

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### Information needed on elephant sightings

The African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) is continually seeking more information on the status of elephant populations across range states. This information is used to update the *African Elephant Database*, a computerized information system that stores population estimates and other geographic information on the African elephant, *Loxodonta africana*.

Owing to political strife, lack of resources or other constraints to collecting data, definitive information on elephant populations is completely lacking from a number of range states. Therefore, AfESG is appealing to the readership for *georeferenced information on sightings of elephants or their signs* from the following countries:

**Angola**  
**Liberia**  
**Sierra Leone**  
**Somalia**  
**Sudan**

The AfESG Data Review Task Force (DRTF) monitors the quality of data entered into the database. For DRTF to be able to use the data, any information on sightings must include the following details:

- 1) Reporter contact details (name, address, phone, fax, email)
- 2) Observer details (if different from 1)
- 3) Date of observation
- 4) Location name, including country

- 5) GPS location, preferably in digital degrees, or the most accurate description possible
- 6) Map of the area, if possible
- 7) Type of sighting
  - a) from air
  - b) from ground
- 8) Description of sighting
  - a) direct observation
  - b) dung
  - c) footprints
  - d) crop-raiding reports
  - e) vegetation damage
  - f) carcass
  - g) other observation
- 9) Group size and structure, if known
- 10) Habitat where sighting was made
  - a) grassland
  - b) savanna woodland
  - c) swamp
  - d) broadleaf woodland
  - e) forest
  - f) forest clearing

Please report all sightings that meet these criteria to

**African Elephant Database Manager**  
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