

## **What People Are Saying -- Rhino Horn Burn Event**

“From coast-to-coast, public destruction of illegal wildlife products sends a powerful message to the United States and the world community that this horrific trade will no longer be tolerated. Most importantly, it sends an unequivocal message to traffickers that there is absolutely no future market in the sale of rhino horn.”

- Dr. Patrick Bergin, CEO of the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)

“The government of Swaziland is putting rhinos at risk with a reckless proposal at an upcoming wildlife convention to make it legal to trade in the animals’ horns. The United States is answering this challenge by burning seized rhino horns and sending a smoke signal that any legal trade will doom these highly endangered creatures.”

- Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)

“Unless we act *now*, rhinos and the rest of this planet's endangered species could be lost in a blaze of greed. We need to create a firebreak--a clear line that halts the demand in its tracks by showing consumers around the world that these animals are not ours to kill; they need our protection and our respect.”

- Jeff Flocken, Regional Director, North America, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

“Today’s burn makes clear that confiscated horns should not be stockpiled, let alone traded. With the increasing value of rhino horn, stockpiles present a high-value target for theft. No matter how well guarded, stockpiles can still be vulnerable. In countries with limited resources to protect stockpiles, or with concerns about corruption, destroying horns can eliminate the risk of confiscated horn from entering the black market.”

- Dr. Susie Ellis, Executive Director, International Rhino Foundation (IRF)

“Rhinos in Africa and Asia desperately need our help. Along with the destruction of their habitat, the killing of rhinos for their horns is bringing all species, in Asia as well as Africa, close to extinction. It is desperately important to support efforts

to educate local people in the range countries, and desperately important to eliminate the demand for its supposed medicinal value, which of course is not true. So many rangers risk and sometimes lose their lives working on the front lines to protect these creatures. I've spent many hours watching both black and white rhinos in Africa. They are a part of the African landscape and it would be a tragedy if we allowed them to become extinct. Fortunately, more and more people are waking up to the rhino's plight – we all do what we can to help.”

- Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) & UN Messenger of Peace

“Rhino poaching is at historic levels in southern Africa, and demand for rhino horn in Vietnam is largely to blame. Vietnam must begin treating rhino horn trade as a serious crime, prosecuting traffickers and tackling demand. Until it does, there is little hope of ending the crisis that is robbing Africa of its rhinos.”

- Ginette Hemley, Senior Vice President of Wildlife Conservation at World Wildlife Fund (WWF)