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particularly by the Lamido (Sultan) of Rey Bouba, whose influence is considerable and who has taken the rhinoceros under his personal protection;

- finally, the declared intention of the Cameroon government, and particularly of the Tourist Department and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Forest and Hunting, to do everything to save this species.

Conclusion: The black rhino conservation programme in Cameroon has two essential advantages:

- the species is represented by a population which has not reached the critical threshold and which is distributed in such a way that it will increase fairly rapidly if effectively protected;

- the Cameroon government, at the highest level, is ready to do the maximum on its part if, in view of the country's other development problems, the international community does its share for this project.

All projects concerning rhinoceros are of the greatest urgency. Both threats and favourable conditions can change very rapidly and threaten the rhino's future. Immediate action is necessary, for the Cameroon authorities, as well as for international bodies.

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WWF/IUCN STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN RHINO PRODUCTS (Full Text)

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have received a report from their consultant, Dr Esmond Bradley Martin (Projects 1724, 1936), on the international trade in rhinoceros products, based upon survey work undertaken in Africa and Asia. The report will be made widely available for the information it reveals on the nature of this trade, covering such topics as the uses to which rhino products are put, the pattern of prices in recent years, geographical aspects of the trade and a quantitative assessment of world consumption of rhino horn. The report is the first comprehensive account of its kind, bringing together and evaluating data already available, as well as new information brought to light by Dr Bradley Martin's research. The conclusions are alarming, for they point to continuing pressure on the already highly vulnerable five species of rhino. In this statement, IUCN and WWF highlight the

findings of Dr Bradley Martin's study and make their position clear on the action needed concerning the trade to save the remaining numbers of rhinos.

Principal findings

The most striking point to emerge from the study is that the wholesale price of rhino horn has risen twentyfold over the last five years in response to an upsurge in demand in several parts of Asia. Whilst the study has dispelled the myth that the Chinese use rhino horn as an aphrodisiac, it has shown that they regard it instead as a powerful feverreducing drug, and that other rhino products are widely used. In Southeast and East Asia, more than half of the annually available supply of rhino horn is consumed for such medicinal purposes. In parts of India rhino horn is used for its supposed aphrodisiac properties. A major use of African rhino horn is for making Yemeni dagger handles, and it is primarily because of the present demand in the Yemen Arab Republic that the prices for rhino horn have risen so high.

The world rhino population is only a fraction of what it was a hundred years ago. And the dramatic upsurge in the value of rhino horn in recent years has put even greater pressure on these species; it is believed that there were twice as many rhino in 1970 as there are now.

To save the two African and three Asian rhino species from extinction, WWF has mounted an international fund-raising campaign, "Save the Rhino", for a programme of rhino conservation projects developed by IUCN in Africa and Asia. Already \$750,000 have been raised, and much of this has been committed to anti-poaching operations, creation of new reserves, reinforcement of national park operations, and public education projects. Clearly conservation measures of this kind are essential, as two success stories - the white rhino in South Africa, and the Indian rhino in India and Nepal - show. But the picture generally is depressing. The populations of African black and northern white rhino are under severe pressure and the small numbers of Sumatran and Javan rhino are surviving only in restricted ranges.

Conservation measures alone are insufficient and the greatest effort should be directed towards arresting the trade in rhino horn. This offers the best hope for the long-term survival of rhinos. Dr Bradley Martin has made a number of recommendations to this effect, which have been carefully reviewed by IUCN, WWF and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The WWF/IUCN response

The action which IUCN and WWF intend to take is as follows:

1. A campaign will be mounted to encourage interest in producing, consuming and trading countries to join CITES, to enforce CITES more effectively, and to halt trade in rhino products. The help of competent international organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Association of South East Asian Nations, and the Arab League Education, Cultural and Scientific Organization, will be enlisted.

Some of the 141 rhino horns seized by West German customs in a single month.

Photo: Wolf



2. Technical assistance will be provided to producing countries, especially in Africa, on improvements to the administration and enforcement of trade controls under CITES, so as to make full use of this Convention.
3. Particular attention will be given to bringing the seriousness of the situation to the notice of the Chinese authorities, who have recently indicated their decision to adhere to CITES and control the trade in rhino products. Contact will be made with medical and pharmaceutical associations and with practitioners in other Asian countries to persuade them not to prescribe or dispense any rhino derivatives, and to encourage the use of alternatives and

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substitutes. Far Eastern wholesale dealers in rhino products will be encouraged to withdraw from this market - as dealers in Hong Kong have already done.

4. Particular attention will also be given to drawing the attention of the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic to the consequences of their demand for rhino horn daggers. An approach which recognizes the deep respect of the Yemeni people for Islamic traditions, and which urges the use of alternative materials for dagger handles will also be made.
5. Governments will be requested to halt all internal as well as external trade by placing a moratorium on the sale of all government and parastatal stocks of rhino products. Records of these stocks, regularly updated, should be made available to IUCN.
6. Hunting of rhino should be prohibited anywhere in the world, except where such hunting serves to promote the conservation of particular populations and provided proper control of the hunting and disposal of products and trophies is assured.

Establishment of a ranger post in Rubondo National Park, Tanzania, (Project 1932): Rubondo National Park has between 30 and 40 rhinoceros - one of the largest remaining populations of rhino in northern Tanzania. Since it is an island, Rubondo is easier to protect than other rhino areas in the country. With strict protection it is hoped that the Rubondo rhino population can become a nucleus from which other areas could be restocked in the future.

Rubondo National Park covers 450 km², most of which is forest and the remainder woodland and patches of open grassland. The area was declared a National Park in 1977. Sixteen black rhino were introduced in 1964 and the population today is 30-40 animals. But four rhinos are reported to have been killed by poachers.

There are already three ranger posts in the Park, but a new ranger post is needed in the south of the island to carry out effective anti-poaching patrols. The National Parks Department has increased the Ranger Force to provide for the new post. WWF/IUCN is providing funds for four houses for the rangers and to improve the road leading to the post. The Frankfurt Zoological Society has provided vehicles and a boat with outboard motor for the Park.

ASIAN RHINOS (See under Chapter 7, Area-based Conservation - Indonesia)