

ANNEX

Conclusions and recommendations of CAWT rhino workshop

MAIN PROBLEMS:

1. Unlike other crimes, wildlife crime is not considered very serious. In many countries the penalties are not as severe for wildlife crime as similar arrests for drugs etc.
2. Lack of understanding the market, cultural beliefs and economic drivers – cannot develop targeted solutions without this.
3. Lack of consistent record of rhino numbers, movements and horn stocks. No linked catalogue from range, transit and consumer states.
4. Acting against well organised syndicates. Insufficient arrests are made at higher levels. More international cooperation is required.
5. Inadequate conviction rates and inadequate sentencing. Lack of awareness amongst law enforcement agencies and judiciary.
6. Global co-operation and coordination sharing of intelligence, problems, best practises.

WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO CAWT:

1. Recognise that rhino horn trafficking is a serious organised crime, similar to drugs, weapons and terrorism.
2. Urgently need to undertake research to understand the dynamics of the trade and the drivers behind increased demand.
3. Promote awareness campaigns that must be culturally relevant. Message needs to come from within the country.
4. Encourage higher level political and technical conversation and communication on rhino horn trafficking. Facilitate information exchange and especially increasing communication between range and consumer states e.g. bi-laterals like SA / VN.
5. Encourage range, transit and consumer states to document live rhinos and rhino horn stocks and share information.
6. Encourage and support the establishment of an international rhino horn database linked to DNA profiles.
7. Call for and support more comprehensive intelligence sharing at national, regional and international levels, following the chain of evidence from source to end user.
8. Recommend mechanisms for international co-operation and liaising on procedures and legislation along the enforcement chain.
9. Encouraging the use of custodial sentences with additional appropriate penalties (such as asset seizure) to act as a deterrent to fit the scale of the crime.
10. Training of law enforcement and judicial authorities to strengthen prosecution and convictions aided by an international toolkit and the provision of an international database of expert witnesses who can be called in aggravation of sentence.
11. Encouraging the requirement for background checks and profiling of hunters, in their home country and relevant range state, to determine that they are bona fide.