

TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Proposal #/ Proponent	Species covered by the proposal	Proposal	RECOMMENDATION
# 10 Kenya	<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i> (White Rhinoceros)	Amendment of the annotation for <i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i> as follows: (added text <u>underlined</u>): “ <i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i> (Only the populations of South Africa and Swaziland; all other populations are included in Appendix I. For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations and hunting trophies. <u>Hunting trophies from South Africa and Swaziland shall be subject to a zero export quota until at least CoP18.</u> All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly.)”	<p>This proposal is to amend the annotation to <i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i> applicable to the Appendix II populations of South Africa and Swaziland, by subjecting hunting trophies to a zero export quota until at least CoP18. The proponent cites evidence that, in recent years, legally-obtained sport hunting trophies have been illegally sold into commercial rhino horn trade, particularly in Viet Nam. Although pseudo-hunting practices have been documented in South Africa, Swaziland has never allowed sport hunting of White Rhinos. The South African government has acknowledged the pseudo-hunting issue and has imposed a progressive series of regulatory measures to address it, including suspending the issuance of permits to Vietnamese nationals, to ensure that sport hunting of White Rhino remains restricted to bona fide hunters.</p> <p>South Africa has established an impressive rhino conservation record and today holds over 90% of the global population of White Rhinos. Disallowing legitimate sport hunting would severely undermine incentives for rhino conservation in South Africa, diminishing revenues available to conservation authorities as well as private sector rhino owners who own approximately 25% of the country’s White Rhinos. Further, the proposed amendment would effectively impose stricter export controls on South Africa and Swaziland compared to the other range States who would still be allowed to export White Rhino hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes, even though such populations are in Appendix I. Acceptance of this proposal may also prompt countries to impose reservations on this listing, potentially weakening the Convention as it currently applies to this species.</p> <p>REJECT</p>