

Rhinos: Economics, Trade and Politics



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Conservation



2016 IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS HAWAII

The Problem



The solution?



And this?

Maybe
dehorned
is better
than
dead!



What do we do with these?



Just
Keratin?

\$

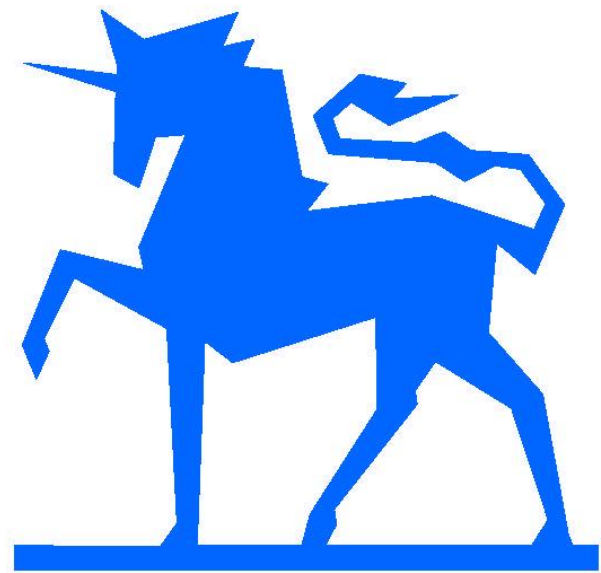
Stop Rhino Poaching





www.oriental-arts.com





Welcome

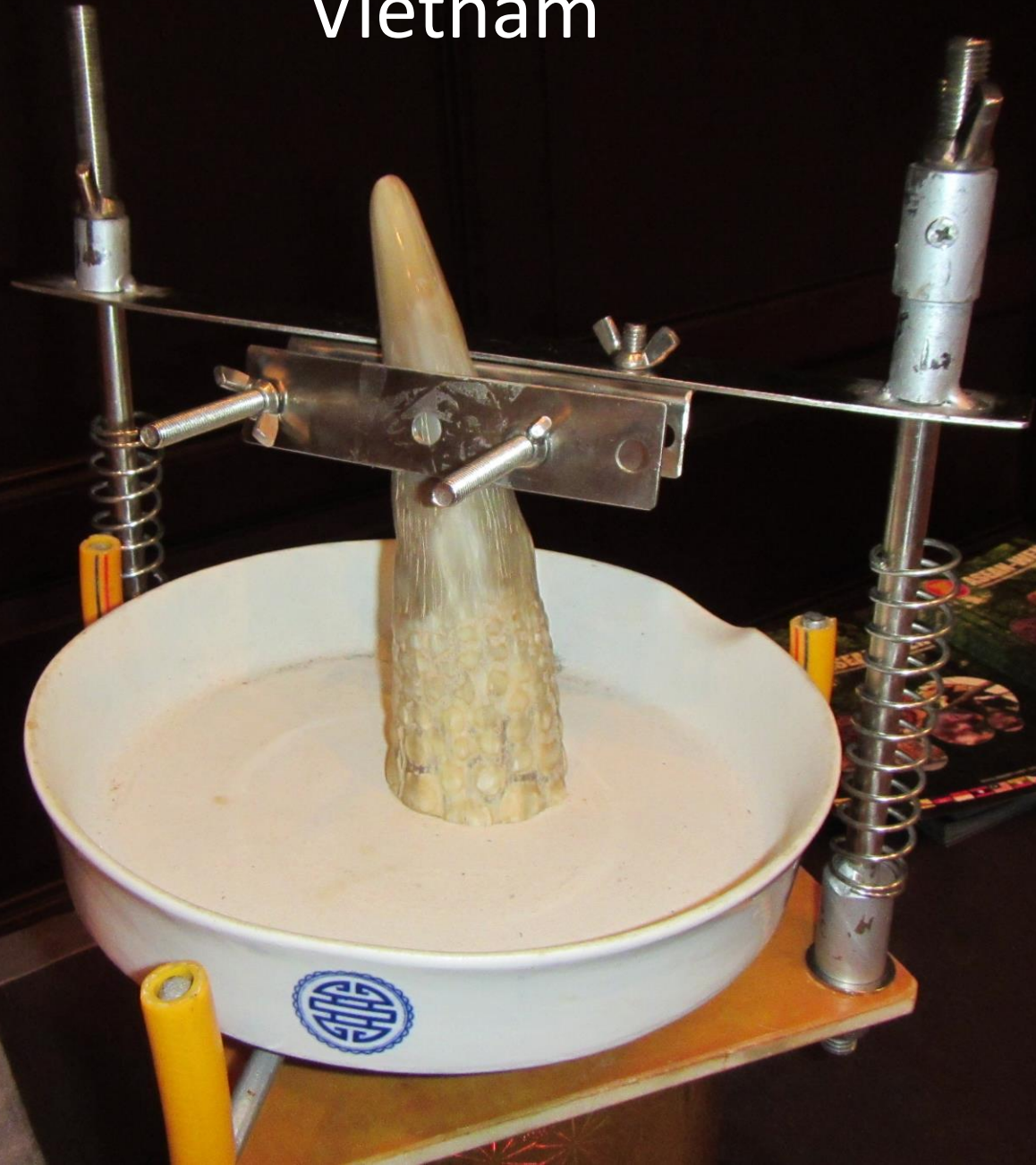
CPA



Traditional Asian medicine - now



Vietnam



Ornaments - now



Prestige / Commodity

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Short communication

Rhino horn trade in China: An analysis of the art and antiques market

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Rhino horn interest in China

Y. Gao et al. / Biological Conservation 201 (2016) 343–347

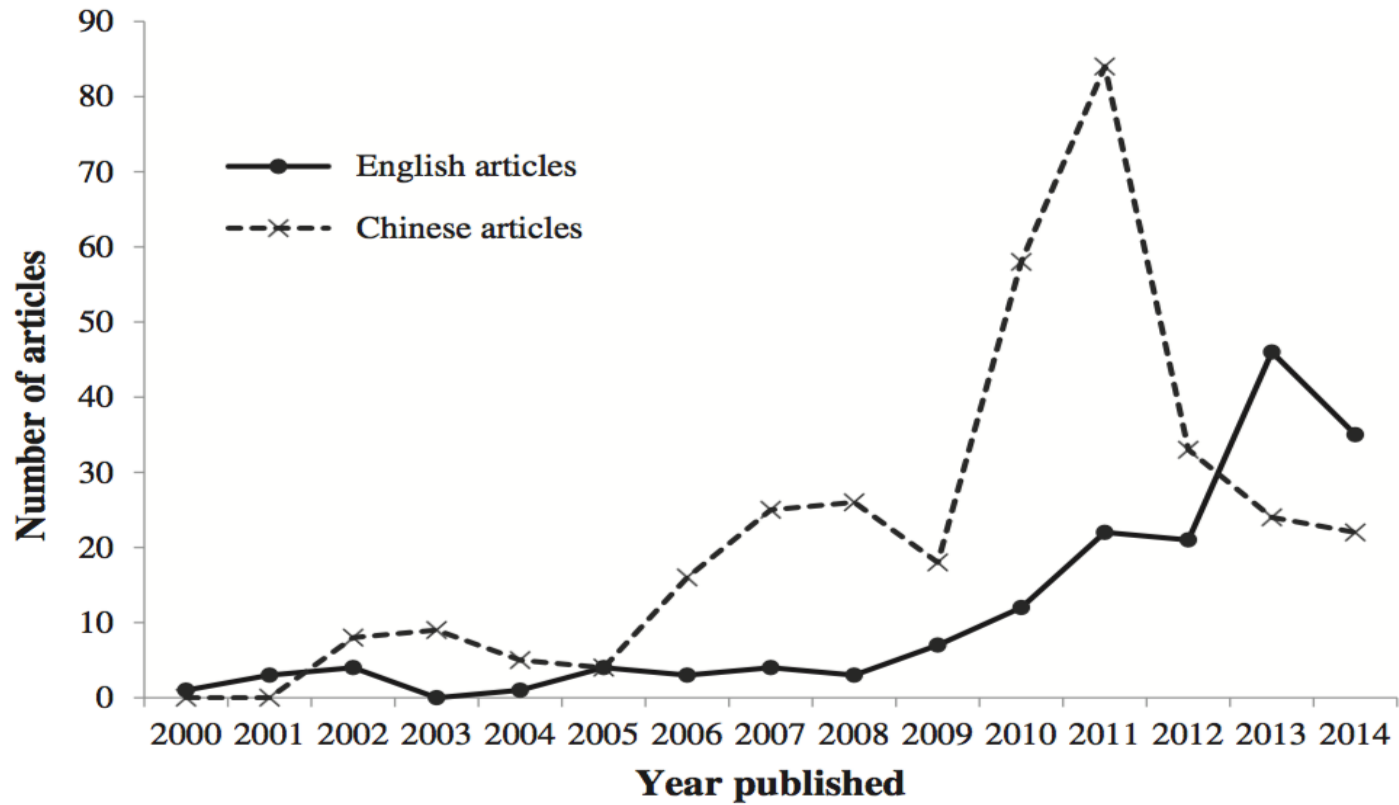


Fig. 1. Trends in the Chinese and English media coverage of rhino horn consumption in China.

Supply + Demand =

A problem?

Without adequate and appropriate management

With a trade ban

'Demand exceeds supply'

An opportunity?

With adequate and appropriate management

With legal trade

Supply to meet demand

Rules of the game



Our challenge starts here...

76% decline in African forest elephants
in last 10 years!



The playing field



How do I use a keypad?

- 1. Press the red button on the keypad to start the keypad.
- 2. Press the green button on the keypad to start the keypad.
- 3. Press the blue button on the keypad to start the keypad.
- 4. Press the yellow button on the keypad to start the keypad.
- 5. Press the orange button on the keypad to start the keypad.
- 6. Press the purple button on the keypad to start the keypad.
- 7. Press the pink button on the keypad to start the keypad.
- 8. Press the light blue button on the keypad to start the keypad.
- 9. Press the light green button on the keypad to start the keypad.
- 10. Press the light blue button on the keypad to start the keypad.



'Illegal Wildlife Trade' narrative

Western conservation and animal welfare perspective:
'precautionary' / protectionist / preservationist

- Insatiable demand (mainly in Asia)
- Crimes against nature
- Transnational Organized Crime
- Threats to national security
- USA to 'lead by example'
- Stop the supply and stop the demand

Combatting IWT: the NGO strategy

Establish international co-operation

Create 'political will' through high-level engagement

United for Wildlife

USA / China deal

'Close' domestic markets for ivory (WCC Motion 007)

Demand reduction campaigns

Messaging to include stockpile destruction

Engage with local communities, but

No apparent place for wildlife ranching or legal trade

Decommodification?



Conflicting values



When the buying stops...

Species and habitat conservation will depend on:

- Tourism
- Public finance / aid / donations
- Payments for ecosystem services?

Three Big Questions:

Top-down or bottom-up conservation governance?

Who owns the wildlife?

Are rights appropriately matched with responsibilities?

The end game?



Or this?

Semi-intensive production (South Africa)



Or this?



Thandi and calf, Kariega, 2015

And how much of this?



The past: black and white!

Rhino Population (thousands)



□ White Rhino ■ Black Rhino

Source: IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group.

Present and future?



A question of balanced management

What do the numbers tell us?

Increasing role of private sector & intensification

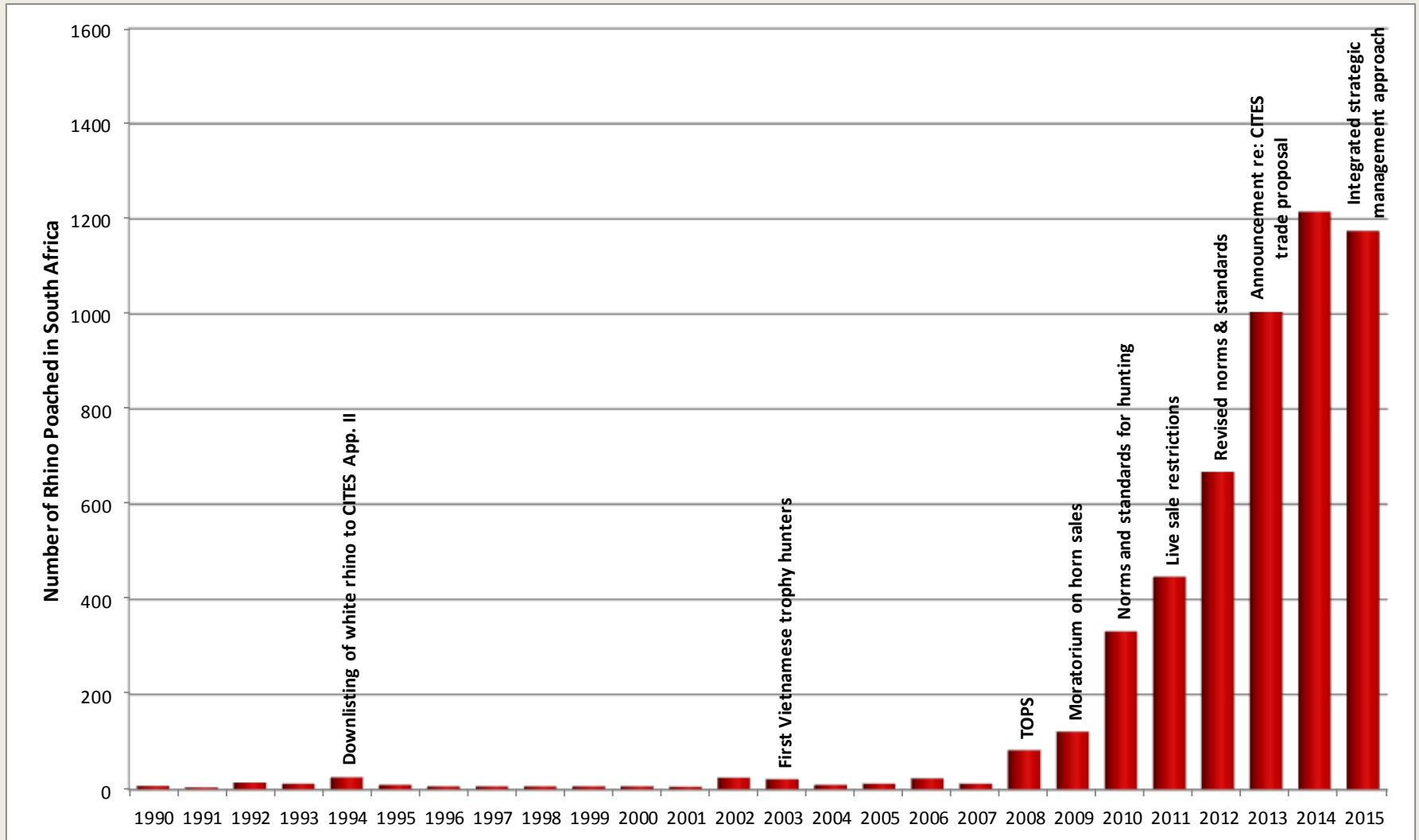
With much effort, poaching levels stabilizing

Greatly increased security costs – is this sustainable?

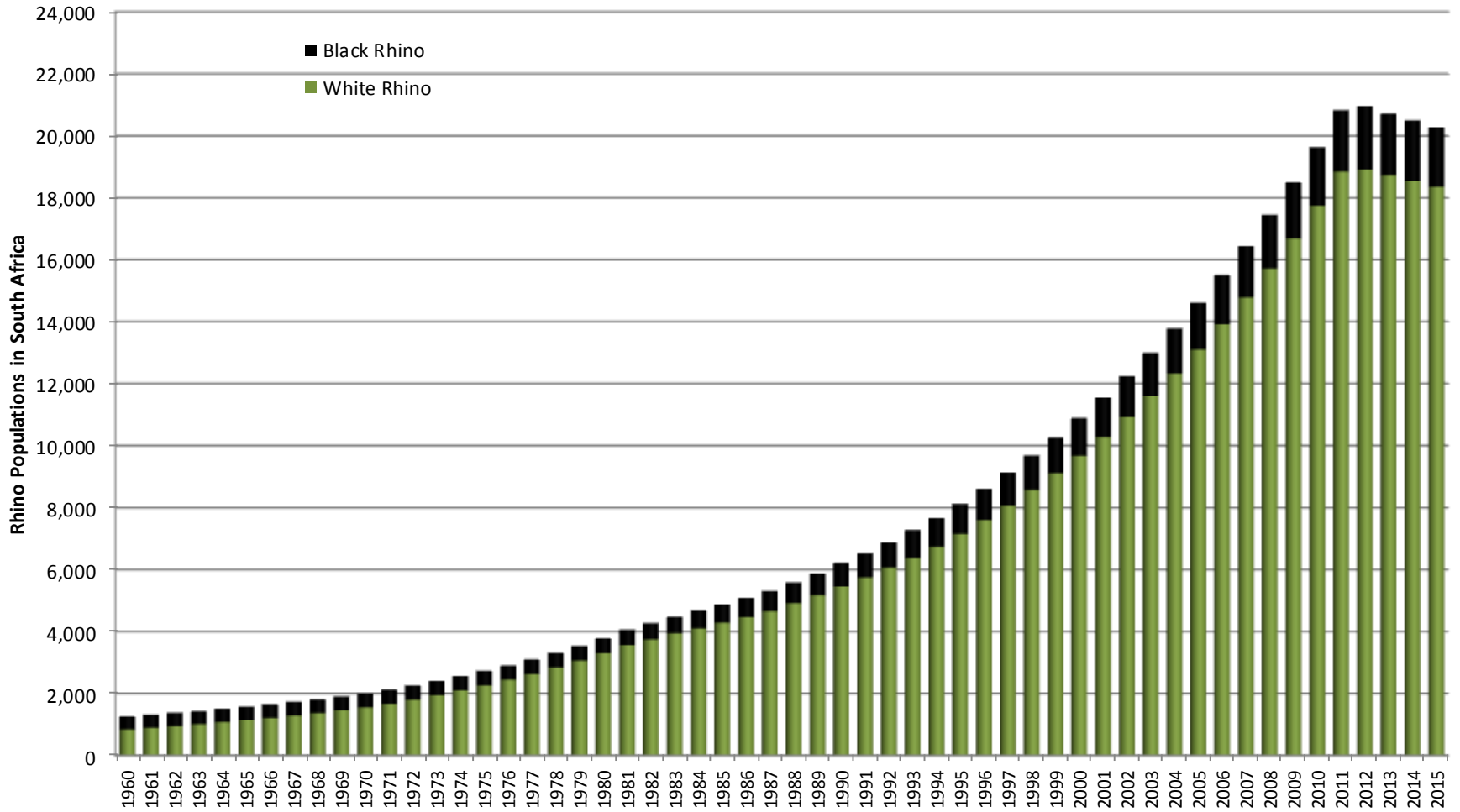
Important role of trophy hunting

High socio-economic cost of current regime

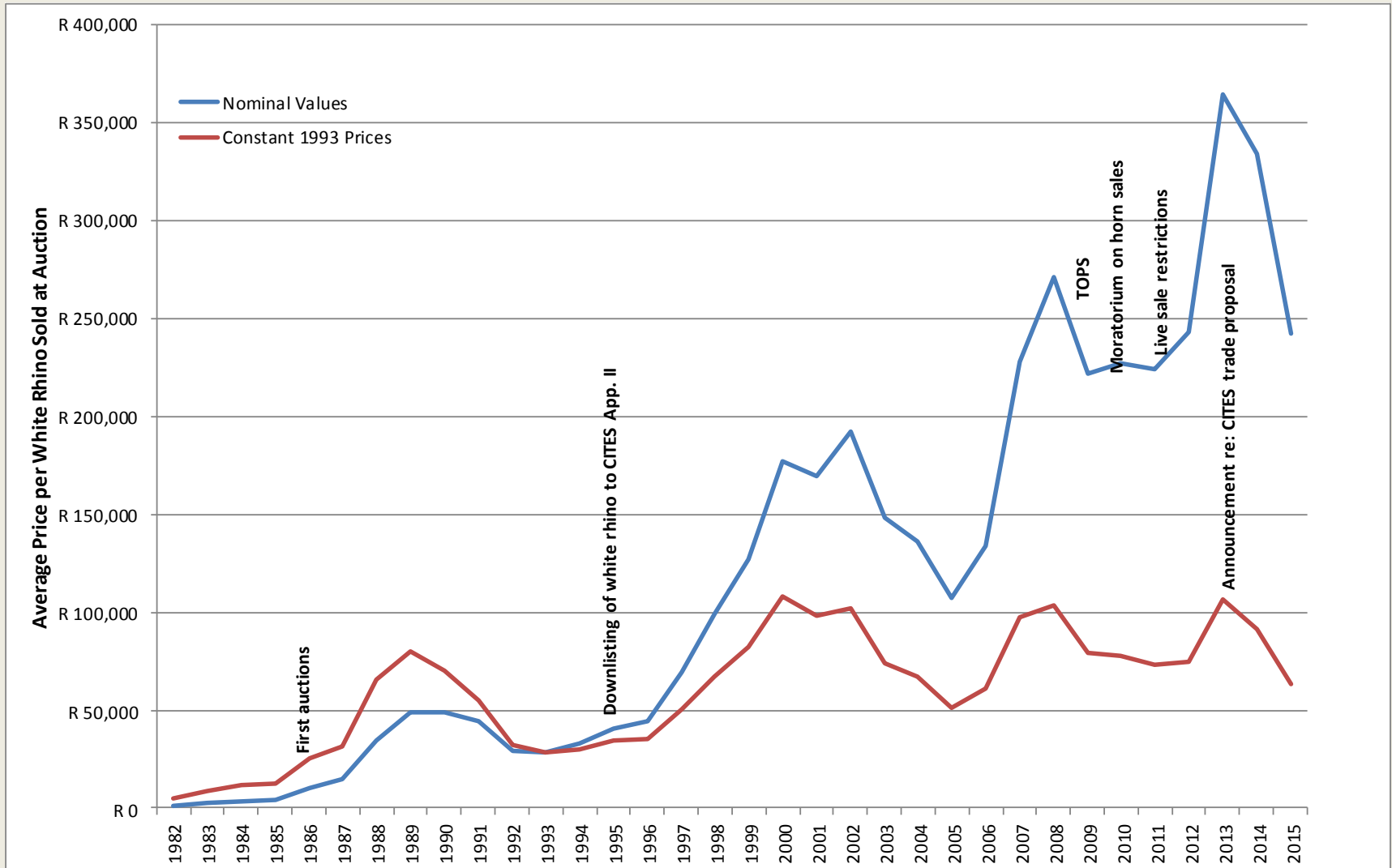
Rhino poaching in South Africa



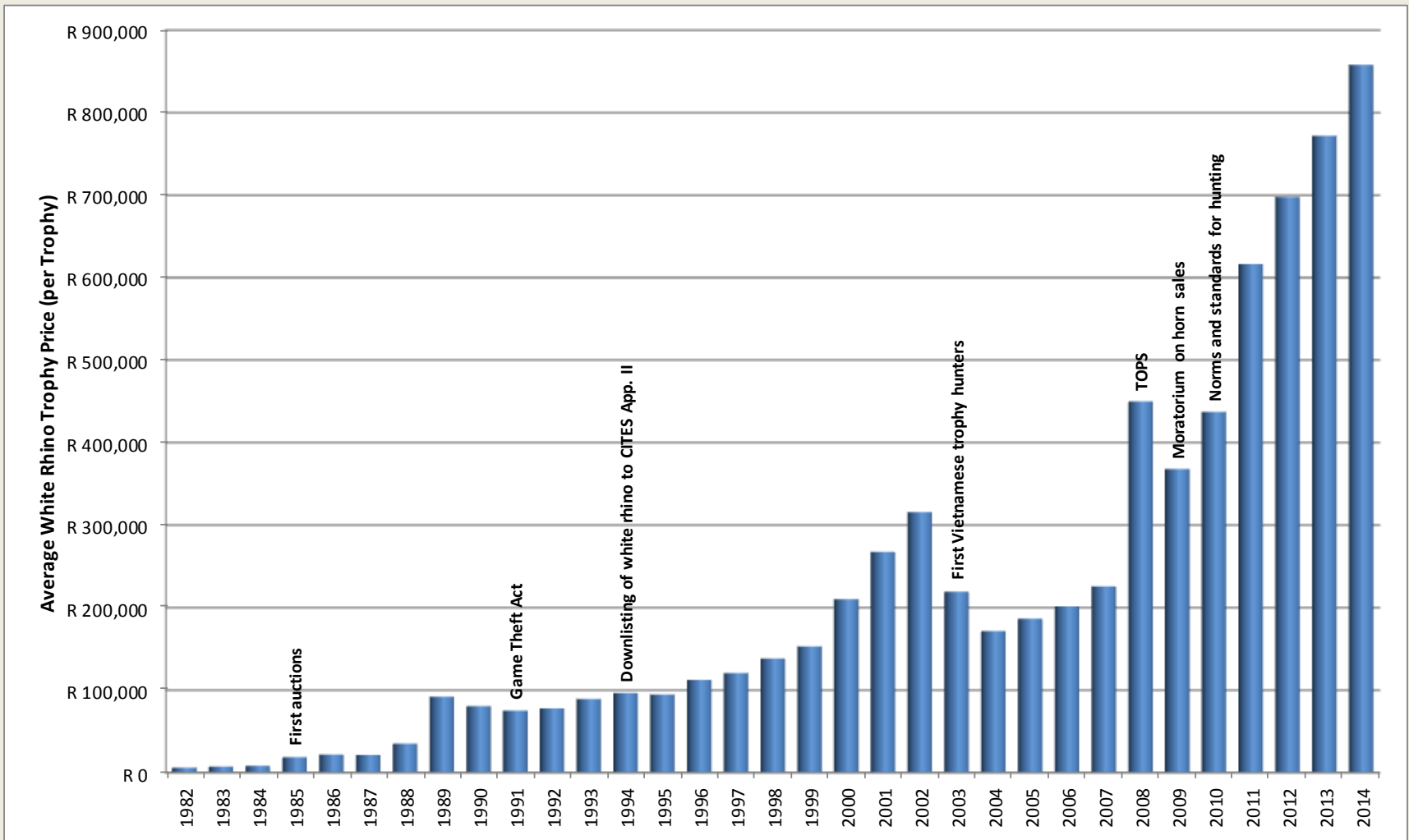
South African rhino numbers



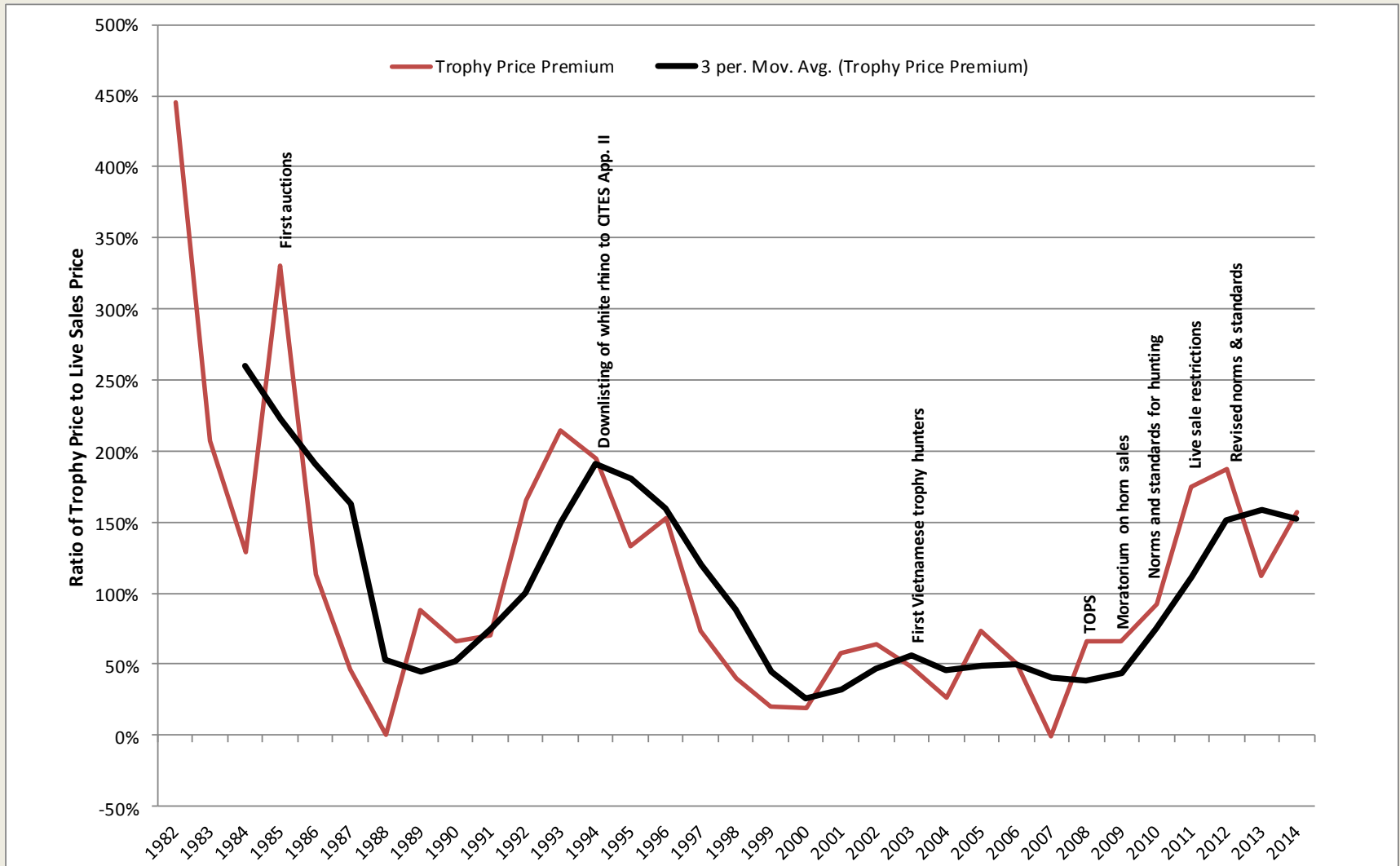
White rhino: live prices



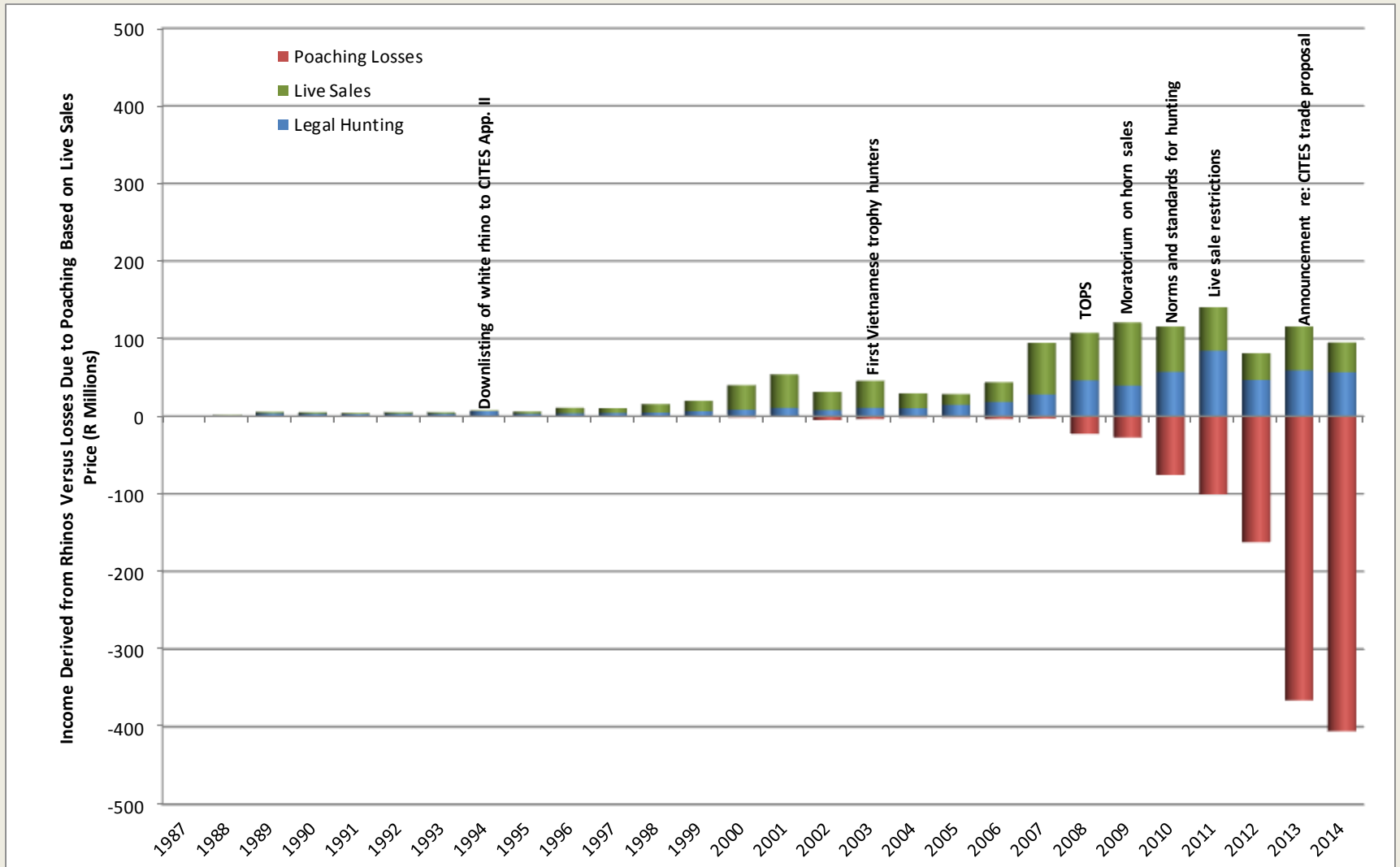
White rhino: trophy prices



Trophy premium as % of live sales price



Income versus losses



Solutions to rhino poaching?

Make poaching and illegal trade less lucrative

- greater enforcement
- consumer engagement (demand reduction?)
- direct competition using legal supply?

Make custodianship of live rhinos more lucrative to the people who control their destiny

- stronger property rights & markets
- involve local people

Legal trade: A sober assessment

Rhino trade policy is linked to elephants

We are moving towards a global ivory trade ban
(IUCN Motion 007)

Similar arguments used for ivory and rhino horn:
legal trade provides cover for illegal trade

Critical role of China

Follow the vicuña example?



Lessons from the vicuña

Vicuña is not an unqualified success

Key institutional differences (Vicuña Convention)

Narrow end-user market

No spill-over risks to rarer species

Critical role of communities!

Challenges for wildlife ranchers

Conservation concerns (scientists, some NGOs):

- Intensification (fences): loss of wildness, ecosystem degradation through loss of connectivity and predators
- Genetic manipulation: interfering with 'nature'

Ethical / aesthetic concerns (public and politicians):

- Exploitation of animals and people (Cecil, poaching)
- Animal welfare standards (Blood Lions)
- Social transformation: community benefits

Solutions?

1. Research on public benefits and costs (from both socio-economic and conservation perspectives)
2. Governance / policy engagement and reform
3. Pro-active industry development (standards!)
4. Communication and dialogue
 - with government
 - with NGOs
 - with the public

Conclusions 1: For conservationists

Supply side:

Livelihoods are critical, so give local people incentives!

Demand side:

Engage with consumers, don't preach to them!

Trade:

Learn lessons from the War on Drugs!

Are bans a long-term solution?

Conclusions 2: For wildlife ranchers

Address the conservation **and** animal welfare concerns of scientists, the public and NGOs – engage locally **and** internationally (e.g. join the IUCN)

Research and publicize **public** benefits of ranching

Work on improving or ending practices that are widely considered unethical and/or unsustainable: set clear standards, self-regulate and engage with policy-makers and stakeholders

Community engagement?



Do it right!

Don't patronize local communities or use them for window dressing – give them a meaningful stake in the industry, i.e. rights!

Whoever can get communities on their side will prevail in future policy debates over appropriate wildlife management and use



Thank you!!

www.rhino-economics.com