

CoP17 Prop. 7 [Swaziland] Southern White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum simum*. To alter the existing annotation on the Appendix II listing of Swaziland's White Rhino, adopted at the 13th Conference of Parties in 2004, so as to permit a limited and regulated trade in White Rhino horn which has been collected in the past from natural deaths, or recovered from poached Swazi rhino, as well as horn to be harvested in a non-lethal way from a limited number of White Rhino in the future in Swaziland

Although African rhinos continued to face record poaching levels in 2015, only three rhinos have been illegally killed in Swaziland over the last ten years. This is commendable, particularly given the country's geographic location between South Africa and Mozambique, the two African nations most heavily implicated in rhino poaching and rhino horn trafficking. To help support continued management and protection of Swaziland's rhinos, this proposal aims to establish a limited trade in existing rhino horn stocks and future harvest of horn from living stock using proven non-lethal means that would lead to the establishment of an endowment fund for conservation purposes. Whilst this is an understandable goal, the proposed means and conditions under which such trade would transpire to unspecified markets in Asia are exceptionally vague. The lack of regulatory detail is a serious deficiency that precludes necessary evaluation of key considerations such as the legal trade frameworks in both source and end-use market countries; the processes, protocols and safeguards for preventing rhino horns from illegal sources infiltrating the legal market; and the mechanisms for monitoring compliance, transparency and accountability to ensure that unintended consequences and detrimental impacts on rhinos are avoided. With little information provided as to how the proposed trade will be carried out and controlled, much of the detail necessary to assess the precautionary measures required for acceptance of this proposal is absent.

More importantly, this proposal cannot be viewed in isolation and it is unclear what conservation benefit or risks this listing would present for the species when viewed in the current context of relatively high poaching rates in key range States, strong criminally-organized illegal trade flows from Africa to Asia and unpredictable demand dynamics in end markets.

REJECT