

Transfer of those populations of African Elephant, *Loxodonta africana* currently listed in Appendix II to Appendix I. Proponents: Kenya and India.

Summary: Four national populations of African Elephant – in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe – are currently included in Appendix II under the restrictions applied in annotation °604. Three of these populations (Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe) were transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II in 1997, the fourth (South Africa) in 2000. This proposal seeks to transfer them from Appendix II to Appendix I, citing the precautionary measure included in Annex 4 to Resolution Conf. 9.24 and the statement in Annex 3 that listing of species in more than one Appendix should be avoided in general. Much of the supporting statement comprises lists of reported incidents of illegal killing of elephants and of reported seizures of ivory within range States and elsewhere. As explained in the general introduction to the elephant proposals, at CoP 10 the Parties approved mechanisms for monitoring and assessing these issues, which will be discussed under item 34 of the provisional agenda “Conservation of elephants and trade in elephant specimens”. Thus, these issues will not be considered further here. This analysis examines whether the African Elephant populations currently listed in Appendix II might meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I as set out in Resolution Conf. 9.24.

Analysis: Following Resolution Conf. 9.24, the populations of African Elephant in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe would not appear to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. These populations do not appear to be small, nor do they have a restricted area of distribution. There does not appear to be any evidence for an ongoing decline in the number of individuals in the wild nor does there appear to be any inferred or projected basis for such a decline. The available data suggest ongoing growth in the number of elephants comprising these populations. Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 states that listing of species in more than one Appendix should be avoided in general. When split-listing does occur, this should generally be on the basis of national or continental populations, rather than subspecies. This is presently the case.

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<p data-bbox="188 1267 756 1328">Thirty-six sub-Saharan African countries, covering a range of 5 772 466 km²</p>	<p data-bbox="735 1133 858 1160"><u>Taxonomy</u></p> <p data-bbox="759 1227 834 1254"><u>Range</u></p> <p data-bbox="675 1346 919 1373"><u>IUCN Global Category</u></p> <p data-bbox="831 1395 919 1422">EN A1b</p>

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<p>Biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I</p>	
<p><u>A) Small wild population</u></p>	
<p>(i) Population or habitat decline; (ii) small sub-populations; (iii) one sub-population; (iv) large population fluctuations; (v) high vulnerability due to biology or behaviour</p>	
<p>Estimated populations in 1998: Botswana: 103 472 Namibia: 9 015 South Africa: 11 905 Zimbabwe: 81 285</p> <p>These figures are derived by combining “definite”, “probable”, “possible” and “speculative” population sizes given in the 1998 IUCN/SSC African Elephant Database.</p>	<p><i>Botswana: SS to Prop. 12.6 states that current population estimates stand at 120 000 with a range of 84 898 to 128 090.</i></p> <p><i>Namibia: SS to Prop. 12.7 quotes an estimate of 9 305, based on a combination of 1998 and 2000 estimates.</i></p> <p><i>South Africa: SS to Prop. 12.8 quotes a current figure of 13 051, based almost entirely on 2001 survey data.</i></p> <p><i>Zimbabwe: SS to Prop. 12.10 quotes an estimate of approximately 89 000, based on a 2001 national aerial survey over the major elephant range plus an estimated 1 000 in the unsurveyed minor range.</i></p> <p><i>These figures are not strictly comparable with those given in the SS.</i></p>
<p><u>B) Restricted area of distribution</u></p>	
<p>(i) Fragmented or localised population; (ii) large fluctuations in distribution or sub-populations; (iii) high vulnerability due to biology or behaviour; (iv) decrease in distribution, population, habitat or reproductive potential</p>	
	<p><i>Botswana: Range in 1998 estimated at 81 486 km² (Barnes et al., 1999).</i></p> <p><i>Namibia: Range in 1998 estimated at 145 015 km² (Barnes et al., 1999)</i></p> <p><i>South Africa: Range in 1998 estimated at 25 847 km²</i></p> <p><i>Zimbabwe: Range in 1998 estimated at 109 563 km² (Barnes et al., 1999); SS to Prop. 12.10 quotes an area of ca. 67 000 km² as the major elephant range.</i></p>
<p><u>C) Decline in number of wild individuals</u></p>	
<p>(i) Ongoing or historic decline; (ii) inferred or projected decline</p>	
<p>Botswana: Population estimated at 20 000 in 1981 and at 103 472 in 1998</p> <p>Namibia: Population estimated at 2300 in 1981 and at 9105 in 1998.</p> <p>South Africa: Population estimated at 8000 in 1981 and at 11 905 in 1998</p> <p>Zimbabwe: Population estimated at 49 000 in 1981 and at 81 289 in 1998</p>	<p><i>As indicated above, SS to Prop. 12.6 (Botswana), 12.7 (Namibia), 12.8 (South Africa) and 12.10 (Zimbabwe) all indicate further population increases.</i></p>
<p><u>D) Status suggests inclusion in Appendix I within 5 years</u></p>	

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information

Trade criteria for inclusion in Appendix I

The species is or may be affected by trade

There is international demand for elephant products

Other information

Threats

Illegal trade in African ivory, poaching for meat, habitat destruction, human-elephant conflict, and human-human conflict (war).

Conservation, management and legislation

Refer to analyses of proposals 12.6, 12.7, 12.8 and 12.10

Similar species

Asian Elephant, *Elephas maximus*

References:

Barnes, R.F.W., Craig, G.C., Dublin, H.T., Overton, G., Simons, W. and Thouless, C.R., 1999. *African Elephant Database 1998*. IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group, IUCN Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.