

## ELEPHANTS & IVORY REPORT CITES CoP18 – PREVIEW FRIDAY 16 AUGUST

### 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of CITES Opens Tomorrow in Geneva

#### Analysis of Proposals and Documents on Elephants and Ivory

Providing analysis at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([CoP18](#)) of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Geneva, on behalf of [Fondation Franz Weber](#), the [David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation](#), and [Pro Wildlife](#). Our experts are available for background and interviews.

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#### **PREVIEW AND OVERVIEW**

The CITES CoP 18 begins tomorrow in Geneva, Switzerland and runs through 28 August. The CITES [Secretariat](#) reports that the 183 Parties to the Convention will consider 56 proposals submitted by governments to change the levels of protection of species of wild animals and plants that are in international trade.

Three of those proposals pertain to the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) and ivory poaching. Three other documents will consider: 1) trade in live African elephants, 2) management of ivory stockpiles, and 3) closure of domestic ivory markets. Summaries, links, and our positions and rationales of the proposals and documents follow.

#### **PROPOSAL 10: Transfer the population of *Loxodonta africana* of Zambia from Appendix I to Appendix II**

**PROPONENT:** Zambia

**LINKS:** [Proposal 10](#). [Analysis of Proposal 10](#).

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL:** Transfer the population of *Loxodonta africana* of Zambia from Appendix I to Appendix II subject to:

1. Trade in registered raw ivory (tusks and pieces) for commercial purposes only to CITES approved trading partners who will not re-export;
2. Trade in hunting trophies for noncommercial purposes;
3. Trade in hides and leather goods;
4. All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly.

**POSITION: OPPOSE**

#### **RATIONALE:**

1. Would allow Zambia to export ivory. Any down-listing sends a message that ivory trade could reopen, fueling trafficking and threatening elephants across Africa and Asia.
2. Population in Zambia experienced a marked decline from 200,000 in 1972 to 17-26,000 in 2015 and has not recovered. It still meets the biological and precautionary criteria for listing in App I. Proposal fails to mention extensive poaching in several areas. The CoP18 MIKE report notes a high poaching level in South Luangwa in 2018.
3. Governance is a serious problem. ETIS identifies Zambia as a concern due to large-scale ivory movements.

**PROPOSAL 11: Amendment to Annotation 2 of Appendix II pertaining to the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to enable resumption of trade in registered raw ivory**

**PROPONENTS:** Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe

**LINKS:** [Proposal 11](#). [Analysis of Proposal 11](#).

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL:** Amendment to Annotation 2 of Appendix II pertaining to the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to enable resumption of trade in registered raw ivory:

1. From government owned stocks (excluding seized and of unknown origin);
2. Only to trading partners verified by the Secretariat;
3. Proceeds only to be used to fund elephant conservation and community conservation and development programmes.

**POSITION: OPPOSE**

**RATIONALE:**

1. Would allow Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe to export ivory.
2. Will fuel demand, poaching and trafficking, and impact elephants in all range States. Ivory sales in 2008 led to a devastating escalation of poaching for ivory. On-going efforts to combat poaching and trafficking will be undermined.
3. Poaching is increasing in Southern Africa, including in Botswana (up 600% from 2014-2018) and South Africa. ETIS identifies problems with illegal ivory trade in all four countries, especially in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

**PROPOSAL 12: Include all populations of *Loxodonta africana* in Appendix I through transferring populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe from Appendix II to Appendix I.**

**PROPONENTS:** Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo.

**LINKS:** [Proposal 12](#). [Analysis of Proposal 12](#).

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

**RATIONALE:**

1. The continental population declined by 68% from 1980-2015. Poaching remains high across Africa and is increasing in Southern Africa. Hot spots have moved from East Africa into Southern Africa (notably Botswana) where over half of Africa's elephants live.
2. As a highly migratory, transboundary species, CITES listing criteria should be applied to African elephants as a whole. CITES discourages split-listing due to enforcement problems.
3. Trading in ivory by some range States runs counter to agreed demand reduction efforts and endangers elephants in ALL range States.
4. The criteria for up-listing are met, in light of the "marked decline" (over 50% since 1980) and on-going poaching for ivory on a continental scale.

**DOCUMENT 44.2: International trade in live African elephants: Proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'**

**PROPONENTS:** Burkina Faso, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, the Niger, Nigeria, the Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic.

**LINKS:** [Document 44.2.](#) [Analysis of Document 44.2.](#)

**SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT:**

1. The position of the African Elephant Coalition is that the only “appropriate and acceptable” destinations for live wild elephants are in situ conservation programmes within their wild natural range. The submission proposes to include the guidance developed by the Animals Committee regarding the trade in live elephant specimens in an Annex to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP 17), and supports the adoption of the Decisions proposed by Standing Committee 70.
2. Amendments are proposed to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) seeking to restrict the definition of “appropriate and acceptable destinations” to “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.”
3. The amendments also recommend that Parties put measures in place to minimize the risk of negative impacts on wild populations and promote their social well-being, as elephants are highly social with complex interactions that are indispensable to their well-being.

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

**DOCUMENT 69.4: Ivory stockpiles: proposed revision of [Resolution Conf. 10.10 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#) on Trade in elephant specimens**

**PROPOSERS:** Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, the Niger, Nigeria, the Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic.

**LINKS:** [Document 69.4.](#) [Analysis of Document 69.4.](#)

**SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT:**

1. Presents an overview of major ivory seizures and update on destructions.
2. Highlights lack of data on global ivory stockpiles, management challenges including theft and leakage into trade, and lack of progress with CITES guidance on stockpile management.
3. Recommends finalising and disseminating guidance for management of ivory stockpiles, including disposal, and draft Decisions that aim to ensure:
  - a. Parties comply with annual reporting on stockpiles in their territory, including on stolen / missing ivory;
  - b. The data are analysed and summaries published (at regional not country level); and
  - c. This important issue remains on the CITES agenda

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

**DOCUMENT 69.5: Implementing aspects of [Resolution Conf. 10.10 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#) on the closure of domestic ivory markets**

**PROPOSERS:** Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, the Niger, Nigeria and the Syrian Arab Republic.

**LINKS:** [Document 69.5.](#) [Analysis of Document 69.5.](#)

**SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT:**

1. Highlights the momentum for closing domestic ivory markets, notably in China, and role played by remaining legal markets, particularly in Japan and the EU, in perpetuating ivory trafficking.
2. Underlines the loophole in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) specifying that only markets “contributing to poaching or illegal trade” should be closed, and provides evidence that Japan’s market contributes to illegal trade.
3. Recommends strengthening Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) through revisions that aim to ensure:
  - a) All Parties and non-Parties close domestic markets for commercial ivory;

- b) Any trade under narrow exemptions is controlled;
- c) Parties report annually on the status of the legality of their domestic markets and efforts to close them, and those that fail to close them are identified; and
- d) The Standing Committee recommends action to secure compliance with provisions on market closure.

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

**OUTLOOK FOR TOMORROW – Saturday 17 August**

After welcoming addresses, negotiations will begin on administrative and financial matters, including rules of procedure, which could be controversial. More in tomorrow's briefing.

# # #

**CITES**

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**Ivory trade**

All populations of African elephants were listed on CITES Appendix I in 1989, effectively banning international ivory trade. But the protection was weakened in 1997 and 2000 when populations in four countries (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe) were down-listed to Appendix II (a less endangered status) to allow two sales of ivory stockpiles to Japan and China in 1999 and 2008. In 1980, the African elephant population was estimated at 1.3 million individuals – in 2015, only 415,428 remained according to the 2016 IUCN African Elephant Status Report estimates, a decline of 68 percent.

**FFW, DSWF, PW, AEC**

[Fondation Franz Weber](#) (FFW), based in Bern, Switzerland, has been campaigning for the survival of the African elephant and the complete ban of the trade in ivory for 40 years. FFW has had observer status at CITES since 1989 and has been a partner of the African Elephant Coalition since its creation in 2008.

[David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation](#) (DSWF) based in Guildford, UK, is a highly effective wildlife conservation charity founded in 1984 by wildlife artist and conservationist David Shepherd CBE FRSA (1931-2017) to help save endangered wildlife. DSWF works to fight wildlife crime, protect endangered species and engage local communities to protect their native wildlife and associated habitats across Asia and Africa. The Foundation focusses on maximum conservation impact by taking a long-term holistic approach to the issues surrounding the species that they work to protect, fighting for greater legal protection of endangered species, funding international cross-border enforcement programmes and building capacity of key law enforcement networks. DSWF also supports undercover investigations into wildlife crime and campaigns to bring an end to the trade in the parts of endangered wildlife.

[Pro Wildlife](#) (PW), based in Munich, Germany, is committed to protecting wildlife and works to ensure the survival of species in their habitat, as well as the protection of individual animals. This includes advocacy, strengthening national and international regulations and ensuring their implementation.

The [African Elephant Coalition](#) was established in 2008 in Bamako, Mali. It comprises 32 member countries from Africa including 27 African elephant range States united by a common goal: "a viable and healthy elephant population free of threats from international ivory trade." The 32 member countries of the African Elephant Coalition are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Togo, and Uganda. All AEC Members are Parties to CITES except for South Sudan.

## ELEPHANTS & IVORY REPORT CITES CoP 18 – SATURDAY 17 AUGUST

### 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of CITES Starts Today in Geneva

Providing analysis at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([CoP18](#)) of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Geneva, on behalf of [Fondation Franz Weber](#), the [David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation](#), and [Pro Wildlife](#). Our experts are available for background and interviews.

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### **OVERVIEW AND TIMING**

The CITES CoP 18 opens today in Geneva and runs through 28 August. The 183 Parties to the Convention will consider [56 proposals submitted by governments](#) to change the levels of protection of species of wild animals and plants that are in international trade.

Three of those proposals pertain to the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) and ivory poaching. Three other documents will consider: 1) trade in live African elephants, 2) management of ivory stockpiles, and 3) closure of domestic ivory markets. Summaries, links, and our positions follow; comprehensive analysis documents are available on request.

### **PROPOSAL 10: Transfer the population of *Loxodonta africana* of Zambia from Appendix I to Appendix II.**

PROPONENT: Zambia

\*\*\* TIMING: Wednesday 21 August and following in Committee I \*\*\*

LINKS: [Proposal 10](#). [Analysis of Proposal 10](#).

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL: Transfer the population of *Loxodonta africana* of Zambia from Appendix I to Appendix II subject to:

1. Trade in registered raw ivory (tusks and pieces) for commercial purposes only to CITES approved trading partners who will not re-export;
2. Trade in hunting trophies for noncommercial purposes;
3. Trade in hides and leather goods;
4. All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly.

POSITION: OPPOSE

### **PROPOSAL 11: Amendment to Annotation 2 of Appendix II pertaining to the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to enable resumption of trade in registered raw ivory.**

PROPONENTS: Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe

LINKS: [Proposal 11](#). [Analysis of Proposal 11](#).

\*\*\* TIMING: Wednesday 21 August and following in Committee I \*\*\*

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL: Amendment to Annotation 2 of Appendix II pertaining to the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to enable resumption of trade in registered raw ivory:

1. From government owned stocks (excluding seized and of unknown origin);
2. Only to trading partners verified by the Secretariat;
3. Proceeds only to be used to fund elephant conservation and community conservation and development programmes.

POSITION: OPPOSE

**PROPOSAL 12: Include all populations of *Loxodonta africana* in Appendix I through transferring populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe from Appendix II to Appendix I.**

PROPOSANTS: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo.

LINKS: [Proposal 12](#). [Analysis of Proposal 12](#).

POSITION: SUPPORT

\*\*\* TIMING: Wednesday 21 August and following in Committee I \*\*\*

**DOCUMENT 44.2: International trade in live African elephants: Proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'.**

PROPOSANTS: Burkina Faso, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, the Niger, Nigeria, the Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic.

LINKS: [Document 44.2](#). [Analysis of Document 44.2](#).

\*\*\* TIMING: Tomorrow, Sunday 18 August in Committee I \*\*\*

SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT:

1. The position of the African Elephant Coalition is that the only “appropriate and acceptable” destinations for live wild elephants are in situ conservation programmes within their wild natural range. The submission proposes to include the guidance developed by the Animals Committee regarding the trade in live elephant specimens in an Annex to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP 17), and supports the adoption of the Decisions proposed by Standing Committee 70.
2. Amendments are proposed to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) seeking to restrict the definition of “appropriate and acceptable destinations” to “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.”
3. The amendments also recommend that Parties put measures in place to minimize the risk of negative impacts on wild populations and promote their social well-being, as elephants are highly social with complex interactions that are indispensable to their well-being.

POSITION: SUPPORT

**DOCUMENT 69.4: Ivory stockpiles: proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on Trade in elephant specimens.**

PROPOSANTS: Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, the Niger, Nigeria, the Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic.

LINKS: [Document 69.4](#). [Analysis of Document 69.4](#).

\*\*\* TIMING: Wednesday 21 August in Committee II \*\*\*

#### SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT:

1. Presents an overview of major ivory seizures and update on destructions.
2. Highlights lack of data on global ivory stockpiles, management challenges including theft and leakage into trade, and lack of progress with CITES guidance on stockpile management.
3. Recommends finalising and disseminating guidance for management of ivory stockpiles, including disposal, and draft Decisions that aim to ensure:
  - a. Parties comply with annual reporting on stockpiles in their territory, including on stolen / missing ivory;
  - b. The data are analysed and summaries published (at regional not country level); and
  - c. This important issue remains on the CITES agenda

POSITION: SUPPORT

#### **DOCUMENT 69.5: Implementing aspects of [Resolution Conf. 10.10 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#) on the closure of domestic ivory markets.**

PROPOSERS: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, the Niger, Nigeria and the Syrian Arab Republic.

LINKS: [Document 69.5](#). [Analysis of Document 69.5](#).

\*\*\* TIMING: Wednesday 21 August in Committee II \*\*\*

#### SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT:

1. Highlights the momentum for closing domestic ivory markets, notably in China, and role played by remaining legal markets, particularly in Japan and the EU, in perpetuating ivory trafficking.
2. Underlines the loophole in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) specifying that only markets "contributing to poaching or illegal trade" should be closed, and provides evidence that Japan's market contributes to illegal trade.
3. Recommends strengthening Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) through revisions that aim to ensure:
  - a) All Parties and non-Parties close domestic markets for commercial ivory;
  - b) Any trade under narrow exemptions is controlled;
  - c) Parties report annually on the status of the legality of their domestic markets and efforts to close them, and those that fail to close them are identified; and
  - d) The Standing Committee recommends action to secure compliance with provisions on market closure.

POSITION: SUPPORT

#### **OUTLOOK FOR TODAY – Saturday 17 August**

After welcoming addresses, negotiations in a plenary session will begin on administrative and financial matters, including rules of procedure, which could be controversial. Negotiations move to Committee I and Committee II starting tomorrow.

# # #

#### **CITES**

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#### **Ivory trade**

All populations of African elephants were listed on CITES Appendix I in 1989, effectively banning international ivory trade. But the protection was weakened in 1997 and 2000 when populations in four countries (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe) were down-listed to Appendix II (a less endangered status) to allow two sales of ivory stockpiles to Japan and China in 1999 and 2008. In 1980, the African elephant population was estimated at 1.3 million individuals – in 2015, only 415,428 remained according to the 2016 IUCN African Elephant Status Report estimates, a decline of 68 percent.

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## ELEPHANTS & IVORY REPORT CITES CoP 18 – SUNDAY 18 AUGUST

### International trade in live African elephants on today's agenda at CITES CoP 18

Providing analysis at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([CoP18](#)) of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Geneva, on behalf of [Foundation Franz Weber](#), the [David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation](#), and [Pro Wildlife](#). Our experts are available for background and interviews. CONTACT: Don Lehr / [dblehr@cs.com](mailto:dblehr@cs.com) / mobile: +1.917.304.4058

### **OVERVIEW FOR TODAY – SUNDAY 18 AUGUST**

Negotiations begin in earnest today – Sunday 18 August – at the CITES CoP 18 which runs through 28 August. The 183 Parties to the Convention will consider a record [56 proposals submitted by governments](#) to change the levels of protection of species of wild animals and plants that are in international trade.

Deliberations on those proposals will start Wednesday. Meanwhile, more than 100 other issues – species-specific, regulatory, implementation, and enforcement -- in the form of “Working Documents,” also appear on the CoP agenda. The first issue pertaining to elephants, on international trade in live African elephants, is on today's agenda.

### **DOCUMENT 44.2: International trade in live African elephants: Proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'**

**PROPONENTS:** Burkina Faso, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, the Niger, Nigeria, the Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic.

**LINKS:** [Document 44.2](#). [Analysis of Document 44.2](#).

### **SUMMARY:**

1. This document proposes to modify [Resolution Conf. 11.20 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#) concerning the definition of the term “appropriate and acceptable destinations” by clarifying the definition with regard to African elephants and restricting it to in situ conservation programmes in their natural habitat.
2. The document also suggests including the guidelines drawn up by the Animals Committee at its July 2018 meeting on good practices to ensure that the proposed destination for a live specimen is correctly equipped to house and care for them and that it is considered an “appropriate and acceptable destination.”

### **ARGUMENTS:**

1. African elephants are intelligent beings who maintain complex social structures and strong family bonds.
2. Calves captured in the wild and transported into captivity suffer trauma, depression, lethargy, anxiety and other health problems. Based on the biological and behavioural characteristics of this species, it is clear that the specific needs of African elephants cannot be adequately met in zoos or other places of captivity outside of the species range.
3. In 2003, the African Elephant Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission made the following declaration: “Believing there to be no direct benefit for in situ conservation of African elephants, [we] do not endorse the removal of African elephants from the wild for any captive use.”

4. Existing guidelines from zoo associations do not guarantee a minimum standard of well-being for captive African elephants, especially with regard to their social well-being.

5. Therefore, the use of live elephants captured from the wild in captive facilities ex situ cannot be considered “appropriate and acceptable”. For this reason, only in situ conservation programmes in the elephants’ natural habitat may be considered in order to meet this definition.

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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## ELEPHANTS & IVORY REPORT CITES CoP 18 – MONDAY 19 AUGUST

**First CITES vote achieves required 2/3 majority on African Elephant Coalition position that the only “appropriate and acceptable” destinations for African elephants are “in situ conservation programmes or secure areas in the wild within the species’ natural range”**

Providing analysis at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([CoP18](#)) of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Geneva, on behalf of [Fondation Franz Weber](#), the [David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation](#), and [Pro Wildlife](#). Our experts are available for background and interviews. CONTACT: Don Lehr / [dblehr@cs.com](mailto:dblehr@cs.com) / mobile: +1.917.304.4058

### **REPORT FROM YESTERDAY – SUNDAY 18 AUGUST**

On international trade in live African elephants in Committee I.

1. [Document 44.1: the Standing Committee report](#) on a proposed revision of [Resolution Conf. 11.20 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#) on the definition of the term ‘appropriate and acceptable destinations’ was approved by consensus. It provides non-binding guidance – with regard to physical housing, diet, social well-being, etc. – on whether the proposed destination of a living elephant is suitably equipped to house and care for it. (See page 10 of document)

2. [Document 44.2: International trade in live African elephants](#): A further proposed revision of [Resolution Conf. 11.20 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#) on the definition of the term ‘appropriate and acceptable destinations,’ submitted by members of the African Elephant Coalition, went to a vote and was approved by the required two-thirds majority (Yes: 46; No: 18; Abstain: 19). Text of the revision follows (see page 7 of document):

1. AGREES that where the term ‘appropriate and acceptable destinations’ appears in an annotation to the listing of *Loxodonta africana* in Appendix II of the Convention with reference to the trade in live elephants from the wild, this term shall be defined to mean *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;

This item will most likely be re-opened in the CoP plenary session next week.

### **OVERVIEW FOR TODAY – MONDAY 19 AUGUST IN COMMITTEE I**

[Doc. 94: Conservation Management of and trade in marine ornamental fishes](#)

**PROPOSERS:** European Union, Switzerland, and the United States of America

#### **SUMMARY:**

1. This document recommends the adoption of draft decisions to assess the conservation impacts of the international trade in live marine ornamental fishes.

2. It asks the Secretariat, with the help of the Animals and Standing Committees, and third parties and technical experts, to convene a technical workshop to consider the conservation priorities and management needs related to the trade in marine ornamental fishes worldwide with a specific focus on data from importing (consumer) countries and from exporting countries. It requires that the findings and recommendations of this workshop should be prepared by the Secretariat for the Animals and Standing Committees, which shall then make its own recommendations at the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **ARGUMENTS:**

1. Coral reefs are seriously threatened by pollution and climate change, as well as overfishing by the marine aquarium industry.
2. Currently, the trade comprises over 2,300 species of marine ornamental fishes and is poorly regulated or monitored.
3. The precise number of marine ornamental fishes traded worldwide is unknown but estimates indicate that between 24 and 40 million specimens are traded each year.

## **OVERVIEW FOR TODAY – MONDAY 19 AUGUST IN COMMITTEE II**

Several documents concerning rural communities and livelihoods appear on today's agenda in Committee II.

[Doc. 17.1: Engagement of Rural Communities](#)

[Doc. 17.2: Amendment to Res. Conf. 4.6 and Res. Conf. 9.24](#)

[Doc. 17.3: Participatory mechanism for Rural Communities](#)

[Doc. 18.1: CITES and livelihoods](#)

[Doc. 18.2: CITES and livelihoods \(Peru\)](#)

[Doc. 18.3: CITES and livelihoods \(China\)](#)

[Doc. 19: Food Security and livelihoods](#)

# # #

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## **ELEPHANTS & IVORY (AND FISH!) REPORT CITES CoP 18 – TUESDAY AUGUST 20**

### **Marine ornamental fish trade finally to be put under the microscope**

Providing analysis at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([CoP18](#)) of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Geneva, on behalf of [Fondation Franz Weber](#), the [David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation](#), and [Pro Wildlife](#). Our experts are available for background and interviews. CONTACT: Don Lehr / [dblehr@cs.com](mailto:dblehr@cs.com) / mobile: +1.917.304.4058

### **REPORT FROM YESTERDAY – MONDAY 19 AUGUST – COMMITTEE I** **On Marine Ornamental Fishes**

The aquarium industry poses a serious threat to ornamental coral reef fishes throughout the oceans. But there are few any regulations, controls, or information on the impact of this trade on species and marine ecosystems. Committee I, by consensus, approved a proposal -- [Doc. 94: Conservation Management of and trade in marine ornamental fishes](#) -- by Switzerland, the European Union and the United States to rectify this situation, and to produce a comprehensive study on the aquarium industry, so that measures are taken before it is too late.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

1. There are about 1,000 public aquariums in the world and at least 2 million private aquarium owners. The only way the industry's demand can be met is to continue taking more fishes from the coral reefs. This is because the majority of marine ornamental fishes do not reproduce in captivity that, incidentally, proves that fishes should not be in captivity in the first place.
2. Coral reef fishes, prized by aquariums, are often caught in the wild using illegal poisons such as cyanide. Not only is the survival rate during capture and transport very low (almost 80% of animals can die before arriving in the aquarium), but natural habitats also suffer in the process.
3. Despite the magnitude of this industry, which reaches an excess of US\$ 1.5 billion each year, there is virtually no regulation. Only one group of species, seahorses, and two species of fishes (the napoleon fish and clarion angelfish) are protected by CITES. In addition, accurate data on the volume of trade, the species affected and impacts on ecosystems are severely lacking.

#### **QUOTE:**

Dr. Monica V. Biondo, marine biologist for Fondation Franz Weber (FFW), a CITES observer for the past 30 years, sums up the situation: "In short, it is not possible today to monitor and control the trade in marine ornamental fish for the aquarium industry, or evaluate its impact. This cannot go on." Biondo has published several scientific studies on the ornamental fish trade in Switzerland and in the European Union.

#### **GOING FORWARD:**

Research from this study will be presented at the next CoP in 2022 so that measures may be taken to better protect ornamental coral reef fishes from international trade.

### **REPORT FROM YESTERDAY – MONDAY 19 AUGUST – COMMITTEE II** **On Rural Communities**

Committee II spent nearly six hours in its morning and afternoon sessions discussing several documents concerning the role of rural communities in the CITES process. An in-session Working Group was formed

to address amendments to the draft decisions and to consolidate the issues raised in most of these documents: [17.1](#), [17.2](#), [17.3](#), [18.1](#), [18.2](#), [18.3](#), and [19](#).

## **OVERVIEW FOR TODAY – TUESDAY 20 AUGUST – COMMITTEE I AND COMMITTEE II**

Discussions continue in both Committees on a wide range of issues which can be accessed in the [Working Programme](#). Considerations of issues related to elephants and ivory will resume again on Wednesday and Thursday.

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## ELEPHANTS & IVORY REPORT CITES CoP 18 – WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21

### Closure of All Domestic Ivory Markets Worldwide on Today's Agenda

Providing analysis at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([CoP18](#)) of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Geneva, on behalf of [Foundation Franz Weber](#), the [David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation](#), and [Pro Wildlife](#). Our experts are available for background and interviews. CONTACT: Don Lehr / [dblehr@cs.com](mailto:dblehr@cs.com) / mobile: +1.917.304.4058

### **OVERVIEW FOR TODAY – WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST – COMMITTEE II**

One of the most important documents relating to elephants and ivory is on this morning's agenda. It calls for the closure of domestic ivory markets in all countries worldwide.

### **DOCUMENT 69.5: Implementing aspects of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on the closure of domestic ivory markets**

**LINKS:** [Document 69.5](#). [Analysis of Document 69.5](#).

**PROPOSERS:** Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, the Niger, Nigeria and the Syrian Arab Republic.

1. The document HIGHLIGHTS the momentum for closing domestic ivory markets, notably in China, and the role played by remaining legal markets, particularly in Japan and the EU, in perpetuating ivory trafficking.
2. It UNDERLINES the loophole in [Resolution Conf. 10.10 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#) specifying that only markets "contributing to poaching or illegal trade" should be closed, and provides evidence that Japan's market contributes to illegal trade.
3. It RECOMMENDS strengthening Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) through revisions that aim to ensure that:
  - a) All Parties and non-Parties close domestic markets for commercial ivory;
  - b) Any trade under narrow exemptions is controlled;
  - c) Parties report annually on the status of the legality of their domestic markets and efforts to close them, and those that fail to close them are identified; and
  - d) The Standing Committee recommends action to secure compliance with provisions on market closure.

A second elephant document concerns the management, including the disposal, of ivory stockpiles.

### **DOCUMENT 69.4: Ivory stockpiles: proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on Trade in elephant specimens**

**LINKS:** [Document 69.4](#). [Analysis of Document 69.4](#).

**PROPOSERS:** Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, the Niger, Nigeria, the Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic.

1. The document PRESENTS AN OVERVIEW of major ivory seizures and update on destructions.
2. It HIGHLIGHTS the lack of data on global ivory stockpiles, management challenges including theft and leakage into trade, and the lack of progress with CITES guidance on stockpile management.

3. It RECOMMENDS finalising and disseminating guidance for management of ivory stockpiles, including disposal, and draft decisions that aim to ensure that:

- a) Parties comply with annual reporting on stockpiles in their territory, including on stolen and/or missing ivory;
- b) The data are analysed and summaries published (at regional not country level); and
- c) This important issue remains on the CITES agenda

### **OVERVIEW FOR TODAY – WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST – COMMITTEE I**

Committee I is scheduled to begin deliberations on proposals for Amendments to Appendices I and II. Proposals with regard to elephants are scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday 22 August.

### **REPORT FROM YESTERDAY – TUESDAY 20 AUGUST – COMMITTEE I AND COMMITTEE II**

Discussions continued in both Committees on a range of species-specific, regulatory, implementation, and enforcement issues.

In the evening, the Working Group on the role of rural communities in the CITES process, formed on Monday in Committee II, held its first meeting on the draft decisions in Documents [17.1](#), [17.2](#), [17.3](#), [18.1](#), [18.2](#), [18.3](#) and the proposed amendments to those decisions.

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**ELEPHANTS & IVORY REPORT CITES CoP 18 – MID-AFTERNOON WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21**  
**CITES continues pressure on countries with open domestic ivory markets**

Parties at CITES CoP 18 in Geneva this afternoon confirmed their commitment to the closure of domestic ivory markets, agreeing by consensus to focus scrutiny on remaining open markets such as Japan and the EU. Countries which have not closed their domestic ivory markets will be requested to report on the measures they are taking to ensure that their domestic ivory markets are not contributing to poaching or illegal trade.

The language agreed by consensus is as follows:

Directed to the Parties

18.AA: Requests parties that have not closed their domestic markets for commercial trade in raw and worked ivory to report to the Secretariat for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 73rd and 74<sup>th</sup> meeting on what measures they are taking to ensure that their domestic ivory markets are not contributing to poaching or illegal trade.

Directed to the Secretariat:

18.BB: Compile the reports and make them available to Parties in advance of the Standing Committee meetings.

Directed to the Standing Committee:

18.CC: The Standing Committee shall:

1. Consider the report under the decision 18.BB; and
2. Report on this matter and make recommendations, as appropriate, consistent with the scope and mandate of the Convention, to the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES.

More in tomorrow's briefing.

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# # #

## ELEPHANTS & IVORY REPORT CITES CoP 18 – THURSDAY AUGUST 22

**CITES continues pressure on countries with open domestic ivory markets and strengthens compliance measures for countries with ivory stockpiles**

### **Today: Three Controversial Proposals to Amend Appendices for African Elephant**

Providing analysis at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([CoP18](#)) of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Geneva, on behalf of [Fondation Franz Weber](#), the [David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation](#), and [Pro Wildlife](#). Our experts are available for background and interviews. CONTACT: Don Lehr / [dblehr@cs.com](mailto:dblehr@cs.com) / mobile: +1.917.304.4058

### **REPORT FROM YESTERDAY – WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST – COMMITTEE II**

#### 1. On closure of domestic ivory markets

Parties confirmed their commitment to the closure of domestic ivory markets, agreeing by consensus to focus scrutiny on remaining open markets such as Japan and the EU. Countries which have not closed their domestic ivory markets will be requested to report on the measures THEY are taking to ensure that their domestic ivory markets are not contributing to poaching or illegal trade.

The language agreed by consensus is as follows:

*Requests parties that have not closed their domestic markets for commercial trade in raw and worked ivory to report to the Secretariat for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> meeting on what measures they are taking to ensure that their domestic ivory markets are not contributing to poaching or illegal trade.*

#### 2. On management of ivory stockpiles

A second elephant document submitted by members of the African Elephant Coalition pertains to the management, including the disposal, of ivory stockpiles. [Document 69.4](#), with amendments, also passed by consensus. It strengthens the compliance measures for how countries report on their ivory stockpiles with a set of draft decisions that:

1. URGES Parties to maintain and report annually on ivory stockpiles in their territory, including on stolen and/or missing ivory;
2. CITES WILL IDENTIFY those Parties that have not provided information on their government-held and significant privately held stockpiles of ivory or where stockpiles are not well secured; and
3. CITES WILL DETERMINE whether any further actions are necessary in the case of Parties who fail to provide annual inventories of stockpiles

### **OVERVIEW FOR TODAY – THURSDAY 22 AUGUST – COMMITTEE I**

Three controversial proposals to amend the Appendices for the African Elephant are on today's agenda.

**1. PROPOSAL 10:** Transfer the population of *Loxodonta africana* of Zambia from Appendix I to Appendix II. **LINKS:** [Proposal 10](#). [Analysis of Proposal 10](#).

**PROPONENT:** Zambia

**SUMMARY:** Transfer the population of *Loxodonta africana* of Zambia from Appendix I to Appendix II subject to:

1. Trade in registered raw ivory (tusks and pieces) for commercial purposes only to CITES approved trading partners who will not re-export;
2. Trade in hunting trophies for noncommercial purposes;
3. Trade in hides and leather goods;
4. All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly.

**POSITION: OPPOSE. RATIONALE:**

1. Would allow Zambia to export ivory. Any down-listing sends a message that ivory trade could reopen, fueling trafficking and threatening elephants across Africa and Asia.
2. Population in Zambia experienced a marked decline from 200,000 in 1972 to 17-26,000 in 2015 and has not recovered. It still meets the biological and precautionary criteria for listing in App I. Proposal fails to mention extensive poaching in several areas. The CoP18 MIKE report notes a high poaching level in South Luangwa in 2018.
3. Governance is a serious problem. ETIS identifies Zambia as a concern due to large-scale ivory movements.

**2. PROPOSAL 11:** Amendment to Annotation 2 of Appendix II pertaining to the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to enable resumption of trade in registered raw ivory.

**LINKS:** [Proposal 11](#). [Analysis of Proposal 11](#).

**PROPOSANTS:** Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe

**SUMMARY:** Amendment to Annotation 2 of Appendix II pertaining to the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to enable resumption of trade in registered raw ivory:

1. From government owned stocks (excluding seized and of unknown origin);
2. Only to trading partners verified by the Secretariat;
3. Proceeds only to be used to fund elephant conservation and community conservation and development programmes.

**POSITION: OPPOSE. RATIONALE:**

1. Would allow Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe to export ivory.
2. Will fuel demand, poaching and trafficking, and impact elephants in all range States. Ivory sales in 2008 led to a devastating escalation of poaching for ivory. On-going efforts to combat poaching and trafficking will be undermined.
3. Poaching is increasing in Southern Africa, including in Botswana (up 600% from 2014-2018) and South Africa. ETIS identifies problems with illegal ivory trade in all four countries, especially in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

**3. PROPOSAL 12:** Include all populations of *Loxodonta africana* in Appendix I through transferring populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe from Appendix II to Appendix I. **LINKS:** [Proposal 12](#). [Analysis of Proposal 12](#).

**PROPOSANTS:** Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo.

**POSITION: SUPPORT. RATIONALE:**

1. The continental population declined by 68% from 1980-2015. Poaching remains high across Africa and is increasing in Southern Africa. Hot spots have moved from East Africa into Southern Africa (notably Botswana) where over half of Africa's elephants live.
2. As a highly migratory, transboundary species, CITES listing criteria should be applied to African elephants as a whole. CITES discourages split-listing due to enforcement problems.

3. Trading in ivory by some range States runs counter to agreed demand reduction efforts and endangers elephants in ALL range States.
4. The criteria for up-listing are met, in light of the “marked decline” (over 50% since 1980) and on-going poaching for ivory on a continental scale.

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## ELEPHANTS & IVORY REPORT CITES CoP 18 – THURSDAY EVENING AUGUST 22

### Proposals to Resume Ivory Sales Roundly Defeated

Two proposals that would have resulted in a resumption of ivory sales by amending the CITES Appendices for the African elephant were roundly defeated today at CITES CoP 18.

[Proposal 10](#) would have transferred elephants in Zambia from Appendix I to Appendix II but was amended on the floor to delete sales of raw ivory and include only hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes, and trade in hides and leather goods from elephants controlled as a result of human-elephant conflict. The amended proposal was defeated by a vote of 102 to 22 with 13 abstentions.

[Proposal 11](#) would have enabled Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe to resume trade in registered raw ivory. It was amended on the floor to provide for a single sale of ivory stockpiles from those four countries to parties verified by CITES with a six-year moratorium after that sale on any further sales. The amended proposal was defeated by a vote of 101 to 23 with 18 abstentions.

More analysis in our next briefing. No official sessions tomorrow (Friday August 23).

Providing analysis at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([CoP18](#)) of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Geneva, on behalf of [Fondation Franz Weber](#), the [David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation](#), and [Pro Wildlife](#). Our experts are available for background and interviews. CONTACT: Don Lehr / [dblehr@cs.com](mailto:dblehr@cs.com) / mobile: +1.917.304.4058

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## **ELEPHANTS & IVORY REPORT CITES CoP 18 – MONDAY 26 AUGUST**

**Proposals to allow trade in white rhinos defeated; Discussion on woolly mammoth resumes today**

**Plenary sessions begin tomorrow**

Providing analysis at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([CoP18](#)) of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Geneva, on behalf of [Fondation Franz Weber](#), the [David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation](#), and [Pro Wildlife](#). Our experts are available for background and interviews. CONTACT: Don Lehr / [dblehr@cs.com](mailto:dblehr@cs.com) / mobile: +1.917.304.4058

### **REPORT FROM YESTERDAY – SUNDAY 25 AUGUST**

After a two-day break from official sessions, deliberations resumed on Sunday with regard to the “up-listing” or “down-listing” of various species including:

1. [Proposal 13](#) from Israel to list the Woolly mammoth on Appendix II of CITES, despite the fact that the species has been extinct for thousands of years, in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention (the so-called "look-alike provision").

Listing the Woolly mammoth in Appendix II was not intended to stop trade in mammoth ivory but rather to facilitate documentation of international trade by requiring permits for its export which would help ensure that elephant ivory is not being laundered as mammoth ivory.

Israel amended the proposal on the floor twice, first to narrow the scope of the proposal to include only mammoth ivory carvings, in response to interventions from the Russian Federation and Canada, former range states of the woolly mammoth. After the Secretariat announced that the amendment would not conform to the rules of the convention, Israel proposed a second amendment to request the Secretariat to commission a study on trade in mammoth ivory and its contribution to illegal trade in elephant ivory. Discussions will resume on this amendment today.

2. [Proposal 8](#) to remove the existing annotation on the Appendix II listing of Eswatini's Southern white rhinoceros population, thereby permitting the regulated legal trade in Eswatini's white rhinos and their products including horn and derivatives.

After a lengthy debate, the proposal was defeated by a vote of 102 to 25, not achieving the required two-thirds majority for adoption.

3. [Proposal 9](#) to transfer the population of Southern white rhinoceros of Namibia from Appendix I to Appendix II with the annotation: "For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in: a) live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations; and b) hunting trophies. All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly."

Proposal 9 was defeated by a vote of 82 to 39, not achieving the required two-thirds majority for adoption.

### **OVERVIEW FOR TODAY – MONDAY 26 AUGUST**

Negotiations on up-listing or down-listing of various species on Appendices I and II resume today.

Plenary sessions at which all agenda items decided in Committee I and Committee II over the past week will be agreed by the Conference of the Parties begin tomorrow, Tuesday 27 August.

# # #

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### **Ivory trade**

All populations of African elephants were listed on CITES Appendix I in 1989, effectively banning international ivory trade. But the protection was weakened in 1997 and 2000 when populations in four countries (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe) were down-listed to Appendix II (a less endangered status) to allow two sales of ivory stockpiles to Japan and China in 1999 and 2008. In 1980, the African elephant population was estimated at 1.3 million individuals – in 2015, only 415,428 remained according to the 2016 IUCN African Elephant Status Report estimates, a decline of 68 percent.

### **FFW, DSWF, PW, AEC**

[Fondation Franz Weber](#) (FFW), based in Bern, Switzerland, has been campaigning for the survival of the African elephant and the complete ban of the trade in ivory for 40 years. FFW has had observer status at CITES since 1989 and has been a partner of the African Elephant Coalition since its creation in 2008.

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[Pro Wildlife](#) (PW), based in Munich, Germany, is committed to protecting wildlife and works to ensure the survival of species in their habitat, as well as the protection of individual animals. This includes advocacy, strengthening national and international regulations and ensuring their implementation.

The [African Elephant Coalition](#) was established in 2008 in Bamako, Mali. It comprises 32 member countries from Africa including 27 African elephant range States united by a common goal: “a viable and healthy elephant population free of threats from international ivory trade.” The 32 member countries of the African Elephant Coalition are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Togo, and Uganda. All AEC Members are Parties to CITES except for South Sudan.

## **ELEPHANTS & IVORY REPORT CITES CoP 18 – TUESDAY 27 AUGUST**

### **Decision Prohibiting Most International Trade in Live African Elephants Likely to Be Re-Opened in Plenary Today**

Providing analysis at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([CoP18](#)) of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Geneva, on behalf of [Fondation Franz Weber](#), the [David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation](#), and [Pro Wildlife](#). Our experts are available for background and interviews. CONTACT: Don Lehr / [dblehr@cs.com](mailto:dblehr@cs.com) / mobile: +1.917.304.4058

### **OVERVIEW FOR TODAY – TUESDAY 27 AUGUST**

A Plenary session begins today at which all documents and proposals accepted in Committee I and Committee II over the past week must be agreed by the Conference of the Parties.

One item likely to be re-opened concerns international trade in live African elephants. A vote on Sunday 18 August agreed to [Document 44.2: International trade in live African elephants](#), a revision of [Resolution Conf. 11.20 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#) on the definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations,' submitted by members of the African Elephant Coalition. The decision would restrict trade in live elephants from the wild to "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." (The vote was Yes: 46; No: 18; Abstain: 19)

The European Union, which votes as a 28-member bloc, opposed the document on the floor but was unable to vote because not all its members had been credentialed. The United States voted to oppose the document.

The issue generated [widespread attention](#) including a [letter to EC president](#) Jean-Claude Juncker signed by more than 40 celebrities including Judi Dench, Ricky Gervais, and Joanna Lumley, which noted "It would be obscene for the EU to endorse snatching wild baby elephants and condemning these beautiful leviathans to a life of captive misery."

Updates to come.

### **REPORT FROM YESTERDAY – MONDAY 26 AUGUST**

Discussions resumed on [Proposal 13](#) from Israel to list the Woolly mammoth on Appendix II of CITES, despite the fact that the species has been extinct for thousands of years.

Listing the Woolly mammoth in Appendix II was not intended to stop trade in mammoth ivory but rather to facilitate documentation of international trade by requiring permits for its export which would help ensure that elephant ivory is not being laundered as mammoth ivory.

An amended proposal which requests the CITES Secretariat to commission a study on trade in mammoth ivory and its contribution to illegal trade in elephant ivory was accepted by consensus.

# # #

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### **Ivory trade**

All populations of African elephants were listed on CITES Appendix I in 1989, effectively banning international ivory trade. But the protection was weakened in 1997 and 2000 when populations in four countries (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe) were down-listed to Appendix II (a less endangered status) to allow two sales of ivory stockpiles to Japan and China in 1999 and 2008. In 1980, the African elephant population was estimated at 1.3 million individuals – in 2015, only 415,428 remained according to the 2016 IUCN African Elephant Status Report estimates, a decline of 68 percent.

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## ELEPHANTS & IVORY REPORT CITES CoP 18 – WEDNESDAY 28 AUGUST

### AFRICAN ELEPHANTS VICTORIOUS AT CITES CoP 18

- 1) Bans trade in wild-caught elephants with limited exceptions;
- 2) Countries with open ivory markets must indicate measures to combat poaching or illegal trade;
- 3) Countries with ivory stockpiles face sanctions without adequate reporting;
- 4) Ivory sales from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe rejected.

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### REPORT FROM YESTERDAY – TUESDAY 27 AUGUST

The future of African elephants improved dramatically over the past two weeks at the CITES CoP 18 which closes today, most notably with a decision for a total ban on trade in live African elephants to destinations outside of the African elephant range with limited exceptions. A summary of outcomes follows.

#### 1. Trade in live African elephants

[Document 44.2](#) submitted by members of the African Elephant Coalition (AEC), was amended by the European Union after it voiced its rejection of the original proposal on 17 August but could not vote because not all of its members had been credentialed.

Behind-the-scenes negotiations yielded a compromise backed by the EU and the AEC so that elephants may be exported beyond their natural range only "...in exceptional circumstances".

Widespread public opinion weighed heavily in determining the result. A letter sent by several public figures, including Pamela Anderson, Brigitte Bardot, Judi Dench, and Ricky Gervais to EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, called on the EU not to reopen the debate and change its position to accept the AEC proposal. Under mounting pressure, Brussels reacted quickly, and made contact with members of the AEC to seek a solution to the situation.

The agreed text is as follows:

*Agrees that where the term "appropriate and acceptable destinations" appears in an annotation to the listing of *Loxodonta africana* in Appendix II of the Convention with reference to the trade in live elephants taken from the wild, this term shall be defined to mean in situ conservation programmes or secure areas in the wild, within the species natural and historical range in Africa, or, in exceptional circumstances, where, in consultation with the Animals Committee through its Chair with support of the Secretariat, and in consultation with the IUCN African Elephants Specialist Group, it is considered that transfer to ex-situ locations will provide demonstrable in-situ conservation benefits, or in the case of temporary transfers in emergency situations.*

#### 2. Closure of domestic ivory markets

[Document 69.5](#), submitted by members of the AEC and agreed with amendments, confirms parties' commitment to the closure of domestic ivory markets by focusing scrutiny on remaining open markets such as Japan and the EU. Countries which have not closed their domestic ivory markets are now requested to report on the measures they are taking to ensure that their domestic ivory markets are not

contributing to poaching or illegal trade, as follows:

*Requests parties that have not closed their domestic markets for commercial trade in raw and worked ivory to report to the Secretariat for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 73rd and 74<sup>th</sup> meeting on what measures they are taking to ensure that their domestic ivory markets are not contributing to poaching or illegal trade.*

### 3. Management of ivory stockpiles

[Document 69.4](#), submitted by members of the AEC, and agreed with amendments, strengthens the compliance measures for how countries report on their ivory stockpiles. It urges parties to maintain and report annually on ivory stockpiles in their territory, including on stolen and/or missing ivory, and gives CITES the authority to identify parties that have not provided such information and determine whether any further actions are necessary for those parties.

### 4. Sale of ivory stockpiles

[Proposal 10](#) would have transferred elephants in Zambia from Appendix I to Appendix II but was amended on the floor to delete sales of raw ivory and include only hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes, and trade in hides and leather goods from elephants controlled as a result of human-elephant conflict. The amended proposal was rejected by a vote of 102 to 22 with 13 abstentions earlier this week and confirmed in yesterday's plenary session.

[Proposal 11](#) would have enabled Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe to resume trade in registered raw ivory. It was amended on the floor to provide for a single sale of ivory stockpiles from those four countries to parties verified by CITES with a six-year moratorium after that sale on any further sales. The amended proposal was rejected by a vote of 101 to 23 with 18 abstentions earlier this week and confirmed in yesterday's plenary session.

## **OVERVIEW FOR TODAY – WEDNESDAY 28 AUGUST**

Today's final plenary session will consider a handful of proposals accepted in Committee I and Committee II over the past week which must still be agreed by the Conference of the Parties.

Following the completion of the CoP plenary, the CITES Standing Committee, which oversees the work of the Convention during the three-year periods between CoPs, will hold its 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting to set the way forward for work to be done by the Secretariat and the subsidiary committees of CITES over the next year.

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