

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

Committee I

Illegal trade in the helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*)

DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DECISIONS ON THE HELMETED HORNBILL

This document has been prepared by Indonesia as chair of the working group established on this matter in the fifth session of Committee I. It is based on matters arising from the discussion on document CoP17 Doc. 69 at the fifth session of Committee I.

Resolution Conf. 17.XX

Conservation of and trade in helmeted hornbill

RECALLING that the helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) is included in Appendix I of the Convention, and that all commercial international trade in its parts and derivatives has been regulated by the Convention since 1975;

RECOGNIZING that the helmeted hornbill is of cultural and symbolic significance to local communities in Southeast Asia;

AWARE that the helmeted hornbill is highly vulnerable to overexploitation due to its extensive habitat requirements, naturally low population densities, relatively low reproductive rate, and habit of flocking at fruiting trees where it may be easily shot by hunters;

NOTING WITH CONCERN that the wild population of the helmeted hornbill in Indonesia has been increasingly threatened since 2011 by poaching to supply demand for raw and carved casques, the source of 'hornbill ivory' or 'red ivory';

NOTING ALSO that this increase in poaching has been paralleled by an increase in demand for, and in the black market price of, hornbill ivory as a luxury collectable item in China and among Chinese consumers in Southeast Asia;

NOTING that, in response to recent large-scale poaching, the threat status of the species was formally upgraded in 2015 from Near Threatened to Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List;

AWARE that, as populations become depleted in Indonesia, poachers are likely to shift their attention to other range States;

NOTING IN ADDITION the work under the auspices of the IUCN Species Survival Commission through the Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP), including the development of an Action Plan for the Conservation of helmeted hornbill;

CONCERNED that without urgent and integrated conservation and law enforcement measures, as well as coordinated efforts on the part of both consumer and range States, the species may be in imminent danger of extinction;

CONSCIOUS that effective enforcement, raising awareness of the issue, education and demand reduction, and cooperation with local communities are critically important complements to effective *in situ* conservation of the species, including control of large-scale poaching;

COMMENDING the initiatives by Indonesia to facilitate cooperation in conservation of the helmeted hornbill and to address illegal hunting of the species; and

RECOGNIZING, however, that strengthened technical cooperation among all relevant Parties, including range and actual or potential consumer States, as well as financial support, would contribute to more effective conservation of the helmeted hornbill;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. URGES all Parties, especially consumer and range States, to:
 - a) adopt as a matter of urgency comprehensive legislation, enforcement controls and effective penalties, with the aim of prohibiting any hunting for helmeted hornbill, eliminating poaching of helmeted hornbill and illegal trade in its parts and derivatives;
 - b) prohibit the display, domestic sale and acquisition of helmeted hornbill specimens, including online sales, including parts and derivatives, except for *bona fide* purposes, including conservation, scientific research, cultural activities, education and forensic investigation;
 - c) designate highest legal protection status for the helmeted hornbill and, in relation to a) to b) above, increase current enforcement efforts and prosecutions and address legislative and enforcement gaps;
 - d) undertake cross-border cooperation between neighbouring range States for the management of contiguous habitat, strengthen enforcement controls, including anti-poaching measures in helmeted hornbill range States, collate and share information among law enforcement agencies and INTERPOL related to incidents of poaching, trafficking and illegal sale (including online sale), of helmeted hornbills and their parts and derivatives;
 - e) monitor the impact of hunting pressure on hornbill populations;
 - f) undertake public education campaigns to increase awareness of local people about the conservation of helmeted hornbill and its habitat, as well as to reduce demand for helmeted hornbill specimens, including parts and derivatives, and to promote awareness of applicable laws, particularly within the carving industry; and
 - g) take any other steps necessary for helmeted hornbills range States to develop and implement the Conservation Action Plan for helmeted hornbill; and
2. CALLS UPON all governments, donor and funding organizations, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as a matter of urgency, to support efforts to implement the Action Plan, eliminate poaching and illegal trade in helmeted hornbill, including by:
 - a) providing funding to relevant Parties and, for the purposes of this resolution, to the CITES Secretariat and other relevant ICCWC partners; and
 - b) providing assistance with enforcement, training, capacity building and education, population monitoring, and the gathering and exchange of scientific, technical and legal information and expertise.

Draft Decisions

Directed to Parties

- 17.XX(0) Range States and transit and consumer Parties should provide information to the Secretariat, about their implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.XX and collaborate with the Secretariat in its implementation of Decision 17.XX(1).

Directed to the Secretariat

- 17.XX(1) Subject to the availability of external funding, the Secretariat shall:
- a) consult the range States of the helmeted hornbill concerning their measures to conserve and protect this species, including relevant conservation actions, legal and regulatory measures, outreach and education activities, cross-border cooperation and actions to combat poaching and illegal trade;
 - b) assist Parties to develop and implement measures, including legislative and enforcement measures and regional and sub-regional initiatives, to halt or reduce, and ultimately, eliminate illegal trade in helmeted hornbills;
 - c) work closely with ICCWC partners to support the implementation of this Decision; and
 - d) report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of this Decision.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 17.XX(2) The Standing Committee shall review the implementation of Decision 17.XX(1) on the basis of the Secretariat's reports and report at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this Decision, with any recommendations for further action.