

Stakeholder perceptions of legal trade in rhinoceros horn and implications for private reserve management in the Eastern Cape, South Africa

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL 1 Key informant interviews: protocol and guide

Key informants were briefed regarding the nature of the research prior to the conducting of interviews. It was made clear to informants that their anonymity was assured and that they were free to decline to discuss or answer questions regarding issues or topics they did not feel comfortable discussing

Care was taken not to lead informants with suggestive questions, and the interviewer made sure not to share their own personal opinions or views with informants.

Interviews were semi-structured. Informants were first asked to share their thoughts regarding rhinoceros poaching and the prospect of a legal trade in rhinoceros horn, and were given the freedom to speak for as long as they wanted to. Once the interviewer was satisfied that the informant had nothing more to say, an interview guide (below) was consulted to ensure that all key points relevant to the research topic were covered.

Interview guide:

Do you see rhinoceros poaching as a threat to conservation in the Eastern Cape? Why?

Do you see rhinoceros poaching as a threat to your livelihood? Why?

Do you see rhinoceros poaching as a threat to your safety? Why?

Please state whether you agree, disagree, strongly agree, strongly disagree, or choose to remain neutral regarding the following statement:

Regulated trade in sustainably harvested rhinoceros horn should be legalized.

Why?

What concerns do you have regarding the potential introduction of legal trade in rhinoceros horn? Why?

What positive outcomes (if any) do you think would come from legalizing trade in rhinoceros horn? Why?

Would your reserve participate in rhinoceros horn trade if the trade ban was lifted? Why?

If the South African government were to propose at CITES CoP17 that the ban on international trade in rhinoceros horn be lifted, what do you think the outcome would be? Why?

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL 2 Ethical considerations

The ethical guidelines for research on human and animal subjects outlined in the Rhodes University (2014) ethical standards handbook were consulted and adhered to during the research process. Ethical considerations were of great importance to this project given that rhinoceros poaching is such a contentious issue in South Africa and that the research was focused on people. The names of reserves involved in this study will remain confidential and the anonymity of informants will be respected to protect informants as well as rhinoceros on their reserves. Permission was asked of informants for interviews to be recorded, and the interviewer maintained neutrality and objectivity. Informants were provided with contact details of the interviewer so they can obtain a copy of the final research report upon request.

Reference

RHODES UNIVERSITY (2014) *Ethical Standards for Research on Human and Animal Subjects: Rhodes University Ethical Standards Committee Handbook*.
[Http://www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/content/ethics/RUESC_Handbook_%202014-11-21_v%201.01.pdf](http://www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/content/ethics/RUESC_Handbook_%202014-11-21_v%201.01.pdf) [accessed 11 April 2015].