

# Elephants are close to extinction



## Excessive poaching in Africa due to high demand for ivory in Asia and tardiness in politics

For several years Africa's elephants have been poached to such an extent that if poaching rates remain like this, the whole elephant population will be wiped out within 15 years only - which means that elephants will be extinct forever. The reason are exception ivory sales permitted by CITES in the past few years which have fueled the illegal ivory trade.

Never before elephant numbers have been as low as they are now, and every day around 80 - 90 elephants are poached. Never before elephants needed our help like now!

### ONGOINGS

In 1900 there were 10 million elephants in Africa. Hunting was popular with the colonial rulers, and the demand for ivory was given priority. Hence there were only 1.3 million elephants left in Africa in 1979. As poaching was rampant, only 10 years later, in 1989, half of these elephants had been slaughtered, too: Only 600,000 elephants were left.

Hereupon mankind recollected sanity, and the community of states enacted a complete international ban on trade in ivory. This made a dent, and elephant populations started to recover. Unfortunately some years later big mistakes were made and exception sales of big quantities of ivory from african countries into asian countries were permitted.

The consequences were disastrous because the demand for ivory regrew and fueled poaching to catastrophic degrees. Some national parks in Tanzania became well-known as "killing fields" while the country lost 60 % of all its elephants within a few years only. In Mosambique, too, only half of the elephants survived compared to numbers just 5 years ago, and in Angola only as little as 1.7 % of its total elephant population survived since the country's civil war. In autumn 2016 the results of a new census showed that there are only around 460,000 grey giants left all over Africa.

The demand for ivory was concentrated in Europe during the colonial era, but has long since shifted to Asia, where specially in China with its 1.3 billion inhabitants the middle class is growing and where ivory is sought-after as a status symbol. In the meantime ivory has become so valuable that tusks and carvings are even purchased as a monetary investment.

This situation can only end fatally for elephants. Therefore immediate bans for ivory trade are essential - complete international bans as well as national trade bans in every single country of the planet. Elephant hunting trophies of 1,000 elephants each year, which are - unbelievably - still allowed to the exported and imported, must be prohibited, too. Ivory has to be banned completely all over the world, without any exceptions, to give elephants a chance to survive.

**We only have two options: Either we have elephants, or we have ivory trade. Having both is not possible.**

Now there are some trade bans, resp. the announcement of trade bans, in China, Hong Kong, and the USA which are the biggest ivory markets in the world. This is good, however, these bans still have big loopholes and are partly not yet in effect completely. Germany and the European Union are important transit countries for ivory trafficking and are export countries of large quantities of ivory which are still there from the colonial era. They only make half-hearted efforts towards an uncompromising trade ban. A comprehension that there may never be any form of ivory trade again in order to save the species elephant, has not yet established itself in politics.

And while trade bans are being negotiated and implemented only slowly and partially, not one day is passing in Africa without 80 - 90 elephants being killed for their ivory.

**Time has become short for elephants.  
At this killing rate, they will be extinct within 15 years.**

### General Provisions

- Ban ivory trade internationally, locally in all countries, and the online trade, for all all kinds of ivory items without exceptions
- Ban trophy hunting
- Reduce the demand in the consumer countries
- Destroy ivory stockpiles
- Fight contraband
- Higher penalties for poaching and trafficking
- Local communities must be involved in protecting elephants
- Fight corruption
- Reduce poaching considerably by protecting habitats
- Preserve elephant habitats
- Create worldwide awareness

**It is up to each one of us to help stop the slaughter. Those who watch without intervening are complicit in the extinction of this unique species.**



**The biggest threat to the elephants is assuming that someone else will save them.**

### Join in and help!

**Petitions:** Please sign all petitions that demand measures to protect the elephants. And once you have signed, please forward the petition to others to sign, too.

**Demonstrations:** Whenever you find demonstrations for elephants taking place in your area: Join in! And bring someone along! Or organize a demonstration yourself.

**Actions in Writing:** - Ask the ministry of the environment in your country

- to support a complete international ban in ivory trade without any exceptions,
- to introduce a national ban in ivory trade, too, for all sorts of ivory (new, old, antique, raw, carved, and of any size and weight),
- to support an export ban of all kinds of ivory

- to support a complete import ban for ivory, including a ban for hunting trophies.

- Ask China's ministry of the environment to close all loopholes in their national ivory market which shall be closed until the end of 2017.
- Ask Hong Kong's ministry of the environment to speed up the closing of their ivory market which is planned until the end of 2021 only.
- Ask the ministries of Vietnam, Thailand, and Japan to close down their national ivory markets, as these markets are big and very uncontrolled.
- Ask WWF who is the consultant of many governments, to support a complete and worldwide ban in ivory trade WITHOUT any exceptions. Every trade has to be stopped, and no form of ivory trade may ever be considered in the future.

#### Forward informations and spread awareness

- Inform your friends, family, and colleagues about the situation of elephants and their imminent extinction. It is important that more and more people get to know about these facts.
- Spread the message by wearing a t-shirt, a bag, a cap with a corresponding slogan (e.g. 'Save the Elephants from Extinction!' or 'Stop the Ivory Trade!') or fix a relevant sticker on your car.
- Join groups or threads on social media (Facebook, Twitter a.s.o.) which are active for elephants or subscribe to pages and sites which supply information about the elephant situation - and spread these informations on social media.
- Distribute flyers with information on the situation of elephants. You can ask for flyers from every organization which supports elephants. You will get them free of charge.
- Inform people by putting up an information desk on markets or similar suitable places and events.
- Comment articles on nature/elephants/wildlife published in newspapers or journals and supply information about the elephant situation.
- Write letters to the editor of newspapers referring to the subject 'endangered elephants'.
- Ask broadcasting companies and TV stations to air more documentaries about the illegal wildlife trade and endangered animal species.
- Those who know celebrities or someone from the media, should try to convince him/her to campaign for the animals and their protection.
- Write articles for magazines (company periodicals, association journals, school magazines)
- Hold lectures

#### Donate your work. Be a Volunteer!

Take over voluntary work in an association that is concerned with elephants. NGOs often lack time and manpower. The range of activities is wide and diversified. Just ask!

#### Financial support

- Support an NGO financially which is occupied with the protection of elephants and their habitats. Donate for good elephant projects.
- Donating without own money: Collect donations for the support of NGOs which protect elephants, e.g. by organizing raffles, garage sales, donation parties and similar events.

#### Travel to an elephant country!

Photo-tourism on game drives brings much needed money for wildlife into national parks. More rangers and antipoaching units can be paid so that the animals get better protection. The more photo tourists there are in an african country, the less hunting tourism and the less poaching will be there.

#### DON'T BUY IVORY !

It should be a matter of course, but once again:

NEVER EVER BUY OR SELL IVORY!

Neither inland nor abroad nor buy 'antique' ivory objects. And never accept one as a gift as well. Every purchase of ivory stimulates demand and thus the killing of elephants. Every piece of ivory however small it may be, means that an elephants has died for it. Whoever it buys, keeps supplies coming and causes the killing of another elephant.

Buying ivory is like buying a bullet.

#### Do not display ivory!

Do not display ivory which you might own from former times or generations! Put it out of eyeshot. Do not wear jewelry made of ivory. Owing ivory is nothing to be proud of. Ivory products in households are only the evidence of how elephants are pursued for their tusks by humans.

#### Dispose of your ivory in a proper way:

To dispose of your ivory, the best way is to hand it over to an organization which will destroy it in a suitable way. For example, IFAW is collecting ivory objects for destruction.

*Thank you so much in the name of the elephants!*



Author: Birgit Hanan Hampf  
[www.forthegiants.info](http://www.forthegiants.info)  
[contact@forthegiants.info](mailto:contact@forthegiants.info)

## A Selection of Organisations and Projects

<b>Pro Wildlife Munich, Germany</b>	<a href="http://www.prowildlife.de">www.prowildlife.de</a> Wildlife conservation and animal protection, politically and on site
<b>GMFER Global March for Elephants and Rhinos</b>	<a href="http://march4elephantsandrhinosaurs.org">http://march4elephantsandrhinosaurs.org</a> Organising public marches against extinction in more than 130 cities in the world every year. Taking action to stop the poaching of elephants and rhinos and end the trade in ivory and rhino horn.
<b>EAL Elephant Action League</b>	<a href="http://www.elephantleague.org">www.elephantleague.org</a> Conservation by investigating wildlife criminals. Undercover operations to expose traffickers.
<b>eia Environmental Investigation Agency</b>	UK: <a href="http://eia-international.org">eia-international.org</a> USA: <a href="http://eia-global.org">eia-global.org</a> Campaigning organisation that produces primary evidence and analysis of problems and builds lasting alliances, and policies to implement solutions.
<b>Action for Elephants UK</b>	<a href="http://actionforelephantsuk.org">actionforelephantsuk.org</a> A grass-roots group working to help stop the slaughter of elephants and ensure their survival as a species.
<b>Big Life Foundation</b>	<a href="http://www.biglife.org">www.biglife.org</a> Anti-poaching units in Kenya and Tanzania. Community work to prevent human-wildlife conflict.
<b>DSWT The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Nairobi/Kenya</b>	<a href="http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org">www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org</a> Orphan-elephant rescue and rehabilitation program as well as habitat protection in Kenya.
<b>ZEN Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery, Wild Is Life</b>	<a href="http://www.wildislife.org">www.wildislife.org</a> <a href="http://www.zimellies.com">www.zimellies.com</a> Hand-rearing elephant orphans and relocating them into the wild

...and many more