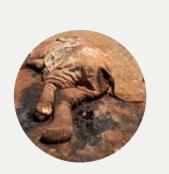
### IVORY TRADE TIMELINE



African Elephant population is estimated at

population estimated to 3 -5 million be 600,000

1940s

1989

EIA publishes "A System of

Extinction" - report exposing

the organised nature of ivory

trafficking and calling for an

international ban on ivory

All African Elephants are

listed on CITES Appendix

I, banning international

commercial in ivory - a

major conservation win

African Elephant

Elephants in the Front Line" providing comprehensive trafficking of ivory from Africa to Japan

- EIA releases a

1992

second report on

ivory trafficking

1998

again connected to ivory trafficking rom West Africa to Asia

More than 1,453kg

of ivory seized in

Taiwan - several

2006, the group

years later in

suspected of

2000: CITES approves downlisting of elephant population of South Africa from CITES Appendix I to CITES

Appendix II

2000

EIA releases "Lethal

Experiment" - report

on how the first CITES

approved ivory sale

led to an increase in

elephant poaching

\_ EIA releases the report "Enforcement Imperative" calling for improving enforcement efforts and for prohibiting ivory trade

Scientists have identified 2007 as the year when African elephant populations start declining primarily due to poaching

Illegal trade in ivory

begins to increase

CITES approves "oneoff ivory sale and begins considering the adoption of a decision-making mechanism for future trade in ivory

2007

and 40,810 hanko

carvings seized in

Singapore. Shipment

was coordinated by a

syndicate

long-standing criminal



6,200 kg ivory seized in Hai Phong, Vietnam, and further containers seized in Philippines; the seizure is linked to Tanzania

2009

Over 51,000 kg ivory seized almost double the amount of ivory seized in the previous yea

Former president of Japan's largest ivory hanko manufacturer and his son are prosecuted: later sentenced to one year suspended imprisonment, illegal tusks are forfeited and company is fined

Multiple shipments detected in Shishi, China, traced to a master ivory carver who is later convicted in relation to the import of 7,700 kg

2011

Philippines destroys more than 5,000 kg of seized ivory

At the 16th CITES Conference of the Parties it is acknowledged that China is "heavily implicated" as a destination for illicit ivory and that China's domestic ivory trade control system has failed

The weight of ivory seized in 2013 was an 834% increase on the weight of ivory seized in 2008

Packing and export operations unearthed in Tanzania as Chinese suspects flee the country

2013

EIA investigations find that Japan's legal domestic ivory market is plagued by loopholes, providing an avenue for ivory trafficking

8% each year. African elephant population is estimated to be approximately 400,000; Asian elephant population is estimated to - 22 African elephant range be 30,000 - 50,000 States adopt the Cotonou Declaration calling for the

markets

Majority of African elephant range States closure of domestic ivory support the closure of domestic ivory

IUCN overwhelmingly approves a motion

calling for the closure of domestic ivory

African savanna elephants are declining at

EIA documents ivory openly available for

Near-total ivory trade ban announced in

the US Kenya destroys the world's largest ivory

stockpile (105,000 kg of ivory). Between 2011 to mid-2016, at least 25 ivory stockpile destructions have taken place in 20 countries

2016

# Early 1900s

**ELEPHANT POPULATION AND POACHING** 

CITES DECISIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Asian Elephant population estimated to be more than 100.000

**KEY** 

MAJOR SEIZURES

**IVORY MARKETS** 

**FIA INVESTIGATIONS** 

# 1970-80s

to be 1.3 million.

GROWING SUPPORT FOR IVORY STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION AND CLOSING

Substantial decline in African Elephant populations due to poaching for ivory, African elephant

## 1990s

Elephant populations recover in southern and eastern Africa. Kenya's population population estimated by 2007 from a

grows to more 30,000 historic low of 16,000

## 1997

CITES approves reducing elephant protection by downlisting the elephant populations of Appendix I to CITES

> CITES approves a one-off "experimental" sale of ivory from

# 1999

Botswana, Namibia and Japan takes place, Zimbabwe from CITES Appendix II.

these countries

"Experimental" sale of ivory from Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe to undermining the 1989 international ivory trade ban

China warns CITES that the main reason for China's growing ivory-smuggling problem was the Japan experimental ivory sale - Chinese consumers had

## 2002

EIA releases "Back in Business" - report exposing the illegal ivory trade chain from Zambia, through Malawi and Singapore, and highlighting the total absence of meaningful ivory trade controls in Japan and

2004

misunderstood the decision and believed that international trade

"One-off" sale of 102,000 kg of ivory takes place where ivory is sold by Botswana, Namibia South Africa and Zimbabwe to China and Japan



# 2010

Traders in China tell EIA investigators that up to 90% of the ivory on the market is

Tanzania and Zambia ask CITES to down-list their elephant populations and allow another sale of ivory

Following investigations in Tanzania and Zambia, EIA publishes "Open Season" - a report exposing the burgeoning illegal ivory trade in these countries

Tanzania and Zambia's proposals to trade ivory are rejected under CITES

## 2012

Sudanese poaching gang kills more than 200 elephants in a single poaching incident in northern Cameroon

6,034 kg ivory seized in Malaysia, traced from Togo and linked to a group in Fujian Province, China

Tanzania asks CITES again to downlist its elephant population to CITES Appendix II and allow sale of ivory, later withdraws its proposal

Following investigations in China, EIA publishes "Blood Ivory" - a report describing how the two legal sales of ivory stockpiles under CITES have failed to stem ivory trafficking

## 2014

A Scientific study finds that 65% of forest elephants in Central Africa were killed between 2002 and 2013, at a shocking 9% each year

markets

Vietnam

2015

Total of 3,823 kg ivory

seized in three seizures

· China's President Xi

over two weeks in Da Nang

Jinping and US President

Barack Obama commit to

"take significant and timely

steps to halt the domestic

commercial trade of ivory"

A study concludes that 100,000 African Elephants were killed between 2010 and 2012, at an average of 33,630 elephants each year

3,815 kg ivory seized in Togo, connected to Vietnam

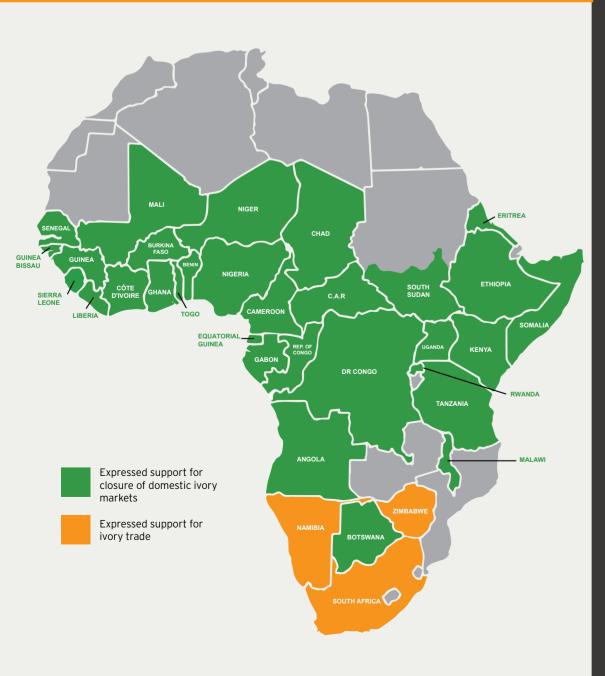
EIA publishes "Vanishing Point" - a repor exposing how Chinese-led criminal gangs are conspiring with corrupt Tanzanian officials to smuggle ivory resulting in the loss of more than half of Tanzania's elephants in five years

Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon and Tanzania adopt the "Elephant Protection Initiative" agreeing to close domestic ivory

Hong Kong's largest ivory retailer, Chinese Arts & Crafts (H.K.) Ltd., stops selling elephant ivory; China's top business leaders pledge to never purchase, possess or give ivory as a gift

> Hong Kong announces destruction of 28,000 kg ivory stockpile

## MORE THAN 80 PER CENT OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT RANGE STATES SUPPORT CLOSURE OF DOMESTIC IVORY MARKETS.



### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WORLD GOVERNMENTS:**

in ivory had resumed

- SUPPORT the closure of domestic ivory markets at the 17th CITES Conference of the Parties.
- REJECT any proposals that would enable future international trade in ivory at the 17th CITES Conference of the Parties. INVENTORY AND DESTROY all Government-held ivory stocks after conducting

appropriate forensic analysis and when no longer required for prosecution.

- STRENGTHEN the criminal justice response to elephant poaching and ivory trafficking to ensure that appropriate penalties are imposed against high-level ivory traffickers and corrupt officials implicated in the ivory trade, including the recovery of proceeds of crime.
- CREATE a deterrent for consumers to stop buying ivory products through public awareness campaigns and stigmatising the purchase and possession of ivory.







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For additional information, please visit: https://eia-international.org/illegal-trade-seizures-elephantivory. EIA reports and data on ivory trade are available at: https://eia-international.org/report-

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## Poaching for the ivory trade is one of the most significant threats to the

- It is estimated that an average of 33,630 elephants were killed each year between 2010 and 2012.
- African savanna elephants have declined by 30% between 2007 and 2014 primarily due to poaching. Forest elephants in Central Africa have declined by 65%.
- Categorised as 'Endangered', Asian Elephants have a population estimate of only 30,000 - 50,000.
- During 2007 2014, over 273,000 kg of ivory were seized globally; equivalent to ivory from more than 40,000 elephants. Nearly threequarters of this ivory was seized in 2011 - 2014.



Close Domestic Ivory Markets to Secure the

seizures (≥ 500 kg). The international trade in ivory was prohibited in 1989 under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

officials. Between 2015 to mid-2016,

there have been 24 large-scale ivory

 Despite the fact that the ivory trade is resulting in the rapid decline of elephant populations, efforts to re-open the 1989 international ivory trade ban have never stopped: in 1999 and 2008 two "experimental" "oneoff" auctions of ivory were authorised under CITES.

 The main centre of demand for ivory is China, and demand also exists in in Japan and in several countries in South-east Asia. Parallel legal domestic ivory markets exist in China, Japan, Thailand, Laos and other countries.

Any legal trade in ivory stimulates demand for ivory products and undermines enforcement efforts. The greatest contribution we can make for elephants is to close all domestic ivory markets and end any discussions on legalising future international trade in ivory.

Since the 1980s, EIA investigations have exposed the role of organised criminal syndicates involved in poaching and large-scale ivory trafficking. Here are extracts from EIA's covert investigations into the illegal ivory trade.

Domestic legal ivory markets can provide significant loopholes that are exploited by criminals to launder illegal ivory. If we are to recover and secure elephant populations, legal domestic ivory markets must be closed.

#### 2000, China

**TRADER** describing ways to circumvent the ivory trade ban by claiming that the ivory is antique or old ivory:

"I can say that I bought them 10 years ago but I did not make the application [to register the ivory] at that time. Very natural indeed."

#### 2010, China

**EIA:** How much of the raw materials available in the market is legal?

TRADER: Not even 10%

Traders are aware of CITES discussions and anticipate growth of the ivory market due to CITES decisions.

#### 2000, China

**TRADER** (describing the anticipated impact on his business of the down-listing of elephant populations from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II and CITES-authorised ivory auctions):

"Was it last year the United Nation[s] allowed Japan to import 60 tonnes of raw ivory? ... we have been longing for this opportunity. Its African elephants protection has been downgraded from category one to two. In this trend, the relaxation will get more and more...If the relaxation continues, the ivory market, especially for craft items like what we have, will bloom vastly. It is almost impossible that our products will be stagnated in market."

Corruption is a key driver of ivory consumption which enables criminals to facilitate global ivory trafficking from source to market.

### 2010, Zambia

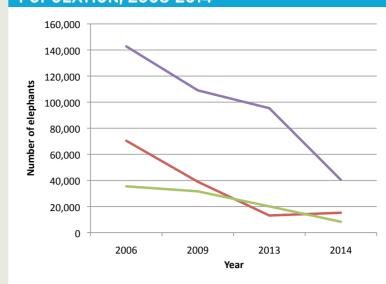
TRADER: "I went inside [prison] but I came out...I just have to pay money."

#### 2014, Tanzania

**TRADER** (describing how they bribe Customs officers to smuggle ivory out of Tanzania):

"They already arrange for it not to go through the scanners. They pretend to scan it. You have measures, they have counter measures....this is done by the Customs. ... [it costs] 70 dollars a kilo. They arrange all of it for you."

# DRAMATIC DECLINE IN TANZANIA'S ELEPHANT POPULATION, 2006-2014



Nation-wide

Large-scale, organised ivory trafficking is decimating elephant populations and undermining the rule of law.

#### 2014. Tanzania

**TRADER** (describing the failure of law enforcement to seize large-scale shipments of illegal ivory):

"They didn't even catch 10% of them ... Out of 20, they only caught them once. ... You know last year [2013] there is a boss that did 10-20 containers and they didn't even catch one!"

