

THE SOURCE



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CITES CoP19 Notes

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ANTI-IVORY & RHINO HORN TRADE CAMP VOTES TO KEEP POACHERS & ILLEGAL SYNDICATES IN BUSINESS



Evidence of Zimbabwe's large quantities of ivory currently gathering dust. Such ivory stocks are found in all the elephant overpopulated SADC countries.



Evidence of a thriving rhino population at the world's biggest white rhino producer, John Hume's ranch in South Africa. South Africa has the world's largest rhino population. John Hume owns over 2 000 white rhinos on his ranch. South Africa's total rhino population [is 22 137](#), comprising 6 195 black rhinos and 15 942 white rhinos.

The animal rights groups fundraising industry and Western countries are still celebrating their COP19 'achievement' to block international trade in ivory and rhino horn. We have news for them. They are claiming an empty victory that keeps the elephant and rhino poachers, including illegal rhino horn and ivory trade syndicates in business. If African people are denied benefits from wildlife, they will not see the need to conserve it. By implication the anti-ivory trade and rhino horn trade camp is causing the biggest onslaught on African elephants and rhinos. This makes the anti-ivory and rhino horn trade camp worse than poachers.

Elephant over-populated SADC countries can't continue to be compared to a parent with US\$1 million in her or his bank account (in this case large and multi-million-dollar worth quantities of rhino horn and ivory). Then when the children ask for bread, you say my neighbors said that I shouldn't withdraw my money to buy you bread. In this context poor Southern African wildlife producer communities are going to ask their governments why they can't sell their dust-gathering multi-million dollar worth of huge quantities of ivory and rhino horns to buy them food. To build schools. To buy ambulances, finance borehole drilling to provide clean drinking water and to build clinics and mortuaries.

Sadly, when wildlife-rich Southern African countries go back home in the next few days. They will say to the poor and hunger-stricken wildlife producer communities we can't trade in our stockpiled quantities of ivory and rhino horn because the animal rights groups fundraising industry, supported by Western Governments and West African countries and Kenya have 'told us not to sell' our multi-million-dollar quantities of stockpiled ivory and rhino horn. Just like children would think that their parent is crazy to be told not to use his/her own million dollars to look after them, so too are the Southern African rural communities not seeing the logic for their governments to continue being denied the opportunity to benefit from their natural resources, particularly megafauna such elephants and rhinos, including their products such as rhino horn and ivory. In fact, these communities have already urged them to exit CITES using article XXIV provisions. They have been denied ivory and rhino horn trade for the past 49 years. Time to end this nonsense has come. You can block trade in ivory and rhino horn for now, but you can never kill the elephant overpopulated SADC countries' spirit to trade in their ivory and rhino horn against all odds. Trade Not Aid Will Save The African Elephant and Rhino.

‘CITES MEMBER COUNTRIES FAILED TO REWARD SADC ELEPHANT CONSERVATION SUCCESS’ SAYS SWITZERLAND-BASED NGO



Eugene Lapointe former CITES Secretary General & President of IWMC World Conservation Trust

A renewed proposal to permit limited international trade in stockpiled elephant ivory by South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, in which CITES stands accused of acting as an inhibitor and not an enabler of progress, has been rejected said a press statement released by the Switzerland-based NGO, the IWMC-World Conservation Trust today.

The proposal, sponsored by Zimbabwe, points out that although the four southern African states host a majority of the world’s elephants in healthy populations, sustaining this conservation success is expensive, said

the former CITES Secretary-General and current President of the Switzerland-based IWMC-World Conservation Trust.

‘Very little in CITES recognises or supports any of this enormous achievement or serves to assist countries with large elephant populations to continue protecting them...’ the proposal says. ‘CITES has acted as an inhibitor and not an enabler of progress. The Conference of the Parties has repeatedly discounted the importance of the Southern African elephant population and its conservation needs against other regions in Africa.’

“How is the playing field level when states with little or no interest in iconic species can over-rule those responsible for conserving and living with those species?” asked Mr Lapointe, who is coordinating the activities of several pro-sustainable organisations in Panama.

PANAMA GETS 90% FOR BEING AN EXCELLENT HOST

The Panama City Convention Centre is brand new and modern. It’s by far the best and most spacious venue that this writer has ever seen since 1990 at COP10 in Harare, Zimbabwe up to 2022. It’s so pleasing to be treated to local music while having a meal here. Only kings and queens are treated like that. The almost freezing temperature in conference rooms are the downside. One delegate even begged for temperature to be increased on Day One because Committee Room 1 was freezing.

