

# CITES and southern Africa

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# The role of rural communities in wildlife conservation

- Rural communities have rights over natural resources
- More wildlife habitat on community land than in national parks
- More wildlife on community land than in national parks, 50% or more of elephant distribution on community land outside national parks
- Direct involvement by rural communities in conservation through e.g. community game guards
- Economic incentives from tourism, hunting and trade in wildlife products
- Revenue from trade in ivory and rhino horn are needed for human-wildlife conflict management

# The role of rural communities in wildlife conservation

- Rural community interests are negatively affected by CITES
- Rural communities are denied participation in CITES decision-making

## Role of the ivory industry in Japan

- Ivory (and rhino horn) are apart from diamonds the most valuable products that Africa can produce
- Production is sustainable and legal in southern Africa
- Declines in elephant populations occur in countries that do not support sustainable use and have poor law enforcement
- Southern Africa holds over 60% of all elephants in Africa, populations are increasing
- National parks are overpopulated and human-elephant conflicts on community land are increasing, many people are killed
- Essential to have a market for ivory in Japan (and China)