TRADE ISSUES: DEMAND FOR RHINO HORN

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National conservation authorities, DEA, Private landowners

DEA, SANParks, Provincial conservation agencies, Namibia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Private land owners, WRSA, specialists, plans for Botswana, Malawi, Zambia & Tanzania

African rhino range state reps, RMG chair, TRAFFIC, specialists, RESG/INTERPOL, private land owners, donors
TRADITIONAL DEMAND FOR RHINO HORN

Use of rhino horn as an ingredient in medicine began in China several thousand years ago.

It is generally used in combination with other medicinal ingredients, resulting in a wide range of conditions for which it has been traditionally indicated.
TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE

Rhino horn properties:

• reducing “hot blood”
• balancing body temperature
• eliminating toxins
• reducing fever
One study testing rhino horn for pharmacological effect in humans using a randomized double-blind trial.

Short-lived significant effect on fever in children, but acetaminophen performed better.
More testing has been done in the laboratory.

- Most of these studies in China, found statistically significant pharmacological effects for rhino horn: anti-pyretic, antiinflammatory, analgesic, procoagulant, among others.

- In contrast, two studies done outside Asia (in the UK and South Africa) found no pharmacological effects at all for rhino horn or other animal horns.
Domestic and international trade in rhino horn is now prohibited or controlled in major historical consumer countries: China, Taiwan (Province of China), Japan, the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>CITES signatory</th>
<th>Year rhino horn was made illegal as a traditional medicine</th>
<th>Source</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Mills (1994)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province of Taiwan</td>
<td>No*</td>
<td>1986**</td>
<td>Nowell et al., (1992), TRAFFIC in litt. (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>TRAFFIC (in litt. 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Milliken and Shaw (2012)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Taiwan implements CITES regulations through provincial legislation.

**Import of rhino horn was banned in 1985-1986 and production of manufactured medicines ceased, but traditional pharmacies continued to display and sell rhino horn stocks until 1993.
Rhino Horn Trade: Changing End Use Markets

1970-1990s

Japan
Korea
Taiwan
China

African Rhino range States

Yemen
Rhino Horn Trade: Changing End Use Markets

2005 to present

Viet Nam
China
Thailand?

African Rhino range States

Now

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network
NEW USES AND MARKETS FOR RHINO HORN IN VIET NAM

1. A rejuvenating, detoxifying tonic for restoring general health following binging - ‘face consumption’ "Ferrari Factor"

2. High-value, status-conferring gift or bribe

3. Home preparation of medicines to treat high fever, especially in children

4. Alleged cure for serious, often life-threatening diseases such as cancer due to sensational ‘urban myths’
WHY VIET NAM?

Assessment ten years ago (Esmond Bradley Martin) found no evidence of rhino horn use;

- Rapid economic growth
- Disposable income
- Increasing ill-health (higher cancer rates)
- “Face” culture
Chuyên
BÁN ĐĨA
MÀI SỨNG
TÊ GIÁC

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ĐĨA MÀI SỨNG TÊ GIÁC CAO CẤP
Rarity may underpin the value of rhino horn as a luxury item and as a miracle “cure-all” that can work when others fail.

Aphrodisiac myth turned full circle.

Socio-economic factors have lead to a bubble of demand for rhino horn in Viet Nam.
Javan Rhino extinct in Viet Nam

Hanoi, Viet Nam, 25th October 2011—The last Javan Rhinoceros in Viet Nam was shot and its horn removed, presumably by poachers, according to a new WWF report.

“It’s hardly surprising the horn was missing from the last rhino as Viet Nam is the pre-eminent market destination for illegally sourced rhino horns,” said Tom Milliken, TRAFFIC’s rhino expert.

The Javan Rhino was confirmed extinct in the country after genetic tests confirmed that all 22 rhino dung samples collected between 2009—2010 in Cat Tien National Park in southern Viet Nam originated from a single animal.

It was the individual found dead with a bullet in its leg and its horn removed in April 2010.

“It’s tragic that the Javan Rhino has been wiped out in Viet Nam by the same forces that are driving rhino poaching in Africa,” said Milliken.
WWF / TRAFFIC Illegal Wildlife Trade Campaign

1. High-level political commitment between South Africa and Viet Nam to address illegal trade in wildlife
2. Market Research to understand drivers and users of wildlife products
3. Awareness campaigns to reduce demand for illegal trade in rhino horn in Viet Nam
MARKET RESEARCH

Series of market studies in key locations to quantify data on:

- numbers of retail dealers selling rhino horn;
- estimates of the volume of rhino horn consumed;
- rhino horn usage and methods of promotion;
- types and prices of rhino horn medicines;
- sources of rhino horn in local markets; and
- profiles of rhino horn consumers.
VIET NAM

• Generating quantitative data through a programme of market surveys, internet monitoring, attitudinal surveys with industry and potential consumers.
• Role of “fake” rhino horns in the market.
• Programme of registration for those horns that were legally imported from South Africa.
• All of this work is a major priority.
CHINA

• Detailed assessment of the traditional medicine industry.
• Tracking the 100 live rhinos that were imported from South Africa as part of a commercial plan to produce rhino medicines.
• Market surveys in key locations, especially southern China provinces (Guangxi, Guangdong, Yunnan) that border Viet Nam.
• Possible overland trade routes through Myanmar and Laos need to be examined.
THAILAND

• Assess the rhino horn situation in Thailand, including the market in Bangkok's "Chinatown".

• Ascertain whether Thailand is a rhino horn consumer in its own right or simply a pass-through trade route for Viet Nam / elsewhere.
JAPAN

• Follow-up on details of current legislation (in light of the recent discovery that some limited avenue of trade remains).

• Assessment of rhino horn stockpiles and a look at demand reduction with respect to the Kyushin company.
SOUTH KOREA / TAIWAN

• Reassess what is going in these two former users.

• Comparative vision to document a compelling demand reduction story if that is the case.
Rhino Developments at CITES CoP15

15.71 The Secretariat shall:

a) Examine the implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) in those range States where illegal killing of rhinoceros poses a significant threat to rhino populations, particularly in Zimbabwe and South Africa;

b) Examine progress with regards to curtailing illegal trade in rhinoceros parts and derivatives by implicated States, particularly Viet Nam; and

c) Report on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) at the 61st, 62nd and 63rd meeting of the SC.
The Standing Committee calls on Viet Nam to provide the working group with additional information requested by 3rd September:

a. The legislation governing rhino horn trade and penalties for illegal trade.

b. Measures implemented to prevent illegal import and trade in rhino horn.

c. Current ongoing activities to combat illegal rhino horn trade.

d. Specific enforcement actions over the past three years to prevent illegal trade in rhino horn and the results of such operations.
e. Is a multi disciplinary approach followed to prevent illegal rhino horn trade and if so which authorities are involved?

f. Measures implemented to prevent rhino horns from going into commercial trade? For example, are owners of such horns mandated to hold possession licenses? Are they allowed to give away or sell the horn in their possession? Are there specific legislation for this purpose?

g. What measures are in place to monitor the retail market?
h. Efforts to curtail advertising of rhino horn, including via Internet; and
i. Are the use of rhino horn as a palliative medicine for cancer in any way allowed?
j. What are being done to curtail the use of rhino horn as an additive to drinks, etc.?
k. Provision, in a table, detailing how many seizures of rhino horn they have made, how many people have been arrested, how many convictions and the sentences rendered, etc.
I. Feedback with regard to progress made in the stock check of rhinoceros hunting trophies to verify the use of such trophies.

m. Details of steps taken where results of such verifications indicate that individuals are no longer in possession of the horns imported as trophies.

n. Are there legislation in place to facilitate international cooperation?

o. Information of measures implemented to facilitate international cooperation with all other countries in the region as well as South Africa.

p. Challenges experienced in ensuring effective international cooperation
CHALLENGES

• Urge everyone to think about this problem globally.
• No simple solution to the rhino crisis, but bilateral co-operation and commitment between source and consumer countries is a prerequisite for forward progress.
• Need for greater understanding of demand and use in Asia.
• Understanding of difficulties in enforcement and regulation in consumer countries.
THANK YOU
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