

Ivory trade: Over the Years

1979

An estimated 1.3 million elephants roamed Africa. A decade later, widespread poaching had reduced that figure by more than half.

1989

Just 600,000 African Elephants remained. CITES voted that the African Elephant was threatened with extinction and listed the elephant on Appendix I as a 'most-endangered' species.

1990

A worldwide ban on ivory trade was approved by CITES. Levels of poaching fell dramatically, and black market prices of ivory slumped. Kenya also burnt its ivory stockpile worth over \$3m.

1999

This ban did not affect the domestic sale and use of ivory. Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe were allowed an 'experimental one-off sale' of over 49,000kg of ivory to Japan.

2002

A further one-off sale was approved resulting in 105,000kg of ivory being shipped to China. This finally took place in 2008.

2009

Over 20,000kg of ivory was seized by police and customs authorities worldwide.

2011

Thirteen of the largest seizures amounted to over 23,000kg which broke all records since the ivory ban.

2012

CITES recognised that elephant poaching had reached 'unsustainable' levels, not only in small unprotected populations but also among larger populations, regarded as safe.

2013

Between October 2012 and January 2013 over a 12 week period, 12 tonnes of ivory were seized in just 4 incidents.

Predictions were made:

African Elephants will be extinct by 2025 if ivory poaching continues at this rate.

Changes have to be made.

What are the solutions?

Education is fundamental to the future of Africa's Elephants. A survey carried out showed 70% of the Chinese population believe that elephant tusks fall out and once collected by traders, they grow back.

Reduce demand for ivory in China. The current demand for ivory exceeds supply, with a permanent ban in ivory trade the hope is that buyers will become wary to purchase ivory as will traders. The only way to stop killings is to break every link in the trade chain, from elephant poaching to ivory trafficking to market demand.

Campaigning makes people aware of the devastating trade in ivory and the irreversible effects it has on the future of Africa's Elephants.

Front Line Anti-Poaching efforts are put in place around Africa to better protect wild elephants from poachers. Teams of Anti-Poaching Rangers patrol National Parks in search of any misconduct. Efforts can be enhanced through tighter security measures such as drones and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's) which many conservationists are looking into.

How to help

Contact CITES

Writing to your Country Representative is an effective and emotive way to get your message across to the decision makers. There is a list of CITES representatives on the *iWorry* website along with a template letter.

Campaign

Raising awareness of the brutal truth behind the devastating ivory trade will educate and inform. Campaigning in your local area will provide others with an insight into the truth, with another person knowing we are one step closer to protecting Africa's Elephants. There are campaigning materials on the *iWorry* website such as the Say NO to ivory poster which you can print off and a petition form to ask friends and family to complete.

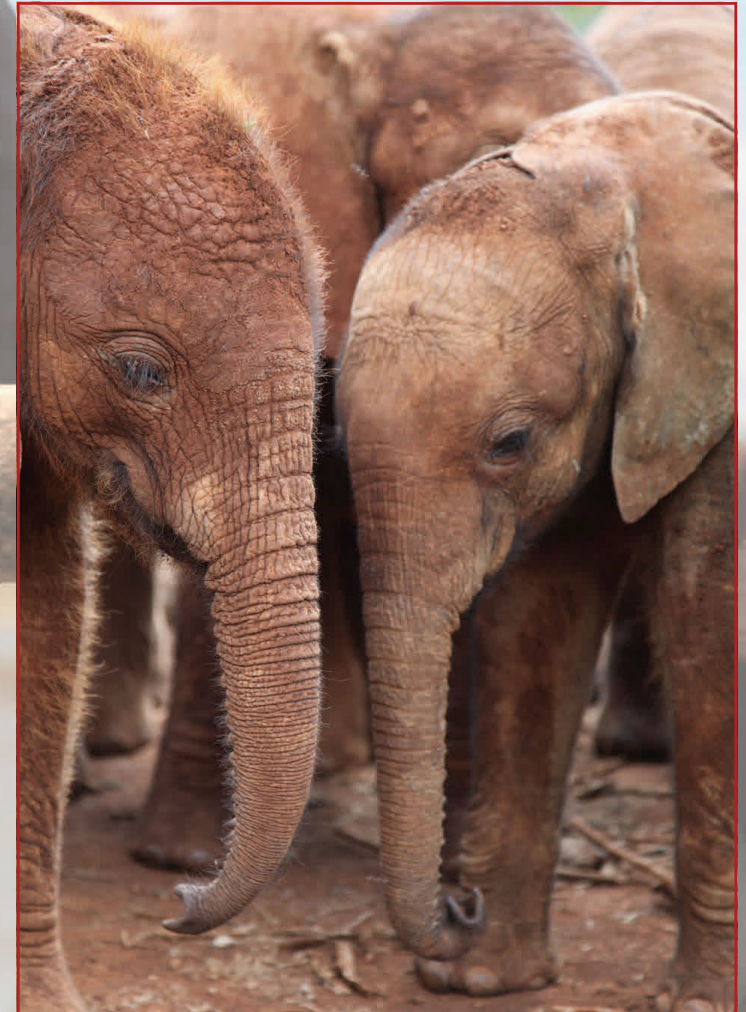
Say NO to ivory

Never buy into the ivory trade. Every single piece of ivory represents a dead elephant regardless of the size.

Donate

At the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT) we are totally reliant on funds from our supporters to carry out our work in the field. Donations help us better protect Africa's Elephants, whether to aid our Anti-Poaching efforts or buying milk for the little baby elephants who we rescue.

Visit www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org to find out more.



Protect

[Help](#) give these baby elephants a future in the wild.