

Taking Action

Necessary Steps

WWF urges China, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand to take the following measures:

- Prohibit all domestic and international trade in rhino horn and rhino products, including medicine, as recommended by the 1987 CITES resolution, and strictly enforce this prohibition.
- Register and monitor existing rhino horn stocks.
- Encourage the use of rhino horn substitutes such as water buffalo horn.

Essential protection measures:

- Thailand, the only one of the four countries that has its own rhino population, needs the funds and manpower to establish a rhino management plan.
- Continue wildlife management training programmes that emphasize development of an indigenous capacity to manage wild rhino populations, to capture, translocate, and reintroduce rhinos, and to maintain and breed them in captivity.
- Continue protected area management training programmes that emphasize survey techniques, anti-poaching measures, and village extension work. Devise methods that allow villagers to benefit economically from protected areas.

WWF: In the Works

Registration of rhino horn stocks and subsequent monitoring provides the foundation to abolish all internal and international trade in rhino horn.

Steps are already being taken to convince South Korea and Thailand to follow China and Taiwan's example of registering stocks. "Our intention," says Jørgen Thomsen of

TRAFFIC, "is to have a person in Taiwan, China, South Korea, and Thailand to oversee and monitor the stocks in these countries, to monitor customs statistics as soon as they are available, and to investigate any further import of rhino horn so we can report on any violations of the registration. In other words, to make sure no new rhino horn comes in."

WWF has two ongoing projects aimed at stopping rhino horn trade. "Africa: Rhino Products, Closing Down the International Trade" (I3637), now six years old, is led by Dr. Esmond Bradley Martin from his base in Nairobi, Kenya. Martin's success in Yemen, the creation of a six-point action plan in 1986, is part of this project. He plans to visit Yemen between 1991 and 1992 to help with enforcement of the plan. This trailblazing rhino-trade project has spawned the proposal of specific on-the-ground project activities in China, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Zambia. The second WWF campaign report will cover their progress.

TRAFFIC's Kristen Nowell, working out of Taipei, is the Project Executant of "Africa: Stopping the Rhino Horn Trade in Taiwan, Phase II" (II3637.03). Having helped the government to register rhino horn stocks, Nowell is now working to with authorities to enforce current legislation. Current action includes the formation of a Chinese-speaking undercover team of monitors to assess rhino horn availability through medicine dealers. The team will report directly to the Council of Agriculture for law enforcement.

To achieve the final steps needed in the fight to save the rhino, WWF is actively engaged in raising public awareness, lobbying, and protecting rhinos, particularly in the four countries where legislation and other conservation measures are lacking.

"These four countries are the final front," says Thomsen. "We must stop the rhino horn trade once and for all."