



Only about 50 percent of the rhino horn (such as this old confiscated stock in the Federal Republic of Germany) from about 70,000 poached rhinos has appeared in trade records. (WWE/M. Wolf)

What Happened to All That Rhino Horn?

A recent analysis of the decline in populations of black (*Diceros bicornis*) and northern white (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*) rhinos suggests that only about half of the rhino horn from poached rhinos has been accounted for in international trade statistics. According to calculations by David Western in *Pachyderm* (no. 11, 1989), the newsletter of the IUCN African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group, 66,360 to 76,440 black rhinos and 2,272 to 2,653 northern white rhinos were killed by poachers from

1970 to 1987. These rhinos may have yielded a calculated 199,478 to 229,910 kilos of rhino horn but trade statistics only account for about 101,000 kilos. What happened to the other half of the horn?

Western believes that the 45 to 51 percent of horn missing (by his calculations) from trade records might be entering unknown markets such as Arab states other than North Yemen that use horn, such as Oman, or other Asian countries, such as North Korea, where illicit shipments have been discovered. Or possibly the missing horn may be entering known markets in far larger quantities than previously has been assumed. For example, one of the major rhino horn importers, Taiwan, was not recognized as such until 1988.



Parlor Palms

Increasing Popularity Threatens Central American Species

Eighteen species of palms from the genus *Chamaedorea* are currently under consideration for inclusion in CITES Appendices I and II at the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October. Occasionally known by such foliage-trade names as commodore, parlor palm, jade, or emerald, these ornamental palms are valued in both the floriculture and the horticulture industries for their attractive and often quite elegant leaves. Seeds, seedlings and leaves are now being exported in increasingly large quantities to the United States and Europe. Yet, as these species become more popular, their numbers in the wild are dwindling; both habitat destruction and unregulated trade in these palms are rapidly depleting some populations.

The genus *Chamaedorea* consists of approximately 100 species distributed from central Mexico south to Brazil and Bolivia. Of the 18 species discussed in this article, 10 are endemic to Mexico, 1 endemic to

Guatemala, and the remaining 7 have distributions restricted to Central America. All members of this genus are understory plants and occur in either moist or mixed forests in lowland or montane regions.

Interest in *Chamaedorea* has led to expansion in the floriculture and horticulture industries. The former uses palm leaves as components in flower arrangements, causing the harvest of millions of leaves throughout the year in Central America. Seeds and seedlings comprise the bulk of material traded in horticulture, with seeds being the more significant of the two. Potted palms, usually *elegans* or *seifrizii*, are grown in many commercial nurseries and, because of their beauty and hardiness, are gaining in popularity on the retail tropical foliage market.

The nine species of *Chamaedorea* proposed for CITES Appendix I are threatened primarily by collection for the specialist trade. These

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Simple-leaved *Chamaedorea metallica* (at left) is compared with a pinnate palm frond. (WWF/Nina T. Marshall)