

Comment on Target 12!

Distinguished delegates:

We are in a global crisis regarding the massive poaching pressure that flagship species like African Rhinos and elephants are facing. In 2013 more African rhinos and elephants have been poached than any other time over the last 15-20 years!

Illegal wildlife trade is grave that WWF and TRAFFIC mounted a global campaign to tackle the problem at both the consumer end and the supply side. WWF is also working with many of the parties in this room to develop and use additional tools to improve biological management and security monitoring of key populations security monitoring as well as the strengthening of national legislation and designating illegal wildlife trade as economic crime financing illegal criminal elements fueling regional insecurity.

While the high –level campaign is getting traction and generating strong political support at all levels, it is important that SBSTTA17 recognizes the severity of this crisis and adds its weight and makes a strong recommendation for a focused attention to these species whose extinction is imminent if concerted action is not taken by the relevant Parties.

Thank you chair.