



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2014/058

Geneva, 2 December 2014

CONCERNING:

Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)

1. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted Decision 16.85, on *Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)*, of which paragraphs a) to c) are as follows:

16.85 *All Parties implicated in the illegal trade of rhinoceros horn as a range or consumer State, where applicable, should:*

- a) *develop and implement long-term demand reduction strategies or programmes and immediate actions aimed at reducing the illegal movement and consumption of rhino horn products, taking into consideration the draft demand-reduction principles included in the Annex to document CoP16 Doc. 54.1 (Rev. 1), to achieve measurable change in consumer behaviour;*
 - b) *develop and implement strategies or programmes to enhance community awareness with regard to the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife crime, and to encourage the general public to report illegal activities related to wildlife trade to appropriate authorities for further investigation. Such strategies or programmes and immediate actions could include the involvement of local communities that live in the immediate vicinity of conservation areas, community policing projects or other strategies as may be appropriate; and*
 - c) *provide information on the effectiveness of strategies or programmes referred to in paragraph a) and b) of this Decision, to the Working Group on Rhinoceroses, by 31 January 2015, to assist the Working Group in identifying best practices and challenges experienced, with the aim of developing ideas to further enhance the effectiveness of demand-reduction strategies, and to report on its findings at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.*
2. At its 65th meeting (SC65, Geneva, 2014), the Standing Committee adopted the following recommendation, contained in document SC65 Com. 3 as paragraph k):
 - k) *request the Working Group on Rhinoceroses to assist the provision of information requested in accordance with Decision 16.85 c) on the effectiveness of demand reduction programmes referred to in Decision 16.85 a) and the strategies and programmes to enhance community awareness referred to in Decision 16.85 b) through the development of reporting guidance by 30 September 2014, to aid Parties to prepare their reports, based on relevant previous Decisions and reports, in particular the Annex to CoP16 Doc. 54.1 (Rev. 1).*
 3. The Working Group on Rhinoceroses has developed guidance to facilitate the provision of the information requested in accordance with Decision 16.85 paragraph c). This guidance is contained in Annex 1 to the present Notification to provide a standard approach, and Parties are requested to follow this format in compiling their reports. Annex 2 contains examples of ways to complete the form provided in Annex 1.

4. Management Authorities that do not have all the information requested in the attached reporting guidance are encouraged to consult relevant national authorities to seek the information. Parties are further encouraged to engage with national and international organizations, if necessary, to ensure that all relevant information is collected.
5. After the deadline for submission of reports established by the Conference of the Parties in Decision 16.85, paragraph c), the Working Group will continue to work on this topic. To allow as much time as possible for the preparation of reports, it will take into account all submissions received in response to the present Notification, up to 31 May 2015.
6. Parties are therefore requested to submit their reports to the Secretariat by 31 May 2015.