**Basic Information: Elephant (*Loxadonta Africana*)**

**Names: African elephant, elephant**

**Identification pointers:** Unmistakable; huge size; long trunk that reaches the floor; white ivory tusks protruding from mouth; huge ears; males larger than females; in profile females have a square forehead while a male’s is rounded

**Can be confused with:** Unmistakeable

**Activity period:** Active day and night, will rest in the heat of the day

**Length:** 5-7m **Height:** 2.5-4m **Weight:** 2 600-6 000kg

**Gestation period:** ±22 months

**Lifespan:** ±60 years

**Diet:** generalists herbivores, feeding on most plant species and almost any part of the plant including grass, leaves, roots, bark, fruits, wood, bulbs, tubers and flowers

**Predators:** Lions may take young individuals but mostly predator free

**Preferred habitat:** wide habitat tolerance, from the Namib desert in Namibia to coastal and rain forests. Can survive as long as they can find enough food and water

**Red List status:** Vulnerable

**Population:** Increasing in Southern and East Africa, decreasing in Central and West Africa

**Threats:** Poaching for ivory is exploding, habitat fragmentation, human-elephant conflict owing to raids and human attacks