

# **CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force Meeting**

**Pretoria, South Africa  
26 - 30 May 2025**

## **Agenda**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>26 May 2025</b>	<b>pg.1</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>27 May 2025</b>	<b>pg.4</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>28 May 2025</b>	<b>pg.6</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>29 May 2025</b>	<b>pg.9</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>30 May 2025</b>	<b>pg.9</b>

<b>Monday 26 May 2025</b>	
<b>07:30 – 09:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>Welcoming and opening</b>	
<b>09:00 – 09:20</b>	<b>Welcome remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ivonne HIGUERO, CITES Secretary-General (video)</li> </ul> <b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devinagie BENDEMAN, Deputy Director-General, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa</li> </ul>
<b>Administrative and logistical arrangements</b>	
<b>09:20 – 09:30</b>	<b>Practical arrangements and information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa (DFFE)</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting objectives and introduction of participants</b>	
<b>09:30 – 09:40</b>	<b>Meeting objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ben JANSE VAN RENSBURG, Chief, Enforcement Unit, CITES Secretariat</li> </ul>

Supported by:



09:40 – 10:00	<b>Introduction of participants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lauren LOPES, International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) Support Officer, CITES Secretariat (Facilitator)</li> </ul>
<b>Setting the scene</b>	
10:00 – 10:15	<b>Conservation status of African and Asian rhinoceroses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Julian RADEMEYER, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG)</li> </ul>
10:15 – 11:00	<b>Group photo and coffee break</b>
11:00 – 11:25	<b>Illegal killing of rhinoceroses and horn trafficking trends</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharon BARUCH-MORDO, Senior Specialist, Elephant and rhino trade, TRAFFIC</li> </ul>
11:25 – 11:50	<b>Key <u>poaching and trafficking challenges and responses</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Julian RADEMEYER, IUCN SSC AfRSG</li> </ul>
11:50 – 12:10	<b>Addressing rhinoceros poaching and horn trafficking: Responses mobilized and experiences gained</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frances CRAIGIE, Chief Director, Enforcement, DFFE, South Africa</li> </ul>
12:10 – 12:20	<b><u>Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP19) on Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses and CoP19 Decisions on Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ben JANSE VAN RENSBURG, Chief, Enforcement Unit, CITES Secretariat</li> </ul>
12:20 – 12:30	<b><u>Outcomes</u> of the October 2013 CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lauren LOPES, ICCWC Support Officer, CITES Secretariat</li> </ul>
12:30 -14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 14:20	<b>Strategies to further strengthen responses to address rhinoceros poaching and specimen trafficking: Important considerations</b>  <b>Open discussion session to lay the groundwork for working group sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ben JANSE VAN RENSBURG, Chief, Enforcement Unit, CITES Secretariat (moderator)</li> </ul>

Supported by:





<b>International and regional collaboration</b>	
<b>14:20 – 15:00</b>	<p><b>Panel discussion: International collaboration to address rhinoceros poaching and trafficking: Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angola</li> <li>• India</li> <li>• Malaysia</li> <li>• Namibia</li> <li>• South Africa</li> <li>• Thailand</li> <li>• United Arab Emirates</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Thea CARROLL, Chief, Science Unit, CITES Secretariat</i></p>
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<p><b>Initiatives and opportunities to strengthen regional and international collaboration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ross MCEWING, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment</li> <li>• David MIGWI, Operations Coordinator, Wildlife Crime Environmental Security Sub-Directorate, INTERPOL</li> <li>• Wesley KIPKAZI, Field Officer, Lusaka Agreement Task Force</li> </ul>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>Breakout group session 1</b>	
<b>16:00 – 17:15</b>	<p><b>Breakout groups to identify strategies to further strengthen international and regional collaboration to combat rhinoceros poaching and horn trafficking</b></p> <p><b>Discussion points (non-exhaustive; provided as guidance):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening enforcement cooperation across source, transit, and destination countries;</li> <li>• Effective investigations, intelligence gathering and sharing</li> <li>• Sharing of information on seizures, for example on modus operandi, accompanying documentation, any identification marks on seized specimens, where appropriate the details of offenders involved, and any other information that could assist investigations in countries of origin, transit and destination;</li> <li>• Existing international, regional and national law enforcement mechanisms;</li> <li>• Establishment of treaties on extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance;</li> <li>• Bilateral agreements on mutual administrative assistance in Customs matters;</li> </ul>

Supported by:





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mechanisms to increase international cooperation, for example Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs);</i></li> <li>• <i>Appointing and drawing upon national focal points for matters related to the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn;</i></li> <li>• <i>The use of INTERPOL databases (individuals, fingerprints, DNA, firearms, travel documents) and INTERPOL Notices;</i></li> <li>• <i>Identification of the most prominent ports of entry and exit used by criminal groups associated with rhinoceros poaching and illegal horn trade and addressing these;</i></li> <li>• <i>Study visits and secondments between countries when significant volumes or trends of illegal trade in horns between them are identified;</i></li> <li>• <i>Any others.</i></li> </ul>
17:15 – 17:30	<b>Wrap up and closure</b>
<b>Tuesday 27 May 2025</b>	
<b>Feedback: Breakout group session 1</b>	
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Breakout groups to provide feedback on their discussions and conclusions during breakout group session 1 on international and regional collaboration</b>
<b>Investigation of serious transnational organized crime, good risk management practices and successful prosecution</b>	
09:30 – 10:30	<b>Treating crimes involving rhinoceros specimens as serious, intelligence driven investigations and specialized investigation techniques</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Johan JOOSTE, Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, South African Police Service</i></li> <li>• <i>Beijing WANG, Director, International Enforcement Cooperation Division, Anti-Smuggling Bureau, General Administration of Customs China (video)</i></li> <li>• <i>Maurice OMONDI, Principal Investigation Officer, Kenya Wildlife Service</i></li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 – 11:20	<b>The importance of good risk management practices and risk profiles to combat rhinoceros horn trafficking and Customs collaboration mechanisms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Igor JAKUPIC, Programme Officer, Environment Programme, World Customs Organization</i></li> </ul>

Supported by:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
  
Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI  
Office fédéral de la sécurité alimentaire et des affaires vétérinaires OSAV



11:20 – 12:00	<b>Prosecution of rhinoceros-related crimes and securing deterrent penalties</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dania BRUWER, Senior State Advocate, National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa</li> <li>Yvonne MUSHUNJE, Project Coordination Support Officer, UNODC Regional Office for Southern Africa</li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Civil society and government engagement and collaboration to address wildlife crime: Success stories and case studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jenny FELTHAM, Wildlife Justice Commission</li> </ul>
12:30 -14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Breakout group session 2</b>	
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Breakout groups to identify strategies to facilitate effective investigations, collaboration, risk management practices and prosecutions to combat rhino poaching and rhino horn trafficking</b> <p>Discussion points (non-exhaustive; provided as guidance):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of specialized investigation techniques;</li> <li>Gathering of information and intelligence to identify most wanted criminals and target them through intelligence-led enforcement action;</li> <li>Enforcement and judicial cooperation through UNTOC;</li> <li>Strong penalties, including custodial sentences;</li> <li>Prosecution of members of organized crime groups under a combination of relevant laws which carry appropriate penalties;</li> <li>Reviewing trends associated with the illegal killing of rhinoceroses and their illegal trade to ensure that measures and activities to address these crimes remain effective;</li> <li>Strengthened capacity to target criminal groups by mobilizing good risk management practices and profiling;</li> <li>Preparing good case files for court;</li> <li>Ensuring that rhinoceros-related crime is a high priority for law enforcement agencies;</li> <li>Enhanced awareness amongst judges and prosecutors of the serious nature and economic, social and environmental impacts of illegal trade in wildlife, in particular rhinoceros poaching and horn trade;</li> <li>Engagement with airport security companies, airlines, shipping companies and other relevant bodies operating at national ports;</li> <li>Opportunities for civil society and government engagement to combat rhinoceros poaching and trafficking;</li> <li>Implementation of effective anti-corruption measures and CITES <a href="#">Resolution Conf. 17.6 (Rev. CoP19)</a> on Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption;</li> <li>Any others.</li> </ul>

Supported by:





<b>Feedback: Breakout group session 2</b>	
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Breakout groups to provide feedback on their discussions and conclusions during breakout group session 2 on effective investigations, collaboration, risk management practices and prosecutions</b>
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>Reducing demand for illegal rhinoceros specimens</b>	
16:00 – 16:10	<b>Reducing demand for illegal specimens to combat rhinoceros poaching and trafficking: CITES Resolution 17.4 (Rev. CoP19)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lauren LOPES, ICCWC Support Officer, CITES Secretariat</li> </ul>
16:10 – 16:30	<b>Demand reduction and awareness raising activities to combat rhinoceros poaching and trafficking: Experiences in Viet Nam</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITES Management Authority of Viet Nam</li> </ul>
<b>Breakout group session 3</b>	
16:30 – 17:25	<b>Breakout groups to identify strategies to reduce demand for illegal rhinoceros specimens</b>  <b>Discussion points (non-exhaustive; provided as guidance):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illegal markets for rhinoceros horn and where they exist;</li> <li>Demand reduction programmes targeted at key identified audiences;</li> <li>Drawing upon experiences and expertise developed through the implementation of demand reduction activities to achieve lasting impact;</li> <li>Engaging with universities and academia to conduct analytical research;</li> <li><a href="#">CITES Resolution Conf. 17.4 (Rev. CoP19)</a> on Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species;</li> <li>Use of the CITES guidance on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species;</li> <li>Any others.</li> </ul>
17:25 – 17:30	<b>Wrap up and closure</b>
<b>Wednesday 28 May 2025</b>	
<b>Feedback: Breakout group session 3</b>	
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Breakout groups to provide feedback on their discussions and conclusions during breakout group session 3 on reducing demand for illegal rhinoceros specimens</b>

Supported by:





<b>Illicit financial flows</b>	
09:30 – 10:00	<b>Financial crime investigations to address illicit financial flows from rhinoceros specimen trafficking: INTERPOL tools and resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jayeeta KAR, Criminal Intelligence Analyst, INTERPOL</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Strengthened action to combat illicit financial flows from poaching and trafficking affecting rhinoceroses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shelley BROWN, Senior Manager, Financial Crime Intelligence Unit, Financial Crime Compliance, South African Anti-Money Laundering Integrated Task Force</li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Resources available to support the use of financial intelligence to address wildlife crime, including crimes affecting rhinoceroses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taylor TENCH, Senior Wildlife Policy Analyst, Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and other civil society organizations</li> </ul>
<b>Breakout group session 4</b>	
11:30 – 12:30	<b>Breakout groups to identify strategies to further strengthen financial crime investigations to combat rhinoceros poaching and horn trafficking</b> <p>Discussion points (non-exhaustive; provided as guidance):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximize impact of enforcement actions by using tools and regulations, such as anti-money laundering and asset forfeiture legislation, in support of wildlife legislation;</li> <li>Building capacity of national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement to conduct anti-money laundering investigations and to identify suspicious transactions;</li> <li>The use of INTERPOL Silver Notices to combat rhinoceros-related crimes;</li> <li>Establishing national-level inter-agency mechanisms for coordination and to bringing together authorities investigating rhinoceros-related crimes and those with anti-money laundering expertise, including from financial intelligence units;</li> <li>Mobilization of available resources to support the use financial intelligence to address crimes affecting rhinoceroses;</li> <li>Any others.</li> </ul>
12:30 -14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Feedback: Breakout group session 4</b>	
14:00 – 14:30	<b>Breakout groups to provide feedback on their discussions and conclusions during breakout group session 4 on illicit financial flows</b>

Supported by:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
  
Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI  
Office fédéral de la sécurité alimentaire et  
des affaires vétérinaires OSAV





## Sample collection and sharing for forensic analyses

14:30 – 14:45	<p><b>Paragraph 1 g) of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP19) on Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses and the <a href="#">Form for collection and sharing of data on rhinoceros horn seizures and on samples for forensic analysis</a></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ben JANSE VAN RENSBURG, Chief, Enforcement Unit, CITES Secretariat</li> </ul>
14:45 - 15:15	<p><b>The importance and value of sample collection and sharing for forensic analyses and the guide on <a href="#">procedures for rhinoceros horn DNA sampling</a></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frances CRAIGIE, Chief Director, Enforcement, DFFE, South Africa</li> </ul>
15:15 – 15:30	<p><b>CITES <a href="#">Decision 19.115</a> on Rhinoceroses (<i>Rhinocerotidae</i> spp.) and simplified procedures for law enforcement purposes under Regarding the use of simplified procedures to issue permits and certificates in <a href="#">Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19)</a></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thea CARROLL, Chief, Science Unit, CITES Secretariat</li> </ul>
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:00 – 16:30	<p><b>Application of scientific techniques: Capacity building for wildlife crime scene investigators and wildlife DNA forensics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ross MCEWING, UNODC Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment</li> </ul>

## Breakout group session 5

16:30 – 17:25	<p><b>Breakout groups to identify strategies to further strengthen sample collection and sharing for forensic analyses to combat rhino poaching and rhino horn trafficking</b></p> <p>Discussion points (non-exhaustive; provided as guidance):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scaling up the collection of samples from horn seized for forensic analysis, as anticipated by paragraph 1 g) of <a href="#">Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP19)</a>;</li> <li>Use the <a href="#">Form for collection and sharing of data on rhinoceros horn seizures and on samples for forensic analysis</a> available in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP19);</li> <li>Use of simplified procedures for law enforcement purposes in accordance with <a href="#">Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19)</a>, to facilitate the exchange of horn samples for DNA analyses;</li> <li>Effectively drawing upon support for wildlife crime scene investigators and first responders;</li> <li>Opportunities to use technology such as the e-RhODIS mobile application (see <a href="https://erhodis.org/">https://erhodis.org/</a>) in support of efforts to combat rhinoceros poaching and illegal horn trade;</li> <li>Any others.</li> </ul>
---------------	--

Supported by:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
  
Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI  
Office fédéral de la sécurité alimentaire et des affaires vétérinaires OSAV





17:25 – 17:30	<b>Wrap up and closure</b>
<b>Thursday 29 May 2025</b>	
<b>Field visit to Dinokeng Game Reserve and practical demonstration on rhinoceros horn sample collection for forensic analyses</b>	
09:00 – 10:45	<p><i>Practical demonstration and information session: Rhino horn sample collection for forensic analyses.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cindy HARPER, Director, Veterinary Genetics Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria</i></li> <li>• <i>San-Mari RAS, Deputy Director, Biodiversity Enforcement, DFFE, South Africa</i></li> </ul>
11:00	<i>Departure from hotel to Dinokeng Game Reserve</i>
12:00 – 18:00	<i>Lunch at Dinokeng Game Reserve, introduction to the reserve and game drive</i>
18:00	<i>Departure from Dinokeng Game Reserve</i>
19:00	<i>Arrival at the Capital Menlyn Maine Hotel</i>
<b>Friday 30 May 2025</b>	
<b>Feedback: Breakout group session 5</b>	
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Breakout groups to provide feedback on their discussions and conclusions during breakout group session 5 on sample collection and sharing for forensic analyses</b>
<b>Wrap up and way forward</b>	
09:30 – 10:30	<p><b>Consolidation of breakout group feedback</b></p> <p><i>Moderated discussion to consolidate breakout group feedback and formulate proposed strategies to further strengthen responses to address rhinoceros poaching and rhinoceros specimen trafficking</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ben JANSE VAN RENSBURG, Chief, Enforcement Unit, CITES Secretariat (moderator)</i></li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>

Supported by:



<b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Session for informal and bilateral engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This session will serve as an opportunity for representatives to interact informally, bilaterally and in private on matters of mutual interest, to consider opportunities for bilateral engagement and collaboration to address rhinoceros poaching and horn trafficking. Bilateral discussions between Parties can be treated as confidential if preferred, and no feedback on such deliberations and associated actions or activities agreed needs to be provided to the meeting.</i></li> </ul>
<b>12:30 -14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Strategies to further strengthen responses to address rhinoceros poaching and trafficking</b> <p><i>Moderated discussion to finalize strategies to further strengthen responses to address rhinoceros poaching and specimen trafficking and agree on the final meeting outcome document.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Ben JANSE VAN RENSBURG, Chief, Enforcement Unit, CITES Secretariat (moderator)</i></li> </ul>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16:00 -17:00</b>	<b>Strategies to further strengthen responses to address rhinoceros poaching and rhinoceros specimen trafficking (continued)</b>
<b>Closure of meeting</b>	
<b>17:00 – 17:30</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Ben JANSE VAN RENSBURG, Chief, Enforcement Unit, CITES Secretariat</i></li> <li><i>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), South Africa</i></li> </ul>

Supported by:

