

South Africa: Vietnam Chided Over Poached Rhino Horn 'Secrecy' By Global Wildlife Trade Regulator

Vietnam's apparent reluctance to share DNA samples of smuggled horns with South Africa - the country with the largest remaining populations of rhinos in the world, albeit decimated by a relentless wave of poaching over recent decades - has been criticised by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Listen to this article 11 min Listen to this article 11 min Vietnam has come under fire for its 'passive approach' to sharing crucial evidence that could help South African forensic experts trace the exact origin of horns smuggled illegally to the Southeast Asian nation recognised as a primary driver of the rhino poaching crisis.

The issue is due to be interrogated further in Switzerland next month (February) at a committee meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) - a global agreement among governments to regulate or ban international trade in wildlife species under threat.

Phrased in the polite language of international diplomacy, the criticism is contained in an [official report](#) dated 16 January 2025 by the Geneva-based CITES Secretariat on Vietnam's apparent reluctance to share DNA samples of smuggled horns with South Africa - the country with the largest remaining populations of rhinos in the world, albeit decimated by a relentless wave of poaching over recent decades.

While the secretariat has not spelt out the exact reasons for its concerns, the backstory is that several conservation officials fear that Vietnam may be trying to shield some of its influential...