

evaluate measures taken to control the trade in this species, and to evaluate general problems in CITES implementation and enforcement in that country.

CITES Notification No. 1998/05,
2 March 1998

RHINO POACHERS ARRESTED IN SOUTH AFRICA

Following the poaching of a white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) on private land near Tzaneen, the South African Endangered Species Protection Unit (ESPU) initiated an intensive 14-week investigation into the crime. An AK-47 machine gun was used to kill the rhino for its horn, which weighed a little over 15 kg and is valued at as much as R122,000 (US\$24,180; CA\$34,780; MX\$205,700). In early February 1998, police arrested an employee of the Northern Province nature conservation department and charged him with the crime. They also discovered and confiscated an AK-47, which was sent out for ballistics testing. The unnamed ex-conservation department employee reportedly used official vehicles in his poaching activities, although he had not reported to work since mid December 1997. It is believed that he planned to sell the rhino horn to provide bail money for his brother, who was arrested in Randburg in 1997 on a similar charge. Police also arrested the people who offered the poached rhino horn for sale to undercover ESPU members.

The Pretoria News, 10 February 1998

SOUTH AFRICANS SEIZE RHINO HORN

A sting operation in Centurion, South Africa, netted police much more than the cache of dagga (marijuana) they expected—they also confiscated a rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) horn worth R50,000 (US\$1,982; CA\$2,851; MX16,860). After receiving a tip, police arrested four men on 25 November 1997 who were attempting to sell the rhino horn to an undercover officer posing as a buyer. The suspects were in possession of a horn weighing 5 kilograms and 360 packs of dagga valued at R3,600 (US\$713; CA\$1,026; MX\$6,070), which was hidden in their car. Police suspect that the horn was that of a young white rhino taken from Maputo in Mozambique.

The Pretoria News, 26 November 1997

ELEPHANT TRADE UNDER THE COP 10 REGIME

Four basic decisions were made at the Tenth Conference of the Parties to CITES relating to African elephants. The first was the transfer of African elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe to Appendix II with an annotation. Effective 18 September 1997, each of these countries was allowed to trade in sport hunting trophies for noncommercial purposes and in live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations. Zimbabwe is also eligible to export elephant hides, leather goods, and ivory carvings for noncommercial purposes; however, trade in raw

ivory for commercial purposes will not be allowed until at least 18 months after the effective date of the downlisting.

Decision 10.1 involves the reactivation of commercial trade in African elephant ivory. The very earliest ivory could possibly be traded is 18 March 1999. Reactivation is subject to a number of conditions, the most important of which are as follows: 1) the remedy of deficiencies in enforcement and control measures identified by the CITES Panel of Experts; 2) the withdrawal of reservations to the Appendix I listing; 3) the support and commitment of range states to international cooperation in law enforcement; 4) the establishment of an international reporting and monitoring system to trace illegal hunting of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products; and 5) the establishment of a mechanism whereby trade in ivory can be halted and African elephant populations can be re-transferred to Appendix I in the event of noncompliance with the agreed conditions.

Decision 10.2 establishes conditions for disposal of ivory stocks and for generating resources for conservation in African elephant range states.

Resolution Conf. 10.10 addresses issues governing trade in elephant products and mandates the establishment of monitoring systems to measure illegal hunting of elephants and trade in elephant products.

The impacts of the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) downlisting to Appendix II are likely to be a key topic of discussion at the next meeting of