

# Vote Conservation. Not Commerce.

I write to you as my public representative of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Your vote at the next Conference of Parties could be critical. I urge you to demonstrate leadership and commitment to the long term conservation of our remaining rhino species and vote against any proposal to remove the existing annotation relating to white rhinos which would allow regulated legal trade in rhinoceros horns and derivatives.

CITES is a critical stakeholder in ensuring a sustainable future for wildlife and is working to disarm criminal gangs, stigmatize horn consumption and shut down passages that provide access to launder horns.

Rhino horns are used for medicinal, status symbol and practical purposes, but also traded as investment pieces

as speculative buyers acquire newly sourced horns (from poached rhinos) as long-term investments, banking on rarity and/or extinction to increase financial return. In addition to perpetuating demand, historical artifact sales provide financial value to the market.

Regulating trade would be an inexcusable impediment to demand reduction and elimination campaigns and further legitimise, popularise, and normalise the use of endangered species products.

It is morally indefensible to allow any nation to commercially benefit under the guise of conservation from the sale of medically fallacious and ethically unacceptable products and derivatives from the body parts of endangered species by exploiting public naivety, misplaced beliefs and misguided perceptions.

*"Global trade of rhino horns is touted as a viable solution to the poaching crisis by a cluster of African nations, yet no horn consumptive country has publicly supported their efforts to overturn international prohibition"*

