

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

UPDATE ON THE ELEPHANT PROTECTION INITIATIVE

1. This document has been submitted by the Republic of Botswana,* on behalf of the growing membership of the Head-of-State led Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI). As of submission of this document the African elephant range states that are also EPI member countries are: the Republic of Botswana, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Chad, the Gabonese Republic, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Uganda, and the Republic of Kenya and African non-range State, the Republic of Gambia.
2. In July 2014, SC65 Doc. 42.5 notified the Standing Committee that at the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade, five states agreed to take a leadership role against elephant poaching and the illegal ivory trade and had launched the EPI. These five EPI founder states are Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon and Tanzania. They encouraged other states to join them in working towards the EPI's objectives and encouraged International Organisations and NGOs to contribute their support in order to facilitate the EPI's speedy implementation.
3. The full text of the EPI is annexed below as Annex 1. In summary, its objectives include the following:
 - a) Provide both immediate and longer-term funding to address the Elephant Crisis through full and timely implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan (endorsed by the African elephant range states and the CITES Conference of the Parties at CoP16) by accessing public and private sector support through the creation of a long-term fund;
 - b) Close domestic ivory markets in those participating states still operating a domestic market; and
 - c) Observe a moratorium on any consideration of future international trade for a minimum of 10 years and thereafter until African elephant populations are no longer threatened; and
 - d) Agree to put all stockpiles beyond economic use.
4. In the less than two years since the EPI was launched, the world view on ivory, in range, transit, and consumer countries, has changed dramatically and the EPI has and continues to bring states and non-state partners together under a common initiative to deliver actions to stop elephant poaching and the illegal ivory trade.
5. Botswana, on behalf of the EPI member states, welcomes:

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

- a) the fact that the Gambia, Uganda, Malawi and Kenya have joined the EPI since the 65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee; and also welcomes the statement by the Republic of Congo that it intends to join the EPI at the earliest opportunity;
 - b) the joint statement issued on 25 September 2015 by President Barak Obama of the United States and President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China regarding their joint commitments to combat wildlife trafficking, including the commitment of both countries to "enact nearly complete bans on ivory import and export, including significant and timely restrictions on the import of ivory as hunting trophies, and to take significant and timely steps to halt the domestic commercial trade of ivory" (which is below as Annex 2);
 - c) the declaration of support on 3 October 2015 for the EPI by 17 leading NGOs (which is below as Annex 3);
 - d) the strong support given to the EPI by the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank; and
 - e) the adoption (by consensus) on 30 July 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly of its first-ever resolution on wildlife trafficking (UNGA A/RES/69/314, "Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife")†.
6. The EPI member states, briefed the African Elephant Fund (AEF) Steering Committee on the Elephant Protection Initiative in Addis Ababa on 11 September 2015.
7. Botswana, on behalf of the EPI member states, invites the Standing Committee to take note of and welcome the following actions delivered through the EPI:
- a) Development of a standardized ivory Inventory Protocol and Inventory Technology;
 - b) Development of Standards and Guidelines for National Elephant Action Plans;
 - c) 9 inventories of ivory stockpiles in accordance with the requirements of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) completed or underway;
 - d) The development of 5 National Elephant Action Plans to facilitate the national level implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan; and
 - e) The commitment of growing levels of funding for the implementation of National Elephant Action Plans.
8. In the light of the ongoing high level of threat to elephants posed by the epidemic of poaching in the majority of African Elephant range States, the recognized involvement of transnational organized crime networks in ivory trafficking, and the global nature of the illegal ivory trade, the Committee is invited to:
- a) take note of and welcome the Elephant Protection Initiative;
 - b) encourage other range States to join the EPI member states in working towards the above objectives;
 - c) encourage non-range States, International Organizations and NGOs that have not yet done so to contribute their technical and financial support, in order to facilitate the African Elephant Action Plan's speedy implementation.



ELEPHANT PROTECTION INITIATIVE

WE, THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTSWANA, CHAD, ETHIOPIA, GABON AND TANZANIA

ACKNOWLEDGE

1. **The Elephant Crisis:** the illegal killing of elephants and trade in their ivory is out of control across much of Africa. It threatens the survival not only of small exposed elephant populations, but also those which have previously been thought secure thereby harming the economic development of our countries and undermining the ecological integrity of our ecosystems. The poaching and illegal trade is driven by international criminal networks and cartels, which fuels corruption, undermines the rule of law and security, and, evidence suggests, provide funding to those associated with organised crime and terrorist activities.
2. Any **supply of ivory**, including that used within legal domestic markets, is inherently likely to increase the risk to elephant populations, those charged with their protection, and remote, vulnerable communities.
3. **The African Elephant Action Plan:** this agreement between the 38 African elephant range States, endorsed by the range States at CITES CoP15 and by the Parties to CITES at CoP16, sets out a range of agreed prioritised objectives and actions which if implemented across the African elephant's range would go a long way to address the current situation.
4. **The need to implement the 14 Urgent Measures agreed at the African Elephant Summit** in Gaborone, Botswana on 2-4 December 2013.
5. **The existence and accrual of ivory stockpiles:** these are costly to secure and maintain, diverts limited conservation resources, diverts scarce resources away from front line elephant conservation, protection and wildlife law enforcement; and may enter the illegal supply chain and drive speculation.
6. **The current restrictions on international trade:** range States with elephant populations currently on Appendix II of CITES may not apply to sell ivory until after 2017 at the earliest and so any such proposal would not be considered until CoP 18 (2019) at the earliest. Range States with elephants on Appendix I may not apply to sell ivory. The earliest any Appendix 1 state may apply to down list its elephant populations to Appendix II would be at the next Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17 in South Africa in 2016). No seized illegal ivory may ever be sold.

RECOGNISE

7. **Range States need urgent and sustained financial and technical support:** for anti-poaching work in the field, to strengthen and enforce national laws protecting elephants and preventing trafficking; to deliver regional and international intelligence-sharing and law-enforcement efforts; to safeguard habitats; and to support communities which live alongside elephants, particularly with regard to the development of sustainable livelihoods and the reduction of human-elephant conflict.

PROPOSE

8. **A global initiative, the "Elephant Protection Initiative",** in which range states, partner states, NGOs, IGO's, private citizens and the private sector work in partnership to:
 - i. **Provide both immediate and longer-term funding** to address the Elephant Crisis through full and timely implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan, by accessing public and private sector support through the creation of a long-term fund that provides guaranteed financial support for all participating range States for the implementation of the AEAP on the basis of threat to Elephant populations and need, and further provides incremental payments linked to overall elephant numbers and growth in elephant populations. This fund would also provide funds for world-wide citizen education on the issue; for addressing the various development needs of local communities, including poverty, for national conservation activities, and for regional co-operation;
 - ii. **Close domestic ivory markets in those participating states still operating a domestic market;**
 - iii. **Observe a moratorium on any consideration of future international trade** for a minimum of 10 years and thereafter until African elephant populations are no longer threatened; and agree to put all stockpiles beyond economic use.

AGREE

9. **To lead efforts to establish a financial and administrative mechanism to deliver the aims of the Elephant Protection Initiative as quickly as possible and by the end of 2014 at the latest, building on existing agreements, proposals and structures where.**
10. **To develop an initiative to federate national parks and wildlife agencies in Africa, in order to exchange lessons learned and technical experience aimed at promoting south-south cooperation and finding African solutions to this issue.**

13/02/2014

The US-China joint statement

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 25, 2015

FACT SHEET: President Xi Jinping's State Visit to the United States

On September 24-25, 2015, President Barack Obama hosted President Xi Jinping of China for a State visit. The two heads of state exchanged views on a range of global, regional, and bilateral subjects. President Obama and President Xi agreed to work together to constructively manage our differences and decided to expand and deepen cooperation in the following areas:

Addressing Global and Regional Challenges

- **Afghanistan-** The United States and China decided to maintain communication and cooperation with one another on Afghanistan to support peaceful reconstruction and economic development in Afghanistan, support an "Afghan led, Afghan owned" reconciliation process, and promote trilateral dialogue among the United States, China, and Afghanistan. Together with Afghanistan, the United States and China will co-chair a high-level event on Afghanistan's reconstruction and development on the margins of the UN General Assembly on September 26. This event will convene Afghanistan's neighbors and the international community to discuss the importance of continuing robust regional and international support for the Afghan government and regional economic cooperation. The United States and China jointly renew their call on the Taliban to enter into direct talks with the Government of Afghanistan. The United States and China also noted their mutual interests in supporting peace, stability, and prosperity in neighboring countries of Afghanistan, and to working in partnership with these countries to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region.
- **Peacekeeping-** In recognition of the critical role UN and regional peacekeepers serve in maintaining international peace and security, the United States and China affirm to further increase their robust commitments to international peacekeeping efforts. The Chinese side appreciates the U.S. side's holding of the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping, and welcomes the new contributions to be announced by the United States to support peace operations. The United States welcomes the new contributions to be announced by China to support UN peacekeeping efforts. The United States and China recognize the need to deepen the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations on peace operations. Both sides look forward to an enhanced discussion with the African Union and other partners to further explore proposals to this end. Both sides decided to continue discussions to deepen cooperation on capacity building for troop- and police-contributing countries.
- **Nuclear Security-** The United States and China commit to deepen their cooperation on nuclear security and to work together to make the Nuclear Security Summit hosted by President Obama next year a success. The two sides plan to hold an annual bilateral dialogue on nuclear security, with the first meeting of the dialogue to be held prior to the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit.
- **Wildlife Trafficking-** The United States and China, recognizing the importance and urgency of combating wildlife trafficking, commit to take positive measures to address this global challenge. The United States and China commit to enact nearly complete bans on ivory import and export, including significant and timely restrictions on the import of ivory as hunting trophies, and to take significant and timely steps to halt the domestic commercial trade of ivory. The two sides decided to further cooperate in joint training, technical exchanges, information sharing, and public education on combating wildlife trafficking, and enhance international law enforcement cooperation in this field. The United States and China decided to cooperate with other nations in a comprehensive effort to combat wildlife trafficking.
- **Ocean Conservation-** The United States and China intend to pursue actively cooperation on polar and ocean matters, including projects related to ocean conservation and expanding joint polar research efforts, and will work together on the proposal to establish a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Antarctica's Ross Sea. The two

sides also plan to support additional bilateral efforts in these fields, including ocean acidification monitoring and a partnership between the coastal cities of Xiamen and Weihai in China and San Francisco and New York in the United States to share best practices to reduce the flow of trash into the ocean.

Strengthening Development Cooperation

The United States and China signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** that establishes a framework for development cooperation to guide our future collaborative efforts. The MOU recognizes our shared objectives in ending extreme poverty and advancing global development through enhanced collaboration and communication under the principle of development raised, agreed, and led by recipient countries.

- **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.** The United States and China are committed to advance sustainable and inclusive international development as laid out in the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through expanded cooperation to end poverty and hunger and the promotion of inclusive economic growth, and protection of the environment. The two sides intend to communicate and cooperate in implementing the Agenda and to help other countries achieve common development goals.
- **Food Security-** The United States and China decided to enhance cooperation on global food security. The two sides intend to enhance communication and coordination with the government of Timor Leste and share lessons learned in agricultural development and food security while exploring prospects for further cooperation. Separately, the two sides intend to explore opportunities to cooperate on climate smart agriculture to produce more and better food for growing populations, while building the resilience of smallholder farmers. Such efforts may include technical cooperation, such as on climate friendly irrigation and mechanization for smallholder farmers in Africa to advance our shared interest in addressing the impact of climate change and enhancing food security.
- **Public Health and Global Health Security-** The United States and China decided to enhance concrete cooperation in public health and global health security, accelerating full implementation of the World Health Organization International Health Regulations and assisting at-risk countries to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats. The two sides plan to jointly work with the African Union and African Union Member States in the establishment of the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention and collaborate with partner governments in countries in West Africa to strengthen national public health capacities in the wake of Ebola, including strengthening the capacity of the cadres of public health and front line health workers. The two sides intend to enhance communication and exchanges regarding aid for health in West Africa. The two sides plan to continue to support and contribute to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.
- **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response-** The United States and China decided to expand cooperation on humanitarian response to disasters. The United States and China plan to participate constructively in the May 2016 World Humanitarian Summit. The two sides plan to expand existing cooperation on disaster response through increased support to multilateral mechanisms, including the United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Group. The two sides intend to conduct capacity building cooperation for the post-earthquake reconstruction in Nepal through mechanisms that promote collaboration between the international community and the Government of Nepal.
- **Multilateral Institutions.** The United States and China intend to expand their collaboration with international institutions to tackle key global development challenges.

Strengthening Bilateral Relations

- **Military Relations-** Building on the two Memoranda of Understanding on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) signed by the United States and China in November 2014, the two sides completed new annexes on air-to-air safety and crisis communications. The two sides committed to continue discussions on additional annexes to the Notification of Major Military Activities CBM, with the United States prioritizing completion of a mechanism for informing the other party of ballistic missile launches. The U.S. Coast Guard and the China Coast Guard have committed to pursue an arrangement whose intended purpose is equivalent to the Rules of Behavior Confidence Building Measure annex on surface-to-surface encounters in the November 2014 Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of Defense and the People's Republic of China Ministry of National Defense.
- **Cybersecurity-**

- The United States and China agree that timely responses should be provided to requests for information and assistance concerning malicious cyber activities. Further, both sides agree to cooperate, in a manner consistent with their respective national laws and relevant international obligations, with requests to investigate cybercrimes, collect electronic evidence, and mitigate malicious cyber activity emanating from their territory. Both sides also agree to provide updates on the status and results of those investigation to the other side, as appropriate.
- The United States and China agree that neither country's government will conduct or knowingly support cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, including trade secrets or other confidential business information, with the intent of providing competitive advantages to companies or commercial sectors.
- Both sides are committed to making common effort to further identify and promote appropriate norms of state behavior in cyberspace within the international community. The United States and China welcome the July 2015 report of the UN Group of Governmental Experts in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International security, which addresses norms of behavior and other crucial issues for international security in cyberspace. The two sides also agree to create a senior experts group for further discussions on this topic.
- The United States and China agree to establish a high-level joint dialogue mechanism on fighting cybercrime and related issues. China will designate an official at the ministerial level to be the lead and the Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of State Security, Ministry of Justice, and the State Internet and Information Office will participate in the dialogue. The U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security and the U.S. Attorney General will co-chair the dialogue, with participation from representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Intelligence Community and other agencies, for the United States. This mechanism will be used to review the timeliness and quality of responses to requests for information and assistance with respect to malicious cyber activity of concern identified by either side. As part of this mechanism, both sides agree to establish a hotline for the escalation of issues that may arise in the course of responding to such requests. Finally, both sides agree that the first meeting of this dialogue will be held by the end of 2015, and will occur twice per year thereafter.
- **Law Enforcement and Counterterrorism-** President Obama and President Xi decided to continue expanding law enforcement and anti-corruption cooperation, including by enhancing coordination and cooperation on criminal investigations, repatriation of fugitives, and asset recovery issues. The United States and China welcomed recent progress on repatriating Chinese fugitives and illegal immigrants through charter flights and look forward to continuing this cooperation. The United States welcomes China's commitment to consider joining the OECD Working Group on Bribery as a participant in the near future. As a new aspect of the Joint Liaison Group's role as the primary mechanism for law enforcement cooperation, both sides committed to discuss the mutual recognition and enforcement of forfeiture judgments. The two sides condemn all forms of terrorism and committed to expand exchange of information to counter the transnational flow of foreign terrorist fighters. The United States and China held a Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) Workshop on September 14 in Washington, DC, decided on principles for furthering efforts to counter the threat posed by IEDs, and committed to hold a follow-on workshop in China.
- **People-to-People Exchange.** The United States and China announced two new initiatives to expand the dynamic and positive people-to-people interaction that is the foundation of our bilateral relationship: (1) A 2016 U.S.-China Tourism Year—a cooperative tourism initiative led by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the China National Tourism Administration to expand and shape travel between our countries. This year of collaboration will include events to promote travel between the two countries, support progress on market access, and advance initiatives for both the United States and China to ensure a quality visitor experience for increasing numbers of travelers to and from both nations. (2) A "One Million Strong" initiative led by the 100,000 Strong Foundation that aims to have one million American students studying Mandarin by 2020. "One Million Strong" goals include doubling the number of Mandarin language teachers in the United States through a major investment in teachers colleges; employing technological tools to engage students in underserved and underrepresented communities; and creating "100K Strong States," a subnational consortium of U.S. governors committed to expanding Mandarin language-learning in their states.

NGO declaration of support**Coalition of major NGOs joins the Elephant Protection Initiative**

We the undersigned organisations fully support and are pleased to announce our acceptance of the invitation made by the Governments of Botswana, Ethiopia, Chad, Gabon and Tanzania at the London Conference to join the Elephant Protection Initiative.

In doing so, we also join the Governments of Uganda, Malawi, The Gambia and Kenya.

We commit to work together to support the current and future EPI Governments to achieve:

- immediate and longer term funding for the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan through National Elephant Action Plans;
- the closure of domestic ivory markets;
- all stockpiles being put beyond economic use; and
- a moratorium on any consideration of future international ivory trade for at least 10 years and thereafter until African elephant populations are no longer threatened.

We support the call for other Governments, IGOs, NGOs and the private sector to bring together their efforts behind the EPI to secure the future for elephants.

Alexander Rhodes	Chief Executive Officer, Stop Ivory
Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton	Chief Executive Officer, Save the Elephants
DrCristián Samper	Chief Executive Officer, The Wildlife Conservation Society
Angela Sheldrick	Chief Executive Officer, David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
Dr Max Graham & Keith Roberts	CEO & Director of Wildlife Security, Space for Giants
Prof. Jonathan Baillie	Conservation Programmes Director, The Zoological Society of London
Dr Paula Kahumbu	Chief Executive Officer, Wildlife Direct
Santosian Noor	President and Founder, Africa Nomads
Bhavik Shah	President, Big Life Foundation
Mary Rice	Executive Director, The Environmental Investigation Agency
Peter Fearnhead	Chief Executive Officer, African Parks Network
Charlie Mayhew, MBE	Founder and Chief Executive, The Tusk

Trust

Jonathan Vaughan

Director, **The Lilongwe Wildlife Trust**

Daudi Sumba

Vice President of Program Design and Government Relations, **African Wildlife Foundation**

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Mark Rose

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David Canavan

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