



CITES COP19

ENDORSED STATEMENT IN FAVOUR OF RESOLUTIONS TO PREVENT THE EXPORT OF WILD ELEPHANTS TO ZOOS AND CAPTIVITY

PROPOSAL 5: TRANSFER THE ELEPHANT POPULATIONS OF BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA, AND ZIMBABWE FROM APPENDIX II TO APPENDIX I

PROPOSAL 66.4.1: RESTRICT WILD-CAUGHT LIVE EXPORTS TO IN-SITU CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES IN NATURAL AND HISTORICAL RANGES IN AFRICA

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild animals and plants has 184 signatory Parties—any one of the Parties is entitled to submit a proposal to the Conference. The meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties is the ultimate decision-making body.

The 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) is taking place from the 14th to the 25th of November 2022 in Panama City. Decisions taken at this CoP will continue to shape the international trade in wildlife.

The CITES Secretariat received a proposal, [CoP19 Prop. 5](#), for consideration for the amendment of Appendices I and II, specifically to transfer the *Loxodonta Africana* populations of Botswana, Namibia, South and Zimbabwe from Appendix II to Appendix I. The proposal was made by members of the African Elephant Coalition namely, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, and Senegal.

This proposal, if accepted would result in the prohibition of international trade for primarily commercial purposes in African elephant specimens of wild origin, including from the four range States concerned. States Parties will make their own decisions next month in Panama City at CoP19 about whether this proposal should be adopted or rejected.

“Amending the CITES Appendices is a rigorous, science-based process that demands a wide range of expertise. The stakes are high both for these vulnerable species of plants and animals and for the people whose livelihoods depend upon them. We should also consider that Parties have legally binding obligations towards all species included in the CITES Appendices. It is vital that our decisions be as well-informed and wise as possible” CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero

Any species that appears on Appendix I is effectively banned from commercial international trade. Appendix II species can be traded but that trade is strictly regulated and subject to tight controls from both the exporting and importing Parties.

Despite this, wild elephants were captured in Namibia in February 2022 and exported from Namibia to Al Ain Zoo and Sharjah Safari Park in the United Arab Emirates. The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria has terminated the membership of the Al Ain Zoo in the UAE as a result of the evidence of their investigations related to the multiple breaches of EAZA Codes and Standards which has negatively impacted the reputation of the organization (see Appendix 1). [EAZA reiterated its condemnation](#) of the import of the Namibian elephants and will not be drawn into an alternative proposal that may be used to justify the importation of wild elephants into a zoo.

The [Pro Elephant Network](#) has supported the further expansive [investigations and exposure](#) of the recent and ongoing Namibian wild elephant export debacle.⁴



<https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/environment/2022/10/12/sharjah-ruler-watches-elephants-during-safari-tour/>

The Pro Elephant Network remains extremely concerned about the SADC (Southern African Development Community) member's misinterpretation of current CITES regulations, specifically the export of African elephants outside of their natural range states, a topic that was raised and discussed at the CITES Standing Committee Meeting in Lyon on the 9th of March 2022.

We, the undersigned, respectfully request Parties to CITES to support the proposal of Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, and Senegal to amend Appendices I and II, specifically to transfer the *Loxodonta Africana* populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe from Appendix II to Appendix I.

We furthermore urge the Parties to support the proposed changes to [Resolution Conf. 10.10 \(Rev. CoP18\)](#) as detailed in [CoP19 Doc. 66.4.1](#) which would restrict wild-caught live exports to *in situ* conservation programs or secure areas in the wild, within the species' natural and historical range in Africa, and would apply to all wild African elephants wherever they are located.

THE ABOVE STATEMENT IS SIGNED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE PRO ELEPHANT NETWORK:

- 1 **Owais Awan** - Advocate in the High Court, Islamabad, Pakistan
- 2 **Suparna Baksi-Ganguly** - President /Co-Founder, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Center, India
- 3 **Dr Brett Bard** - Wildlife Veterinarian, South Africa
- 4 **Dr Jessica Bell Rizzolo** - Postdoctoral Researcher, Michigan State University, USA
- 5 **Professor David Bilchitz** - Director, South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law, South Africa
- 6 **Megan Carr** - Founder, Rhinos in Africa, South Africa
- 7 **Lenin Chisaira** - Founder, Advocates 4 Earth / Green Law Connect, Zimbabwe
- 8 **Janey Clegg** - Committee Member, SPCA Mutare, Zimbabwe
- 9 **Dr Betsy Coville** - Exotic and Wildlife Animal Veterinarian, USA
- 10 **Dr Harvey Croze** - Co-Founder, Amboseli Elephant Research Project, Kenya
- 11 **Nomusa Dube** - Founder, Zimbabwe Elephant Foundation, United Kingdom
- 12 **David Ebert** - Founder and Director, Animal Defense Partnership, USA
- 13 **Stefania Falcon** - Co-Founder, Future 4 Wildlife, South Africa
- 14 **Daniela Freyer** - Co-Founder, Pro Wildlife, Germany
- 15 **Michele Franko** - Captive Elephant Caregiver and Wildlife Advocate, USA
- 16 **Chief Stephen Fritz** - Indigenous Leader, South Peninsula Khoi Council, South Africa
- 17 **Dr Toni Frohoff** - Ethologist, Behavioral Biologist, Founder of TerraMar Research, USA
- 18 **Dr Marion E. Garai** - Elephant Behaviour Specialist, South Africa
- 19 **Georgina Groves** - Elephant Behaviour Specialist and Animal Welfare Technical Expert, UK
- 20 **Dr Ross Harvey** - Environmental Economist, Botswana
- 21 **Heike Henderson-Altenstein** - Co-Founder, Future for Elephants e.V., Germany
- 22 **Alok Hisarwala Gupta** - Lawyer, Centre for Research on Animal Rights, India
- 23 **Iris Ho** - Head of Policy Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA), USA
- 24 **Peter Hodgskin** - Founder, Hands-off Fernkloof, South Africa
- 25 **Sangita Iyer** - Founder, Voice for Asian Elephants Society, Nat Geo Explorer, Filmmaker, Canada
- 26 **David Kabambo** - Founder and Director of Peace for Conservation, Wildlife Management, Tanzania
- 27 **Dr Paula Kahumbu** - Chief Executive Officer WildlifeDirect, Kenya
- 28 **Professor Mohan Kharel** - Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 29 **Nuria Maldonado Torrecabota** - Founder, IScapes, Spain
- 30 **Duncan McNair** – CEO, Save The Asian Elephants, United Kingdom
- 31 **Jim Karani** – Director, Lawyers for Animal Protection in Africa, Kenya
- 32 **Dr Winnie Kiiru** - Founder, Conservation Kenya, Kenya
- 33 **Brigitte Kornetzky** - President and Founder, Elefanten in Not, Switzerland / India
- 34 **Professor Bob Jacobs** - Psychology Department, Colorado College, USA
- 35 **Lynne James** - Consultant, Elephant Conservation, Zimbabwe
- 36 **Dr Mark Jones** - Veterinarian & Head of Policy, Born Free Foundation, UK
- 37 **Kahindi Lekalhaile** - Africa Network for Animal Welfare, Kenya
- 38 **Dr Smaragda Louw** - Director, Ban Animal Trading, South Africa
- 39 **Dr Keith Lindsay** - Collaborating Researcher Amboseli Trust for Elephants, Advisor FFW, UK
- 40 **Giorgio Lombardi** – Warden, Vogelgat Private Nature Reserve, South Africa
- 41 **Linda Masudze** - Lawyer, Advocate 4 Earth, Zimbabwe
- 42 **Varda Mehrotra** - Co-Founder, Samayu, A Just World, India
- 43 **Brett Mitchell** - Chairperson Elephant Reintegration Trust, South Africa
- 44 **Dr Cynthia Moss** - Director, Amboseli Trust for Elephants, Kenya

- 45 **Dr Nurzhafarina Binti Othman** - *Founder, Seratu Aatai, Elephant Conservation and Research, Malaysia*
 46 **Sharon Pincott** - *Elephant Behavioral Specialist, ex-Hwange, Zimbabwe*
 47 **Michele Pickover** - *Executive Director, EMS Foundation, South Africa*
 48 **Bharati Ramachandran** - *CEO of the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organizations, India*
 49 **Ian Redmond OBE** - *Co-Founder, Rebalance Earth, Chairman Ape Alliance, UK*
 50 **Ingo Schmidinger** - *Director of International Operations, Elephant Sanctuary, Brazil*
 51 **Dr Jan Schmidt-Burbach** - *Head of Wildlife and Animal Welfare, World Animal Protection Int, Germany*
 52 **Dr DJ Schubert** - *Wildlife Biologist, Animal Welfare Institute, USA*
 53 **Dr Liz Tyson** - *Animal Welfare Law, Programs Director, Born Free, USA*
 54 **Antoinette Van de Water** - *Director, Bring the Elephant Home, South Africa*
 55 **Vasanthi Vadi** - *Trustee of the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organizations, India*
 56 **Professor Dan Wylie** - *Poet, Author, Rhodes University, South Africa*
 57 **Amy P. Wilson** – *Director, Animal Law Reform, South Africa*

THE STATEMENT IS ALSO ENDORSED BY:

- 58 **His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Seretse Khama Ian Khama** - *Former President of Botswana*
 59 **Tshekedi Stanford Khama** - *Hon MP for Serowe West, Environmental Conservationist, Botswana*
 60 **Thea Khama** - *Conservationist and Youth Mentor, Botswana*
 61 **H.E. Professor Judi Wakhungu** - *EGH Kenya Ambassador to France, Holy See, Portugal, Serbia, and Monaco, Former Minister of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Kenya*
 62 **Jay Naidoo** - *Former Minister for the Reconstruction and Development Programme, during the Nelson Mandela Presidency, South Africa*
 63 **Henry Smith** - *Member of Parliament, Crawley Constituency, UK*
 64 **Dr Joyce Poole** - *Scientific Director ElephantVoices, Kenya*
 65 **Angela Sheldrick** - *Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Kenya*
 66 **Georgina Lamb** - *CEO David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, UK*
 67 **Dr Rosalind Reeve** - *Senior Advisor David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, UK*
 68 **Lawrence Avery** - *Programme and Policy Manager, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, UK*
 69 **Will Travers OBE** - *Co-Founder and Executive President, Born Free Foundation, UK*
 70 **Charlie Mayhew MBE** - *Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Tusk Trust, UK*
 71 **Danika Oriol-Morway** - *Executive Director Four Paws USA*
 72 **Vanessa Amoroso** - *Head of Wild Animals in Trade, Four Paws International*
 73 **Fiona Miles** - *Director, Four Paws, South Africa*
 74 **Damion Aspinall** - *Chairman, Aspinall Foundation, UK*
 75 **Amos Courage** - *Director of Overseas Projects, Aspinall Foundation, UK*
 76 **Dereck Milburn** - *Regional Director, Aspinall Foundation, South Africa*
 77 **David B. Casselman** - *Co-Founder, Cambodia Wildlife Sanctuary, USA*
 78 **Dr Gaye Bradshaw** - *Founder and Director, Kerulos Centre for Nonviolence, USA*
 79 **Eli Weiss** - *Founder, President, Wildize Foundation, USA*
 80 **Reineke Hameleers** - *Chief Executive Officer, Eurogroup for Animals, Belgium*
 81 **Charlotte Nithart** – *President, Robin Des Bois Association, France*
 82 **Valentina Bagnato** - *Head, International Relations, International Organisation for Animal Protection, Italy*
 83 **Adams Cassinga** - *Founding Director, Conserv Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo*
 84 **Jim Justus Nyamu** - *Executive Director, Elephant Neighbours Center (ENC), Kenya*
 85 **Lameck Mkuburo** - *Founder and Director, Tanzanian Elephant Foundation, Tanzania*
 86 **Nathan Edward Swartz** - *Head Researcher, IKSHA COUNCIL, South Africa*
 87 **Timothy Kamuzu Phiri** - *Executive Director and Co-Founder, Mizu Eco Care Organisation, Zambia*
 88 **Nyakwaka Madutua** - *Community Conservation Educator, Peace for Conservation, Tanzania*

- 89 **Julie Woodyer** - *Campaigns Director, Zoocheck, Canada*
- 90 **Barry Kent MacKay** - *Founding Director, Zoocheck, Born Free USA Canada Representative, Canada*
- 91 **Dr Lori Marino** - *Founder, Executive Director Kimmela Centre for Animal Advocacy, Canada*
- 92 **Liz White** - *Party Leader, Animal Alliance of Canada Environmental Voters Party of Canada, Canada*
- 93 **Kiersten Cluster** - *Co-Founder, Elephant Guardians of Los Angeles, USA*
- 94 **Paul Christian** - *Trustee, Protect All Wildlife, UK*
- 95 **Diana Valencia Cuevas** - *President, Abriendo Jaulas & Abriendo Mentas, A.C., México*
- 96 **Shana Kelly** - *President, Rethink Captivity, USA*
- 97 **Barbara Lovett** - *Co-Founder and President Save Nosey Now, Inc., USA*
- 98 **Luc Mathot** - *Director and Founder, Conservation Justice, Belgium*
- 99 **Vasanthi Kumar** - *Co-Founder and Trustee, STRAW, India*
- 100 **Nikita Dhawan** - *Founder, Youth for Animals, India*
- 101 **Tony Verhulst** - *Co-Founder, Elephant Haven, European Elephant Sanctuary, France*
- 102 **Sofie Goetghebeur** - *Co-Founder Elephant Haven, European Elephant Sanctuary, France*
- 103 **Tozie Zokufa** - *Director, Coalition of African Animal Welfare Organisations, South Africa*
- 104 **Katricks Satyanarayan** - *Co-Founder and CEO, Wildlife SOS, India*
- 105 **Geeta Seshamani** - *Co-Founder Wildlife SOS, India*
- 106 **Dr Priya Davidar** - *Founder, Sigur Nature Trust, India*
- 107 **Dr Jean-Philippe Puyravaud** - *Researcher Sigur Nature Trust, India*
- 108 **Dr Vishwas Satgar** - *Co-Founder, Climate Justice Charter Movement, South Africa*
- 109 **Pooven Moodley** - *Executive Director, Natural Justice, South Africa*
- 110 **Cormac Cullinan** - *Director of Cullinan & Associates and the Wild Law Institute, South Africa*
- 111 **Professor Melanie Murcott** - *Public Law, University of Pretoria, South Africa*
- 112 **Francesca de Gasparis** - *Director, Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute*
- 113 **Sarah Kvalsvig** - *Environmental Lawyer and Consultant at Cullinan & Associates, South Africa*
- 114 **Ricky Stone** - *Environmental Lawyer and Consultant at Cullinan & Associates, South Africa*
- 115 **Kirsten Youens** - *Founder and Executive Director, AllRise, South Africa*
- 116 **Samantha Cohen** - *Legal and Administrative Officer, Animal Law Reform, South Africa*
- 117 **Cheslyn C. Ceaser** - *Legal Research, Animal Law Reform, South Africa*
- 118 **Karl Ammann** - *Wildlife Photographer & Conservation Documentary Film Producer, Switzerland*
- 119 **Jared Kukura** - *Conservation Writer, WildThings Initiative, USA*
- 120 **Elisabetta Corra** - *Environmental Author, Founder, Tracking Extinction, Italy*
- 121 **Don Pinnock** - *Environmental Journalist, Co-Author of The Last Elephants, South Africa*
- 122 **Francis Garrard** - *Director, Conservation Action Trust, South Africa*
- 123 **Cyril Christo** - *Wildlife Photographer, Documentary Filmmaker, Author, USA*
- 124 **A.E. Lovell** - *Endangered Wildlife Poet, Australia*
- 125 **Charan Saunders** - *Environmental Consultant, Writer, South Africa*
- 126 **Linda Tucker** - *Founder and CEO, Global White Lion Protection Trust, South Africa*
- 127 **Margo Naude** - *Head of Communications, Global White Lion Protection Trust, South Africa*
- 128 **Dave Neale** - *Animal Welfare Director, Animals Asia Foundation, UK*
- 129 **Marleen Le Febvre** - *CEO, Wildlife At Risk International Organisation, Netherlands*
- 130 **Dr Andrew Kelly** - *Director, Freedom for Animals, UK*
- 131 **Nicole Rojas** - *Founder, Wild for Change, USA*
- 132 **Jack Baucher** - *Co-Founder, The Ark, UK*
- 133 **Pippa Hankinson** - *Director, Blood Lions, South Africa*
- 134 **Dr Louise De Waal** - *Director, Blood Lions, South Africa*
- 135 **Nicola Gerrard** - *Director, Blood Lions, South Africa*
- 136 **Ian Michler** - *Director, Blood Lions, South Africa*
- 137 **Dr Roelie Kloppers** - *CEO, Wildtrust, South Africa*
- 138 **Lauren van Nijkerk** - *Director Marketing & Communications, Wildtrust, South Africa*

- 139 **Mark Stratton** - *Co-Founder, Free Bunka Organisation, Environmental Journalist, UK*
- 140 **Tina Papadopoulou** - *Co-Founder, Free Bunka Organisation, UK*
- 141 **Lex Abnett** - *Director, Southern African Fight for Rhinos, South Africa*
- 142 **Renee Bish** - *Co-Founder, Bettys Bay Baboon Action Group, South Africa*
- 143 **Peter Oxford** - *Co-Founder, Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group, South Africa*
- 144 **Toni Brockhoven** - *Chairperson, Beauty Without Cruelty, South Africa*
- 145 **Anna Centura** - *Co-Founder, Future 4 Wildlife, Europe*
- 146 **Lizaene Cornwall** - *Co-Founder Panthera Africa Big Cat Sanctuary, South Africa*
- 147 **Catherine Nyquist** - *Co-Founder Panthera Africa Big Cat Sanctuary, South Africa*
- 148 **Kim Da Ribeira** - *Director, Outraged South African Citizens Against Poaching, South Africa*
- 149 **Dave Du Toit** - *Founder, Vervet Monkey Foundation, South Africa*
- 150 **Sera Farista** - *Climate Justice Youth Climate Group, South Africa*
- 151 **Sairusha Govindsamy** - *Climate Policies, African Climate Alliance, South Africa*
- 152 **Lorraine Holloway** - *Founder, Baboons of the South, South Africa*
- 153 **Guy Jennings** - *Director, WildAid, Southern Africa*
- 154 **Vivien Law** - *Regenerative Farming Project, Parliament for the People, South Africa*
- 155 **Les Mitchell** - *Director, Institute for Critical Animal Studies, Africa*
- 156 **Jabu Myeni** - *Environmental Education Programme, Gifted for Good, South Africa*
- 157 **Stephen Munro** - *Director, Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education, South Africa*
- 158 **Linda Park** - *Director, Voice 4 Lions, South Africa*
- 159 **Charles Simane** - *Researcher, Climate Justice Charter Movement, South Africa*
- 160 **Steve Smit** - *Co-Founder, Monkey Helpline, Rehabilitation Centre, South Africa*
- 161 **Jenni Trethowan** - *Founder, Baboon Matters, South Africa*
- 162 **Stephen A Wiggins** - *Founder, International Wildlife Bond, UK*
- 163 **Wynter Worsthorne** - *Founder, Animal Talk Africa, South Africa*