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Rhino horn trade

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**A legal trade could be controlled by “a monopoly of supply selling to a cartel of Far East retailers”**

Sir, finding a way to breed from the last three northern white rhino is important (“Battle to breed rhino on point of extinction’, World, Nov 24). A related and, perhaps, equally important issue is that the southern white rhinos in South Africa are being poached at the rate of 1,200 a year.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species banned rhino horn trade 38 years ago. The ban has not worked. All that happened was that the trade went underground where it has thrived.

South Africa could satisfy demand without the need to kill one rhino. It seems absurd not to have a legal trade which could be controlled by a monopoly of supply selling to a cartel of retailers in the Far East.

If Far Eastern governments were invested in the legal trade they would close down the illegal trade.

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