

## Rhinoceroses: Reporting to the 74<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee

### 1. Cites Resolution

*Parties should ensure the timely reporting of seizures and submission of DNA samples to range States, and continuously review trends associated with the illegal killing of rhinoceroses and illegal trade in rhinoceros specimens, and the measures and activities they are implementing to address these crimes, to ensure that these measures and activities remain effective and are quickly adapted to respond to any newly identified trends, and report to the Secretariat in time for consideration by the Standing Committee on any activities conducted in this regard.*

#### 1.1 Reports on Seizures

During the period from 2019 to date, Zimbabwe has not received any reports of seizures from any other countries.

#### 1.2 DNA sampling

- Zimbabwe is still in the process of establishing a wildlife DNA laboratory.
- At the present moment, DNA samples are taken to the University of Pretoria for analysis and the results from such tests are then used locally in court processes.
- During the period between extending from 2019 to date, no samples were collected from horn seizures, rhino poaching incidences for submission for DNA profiling. Refer to the submitted ETIS reports under the period

#### 1.3 Reduction of Poaching

- Due to a cocktail of anti-poaching measures implemented by Zimbabwe such as the use of modern technology such as drones, sniffer dogs and deployment of compliance officers at ports of entry and exit as well a use of scanners contributed significantly towards the reduction of poaching of Rhinos
- The Covid 19 pandemic restricted movement of people and the government deployed many police manned road blocks across the country who prevented unauthorized movements of traffic.
- Zimbabwe made a major breakthrough in arresting an organized criminal syndicate that was responsible for the illegal supply of firearms and ammunition to poaching syndicates. Several heavy caliber hunting weapons were removed from circulation through a coordinated operation targeting criminal syndicates and this had a direct impact on reducing poaching incidences.

#### 1.4 Trend of Rhinoceros poaching

	<b>Black Rhinos Poached</b>	<b>White Rhinos Poached</b>	<b>Totals</b>
2021	3	1	4
2020	3	5	8
2019	23	6	29
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>41</b>

## 2. Cites Resolution

*Zimbabwe is encouraged to pursue the expeditious finalization of outstanding cases in court related to rhinoceros poaching and rhinoceros horn smuggling, to consider measures that could be implemented to facilitate the swift processing of such cases in future, and to report to the Secretariat on any activities conducted in this regard, in time for consideration by the Standing Committee.*

### 2.1. Court Cases Management

YEAR	TOTAL RHINO CASES	TOTAL CASES FINALISED	TOTAL CASES OUTSTANDING
2021	2	0	2
2020	4	2	2
2019	3	2	1
Totals	9	4	5

- The National Prosecuting Authority of Zimbabwe established a Wildlife directorate desk headed by a director whose role is to co-ordinate the prosecution of all wildlife cases in Zimbabwe.
- A wildlife coordinating committee comprising the following stakeholders: - NPA, Zimbabwe Republic Police, Parks and Wildlife Management Authority and NGOs involved in tackling illegal wildlife trade was set up and its role is to ensure that cases brought before the courts are well prepared and they also participate in court case monitoring to ensure delivery of sound justice.
- A court roll schedule of all wildlife cases is prepared every Monday and shared among all Stakeholders and this has had a positive impact in that all cases before the courts receive attention.
- Accused persons on bail pending appeal are followed up to ensure that they prosecute their own cases.
- A schedule of all accused persons on warrant of arrest is religiously followed up to ensure it is up to date and suspects are brought before the courts.
- Zimbabwe has adopted a policy which ensures that criminals are brought to criminal justice no-matter how trivial the offence may be.
- Continuous lobbying and training of the judiciary chain has played a significant role in changing the mindset of all players.
- Those convicted for Rhino Poaching or illegal Rhino possession receives a minimum mandatory sentence of 9 years and 11 – 20 years for repeated offenders.

### 2.2 Reaction Teams

- Multi-stakeholder teams whose role is to investigate serious wildlife crimes.
- Crake teams are found in various jurisdictions across the country.