



Her Excellency Dr. Tsai Ing-Wen
No. 122, Sec 1 Chongqing S Rd.
Zhongzheng District
Taipei City 10048
Taiwan

December 19, 2016

Dear Dr. Tsai:

On behalf of our organizations and millions of supporters worldwide, we are writing to ask for your support to help protect Africa's rapidly disappearing elephants. We are appealing to you to enact a domestic ban on all trade involving Taiwan in elephant ivory as called for in a resolution of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at its 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in South Africa in October of this year. The resolution, which comes into effect January 2, 2017, is in response to the current poaching and trafficking crisis facing elephants in Africa, and was adopted by the CITES Parties by consensus. While Taiwan is not a member of the CITES, Taiwan has been participating in the Convention as an observer (through an NGO) and working to fully comply with the requirements of CITES through corresponding domestic measures.

Poaching is driving the slaughter of 30,000 or more African elephants each year. In the three-year period from 2010 to 2012, 100,000 elephants were killed for their ivory tusks. A recent widespread census of Africa's savannah elephants found just 352,000 remaining in 18 surveyed countries, down 30 percent in seven years, while the exact number of Africa's forest elephants is unknown. Poaching is not only removing a keystone species with unknown widespread ecological consequences and destroying the natural heritage of many African nations; it is also undermining the enormous contribution to economic development that elephant-based tourism generates for many African economies. Additionally, ivory trafficking is driven by transnational organized crime, undermining the rule of law and threatening local and international security. According to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, wildlife trafficking is worth billions of dollars annually, ranking it alongside trafficking in humans, arms and narcotics.

Urgent action is needed to reduce worldwide demand for ivory, stop the trafficking in ivory, and end the extensive elephant poaching that is threatening elephant populations across Africa. In addition to implementing a near total ban on U.S. domestic trade in ivory on July 6, 2016, this year the United States Congress also passed the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act with bipartisan support, and President Obama signed it into law on October 7th. More rigorous state bans on ivory trade have been enacted by New York, New Jersey, California, Washington State, Oregon and Hawaii that reinforce the federal ban on ivory trade.

Given the crisis at hand, we appeal to you to take urgent action to ban all domestic trade in elephant ivory within Taiwan. We urge Taiwan to join a worldwide effort to enact strong new protections to conserve Africa's dwindling elephants and to stop transnational wildlife crime. Your leadership will be vital to expand global efforts to protect elephants and set an example for others in the region to follow.

We thank you in advance for your efforts to save Africa's elephants so that our children and our children's children will be able to appreciate healthy populations of wild elephants long in the future.

We are available to meet with you or your representative in person or via video or phone link at your earliest possible convenience. Please reply to the Environmental Investigation Agency's President Allan Thornton at +1 202 483 6621 or allanthornton@eia-global.org.

Yours sincerely,



Allan Thornton, OBE
President
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Susan Lieberman, Ph.D.
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Kaddu Kiwe Sebunya
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Priscilla Ma
Executive Director
World Animal Protection, US



Oliver Smith
Chief Executive Officer
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Cathy Liss
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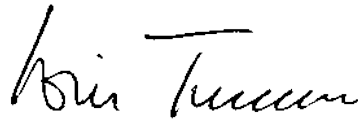
Sarah Uhlemann
Director, International Program
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Dr. Christoph Schmidt
Chairman
Pro Wildlife



Adam M. Roberts
Chief Executive Officer
Born Free USA



Will Travers, OBE
President and Chief Executive Officer
Born Free Foundation

Enclosures: Background: Taiwan's Role in the Ivory Trade
DRAFT DECISIONS AND AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION CONF. 10.10 (REV.
COP16) ON TRADE IN ELEPHANT SPECIMENS