

# Conf. 6.10

## Trade in Rhinoceros Products

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 3.11 on the Trade in Rhinoceros Horn adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (New Delhi, 1981);

NOTING that the black rhinoceros has continued to decline catastrophically, and that the species is currently extremely endangered;

NOTING also the precarious conservation status of Asian rhinoceros species and the continuing threat posed to these species by commerce in their parts and derivatives;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the efforts of the Parties, the Secretariat and other interested agencies have failed to stem the flow of illegal trade in rhinoceros products, particularly horn; and that this trade is the primary factor responsible for the destruction of rhinoceros populations;

AWARE that the situation will continue to deteriorate unless drastic measures are taken immediately;

CONSIDERING that certain countries that do not have rhinoceros populations have been acting as safe entrepôts for illegal shipments of rhinoceros horn and have thus been stimulating the disastrous wave of poaching;

RECOGNIZING that poachers cross international borders to kill rhinos;

CONSCIOUS of the security risk involved in holding large stocks of valuable rhinoceros horn in a routine fashion in government stores and the fact that this has already stimulated criminal action and theft of such stocks;

### THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES all Parties to take steps to establish the following measures immediately:

- a) a complete prohibition on all sales and trade, internal and international, of rhinoceros parts and derivatives, especially horn, whether whole or in any other form, including personal effects, but excluding (solely) non-commercial movement of legitimate hunting trophies where appropriate full CITES documents are issued to that effect;
- b) the destruction of all government and parastatal stocks of rhinoceros horn with supporting contributory funds from external aid sources to be used for rhino conservation in the state concerned;
- c) the issuance of special instructions to all law enforcement agencies to be particularly alert to the problem of rhinoceros horn smuggling;
- d) an increase in penalties for individuals/companies convicted of relevant offences; and
- e) firm action against middlemen and poachers involved in cross border poaching and trafficking in horn; and

### RECOMMENDS

- a) that Parties use all appropriate means (including economic, political and diplomatic) to exert pressure on countries continuing to allow trade in rhinoceros horn, in particular Burundi and the United Arab Emirates, (including the "passive" allowance of such trade), to take the necessary action to prohibit such trade and to enforce such a prohibition;
- b) that Parties encourage the use of substitutes for rhinoceros horn and other rhinoceros products used; and
- c) that Parties encourage the development of national and continental rhino conservation strategies.