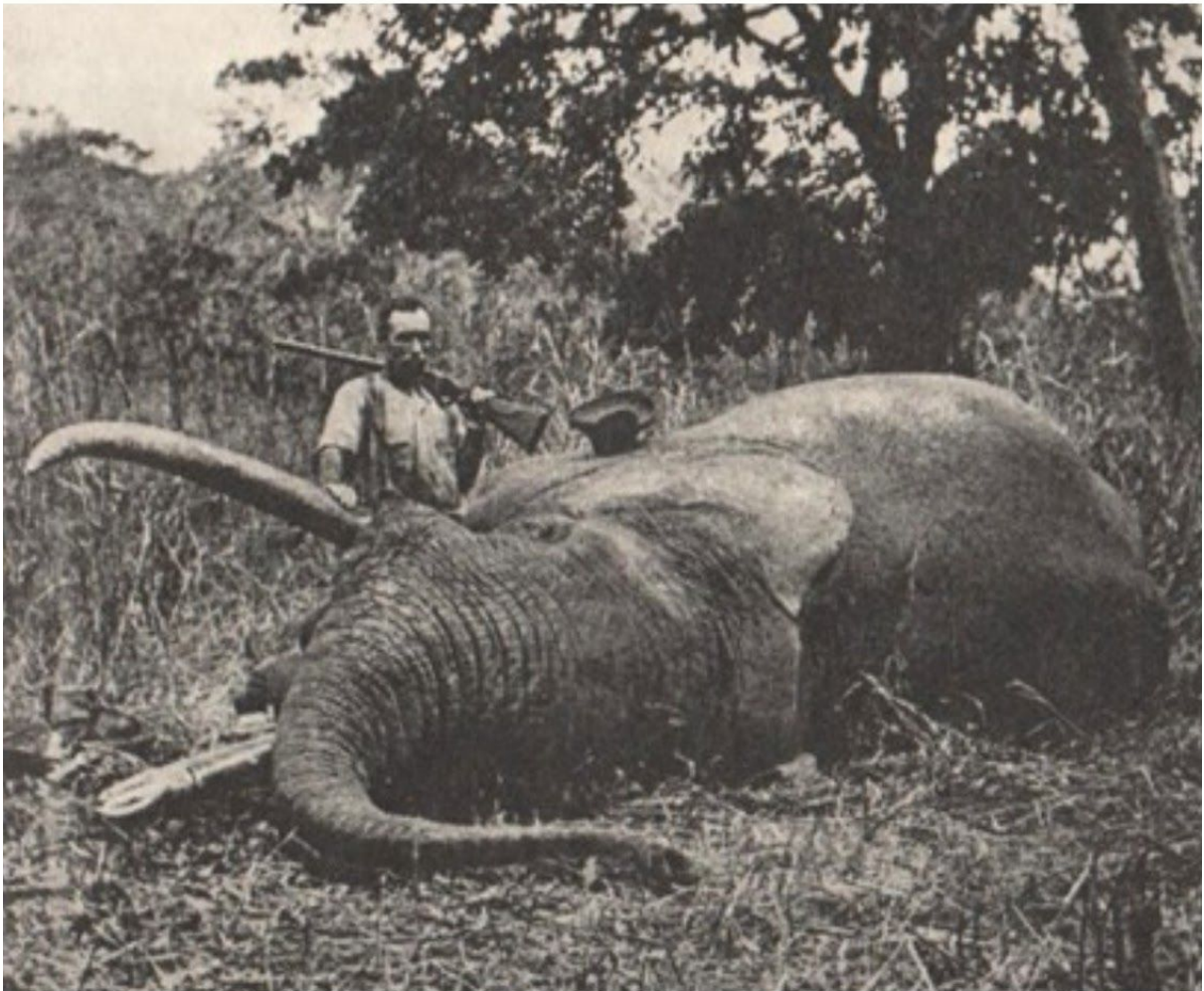


THE DEADLY DOZEN

**The Slaughter of Africa's Elephants
by Twelve Trophy Hunting Nations**



CAMPAIGN TO BAN TROPHY HUNTING

April 2019

Executive Summary

1. There has been a fall in numbers of African elephants of around 1 million since the 1980s.
2. 'Sport hunters' have taken around 100,000 elephant trophies during this period. Over 1000 were taken by British hunters.
3. One third of the 10,000+ entries on CITES' database are for elephant populations in the most vulnerable 'Appendix I' category. Trade in Appendix I species is prohibited except in exceptional circumstances. Trophy hunters are exempted from this rule, however.
4. Hunters from a dozen countries have taken both over 1000 trophies and 1000 kg of ivory since CITES came into force. The 'Deadly Dozen' are Austria, Britain, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Spain & the US.
5. Elephant trophy hunting has soared since CITES came into force in 1975 despite the ivory trade ban in 1989. In 1985, trophy hunters from 19 countries took 929 trophies and 645 kg of ivory. By 2015 this had jumped to 3,699 trophies plus 7591 kg of ivory taken by hunters from 47 countries. This represents a four-fold increase in numbers of trophies, and a 1200% jump in the amount of ivory.
6. Individual hunters are responsible for hundreds of elephant deaths. One man - Ron Thomson - is credited with shooting 5000 elephants as well as 800 buffalo, 50/60 lions, 30/40 leopards, and some 50 hippos. He is currently calling for the ban on elephant trophy hunting in Botswana to be lifted.
7. Botswana's new President, Mokgweetsi Masisi, is proposing to lift the current ban on elephant trophy hunting which has been in place since 2014. Botswana has one third of all the African elephants now remaining in the wild.
8. As much as 750+ tonnes of ivory has been 'legally' taken by trophy hunters since CITES came into force. British hunters have taken nearly 10 tonnes of elephant ivory in all.
9. Chinese nationals with CITES permits have taken up to 3500 elephant trophies since 2010 alone. The amount of ivory going to China from trophy hunting could be as high as 25+ tonnes in recent years. Trophy hunting has previously been found to be used as a 'cover' by Far East syndicates to obtain hundreds of rhino horns.
10. CITES' record-keeping gives rise to serious cause for concern. There are at least 169 elephant trophies traded by hunters that are of unknown origin on its database. In 2017 (the most recent year for which fuller figures are available) there were a total of 36 entries which record figures for both import and export declarations: of these, there are discrepancies in 22 cases (almost two-thirds).

A: Status of Elephants

Elephant population numbers have been crashing since the 1980s, and are now at about one third of their previous numbers.

- The population of African elephants at the turn of the 1980s was estimated to be at least 1.3 million animals, with some estimates suggesting there could be as many as 3 million.
- The latest estimates by IUCN - released in September 2016 - give a current total population count of 415,000.

B: Elephants & trophy hunting

Trophy hunting of elephants has continued as elephant numbers have fallen. The CITES exemption for trophy hunting allows the legal trade in ivory to continue in spite of the 1989 CITES ban on the ivory trade.

1. Hunters have taken between 98,309-112,744 trophies of elephants since the beginning of the 1980s.
2. The total number of elephant trophies taken by British hunters during this same period is between 1163-1348.
3. Trophy hunters have also legally taken up to 767 tonnes of ivory from elephants.
4. The figure for British hunters could be as high as 9.6 tonnes.
5. CITES banned the ivory trade in 1989. However trophy hunters are permitted by CITES to hunt elephants, including taking their ivory.
6. Since 2010, there has been an increase in the number of Chinese nationals shooting African elephants and using CITES permits to take the ivory back to China.
7. The total number of trophies taken by Chinese 'hunters' between 2010-2017 could be up to 3578.
8. The total amount of ivory 'legally' imported with CITES permits into China is up to 27,636 kg.
9. This is on top of the 75 tonnes of ivory China was allowed to buy in 2008 by CITES and which subsequent investigations showed was fuelling the illegal ivory trade.
10. 'Pseudo trophy hunters' from the Far East have previously used CITES permits to obtain and export 300 horns from endangered rhinos.

C: Conservation & cruelty

Hunters' claims that the industry benefits elephant conservation are unproven. Continuing to hunt a species as it steadily/rapidly declines is not sustainable.

1. Studies have shown several instances of unsustainable hunting quotas - sometimes set without reference to evidence of local population numbers - which have led to a decline in local elephant populations.

2. The demand for 'perfect trophies' increases the likelihood of pain and suffering by target animals. Trophy hunters avoid head shots most likely to result in instant death as this ruins the aspect of a trophy destined for mounting.
3. Large animals such as elephants often take a number of shots before being killed. There are multiple accounts of elephants suffering slow and painful deaths.
4. Trophy hunting awards encourage the use of novelty weapons such as bows and arrows, handguns and muzzle loaders. These can increase the likelihood of woundings and reduce the likelihood of swift deaths.
5. A recent US Congressional report stated that the combined toll of poaching and trophy hunting is now greater than the reproductive rate of African elephants.
6. Trophy hunters seek out bulls with the most impressive tusks. Tusks are an indicator of the strength of the individual. Removing these animals from the gene pool weakens the local population, which reduces the viability of the species.
7. There has been a reduction in average tusk size in recent years, thought to be a consequence of animals with the biggest tusks being targeted by poachers and trophy hunters.
8. Tusks help elephants find water in dry river-beds in the summer. Shorter tusks will make it harder for elephants to survive longer, more severe droughts likely to occur with accelerating climate change.
9. Removal of mature males leaves populations without a 'figurehead' who can control younger bulls. This often leads to behaviour similar to juvenile delinquency which in turn can lead to greater human-wildlife conflict that exacerbates persecution of elephants.
10. Claims that elephant trophy hunting generates significant revenues for local populations and for poverty alleviation programmes have been disproved by research from the IUCN and the UN as well as independent economists.

D: CITES records

There are serious discrepancies on the CITES database in relation to the numbers of elephant trophies taken in and out of countries by hunters.

1. In 2017, no fewer than 22 of the 36 (nearly two-thirds) entries which list import and export declarations contradict one another.
2. The discrepancies include a consignment of trophies leaving South Africa where the export tally is recorded as 69, but where the import number states 43 items were received. The import of 53 skin pieces into the US is recorded as just 3 items in the export column.
3. The discrepancies cover a range of countries and include elephant feet, ears, skulls, tails and tusks.

Conclusions

1. Trophy hunting accounts for a significant number of deaths of elephants. It should be counted alongside poaching, habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict as a key driver of its current decline.
2. The selection by trophy hunters of elephants with the biggest tusks is having a disproportionate impact on local populations, the species, and its evolution.
3. The exemption which allows trophy hunters to kill the most vulnerable wildlife species as listed by CITES is absurd and unjustifiable. It should be closed at this year's CoP taking place from May 23-June 3 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
4. Many of the challenges facing elephants are complex and require long-term strategies. The prohibition of trophy hunting, though, would swiftly remove an unnecessary and additional pressure.
5. Trophy hunters claim the industry promotes conservation by providing an economic incentive to maintain populations. These claims have clearly failed in the case of the African elephant. There is no justification to continue shooting vast numbers of elephants for recreation, particularly given the current crisis.
6. The proposal by some African countries to partially lift the ban on ivory sales should be opposed. The previous lifting of the ivory trade ban to Japan and China stimulated demand for ivory, which in turn led to an increase in poaching and trophy hunting of elephants.
7. The 2014 ban on elephant trophy hunting in Botswana was implemented because of a decline in local elephant numbers. As a result, the local elephant population recovered. One third of all African elephants are now found in Botswana. The country has twice as many elephants as any other African nation. Proposals to reintroduce elephant trophy hunting in Botswana - and the plan to use the meat in canned pet food - could have serious implications for the survival of the species.
8. CITES faces an uphill battle to defend itself from criticism that it is not fit for purpose. The multiple instances of missing records and discrepancies in its records undermines confidence in the secretariat and in the convention as a viable means of protecting endangered species.

Appendix A: Elephant Trophy Hunting by nationality of hunter since 1977-2017

Import nation	No. of trophies	Kg of ivory
United Arab Emirates	46	66
Armenia	3	0
Argentina	390	1244
Austria	1364	1674
Australia	81	155
Bangladesh	39	0
Belgium	491	862
Burkina Faso	2	0
Bulgaria	82	121
Bolivia	1	0
Brazil	457	94
Botswana	220	40
Canada	1708	1055
Switzerland	765	793
Chile	44	0
Cameroon	5	0
China	2256	6775
Colombia	35	0
Costa Rica	43	79
Czech Republic	426	364
Former East Germany	0	50
Germany	8147	11825
Denmark	1071	480
Dominica	2	0
Dominican Republic	24	0

Algeria	6	0
Estonia	26	0
Spain	11949	10099
Finland	930	58
France	3368	11781
Gabon	4	0
Great Britain	1089	1396
Greece	15	69
Croatia	40	34
Hong Kong	15	318
Hungary	290	517
Indonesia	19	0
Ireland	4	0
India	1	9
Iran	1	0
Iceland	11	0
Italy	1637	6387
Jersey	14	0
Jamaica	7	0
Jordan	12	0
Japan	56	9
Kenya	2	12
Cambodia	5	0
Korea	6	0
Kuwait	25	0
Kazakhstan	38	16
Lebanon	10	33
Lithuania	188	113

Luxembourg	71	156
Latvia	84	182
Libya	1	0
Morocco	21	0
Monaco	12	0
Moldova	1	0
Malta	9	0
Mauritius	2	0
Malawi	54	0
Mexico	3005	1380
Malaysia	83	0
Namibia	616	95
New Caledonia	10	0
Nigeria	8	0
Netherlands	94	62
Norway	411	139
New Zealand	175	236
Panama	18	0
Peru	38	41
Philippines	93	0
Pakistan	85	50
Poland	369	412
Puerto Rico	6	0
Portugal	1095	882
Paraguay	73	0
Qatar	549	180
Romania	85	0
Serbia	1	0

Russia	1182	1182
Saudi Arabia	27	4
Sudan	7	0
Sweden	425	142
Singapore	23	0
Slovenia	9	0
Slovakia	438	315
El Salvador	100	0
Swaziland	4	0
Thailand	32	0
Tunisia	10	1
Turkey	68	0
Taiwan	9	533
Tanzanai	46	46
Ukraine	201	162
United States	31850	35736
Uruguay	21	0
Samoa	0	49
Venezuela	23	0
Vietam	11	0
Unknown	169	272
Yemen	0	2
Former Yugoslavia	13	3
South Africa	16438	6805
Zambia	15	0
Zimbabwe	848	330

Notes:

1. Some national records are listed separately by CITES eg UK and Jersey, Germany and former East Germany, China and Hong Kong.
2. The total amount of ivory, and number of trophies, will be greater in many cases. This is because tusks are sometimes listed by numbers, and sometimes by weight.
3. CITES began collecting elephant data in 1977 with a single record. The next records are 2 entries in 1980. Data collection began in earnest in 1981.

Appendix B - “The Deadly Dozen”: The Top Trophy Hunting nations ranked

nation	Trophy nos.	Trophies ranking	Ivory kg	Ivory ranking	Combined ranking
United States	31850	1	35736	1	1
Germany	8147	4	11825	2	2
South Africa	16438	2	6805	5	3=
Spain	11949	3	10099	4	3=
France	3368	5	11781	3	5
China	2256	7	6775	6	6
Italy	1637	9	6387	7	7=
Mexico	3005	6	1380	10	7=
Austria	1364	10	1674	8	9
Canada	1708	8	1055	12	10
UK	1089	12	1396	9	11
Russia	1182	11	1182	11	12

Appendix C - The Growth in Popularity of Elephant Trophy Hunting

Year	No. trophies	Ivory kg	No. of importing countries
1985	929	645	19
1995	1113	(tusks counted numerically only)	20
2005	2428	(tusks counted numerically only)	42
2015	3699	7591	47

Appendix D: The Hunting of Endangered Elephants - number of entries on CITES database of elephants in Appendix I & II populations

Year	Appendix 1	Appendix II	TOTAL
1977		2	2
1980		3	3
1981		58	58
1982		131	131
1983		55	55
1984		87	87
1985		83	83
1986		118	118
1987		111	111
1988		152	152
1989		167	167
1990	103	4	107
1991	102		102
1992	159		159
1993	94		94
1994	200		200
1995	118		118
1996	118		118
1997	120	29	149

1998	98	91	189
1999	110	139	249
2000	107	231	338
2001	91	276	367
2002	68	181	249

2003	59	185	244
2004	72	215	287
2005	82	209	291
2006	114	310	424
2007	77	173	250
2008	108	248	356
2009	184	348	532
2010	178	430	608
2011	185	601	786
2012	178	659	837
2013	200	517	717
2014	153	495	648
2015	105	432	537
2016	111	314	425
2017	55	208	263
Total	3349 (32%)	7262 (68%)	10,611

Appendix E - Chinese elephant trophy hunting records

Year	no. of entries
2004	1
2005	1
2006	1
2010	10
2011	12
2012	20
2013	19
2014	16
2015	45
2016	19
2017	7

Key Sources

CITES trade statistics derived from the CITES Trade Database, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK.

“Missing The Mark: African trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits”, US House of Representatives, Natural Resources Committee

“Killing for Trophies: An Analysis of the Global Trophy Hunting Trade”, IFAW