

## REVISION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 9.14 (REV. COP14) ON CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN AFRICAN AND ASIAN RHINOCEROSSES

Amendments to the CITES Resolution on African and Asian rhinos (Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev CoP13)) were adopted at CoP14 along with Decisions 14.88-14.90 on rhinoceroses.

This Resolution and the Decisions place a number of obligations on States, and assign roles regarding monitoring, reporting and provision of assistance to the Secretariat, Standing Committee, IUCN African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce (TRAFFIC).

The provisions in Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev CoP13) are stronger than existed before but may not be as effective as they are intended to be and could be improved.

Owing to the reports on recent escalation of illegal trade in rhino horn, these proposed amendments and improvements could not come at a better time. Kenya lost 13 black rhinos (2.1% of population) and 6 white rhinos (1.8% of population) to poaching in 2009.

While the Resolution vests all reporting, review, analysis and making recommendations in IUCN, TRAFFIC and the Secretariat, we propose that there should be more defined roles for the range and consumer States and the Standing Committee.

The following recommendations are therefore aimed at strengthening Resolution. Conf. 9.14 (RevCoP13):

- a) Introduce range and consumer States consultation and review of the IUCN/TRAFFIC report;
- b) Strengthen the role of the Standing Committee to give it a clear mandate to make recommendations on non-compliance with Resolution Conf.9.14;
- c) Introduce an obligation for consumer States to report on measures to reduce consumption of Rhino parts and derivatives, and mandate IUCN / TRAFFIC to report on these measures;
- d) Clarify the mechanism whereby range and consumer States provide information to IUCN and TRAFFIC for inclusion in their reports, including timeframes for reporting;
- e) Provide a mechanism to monitor range and consumer State reviews of the adequacy of enforcement and trade control measures in their conservation and management plans;
- f) Introduce an option for stockpile destruction or use for scientific and educational purposes;
- g) Provide for the CITES Rhino Enforcement Task Force into the resolution and inscribe its mandate.

### CITES Secretariats' comments

Whilst the Secretariat appreciates Kenya's desire to strengthen measures to combat illegal trade in specimens of rhinoceroses and to ensure the delivery of the most accurate information to enable oversight and assessment of implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP14), it is unable to support the majority of the proposed amendments to the Resolution in their current form.

However, the Secretariat expects considerable attention to be paid to the conservation of rhinoceroses during the present meeting. It hopes that ways to improve conservation and reduce

illegal trade will emerge from the discussions and will be very happy to work with Kenya, and others, to draft amendments to the Resolution, should that be agreed by the Conference.

**Kenya therefore requests the Ambassadors to urge their country representatives to CITES CoP 15 support these amendments by allowing the Secretariat to work with Kenya and others in further drafting the amendments to the resolution.**