



Invitation for Comments on The Northern White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*) Recovery Efforts Using Novel Assisted Reproduction Techniques Undertaken by an International collaboration of Scientists through The BioRescue Consortium

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is a state corporation established by an Act of Parliament (Cap 376), now repealed by Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA), Cap 376, Laws of Kenya, with the mandate to conserve and manage wildlife in Kenya, and to enforce related laws and regulations. KWS is the designated government agency and national authority responsible for wildlife matters

and

The Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) is a State Corporation established under Section 50 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act No. 47 of 2013 (*Revised 2018*). Its mandate under Section 51 of the Act is to undertake and coordinate all forms of wildlife research and training and to grant wildlife research permits under Section 59(1) in liaison with NACOSTI, KWS and other relevant lead agencies and stakeholders.

BioRescue Consortium:

The main purpose of the BioRescue consortium is to develop and apply highly advanced novel technologies of assisted reproduction techniques (ART) through development of embryos in the laboratory and stem cell associated techniques (SCAT) from ancient material to enhance genetic diversity in an attempt to save the critically endangered northern white rhinoceros from extinction.

Request for comments:

If deliberate action is not undertaken to facilitate the recovery efforts, the species will become extinct in the very near future as there are only 2 females remaining in the world with no male to support natural breeding. The females are aged 34 and 24 years with the average life expectancy of rhinos in the wild estimated to be 35-40 years.

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and The Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) seeks comments from the public on the scientific procedures being undertaken by the BioRescue consortium to save the northern white rhino from extinction.

We kindly request that you submit your comments to KWS (vet@kws.go.ke) and WRTI (rhino@wrti.go.ke) by December 31, 2024.