

AFRICAN ELEPHANT (*Loxodonta africana*)



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PROPOSAL: CoP17 Prop.14 Namibia

To delete the annotation to the listing of the Namibian African elephant population in Appendix II by deleting any reference to Namibia in that annotation.

IFAW RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE

PROPOSAL: CoP17 Prop.15 Namibia and Zimbabwe

Amend the present Appendix II listing Zimbabwe's *Loxodonta africana* population by removing the annotation in order to achieve an unqualified Appendix II listing.

IFAW RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE

PROPOSAL: CoP17 Prop.16 Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Uganda

Include all populations of *Loxodonta africana* in Appendix I through the transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I of the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

IFAW RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT

PROPOSAL: CoP17 Doc. 57.2 - Closure of domestic markets (Document submitted by Angola et al)

Recommends that, "all Parties and non-Parties, particularly those in whose jurisdiction there is a legal domestic market for ivory, or any domestic commerce in ivory, adopt all necessary legislative, regulatory and enforcement measures as a matter of urgency to close their domestic markets for commercial trade in raw or worked ivory."

IFAW RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT ALL EFFORTS TO CLOSE DOMESTIC MARKETS FOR IVORY



of the level of this stock each year before 28 February, indicating: the number of pieces and their weight per type of ivory (raw or worked); for relevant pieces, and if marked, their markings in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution; the source of the ivory; and the reasons for any significant changes in the stockpile compared to the preceding year” and; “all Parties with government-held ivory stockpiles:

- destroy all ivory which is surplus to *bona fide* scientific, educational, enforcement or identification purposes, after taking forensic samples to determine its origin, in order to prevent the ivory from entering the market and to send a clear message that the poaching of elephants and trafficking in ivory must end; and
- establish protocols to continue destroying such ivory that may be acquired in the future.”

IFAW RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT, WHEREVER FEASIBLE, THE DESTRUCTION OF IVORY STOCKPILES

PROPOSAL: Cop17 Doc. 57.4 - Trade in live elephants (Document submitted by Burkina Faso et al)

Recommends that, “all elephant range States have in place legislative, regulatory, enforcement, or other measures to prevent illegal and detrimental trade in live elephants and to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment of live elephants in trade;” and requests that Parties agree that, “in relation to trade in live elephants taken from the wild, the only recipients that should be regarded as “appropriate and acceptable” (as referred to in Resolution Conf. 11.20) and “suitably equipped to house and care for” those elephants in accordance with Article III, Para 3(6) of the Convention are *in situ* conservation programmes or secure areas in the wild within the species’ natural range, except in the case of temporary transfers in emergency situations.”

IFAW RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT THESE IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS TO RES. 10.10 (REV. COP16) RELATING TO THE TRADE IN LIVE ELEPHANTS

PROPOSAL: CoP17 Doc. 57.3 - Ivory stockpiles (Document submitted by Benin)

Recommends that, “Parties maintain an inventory of government-held stockpiles of ivory and, where possible, of significant privately held stockpiles of ivory within their territory, and inform the Secretariat

PROPOSAL: CoP17 Doc. 84.2

(Document submitted by Benin et al) and Doc. 84.3 (Document submitted by Namibia, South Africa and Botswana) - Decision-making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory

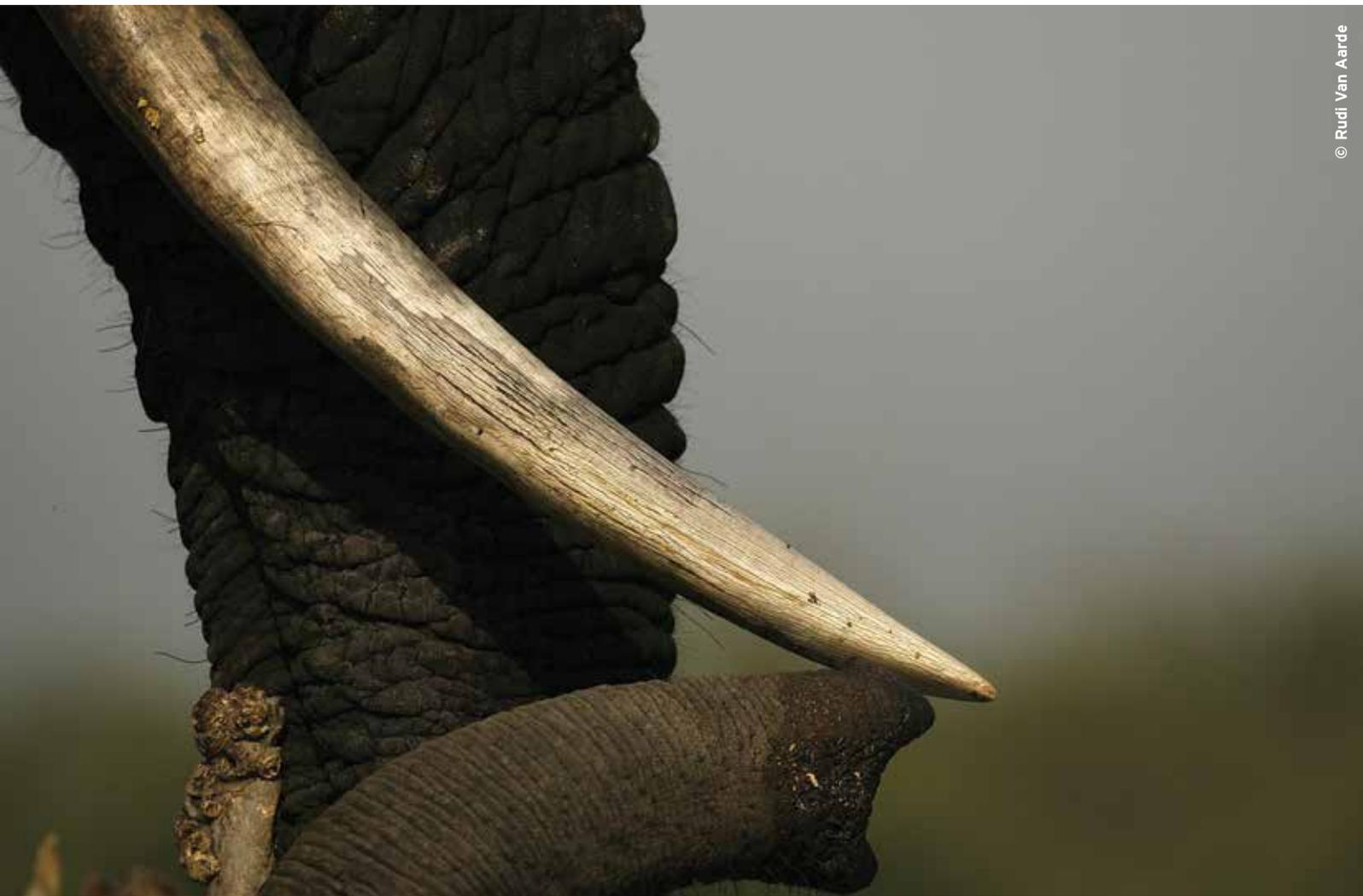
Given the current poaching crisis, as well as the need for CoP17 to urgently address such issues as unregulated domestic markets, the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP) through the African Elephant Fund (AEF), and stricter measures to regulate live trade in elephants, IFAW does not believe that there is any room for consideration at CoP17 of ongoing debate around the development of a Decision-Making Mechanism (DMM) for a process of trade in ivory. In this regard, IFAW maintains that the current mechanism, i.e. where the authority to evaluate ivory trade proposals rests with the Conference of the Parties (CoP), remains both appropriate and necessary. IFAW thus encourages Parties to support the recommendation put forward in CoP17. Doc. 84.2 by Benin et al urging the CoP to not extend the mandate of the DMM Working Group

as per Decision 16.55 (formerly Decision 14.77) and to oppose the recommendations put forward by Namibia, South Africa and Botswana in CoP17. Doc. 84.3, which urges the Parties to adopt a DMM at CoP17.

IFAW RECOMMENDATION: DISCOURAGE EFFORTS TO CONTINUE THE DEBATE AROUND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DECISION MAKING MECHANISM FOR A PROCESS OF TRADE IN IVORY

Biology and distribution

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African elephants currently occur in 37 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Large tracts of continuous elephant range remain in parts of Central, Eastern and Southern Africa but elephant distribution is becoming increasingly fragmented across the continent. Elephant population trends vary considerably across Africa with some populations in decline, some stable and others growing. It is estimated that there are between 450,000 and 550,000 elephants remaining in Africa.





home to approximately 60% of Africa's continental elephant population.

Given current poaching trends and the associated illicit trade to meet demand in the Far East, notably China, as well as a growing body of evidence which suggests that a legal, regulated trade would not be able to meet market demand, it is difficult to see how establishing so-called "controlled trade in all elephant specimens, including ivory" or "establishing open market sales of elephant ivory" for whatever purported reason would protect African elephants from over-exploitation from trade.

Protection status

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The African elephant was placed on Appendix I of CITES in 1989, following dramatic population declines due to poaching for ivory in the 1980s. In 1997, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe's elephant populations were transferred to Appendix II and 49 tonnes of ivory were sold to Japan in 1999 in a so-called "one-off sale." In 2000, South Africa's elephant population was transferred to Appendix II. At CoP14, in 2008, 108 metric tons of ivory were approved for sale from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The ivory was sold to China and Japan in an auction in November 2008 in a second one-off sale. The current demand for ivory is primarily to supply an expanding market in China.

Consequences of trade

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Recent analyses of poaching and illegal trade trends suggest there has been a steady increase in elephant poaching since 2006, peaking in 2011. In 2010-2012, an estimated 35,000-50,000 elephants were killed annually for their ivory. While poaching rates have stabilized in some populations, overall, levels remain unsustainably high. In particular, poaching levels in West and Central Africa are cause for major concern: Some populations could face extirpation in the next few years if trends continue. Further, there are suggestions that the poaching wave that hit East Africa, notably Tanzania and Kenya, over the past decade, is moving south and that populations in southern Africa are under increasing threat. This is particularly significant given that southern Africa is

IFAW Recommendations

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IFAW urges CITES Parties to focus on assessing and prioritising elephant conservation needs across Africa and to use and strengthen existing mechanisms such as the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP) and associated African Elephant Fund (AEF) to support these priorities, thereby taking the focus away from controversial trade negotiations. Therefore, IFAW opposes CoP17 Prop.14 and CoP17 Prop.15 and supports CoP17 Prop.16 to include all populations of *Loxodonta africana* in Appendix I.

IFAW notes that, given the current poaching crisis, coupled with poor progress in stemming global demand for ivory, enhanced protective measures for wild elephant populations are necessary. Despite increased global awareness and numerous positive international efforts to draw attention to the elephant crisis, poaching and associated illicit trade continues to escalate. While in and of itself, a decision to place all elephant populations back on Appendix I will not necessarily result in a decrease in poaching in the short-term, the longer-term consequences of such a decision would be to send out a strong precautionary message to both consumers and the enforcement community.

In addition, IFAW supports CoP17 Doc. 57.2 (to close domestic ivory markets); CoP17 Doc. 57.3 (to maintain an inventory of government-held ivory stockpiles); CoP17 Doc. 57.4 (to prevent illegal and detrimental trade in live elephants); and CoP17 Doc. 84.2 (to not extend the mandate of the DMM Working Group). IFAW opposes CoP17 Doc. 84.3 (to urge Parties to adopt a DMM at CoP17).