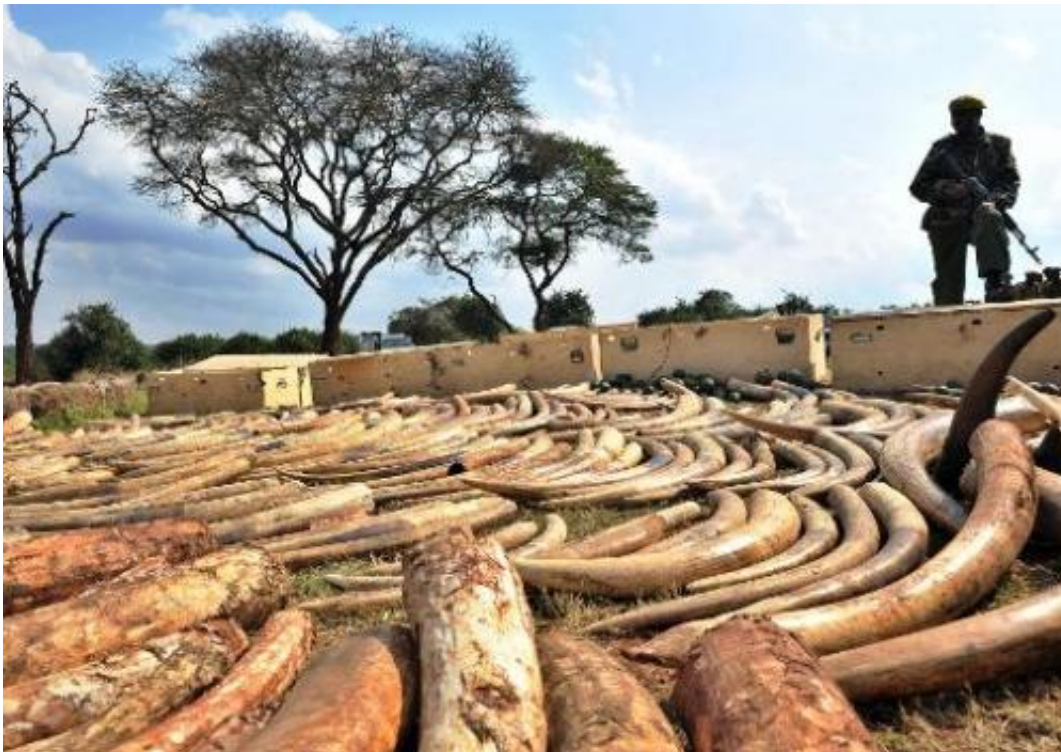


# African and Asian states agree to tackle illegal ivory trade

December 3 2013

---



A Kenya Wildlife Services ranger stands guard over an ivory haul seized overnight as it transited through Jomo Kenyatta Airport in Nairobi on August 23, 2013

African and Asian states, including China and Thailand, reached a deal in Botswana on Tuesday to crack down on the illegal ivory trade.

States that are home to the animals and destination countries for [ivory](#)

agreed to "urgent measures to halt the illegal trade and secure elephant populations across Africa," the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Botswanan government said in a statement.

Six countries signed the pact but all 30 states attending the summit agreed on the measures and committed to inking the deal.

"All the 30 countries present here agreed on the 14 urgent measures," Simon Stuart, chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, told AFP.

"We have consensus, it's good news."

The countries committed to putting a total of 14 measures in place by the end of next year amid warnings that Africa could lose 20 percent of its [elephant population](#) within a decade.

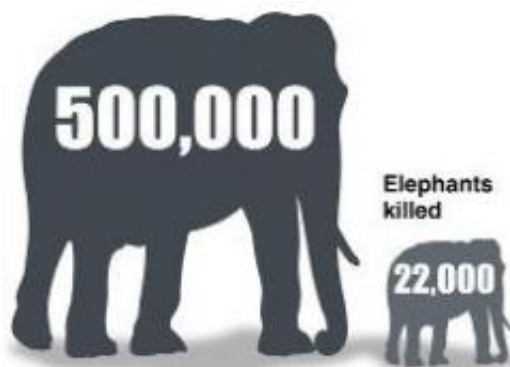
"The summit is the first-ever meeting focusing on the dynamics of the entire ivory value chain," said the joint statement by the IUCN and Botswana's ministry of environment, wildlife and tourism.

"The measures were agreed on by key African elephant range states including Gabon, Kenya, Niger and Zambia, ivory transit states Vietnam, Philippines and Malaysia and ivory destination states, including China and Thailand."

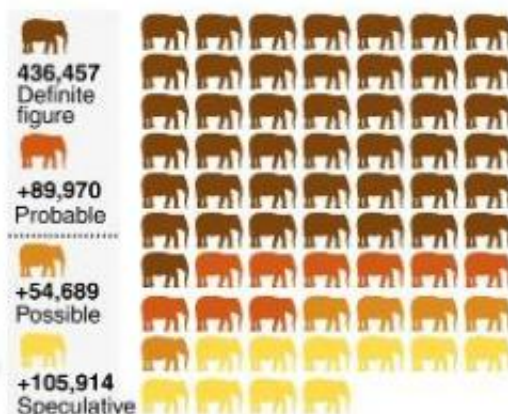
## The future of African elephants threatened

Poaching and the trade in ivory could result in one fifth of the population wiped out in 10 years.

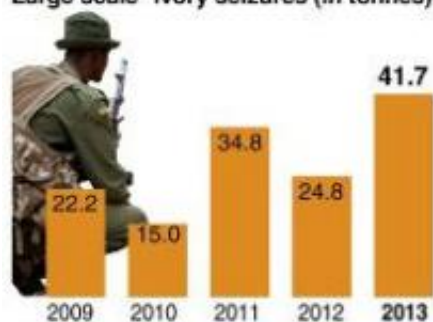
Estimated number of elephants (in 2012)



The hard task of checking their numbers



Large scale\* Ivory seizures (in tonnes)



Sources: IUCN, Cites Traffic \*Over 500 kilos

Eight countries accused of passivity over the fate of elephants:



Data on elephant poaching and the ivory traffic

Among the measures are that trafficking should be classified as a "serious crime", paving the way for international cooperation such as mutual legal assistance, asset seizure and forfeiture, and extradition.

Cooperation will also be strengthened among [law enforcement agencies](#) in affected countries and "national interagency mechanisms" formed to "allow immediate action" on anyone involved in poaching or the contraband ivory trade.

According to a report by CITES, TRAFFIC and IUCN, an estimated

22,000 elephants were illegally killed across the continent last year, as poaching reached "unacceptably elevated levels."

"We are very pleased with the result of the summit, especially as it involves some of the most important [countries](#) along the illegal ivory value chain," said Julia Marton-Lefèvre, IUCN director general.

Africa's elephant population is estimated at 500,000 animals and they are listed as vulnerable.

© 2013 AFP

Citation: African and Asian states agree to tackle illegal ivory trade (2013, December 3) retrieved 26 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-12-african-asian-states-tackle-illegal.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.