportunities associated with the wildlife economy the second phase of wildlife re-introductions, other than rhino, took place. That entails supplementing certain plains game species in the Limpopo National Park. *4) People's Republic of China:* Following the signing of a Wildlife Conservation Implementation Plan with the People's Republic of China on 23 March 2013, delegates from both countries have been working to ensure that cooperation between the Parties in the fields of law enforcement, compliance with CITES, technology transfer and other relevant legislation and Conventions. In this the Year of China in South Africa (2015), both countries managed to sign the Implementation Plan which focuses on specific areas. In addition and as part of the agreements during the ministerial interaction, a delegation of youth from China will be hosted to increase their awareness of wildlife management and crime in South Africa, as well as to raise awareness of the plight of the rhino and other wildlife species.
RECOMMENDS that those range States without a budgeted conservation and management plan for rhinoceroses should develop and implement one as expeditiously as possible, utilizing all available relevant expertise and resources	<u>Biodiversity Management Plans for Black and White Rhinoceros</u> The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004) (NEMBA) provides for the development and approval of biodiversity management plans for ecosystems and species. The plans must be aimed at ensuring the long-term survival in nature of the species or ecosystem to which the plan relates. South Africa through the Rhino Management Group (RMG) developed the Biodiversity Management Plans (BMP) for the Black Rhino and White Rhino through a consultative process and submitted these to the Department for approval for public participation and implementation. The draft BMP for Black Rhino was published for public comment on 24 May 2011 (Gazette No. 34304 and Notice 302 of 2011) and for implementation on 25 January 2013 (Gazette Number No. 36096 and Notice Number 49 of 2013) The draft BMP for White Rhino was published on 31 March 2015 for public participation and it is now in the approval process for implementation. The structure of the Biodiversity Management Plans for these two species includes a vision, long- and short-term goals and further identifies a number of key components namely biological management, monitoring for management, security and protection, coordination, capacity, sustainable use and economic and social sustainability that are deemed critical to

	meeting the conservation goals of the BMP. **Vision for the Black Rhino BMP**: Contribute to the recovery and persistence of the global black rhino population by having viable populations of the indigenous subspecies in natural habitats throughout their former range within South Africa and managed as part of a regional meta-population. **Long-term population goal for Black Rhino**: To have at least 3,000 *Diceros bocornis.* minor and 500 *Diceros bicornis bicornis* in South Africa3, with at least four D. b. minor populations greater than 100 and another 10 greater than 50; and at least one *D. b. bicornis* population greater than a 100 and one greater than 50. **Vision for the White Rhino BMP:** A world with reduced poaching and demand for illegal rhino horn, where the future survival of wild white rhinos is ensured in South Africa, through secure populations which are economically and ecologically sustainable, and which provide a source of founder rhinos to help repopulate former range states as needed. **Long- and short-term goals White Rhino**: To achieve a meta-population of at least 20,400 white rhinos in South Africa by 2020 The anticipated outcomes of these BMPs include: • to achieve sustained meta-population growth through sustainable harvesting, where required; • to maintain optimal levels of genetic diversity; • to obtain accurate and precise information on rhino population performance to inform decision making; • to minimise the losses of rhino through illegal activity; • to ensure that sufficient and appropriate human resources and skills are available and deployed efficiently; • to have effectively co-ordinated rhino conservation management; and • to ensure that support (political and public) for rhino conservation in South Africa is in place and fostered through multiple and innovative initiatives to improve the actual and perceived value of the species.
RECOMMENDS further that those range States with an existing, budgeted plan for rhinoceroses should endeavour to implement the plan as expeditiously as possible, and should undertake a review of the effectiveness of enforcement and	The NEMBA, as well as the Norms and Standards for the Biodiversity Management Plans for Species makes provision for the Minister to identify a suitable person or organisation or organ of state that is willing to be responsible for the implementation of the plan. To this effect, in April 2013, the Minister officially appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr Mike Knight the Rhino Management Group to lead in the implementation of the Black Rhino BMP as well as the development of the White Rhino BMP, which is still in the approval process for implementation.

trade control measures therein;	
URGES range States of African and Asian rhinoceroses, implicated States, other Parties and other stakeholders to provide financial support to and cooperate with the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC in collecting information for their reporting to the Secretariat on trade in and conservation of rhinoceroses	The Department of Environmental Affairs initiated and funded a survey of both black and white rhinoceros in collaboration with the Rhino Management Group and this information will be available to the IUCN/SSC African Rhino Specialist Group in terms of their mandate to collect information and report to the CITES Secretariat.
CALLS upon all governments and intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide funds to implement rhinoceros conservation activities, especially efforts to prevent the illegal killing of rhinoceroses and end the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn, and to enable IUCN and TRAFFIC to undertake effectively their reporting to the Secretariat before each meeting of the Conference of the Parties	The protection of rhino populations has been prioritised and is supported by a number of organs of state's re-prioritising budgets to meet the needs relating to the implementation of interventions to address illegal trade in wildlife, with a specific focus on rhino. The Department is in the process of consolidating the costs associated with the implementation of projects, programmes and operations to address rhino poaching and illegal trade in rhino horn. The following additional allocations from National Treasury were committed to address Wildlife Trafficking **2014/15 2015/16 2016/17 2017/2018** DEA: Wildlife Information Management Unit 10,6 million 11 million 11.55 million 12.12 million SANPARKS Combating Wildlife Traffic 8,48 m 8,87 m 9.31m 9.77m Combating Rhino Poaching 25 m 25 m 26.25m 27.56m
CALLS for constructive engagement among all Parties to the Convention and synergy between the Convention and the IUCN/SSC Rhino Specialist Groups to achieve the aims of this Resolution	South Africa continues to engage Parties to the Convention and the IUCN/SSC Rhino Specialist Groups to achieve the aims of this Resolution.