

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

RHINOCEROSSES

Report of the SC65 Working Group on Rhinoceroses

The working group recommends that the Standing Committee adopt all of the recommendations outlined below. These combine and supersede the recommendations included in both the reports of the Working Group on Rhinoceroses (SC65 Doc. 43.1) and the Report of the Secretariat (SC65 Doc. 43.2)

The Standing committee is invited to:

Recommendations related to all Parties

- a) encourage all Parties to make every effort to effectively implement Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) and the Decisions on Rhinoceroses (*Rhinocerotidae spp.*) adopted at CoP16, and the strategies and proposed actions developed by the CITES Rhino Enforcement Task Force, made available to Parties as an Annex to Notification to the Parties No. 2014/006 of 23 January 2014. In particular Parties are encouraged to take note of Decision 16.84 a) to immediately bring every seizure of illegal rhinoceroses specimens made within their territories to the attention of authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination;

Recommendation related to Czech Republic, South Africa and Viet Nam

- b) invite the Czech Republic, South Africa and Viet Nam each to submit a comprehensive report to the Secretariat, by 31 March 2015, on measures taken, including measures to improve bilateral and trilateral co-operation, to ensure that rhinoceros trophy hunting is not exploited by criminal groups and is not used to launder rhinoceros horns into illegal trade, and to prevent the illegal re-export of rhinoceros horns from the Czech Republic to Viet Nam. In the case of Viet Nam this reporting should be included in the report it provides in accordance with recommendation h;

Recommendation related to India

- c) invite India to submit a comprehensive report on its implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) to the Secretariat, by 31 March 2015, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting;

Recommendations related to Mozambique

- d) note that Mozambique provided a limited response to Decision 16.87 two months after the date set down in the Decision, and failed to provide any response to Decision 16.88. Further note that this impeded the ability of the Working Group to fulfil its mandate;

- e) invite Mozambique to:
- i) prepare a detailed national rhinoceros action plan with time frames and milestones, capturing the measures that are still being, or are expected to be implemented, as contained in the report submitted by Mozambique and described in the report of the Secretariat (SC65 Doc. 43.2), the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15), and any other activities and measures that might be implemented to combat illegal killing of rhinoceros and illegal rhinoceros horn trade;
  - ii) submit its national rhinoceros action plan to the Secretariat by 31 October 2014;
  - iii) take urgent measures to implement the national rhinoceros action plan between SC65 and SC66, seeking advice from the Secretariat as necessary;
  - iv) provide a report to the Secretariat and the Working Group on Rhinoceroses, about progress made against timeframes and milestones on the implementation of the actions contained in the national rhinoceros action plan, by 31 January 2015; and
  - v) provide a comprehensive report on progress made with the implementation of the national rhinoceros action plan, to the Secretariat and the Working Group on Rhinoceroses, by 31 March 2015, including information on arrests, seizures, prosecutions and penalties for offenders involved in rhinoceros poaching and illegal rhinoceros horn possession and trade, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting.
- f) the Secretariat shall, upon request, advise Mozambique on the development and implementation of its national rhinoceros action plan, and may undertake a mission to the country in the light of progress with implementation, pending an invitation from Mozambique and the availability of external funding.

#### Recommendation related to South Africa and Mozambique

- g) invite South Africa and Mozambique to jointly submit a comprehensive report to the Secretariat, by 31 March 2015, on progress in the implementation of the deliverables agreed between their Ministers at their June 2013 meeting, and on any progress made in the implementation of the activities agreed at the 4th JPCDS meeting, as it relates to rhinoceros poaching and the illegal rhinoceros horn trade, as described in paragraphs 37 to 38 of the report of the Secretariat (SC65 Doc. 43.2) , for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting;

#### Recommendation related to Viet Nam

- h) invite Viet Nam to provide a further progress report, following on from their report ahead of SC65, to the Secretariat by 31 March 2015, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting, on:
- i) the outcome of investigations and the application of appropriate penalties in relation to the seizures reported in the report submitted by Viet Nam and presented in Annex 1 to the report of the Secretariat (SC65 Doc. 43.2), and on arrests, seizures, prosecutions and penalties for illegal rhinoceros horn possession and trade offences imposed in the period since SC65, including at border points and in domestic markets;
  - ii) any measures implemented to ensure that all confiscated rhinoceros horn stocks are secured, marked and registered in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15);
  - iii) any activities conducted to bring seizures to the attention of authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination in accordance with the provisions of Decision 16.84, paragraphs a) and b), and any collection of samples from confiscated rhinoceros horns for forensic analysis, in accordance with the provisions of Decision 16.84, paragraph d);
  - iv) measures to reduce the demand for rhinoceros horns in domestic markets and reduce the engagement of Vietnamese people in the illegal trade in rhino horn, both in Viet Nam and in other countries; and
  - v) progress on implementation of the Prime Minister's Directive on strengthening the direction and implementation of measures for controlling and protecting endangered, rare and precious wild animals.

- i) request the Secretariat to share the national rhinoceroses action plan of Mozambique described in recommendation e) ii) above with the Working Group on Rhinoceroses, to assist the Working Group to implement its mandate.
- j) request the Secretariat and the Working Group on Rhinoceroses to evaluate the reports submitted in compliance with recommendations b), c), e) iv), e) v), g) and h) above and report their findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting;
- 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);
- l) subject to external funding, request the Secretariat to convene an expert workshop to consider the reports provided in accordance with Decision 16.85 c) to enhance the effectiveness, through identification of best practices and challenges experienced, 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). Parties that submit reports in accordance with Decision 16.85 c) should be invited to this workshop;
- m) during the intersessional period the Secretariat will, in consultation with the Working Group, draw to the attention of the Standing Committee significant issues of non-compliance with the recommendations made on rhinoceros by the Standing Committee at its 65th meeting. Such issues raised will be considered by postal procedure, and in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3;
- n) in relation to the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force and Decision 16.84 a) and b):
  - i) urge all Parties that have not provided the Secretariat with the contact details of their national focal points on matters related to the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn, as described in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report of the Secretariat (SC65 Doc. 43.2), to do so by 15 August 2014;
  - ii) encourage all Parties to provide information on their implementation of the strategies and proposed actions developed by the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force at SC66, as requested in the Annex to Notification to the Parties No. 2014/006 of 23 January 2014;
  - iii) request the Secretariat to issue a notification and invite those Parties that have made seizures of rhinoceroses specimens to report to the Secretariat on their implementation of Decision 16.84 a) and b) by 31 March 2015;
  - iv) request the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting on actions taken to facilitate the implementation of paragraphs 4 a) to c) of the strategies and proposed actions developed by the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force.