



Born Free – Elephants in Crisis Assembly

About Born Free

Born Free's mission is to ensure that all wild animals, whether living in captivity or in the wild, are treated with compassion and respect and are able to live their lives according to their needs. Born Free opposes the exploitation of wild animals in captivity and campaigns to Keep Wildlife in the Wild.

Born Free promotes Compassionate Conservation to enhance the survival of threatened species in the wild and protect natural habitats while respecting the needs of and safeguarding the welfare of individual animals. Born Free seeks to have a positive impact on animals in the wild and protect their ecosystems in perpetuity, for their own intrinsic value and for the critical roles they play within the natural world. For more information about Born Free please visit: www.bornfree.org.uk.

Background information

Elephants are in crisis. A century ago there were an estimated five million elephants in Africa. Today, there are less than half a million. An average of 55 elephants are killed by poachers every day for their tusks. That's about one every 25 minutes. Many experts have predicted that, unless poaching can be effectively addressed, elephants could all but disappear from many of Africa's wild places in the coming decades.

Born Free has been campaigning for a global ban on the trade in ivory since 1989. Our field work means we have experienced first-hand the brutal aftermath of poaching and the pressures that elephants face. We carry out crucial work in Cameroon, Ethiopia and Kenya to support the monitoring and protection of wild elephant populations, gaining invaluable insights to their behaviour and undeniable intelligence.

Elephants in Crisis campaign: <https://www.bornfree.org.uk/elephants-in-crisis>

CITES

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) aims to ensure international trade is sustainable and controlled and does not threaten or endanger wildlife. It has 183 signatory countries comprised of 182 member states plus the European Union.

The Convention covers mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates and plants (5,800 species of animals and 30,000 species of plants) listed in three Appendices according to the degree of protection they need. Through a permitting system, CITES controls the introduction of, import from, export or re-export to third countries of dead or living selected species, as well as parts or derivatives e.g. skin, fur, teeth, shell, feathers, and blood.

The ivory trade

CITES banned the unrestricted international commercial trade in 'new' ivory in 1989.

However, as it currently stands in the UK, while it is illegal to buy and sell Asian elephant ivory dating after 1975 or African elephant ivory dating after 1990, there are some exemptions for trading in carved antique

ivory (pieces carved before 1947). Ivory pieces carved after this date but before the international ban came into force are also exempt if accompanied by a government-issued certificate. Through this market, certain antique ivory products can therefore be legally bought and sold domestically and can be legally re-exported internationally with relevant CITES permits.

CITES also approved two legal 'one off' sales of large volumes of ivory to consumer nations in 1999 and 2008, under the guise that this would satisfy consumer demand, provide funds for elephant conservation and reduce poaching. However, these 'experimental' sales have only stimulated demand in a poorly regulated marketplace, which is subject to weak and inconsistent law enforcement.

The commercial trade in both old and 'new' ivory stimulates demand, compromises law enforcement, and provides a potential means by which 'new' ivory from poached elephants can be laundered into trade.

The illegal wildlife trade is recognised as the fourth biggest organised criminal activity on the planet, and is estimated to be worth up to £17 billion a year. The greatest flows of illegal ivory move by sea and air from Africa to Asia, with Hong Kong and China as the largest consumer markets.

The USA introduced a near-total ban on elephant ivory sales in 2016 and China followed suit towards the end of 2017, leaving the UK the world's largest global exporter of legal ivory.

In May 2018, the UK government, following the results of a public consultation indicating that over 88% of people were in favour of bringing in legislation to ban ivory sales in the UK, introduced its Ivory Bill to Parliament.

Closing the domestic ivory market is critical to stopping the poaching of elephants, and this action by the UK government was urgently needed. It is also crucial that other countries and regions with domestic ivory markets, including the EU, adopt far tougher restrictions without delay.

Why the world needs elephants

African elephants are a culturally and aesthetically valuable species that play a crucial role in maintaining diverse and varied ecosystems. Known as 'gardeners of the forest', elephants disperse plant species by depositing undigested seeds in their dung, and modify landscapes by uprooting trees and digging for water during the dry season. These natural foraging behaviours help other animals survive in harsh environmental conditions.

Elephants are also sentient creatures. They live in close-knit family groups, caring for and protecting their young. And, just like humans, they mourn the loss of their family members. Poachers kill adult elephants for their tusks, often leaving distraught orphans behind. The lucky ones may be rescued – the majority almost certainly perish.

Learning objectives

- To understand how elephants and humans share similar characteristics
- To understand why elephants are under threat
- To identify solutions to the illegal trade in ivory.

Slide(s)	Notes
1. Title Slide	Title slide.
2. Senses: What is an elephant like?	<p>Ask the pupils to close their eyes and imagine that they are going to see an elephant in the wild.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would it feel like to touch? • What would it smell like? • What noise would it be making? • What would it look like? (What are its distinguishing features?) • Would it taste like?! (If you were to lick it...not eat it!)
3 to 13. Quiz: What do you know about elephants?	<p>Use the PowerPoint to lead the pupils through a 10 question quiz.</p> <p>Answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 = (a) Asian, African savannah and African forest • Q2 = (c) 60-70 years • Q3 = (b) 6,000kg • Q4 = (b) 25mph • Q5 = (c) 22 months • Q6 = (a) A cow • Q7 = (c) 100,000 • Q8 = (c) 200 litres • Q9 = (a) Yes • Q10 = (a) Yes •
14. Elephants are just like us.	<p>Elephants and humans share similar characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elephants live in close-knit family groups, caring for and protecting their young. • They support, care and comfort each other, when friends or family members are in distress. • They love to play and interact with each other. • Just like humans, they celebrate births and they mourn the loss of their family members.
15. Elephants are just like us.	<p>Play the embedded video clip of an elephant herd celebrating the birth of a new born calf.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciVsS-oZEPc</p>
16. Elephants are under treat.	<p>Ivory is a hard, white material that some animals' teeth and tusks are made from – including elephants, hippopotamuses and some whales.</p> <p>In the 19th century, ivory from elephants became a popular and fashionable product. It was used to make many things, including jewellery, combs and piano keys.</p>
17. The ivory trade.	<p>The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) banned the unrestricted international commercial trade in 'new' ivory in 1989.</p> <p>However, as it currently stands in the UK, while it is illegal to buy and sell Asian elephant ivory dating after 1975 or African elephant ivory dating after 1990, there are some exemptions for trading in carved antique ivory (pieces carved before 1947).</p> <p>The commercial trade in both old and 'new' ivory stimulates demand, compromises law enforcement, and provides a potential means by which 'new' ivory from poached elephants can be laundered into trade.</p>

	<p>The illegal wildlife trade is recognised as the fourth biggest organised criminal activity on the planet, and is estimated to be worth up to £17 billion a year. The greatest flows of illegal ivory move by sea and air from Africa to Asia, with Hong Kong and China as the largest consumer markets.</p> <p>Play the embedded video clip of the ‘Elephants in Crisis’ campaign. https://vimeo.com/280547403</p> <p>Elephants are still being killed in their thousands for their tusks. Illegal ivory is still being smuggled out of Africa. We must stop this happening and support improved protection for elephants.</p>
<p>18. The ivory trade.</p>	<p>A century ago, there were maybe 5 million elephants across Africa. Now there are less than 500,000. Around 20,000 African elephants are being killed every year for their ivory - that's around 55 everyday, or one every 25 minutes.</p>
<p>19 to 25. How can we protect elephants?</p>	<p>Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out research helps us know more about elephants. This helps us understand how to protect them. • Research projects also attract tourists. The money they spend can be spent into protecting the elephants. • We need to know how many elephants there are and where they are so we can keep track of them! <p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born Free works with schools and communities to find ways in which humans and wildlife can live together in peace. • We teach about the benefits that come from the presence of elephants, including ecological and economic, as well as their cultural and intrinsic value. <p>Adopt an elephant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born Free animal adoptions are a great way to help fund our work to protect rescued and endangered species. • The money goes directly to support the care and protection of individual animals or their families. Any extra funds go towards our projects to protect the species and its habitat. <p>End the ivory trade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born Free believes that any trade in old or new ivory leads to the killing of elephants for their tusks. • All countries should ban the sale of all ivory. • Governments, the police, conservation groups and the public must work together to end all trade in ivory. <p>Minimise conflict – chilli fences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elephants like to eat crops and this can bring them into conflict with farmers. • Chilli pepper fencing keeps elephants off the farmers land. • Elephants have sensitive noses and do not like the taste and smell of chillies. • Chillies are very cheap, and work day and night to deter elephants.



	<p>Minimise conflict – elephant corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elephants often walk along the same paths their families have walked along for hundreds of years. • However, humans have built farms and houses over some of these paths meaning that humans and elephants come into contact more often. • Elephant corridors are narrow strips of land that allow elephants to move freely from one habitat patch to another. • This reduces conflict and increases coexistence between humans and elephants.
<p>26. What can you do?</p>	<p>Fundraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are lots of ways for you to get involved and fundraise for Born Free. For example hold your own ‘Go Wild’ event or activity – big or small - and every single penny you raise will help Born Free care for and protect animals. • To help with fundraising, we have created a number of fundraising posters that you can choose from to help promote your event. • Visit https://www.bornfree.org.uk/fundraising for more information <p>Sign the petition https://www.bornfree.org.uk/ivory-trade-petition Spread the word: Share on Facebook, Share on twitter Donate https://www.bornfree.org.uk/donate Join Wild Crew https://www.bornfree.org.uk/kids-club</p>
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