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PROPOSAL: CITES CoP18 – **Prop. 8 Remove Annotation**
Southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*)

PROPONENT: Eswatini

SUBJECT: Remove the existing annotation for the population of Eswatini referred to as population of Swaziland

IWMC RECOMMENDS – **ADOPTION** of PROP. 8

The current CITES policy is totally flawed and has disastrous effects on the conservation of the species. There is a demand currently satisfied only by poaching and illegal trade, that are flourishing. Once again, “prohibitions” have had a disastrous effect on Rhinos populations. With direct economic benefits from their conservation and management, Rhino will survive and thrive.

The removal of the existing Appendix I annotation would allow for a controlled international trade in rhino horn.

The Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) carried out in early 2018 shows that the White Rhino population belong in an Appendix II status with no Appendix I annotation (this based on CITES own criteria)

The Eswatini proposal is a repeat of the unsuccessful proposal submitted at CoP17 (Johannesburg 2016). A successful application would allow for the sale of horn from existing stockpiles with the revenue generated to be utilized in on going rhino conservation. The secondary and more important benefit is through a regulated and transparent legal supply to meet end use demand, this will reduce poaching pressure on wild populations.

The above proposal should be supported by not only the African rhino Range States but by all CITES Member States. The applications Prop. 8 and Prop. 9 (are from countries with excellent rhino conservation histories and have effective management strategies in place. It must be noted that the current trade ban in rhino horn was imposed in 1977 and in over 40 years has not been an effective measure in the reducing of poaching of wild populations. All range states have

suffered severe poaching losses over this period and a number of range states have lost all their populations.

Demand reduction campaigns have not proven successful as poaching pressure (losses and incursions) and continued demand for rhino horn impact detrimentally on all Range State populations. The annual security costs to protect these populations runs into \$ millions annually and a policy of sustainable utilization will help mitigate these expenses.

IWMC strongly recommends to CITES Parties to adopt Prop. 8 submitted by the Eswatini.