## International body backs Namibia's rhino trophy hunting bid

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THE International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) says it supports Namibia's proposal to the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (Cites) to transfer its population of white rhinoceros from Appendix I to Appendix II.

This would be for the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in live animals for in-situ conservation and trophy hunting.

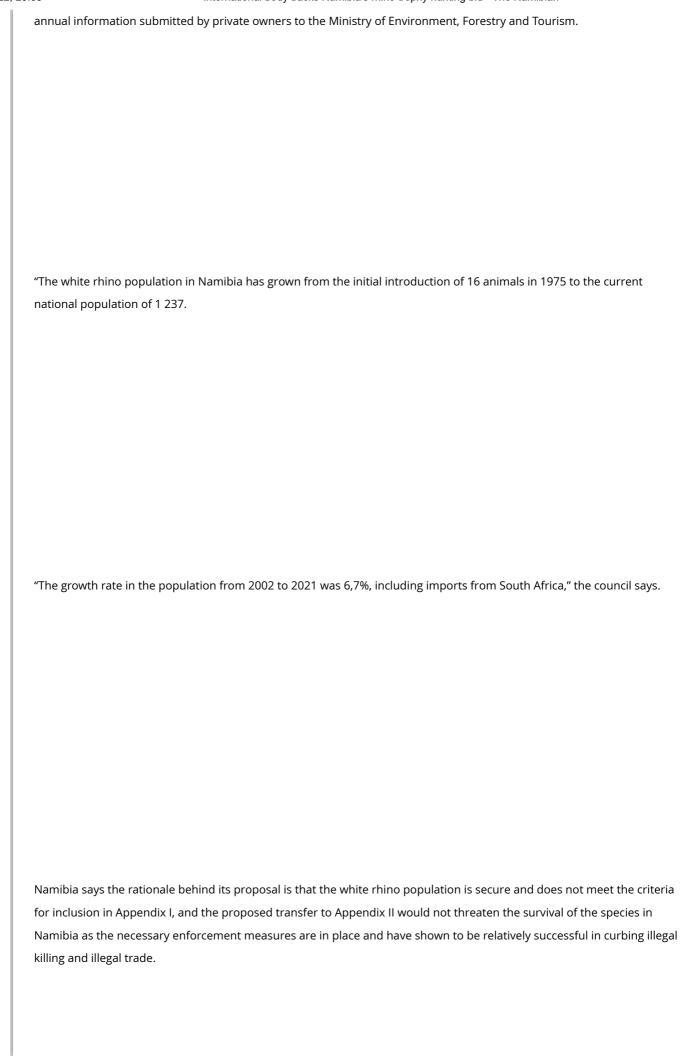
The spokesperson of the Budapest-based CIC, Shukho Lee, says the CIC has noted Namibia's Strategy in Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement of 2021 to 2025 and the 1st Operation Blue Rhino Special Report of 2021, which resulted in a shift from reactive to proactive law enforcement to combat wildlife crimes, and also the associated reduction in rhino losses reported by Namibia and Botswana.

"The CIC supports this proposal strongly as it presents a well-documented and great conservation success. Namibia now has the second-largest white rhino population in the world, one that has more than doubled in the last 10 years," Lee says.

He says the CIC also provided its stance on this at the stakeholder consultation meeting for the European Union (EU) on the upcoming 19th Conference of the Parties to Cites on 15 July.

| The CIC is an independent, in through the principles of sust |                            | ntal advisory organis | ation that advocated v  | wildlife conservation |
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| In its proposal, Namibia argue                               |                            | _                     | _                       |                       |
| support of protection measur                                 | es.                        |                       |                         |                       |
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| "Transferring the population                                 | o Appendix II would enabl  | e Namihia to export l | ive animals and hunti   | ng tronhies to more   |
| countries, and would increase                                |                            |                       |                         | ig croprines to more  |
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| According to the proposal, Na                                | umihia holds the second-la | rgest white rhing non | ulation in the world at | ftor South Africa, an |

its population in 2021 were 1 237, based on aerial surveys of known individuals derived from dehorning operations, and



This would help Namibian owners and managers to effectively and pre-emptively manage populations, which is particularly important in small, protected areas and privately owned populations, and revenue generated from rhino sales would go directly back into rhino conservation and anti-poaching programmes, as well as equipment, law enforcement, education, community initiatives, infrastructure and habitat management.

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