



# Elephants

A WCS Progress Report







## **We Stand for Wildlife.<sup>SM</sup>**

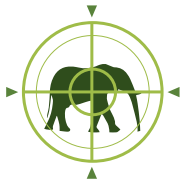
The majestic elephant is one of the world's most emblematic species, and it is fighting for its very survival. Caught in the crosshairs of intense poaching and habitat loss, both African and Asian elephants are disappearing across their ranges. With them, we are losing their ecological, economic, and cultural value. Protecting this keystone species also means we are conserving vast swaths of habitat, and in doing so, are ensuring the safety of countless other species.

**This WCS Progress Report provides our generous supporters with select updates and insights on our recent conservation activities to protect elephants.**

# Leading Elephant Conservation

WCS is working around the globe to protect elephants across their ranges and in many of their remaining strongholds. We take a multifaceted approach to elephant conservation with targeted tactics that are backed by science and proven effective. Our methods can be boiled down to three key objectives: **Stop the killing, stop the trafficking, and stop the demand.**

## Core Strategies



End elephant poaching



Protect elephant habitat



Reduce human-elephant conflict



Monitor populations and potential threats

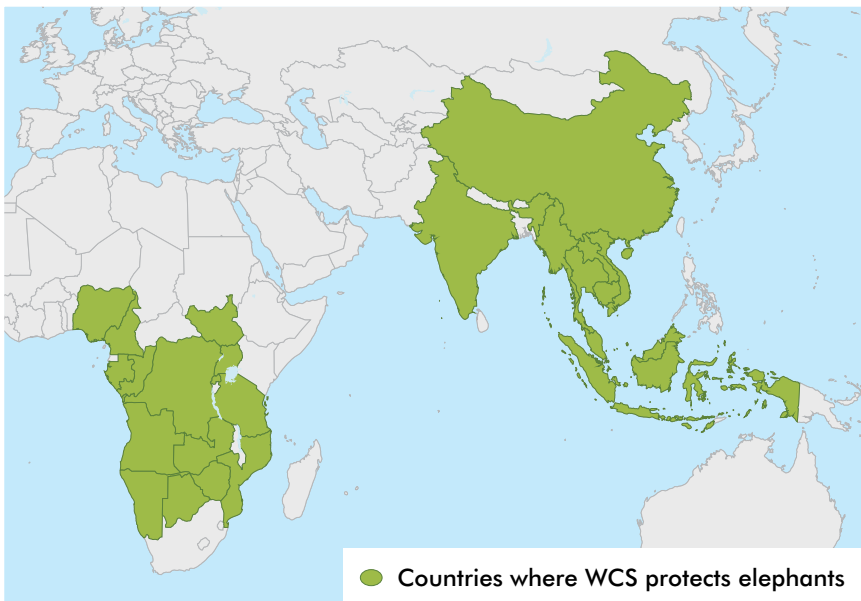


Combat illegal ivory trade



Eliminate demand for ivory

## Where We Work



**WCS works in 24 countries across Africa and Asia to protect elephants.**

### AFRICA

Programs in 15 countries cover 28% of the forest elephant population and 14% of the savannah elephant population.

### ASIA

Programs in 9 countries cover approximately 40% of the Asian elephant population.



## AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

# Recognizing Rangers on the Front Lines

Every day, WCS men and women risk their lives to protect wildlife. These committed and courageous heroes save some of the planet's most threatened species and inspire conservationists all over the world. With wildlife demand and trafficking not yet abated, rangers remain the first line of defense for many animals, particularly elephants.

We have hard proof that these rangers are making a big difference. WCS-led research has shown that in areas of Central Africa where rangers (also called ecoguards) patrol, forest elephants are approximately seven times more prevalent when compared to unpatrolled forests. We have not only helped reduce the killing of these majestic, intelligent, and warmhearted creatures, but we have demonstrated that ecoguard patrolling is an effective strategy to protect them from slaughter.

### **NACHAMADA GEOFFREY** **Yankari Game Reserve, Nigeria** Elephant Population: 100–200

Situated in a volatile region of Nigeria, the Yankari Game Reserve is 866 square miles of mostly savannah serving as home to buffaloes, hippos, lions, and the country's last viable elephant population. Nachamada Geoffrey, a native of the area, is WCS's lead in Yankari. WCS began managing the reserve's conservation activities in 2014, and with Geoffrey's help we have ushered in great conservation advancements.

Despite turmoil in the region including recent Boko Haram activity, only two elephant carcasses were discovered in Yankari in 2015, both of which were judged to have died of natural causes.

This represents a large drop from the 10-per-year average prior to 2014. Additionally, no rangers have been killed in action since WCS took over park management. WCS Nigeria Director Andrew Dunn largely credits Geoffrey. "Working for WCS in Yankari is not a normal job," Dunn says. "It requires 24/7 commitment at a remote, isolated site with erratic access to modern facilities. It requires bravery (when Boko Haram threatened Yankari's borders, Geoffrey never flinched) and exceptional levels of dedication, diplomacy, patience, and astute politicking."

Geoffrey has mastered one particular feat. "I don't really sleep," he says. Instead, the principal endeavor of his many waking hours is to boost morale among the 100 or so rangers he manages.

Geoffrey's work following up on enforcement actions helps ensure that the arrests the rangers make—including 44 poachers last year—aren't for naught. "Now it's the poachers who are scared," Geoffrey says, "because they know they will go to jail."

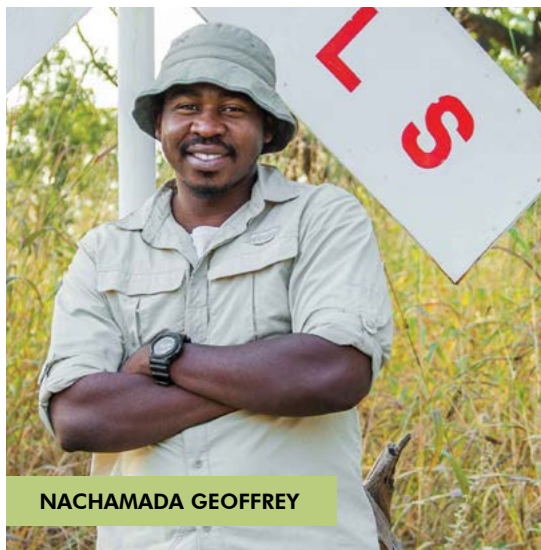
### **MARGUERITE APA** **Nouabale-Ndoki National Park,** **Republic of Congo** Elephant Population: Approximately 2,500

Established by the Republic of Congo in 1993, Nouabale-Ndoki National Park is situated at the heart of the Congo Basin. Today, it is managed by the Ndoki





TRAINED ECOGUARDS BRAVE HARSH AND SOMETIMES DANGEROUS CONDITIONS TO PROTECT THE IMPORTANT WILDLIFE WITHIN THEIR PARKS.



NACHAMADA GEOFFREY

Foundation, a partnership between WCS and the Government of Congo, and is home to approximately 3,500 gorillas, 2,500 chimpanzees, and 2,500 elephants.

It is here that 24-year-old Marguerite Apa, driven by a passion to save this extraordinary biodiversity, serves as an ecoguard. In this difficult role, Apa and her fellow rangers spend 15 days at a time in the field, hiking miles through the thick brush.

**“Now it’s the poachers who are scared because they know they will go to jail.”**

—NACHAMADA GEOFFREY



MARGUERITE APA

During that time they are constantly on the lookout for both wildlife and poachers that could pose a threat. The thrill of animal spotting keeps Apa motivated amid the challenging aspects of the job; and fortunately, Ndoki is rich with breathtaking biodiversity.

The only woman on her team, Apa—who descends from the Bembajele, an often-marginalized indigenous group—decided she wanted to guard this region and its incredible species two years ago, while serving as a cook. She did it, she says, “even though it is generally considered to be a man’s job.” Now, Apa encourages other women to follow. 🌿





# New Predictive Patrol Method Improves Crime Detection

To protect elephants and other important wildlife species in the most effective way, WCS uses findings from ecological research and monitoring within protected areas to shape our conservation strategies and management. This feedback loop enables us to put scientific data into practice and assess our conservation actions so that we can continuously improve results on the ground. Using ranger-collected data, a team of scientists from WCS, the University

**Detections of illegal activities such as wildlife poaching and cattle encroachment went up by as much as 250 percent without a change in ranger resources.**



**TOP: RANGERS REVIEW PATROL DATA USING MOBILE TECHNOLOGY.**

**BOTTOM: A RANGER REMOVES SNARES IN UGANDA'S QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK.**

of York, and the Uganda Wildlife Authority recently developed a new method of predicting where illegal activities will occur inside a national park. This predictive model helps us concentrate resources in at-risk areas and improve ranger patrol allocation.

The new process was first field tested in Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park, which contains the country's largest population of elephants. As a result, detections of illegal activities such as wildlife poaching and cattle encroachment went up by as much as 250 percent without a change in ranger resources.

The breakthrough methodology owes its success to the use of SMART, a free software tool developed by WCS that combines data management, mapping resources, training materials, and standards to aid and regulate patrolling methods. The tool is enjoying ever-expanding use around the world—to date, it has been rolled out in 43 countries and in more than 120 protected areas. In Uganda, the park-wide data collected using SMART has allowed conservationists to create an accurate picture of illegal activities and correctly predict high-crime areas.

Unlike many other areas of Africa, Uganda has seen a slow but steady elephant recovery over the last few decades. The results of the 2014 aerial surveys of Uganda's national parks estimated that the number of elephants has increased to over 5,000 individuals. Nearly 3,000 of these live within Queen Elizabeth National Park. These elephants and others around Africa stand to benefit greatly from this improved patrolling technique. 🌿

# Kenya Sends a Clear Message



It is difficult to fathom that ivory is still so desirable in international markets that 35,000 elephants are slaughtered each year for their tusks. In April 2016, Kenya took action against this barbaric trade by destroying the country's stockpile of elephant ivory and rhino horn. This event became the largest burn of ivory in history. The message could not be clearer: Ivory only has value when it is found on living elephants. Through this act, Kenya also demonstrated that it will not tolerate the annihilation of elephants and rhinos, nor the violence and corruption that surrounds this illegal activity.

This event was not merely symbolic; over 100 tons of ivory and approximately 1.5 tons of rhino horn were destroyed. To put this into perspective, this ivory is the result of the gruesome poaching of approximately 8,000 elephants.

**The message could not be clearer: Ivory only has value when it is found on living elephants.**

This massive ivory burn is a tangible milestone that shows Kenya is committed to combatting ivory trafficking by preventing any of these tusks from leaking back into the illegal trade. The graphic demonstration was designed to help galvanize additional African and international support to close *all* ivory markets.

WCS attended with other conservation organizations, presidents, and celebrities to observe and support this somber event, all present to ensure that this message will spread far and wide. We continue to work with Kenya to improve its *National Elephant Action Plan*, and we are working internationally to decrease consumer demand for ivory and to halt its trade. 🌱

## New Elephant and Ivory Action Plans in Mozambique

WCS is working with the Government of Mozambique and the UK-based NGO Stop Ivory to produce a new *National Elephant Action Plan* (NEAP) for the country. The 10-year plan focuses on addressing two of the most critical problems for elephants in Mozambique: **1)** the rampant poaching that resulted in a 50 percent drop in overall elephant numbers across Mozambique from 2009 to 2014, including a 65 percent elephant population decrease among the largest population in Niassa Reserve and other elephant habitats in the north; and **2)** the disturbingly high levels of ivory trafficking. In fact, trafficking of ivory as well as rhino horn in Mozambique is so severe that CITES has required the country to prepare and implement a separate and equally important *National Ivory and Rhino Horn Action Plan*. To promote a cohesive approach to wildlife crime in the country, key elements of the ivory action plan are also included in the *National Elephant Action Plan*.

WCS and the Mozambique government led two stakeholder workshops in May 2016 at which the *National Elephant Action Plan* was drafted; it will be finalized before the end of 2016. The workshops were attended by a wide range of government agencies including protected area staff, Customs, the police, the Attorney General's Office and the judiciary, as well as representatives of the hunting industry and the NGO community. A National Elephant Coordinator will now be appointed by the government and assisted by an NEAP Steering Committee to ensure timely completion of the priority actions. 🌱





## Sniffer Dogs Aid Their First Ivory Bust in Tanzania

With their keen and celebrated sense of smell, sniffer dogs are beloved soldiers in the fight to end elephant poaching and trafficking across Africa. In Tanzania's Ruaha National Park, Dexter and Jenny are two indispensable members of the protected area's security detail. Jenny, a Belgian Malinois, and Dexter, an English springer spaniel, sniff out concealed ivory that might otherwise be transported unnoticed. Both dogs have been trained to expertly identify the smell of ivory, and this careful preparation has recently resulted in the pair's first ivory bust.

In August 2016, authorities received intelligence that illegal ivory was being stored at a specific residence. The mobile dog unit was deployed to conduct a late night house search. Jenny and her handler checked all the rooms—some packed high with bags of rice—to no avail. However, within minutes of starting to search the compound outside, Jenny detected something hidden under a parked

vehicle. Her reliable nose discovered four concealed tusks hidden in plastic. Tanzanian officials reported that the four tusks found are small, presumably from young elephants that had not even reached breeding age.

One man was immediately taken into custody and is assisting the authorities with their inquiries. The detection dog unit will now work with police, zonal anti-poaching units, and other authorities in the region who will follow up on the case.

"This ivory bust shows what a powerful tool the detection dog unit is," said WCS Project Director Aaron Nicholas. "It adds to the government's strategy to curb elephant poaching in Tanzania. Well done to the Tanzania National Parks Authority handlers and staff and our four-legged, frontline friends." This bust also highlights all of the conservation and security elements that must be in place for a successful bust. By having the right people in place, intelligence networks established, dogs ready for action, and partners prepared to assist, WCS is making progress in combatting ivory trafficking.

Sniffer dog units are supported by WCS in multiple locations across Africa including in areas of Uganda, Tanzania, and South Sudan. 🌿

**JENNY, DEXTER,  
AND THEIR HANDLERS  
ARE HELPING END  
THE ILLEGAL IVORY  
TRADE IN TANZANIA.**





INTERVIEW

## A Conversation with Tim Tear

Tim Tear serves as WCS's Executive Director of Global Conservation for Africa.

### **What are some distinguishing characteristics of WCS's elephant work in Africa?**

**TIM TEAR:** WCS's work in Africa spans some of the continent's most biologically diverse and intact habitats. When it comes to elephants, WCS helps protect some of the most important places where forest and savannah elephants persist. Our teams are on the front lines of the elephant crisis, working hard to reduce the extreme pressures of poaching, human-elephant conflict, and habitat loss. There is no doubt we are saving the lives of these extraordinary creatures. Our presence is not only on the ground, but in the air. We are implementing very robust elephant protection and monitoring systems that include ranger patrols on the ground to secure elephant habitat, elephant radio collars to track their movement and guide patrols more efficiently, aerial surveillance to support the patrols, and aerial censuses to identify how many elephants exist. After years of hard work, we're seeing positive results in every location where WCS works.

### **How does this work fit into WCS's other activities?**

**TT:** A defining feature of WCS's work to protect elephants is that we are operating on multiple scales, from working with local communities and governments all the way up to global policy initiatives. Most importantly, we're demonstrating success at all of these levels. Beyond our field presence in Africa, we are tackling wildlife trafficking and demand issues across continents, and making vital connections between African and Asian countries to thwart illegal trade in ivory. These trade networks are dauntingly complex and well-organized. We continue to produce successful arrests and convictions in many countries on both continents, and through improved intelligence information, we link these people to their networks. Our goal is to deter not only would-be poachers, but the traffickers behind the trade. While the majority of our efforts to stop the killing of elephants are focused within specific African and Asian habitats, our work to stop the trafficking and stop the demand spans the entire globe.

### **What do you see as the future of elephants, and why are you hopeful?**

**TT:** It's paramount to remember that with sufficient conservation support, elephants are capable of rebounding. We have seen elephant poaching crises before in the 1970s and 1980s. At that time, increased protection for elephants—both on the ground and through policy reform—resulted in elephant recovery. I believe we can do this again. WCS has long-term projects in key sites where elephant habitat remains mostly intact and therefore can support elephant recovery. In all these wild places, our actions to reduce poaching are showing results. When you combine our impact on the ground with increasing progress to stop the trade and stop the demand, there is more than ample reason for hope.

I also think it is important to focus on the concept of resiliency. Healthy ecosystems and robust wildlife populations have the greatest capacity to bounce back after a setback. WCS has a network of sites that capture some of the best habitats and the largest populations—places where we believe elephants have the greatest resiliency. We must be *purposefully* optimistic. For us, failure is not an option. We can't take our foot off the gas pedal for a moment. We must remain focused on reversing the current trends, and on ensuring there are enough elephants left to give the species a fighting chance to rebound. I'm convinced we can make this happen. 🌱



ASIAN ELEPHANTS

## High-Tech Solution for India's Human-Wildlife Conflict

Human-wildlife conflict is a real concern for many rural communities around the world. Elephants can pose an unintentional threat to crops, property, and human well-being. This is particularly true in areas where their habitat has been reduced or restricted due to an expanding human presence. The damage inflicted by elephants can spur human retaliation. Addressing this issue so that the outcome is beneficial to both wildlife and local people is an important part of successful conservation.

WCS India recently launched a new mobile technology initiative aimed at tackling this issue. The tool, WildSeve, allows villagers to report an incident of wildlife conflict by calling a toll-free number. Each conflict call results in immediate, in-person assistance from trained staff. Responders assist families in filing compensation forms with the government, including fair assessment of the damage, and act as intermediaries between people and government agencies, ensuring transparency.

The service has been implemented in 284 villages in India, and in just one year, the team has helped file claims in 3,261 incidents of crop and property damage by elephants and other herbivores; 148 cases of livestock predation by big cats and wild dogs; 11 cases of injury; and 2 deaths among human victims of the conflict. To date, nearly 1,000 families have either received or are about to receive substantial and fair compensation.

WCS's Dr. Krithi Karanth, a creator of the initiative, said, "WildSeve emerged from seven years of my research on understanding the complexities of human-wildlife interactions across India and finding that compensation has a role to play in fostering tolerance towards elephants and other wildlife. It offers a rare opportunity to help people directly affected by conflict in the hope that they will tolerate their losses and not retaliate against wildlife. It is a brilliant example of how creativity and innovation can bring technologists and wildlife conservationists together to develop simple solutions that can have powerful transformative impacts on society." 🌱

### WILDSEVE IMPACT

**1 year** in operation

**284 villages** covered

**3,261 incidents** of human-wildlife conflict reported

**Nearly 1,000 families** receiving compensation for crop and property damage, livestock predation, and injury



# Ranger and Community Patrols Protect Elephants in Cambodia

In eastern Cambodia, WCS is working in the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary to conserve a critically important suite of endangered species and the forest landscape they inhabit. The area remains approximately 98 percent covered by natural vegetation and is home to more than 60 species that are globally threatened. By partnering with local communities, the Cambodian Ministry of Environment, and provincial authorities, WCS has been able to grow and strengthen our network of rangers throughout the protected area.

Here, WCS has a long-term project aimed at ensuring the conservation of a regionally important population of Asian elephants. Over the past year, the project has seen an impressive level of law enforcement, with patrol teams traversing critical

**By partnering with local communities, the Cambodian Ministry of Environment, and provincial authorities, WCS has been able to grow and strengthen our network of rangers throughout the protected area.**

elephant habitat on foot, by vehicle, and by motorbike. These teams have relentlessly targeted poaching hotspots, resulting in great success. Between May 2015 and June 2016, there were a total of 1,014 patrols conducted by protected area rangers and community patrol members, which included 405 nights spent in the forest. These patrols covered a total of 1,715 miles by foot, more than 621 miles by vehicle, and 24,712 miles by motorbike.

Anti-snare patrolling has been a key part of WCS's strategy, specifically in areas that are favored by elephants. The missions recovered 1,167 snares, including a new variety of trap which suggests a worrying new direction for wildlife crime in Cambodia. The rangers also encountered a total of 508 offenders, 66 of whom were arrested and over half of whom were given warnings for minor offenses. Within key elephant habitat, the patrols also located 267 illegal camps, which were later destroyed.



## KEO SEIMA PATROL EFFORTS

**1,104 patrols conducted**

**405 night patrols**

**1,715 miles covered on foot**

**24,712 miles covered by motorbike**

*From May 2015 to June 2016*

The recent snaring and tragic death of a juvenile Asian elephant in Keo Seima highlights the risks to the species and the ongoing need for patrolling and anti-snare activities. As a result of support from NGOs including WCS, the Prime Minister of Cambodia announced the hiring of 300 new rangers for 2017, a positive move in the protection of Asian elephants and other threatened species.

Community patrols in Seima are a new and vital addition to law enforcement. Not only do they increase the number of boots on the ground in areas of high illegal activity, but they also represent successful engagement of the local indigenous communities in conservation initiatives. Keo Seima is unique in that there are 17 indigenous villages within the Conservation Zone of the wildlife sanctuary. Since May 2015, community representation among patrols has expanded from three of the villages to six in total. This equates to more than 300 community members who are now actively involved in protecting these areas for elephants and other wildlife. WCS has helped in providing both their technical training and essential field equipment. 🌱

# Global Policy

Elephants cannot protect themselves from poaching and trafficking. That is why, through science, dedication, and partnerships, WCS works to advance and strengthen global ivory trafficking policies, ensuring that the ivory trade stands no chance of wiping out our remaining elephant populations.

## 96 ELEPHANTS

Since 2013, WCS's 96 Elephants campaign—named for the number of African elephants killed each day—has fought to end the global ivory trade for good. Over the last year, we have:

**ADVOCATED** for the historic U.S. federal ivory ban and for Hawaii's domestic ivory ban, both of which passed in June. More information on these and other bans is on the following page.



**SUPPORTED** public ivory crushes and burns in several nations including Kenya and Singapore, sending a powerful message that no one needs ivory except for elephants.



**KICKED OFF** the third phase of the campaign, called "Fight the Crime," aimed at strengthening penalties and enforcement of laws that condemn ivory trafficking. As part of this phase, we fought for the END Wildlife Trafficking Act—a bi-partisan bill that will help bolster resources for wildlife rangers—and applauded its successful passage in September.



**STARTED** the Elephant Yoga Challenge, a social media campaign to raise awareness and funds for elephants through yoga. This campaign successfully garnered 3.5 million online impressions.



**PROMOTED** public awareness and support around World Elephant Day on August 12. More than 38,000 people used our online petition form to encourage the U.S. delegation at the September CITES CoP17 convention to come out in strong support of all governments closing their domestic elephant ivory markets. Additionally, over 30,000 people signed a thank-you card to wildlife rangers, and our 96 Elephants badge promotion generated over \$15,000 in donations, with an average gift of \$41.27.



**SET OUT** to break the GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for the largest display of origami elephants. We partnered with more than 40 zoos across the country to fold 35,000 paper elephants in order to draw attention to the plight of Africa's elephants. The effort resulted in more than 200,000 individual origami elephants, folded and sent to us by contributors across all 50 states and more than 40 countries—more than doubling the previous record. ♡





# Banning Ivory Across America

THE RECENT BANS WERE SUPPORTED BY WCS'S 96 ELEPHANTS CAMPAIGN WHICH ENGAGES THE PUBLIC IN ADVOCATING TO END THE KILLING OF ELEPHANTS.

WCS applauded the Obama Administration's announcement on June 2 of a near-total federal ivory ban. This ban—a modification of the 4(d) rule of the Endangered Species Act for African Elephants—closes most of the ivory trade in the United States, only allowing exceptions for items containing negligible amounts of ivory and documented antiques. According to WCS President and CEO Cristián Samper, “Our scientists have found conclusive evidence that the only way to save elephants is to ban ivory sales. WCS applauds this action by the U.S. government and stands ready to continue educating the public about the plight of the world’s elephants.”

Due to the complexity of the ivory trade, the best way to ensure a complete and total halt of ivory trafficking is for states to pass their own bans in addition to the federal ban. Only days after the federal ban passed, Hawaii’s domestic

ivory ban was signed into law. For these types of bans, WCS’s 96 Elephants campaign has generated more than 460,000 advocacy actions such as petitions, and more than 90,000 social media mentions in

**These bans lead the way for other nations to shut down their ivory markets for good, which is our best chance to reverse the decline of elephants.**

162 countries. This momentum from concerned citizens will aid us as we continue to push for the proposed domestic bans in 14 additional states.

These U.S. bans, along with commitments of bans in China and several African nations, lead the way for other influential nations to shut down their ivory markets for good, which is our best chance to reverse the decline of elephants. 🌱





# Global Conferences Make Strides for Wildlife

WCS had a strong presence at both of this year's major global wildlife meetings. The recommendations we made leading up to and during these meetings were based on the best available scientific and technical data, as well as input from our field programs around the world.

The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) World Conservation Congress, held every four years, is the world's largest conservation-focused global forum, and has the potential to influence the direction of conservation

**In addition to presenting more than 40 times, WCS pushed for a number of resolutions.**

and sustainable development for years to come. As a member of IUCN, WCS attended this year's Congress from September 1 to September 10 and in addition to presenting more than 40 times, pushed for a number of resolutions. WCS led the submission (by governments and NGOs) and negotiation of a motion to close domestic markets for elephant ivory. This resolution—number 007—called for governments to take legislative and regulatory action to close their markets, and for full cooperation between all governments, intergovernmental organizations, and NGOs to implement bans, improve methods of tracking and tracing ivory, and build capacity for enforcement. After an extensive debate on the final day of the forum, with strong support from a large number of African countries, the Congress voted in



favor of elephants. The motion, written by WCS, is not legally binding, but strongly encourages all nations with legal domestic ivory markets to end this trade. WCS President and CEO Cristián Samper, who also serves on the U.S. Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking, said, “The global conservation community is stepping up: No more domestic ivory sales. Elephants have had enough of the ivory trade and so has the world.”

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoPs), held every two to three years, are the world’s largest forums for addressing the international trade in animals, plants, and their parts and products. WCS has participated in each of these meetings since CoP7 in 1989 and continued this tradition at this year’s CoP17 from September 24 to October 5. WCS issued detailed, science-based recommendations to the CITES member governments ([wcs.org/CITES](http://wcs.org/CITES)). Among our recommendations for 24 different species or taxa were 3 specific recommendations to protect African elephants. Importantly, we led the submission of a resolution recommending that all 183 CITES member governments close their domestic ivory markets by immediately adopting all necessary legislative, regulatory, and enforcement measures. In a huge win for wildlife, the resolution—which provides a science-based action plan



for governments—was successfully adopted, along with other important resolutions related to elephants and the ivory trade.

As said by WCS Vice President of International Policy and head of the WCS CITES delegation Sue Lieberman, “The global community today further chipped away at the elephant ivory market. Traffickers and criminal networks are losing their markets losing their financial incentives to illegally kill Africa’s elephants. After attending 11 CoPs, I strongly believe this was among the most successful CoPs ever for wildlife.” 🌱

**ELEPHANTS ARE NOW POISED TO RECEIVE INCREASED PROTECTION THANKS TO RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT BOTH THE IUCN AND CITES CONFERENCES CALLING FOR ALL NATIONS TO CLOSE THEIR DOMESTIC IVORY MARKETS.**

**Thank you for helping us save wildlife and wild places around the globe.**

**Learn more at [wcs.org](http://wcs.org).**

**Follow us and share why you #StandforWildlife**



/TheWCS



@TheWCS



@TheWCS

## Elephants: A WCS Progress Report • 2016

### With deep appreciation to:

Kristen Avery, Peter Clyne, Mengy Eng, Simon Hedges, Nina Holbrook, Natalie Ingle, Aili Kang, Krithi Karanth, Rachel Libretti, Susan Lieberman, Christina Manto, Aaron Nicholas, Andy Plumptre, Colin Poole, Kathi Schaeffer, Ross Sinclair, Tim Tear, Maddie Thompson, Anh-Tuan Tran, and Chip Weiskotten

**Executive Editor:** Mary Deyns Brandão

**Managing Editor:** Sarah Walker

**Writers:** Sarah Walker and Christine Westphal

**Art Direction:** Drew Albinson

**Staff Photographer:** Julie Larsen Maher

**Editorial Support:** Tal Aviezer

**Photos:** Front and Back Cover © Efeather/Dreamstime; p.2, p.8, p.14, p.15 Julie Larsen Maher © WCS; p.4, p.5 (top right) © Forrest Hogg/WCS; p.5 (top left and middle left) © Natalie Ingle/WCS; p.5 (bottom) © Zanne Labuschagne/WCS; p.6 © Andy Plumptre/WCS; p.7 © Paul Hilton for WCS; p.9 © Drew Albinson/WCS; p.10 © Krithi Karanth/CWS; p.11 © Yury Zavarin; p.13 © Josh Bousel/WCS



30% Recycled Fiber





2300 Southern Boulevard  
Bronx, NY 10460  
[wcs.org](http://wcs.org)