



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2012/014

Geneva, 20 February 2012

CONCERNING:

Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses

1. At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 15.71 on the *Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses* as follows:

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *examine the implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) in those range States where illegal killing of rhinoceros poses a significant threat to populations of rhinoceros, particularly Zimbabwe and South Africa;*
 - b) *examine progress with regards to curtailing illegal trade in rhinoceros parts and derivatives by implicated States, particularly Viet Nam; and*
 - c) *report on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev CoP15) at the 61st, 62nd and 63rd meetings of the Standing Committee.*
2. At its 61st meeting (SC61, Geneva, August 2011), the Standing Committee established an intersessional Rhinoceros Working Group, chaired by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, tasked with identifying measures that could be taken by CITES Parties to reduce the impact of illegal trade on the conservation of rhinoceroses and to enhance existing controls on trade in rhinoceros horn products. The decisions that the Standing Committee took at SC61 concerning the conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses, including the full mandate of the Rhinoceros Working Group, are presented in the Annex to this Notification.
 3. In order to facilitate the reporting of the Secretariat at the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62, Geneva, July 2012) in compliance with Decision 15.71, paragraph c), and to assist the Rhinoceros Working Group in implementing its mandate, the Secretariat invites all Parties to submit information on:
 - a) the implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev CoP15) (recognizing that the Resolution contains a wide range of actions that Parties should undertake);
 - b) measures taken to reduce the illegal trade in rhinoceroses and their parts and derivatives;
 - c) measures taken to enhance existing controls on trade in rhinoceros horn products and live rhinoceroses to ensure the long-term conservation of the species; and
 - d) any other information which Parties believe could assist the Rhinoceros Working Group in fulfilling its mandate.
 4. The Secretariat would appreciate receiving this information by **15 April 2012** so as to have sufficient time to collate and summarize it for SC62, and for analysis by the Rhinoceros Working Group.

Annex

Recommendations concerning the conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses formulated by the Standing Committee at its 61st meeting (Geneva, August 2011)

The Committee decided that an intersessional Rhinoceros Working Group, chaired by the United Kingdom, would identify measures that could be taken by CITES Parties to reduce the impact of illegal trade on the conservation of rhinoceroses and to enhance existing controls on trade in rhinoceros horn products.

The Committee also:

- a) Instructed the working group to:
 - i) taking account of documents SC61 Doc 45.1 and SC61 Doc 45.2, the responses to Decisions 15.71 and 15.72, and on the basis of other currently available information, work with the Secretariat to assess how trade patterns have developed since the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15, Doha, 2010) and, taking account of illegal activities, consider the drivers for trade and measures that could be taken to prevent rhinoceros horn entering the illegal market;
 - ii) collect and assess available scientific evidence and documented evidence of traditional cultural practices and beliefs that exists relating to the medicinal properties of rhinoceros horn, and in particular any which relates to the curative properties for cancers and strokes;
 - iii) work intersessionally, and by electronic means as necessary, to identify urgent, short-term measures and longer-term measures that can be taken by CITES Parties to reduce the illegal trade in rhinoceroses and their parts and derivatives, and to enhance existing controls on trade in rhinoceros horn products and live rhinoceroses to ensure the long-term conservation of the species;
 - iv) allocate tasks to its members to assess specific measures that may reduce the impact of illegal trade and enhance existing controls; and
 - v) report at SC62 with a view to developing recommendations for consideration at CoP16;
- b) Urged Parties to, urgently, introduce precautionary measures to control the trade in rhinoceros horn and live rhinoceroses;
- c) Urged Parties to provide information on trade in rhinoceroses and their parts or derivatives to IUCN and TRAFFIC, as detailed in Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15); and
- d) Encouraged Parties to engage in public awareness campaigns highlighting the current serious levels of criminality associated with the illicit trade in rhinoceroses and rhinoceros horn.