

The illegal trafficking of ivory. Can we save the Elephants?



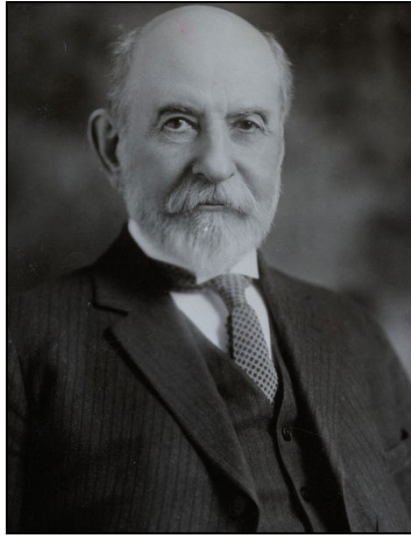
Dr Simon Sneddon
University of Northampton
Hilmorton & Paddox TWG
19th April 2016

ELEPHANTS AND IVORY TRAFFICKING

Passenger Pigeon



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William T Hornaday, Director of the Bronx Zoo (1913)

In every US state the game is being killed more rapidly than it is breeding. *"We are living in a fool's paradise."*

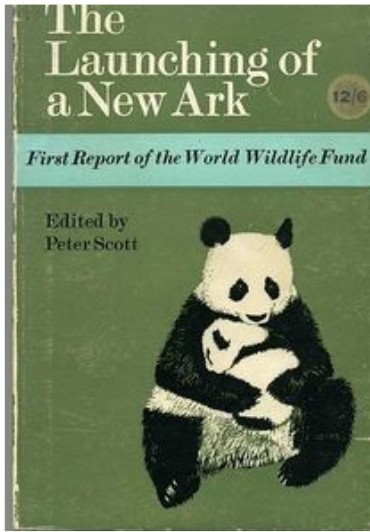
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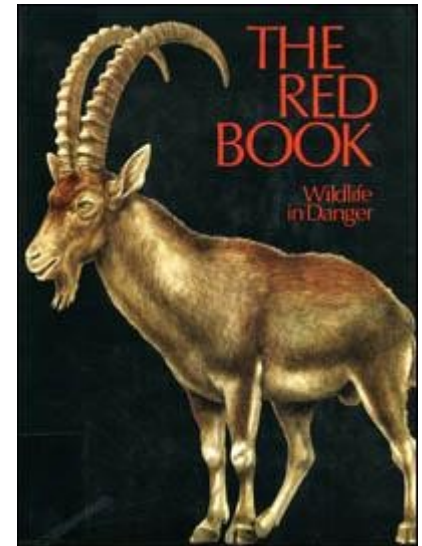
Dr John C Phillips, American Committee for International
Wildlife Protection

Commissioned a report in 1936 to "*determine those species of mammals most urgently in need of protection and, at the same time, to estimate factors that might have caused the extinction of species.*"

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Sir Peter Scott



Founder of WWF and Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

1st WWF report (1954) developed Phillips' report and formed basis of IUCN Red Book (1956)

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Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Signed at Washington, D.C., on 3 March 1973

Amended at Bonn, on 22 June 1979

The Contracting States,

Recognizing that wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth which must be protected for this and the generations to come;

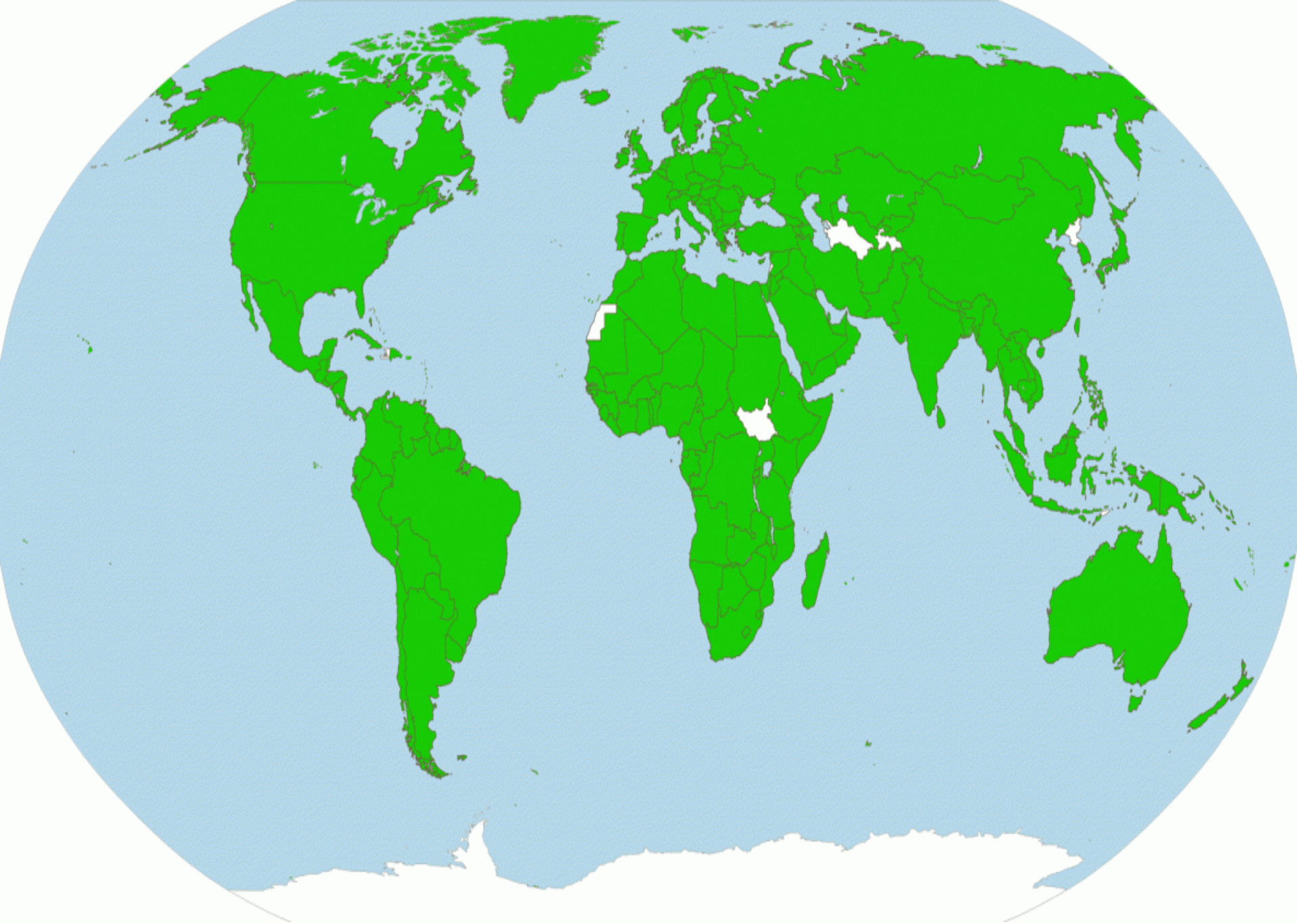
Conscious of the ever-growing value of wild fauna and flora from aesthetic, scientific, cultural, recreational and economic points of view;

Recognizing that peoples and States are and should be the best protectors of their own wild fauna and flora;

Recognizing, in addition, that international co-operation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade;

Convinced of the urgency of taking appropriate measures to this end;

Have agreed as follows:

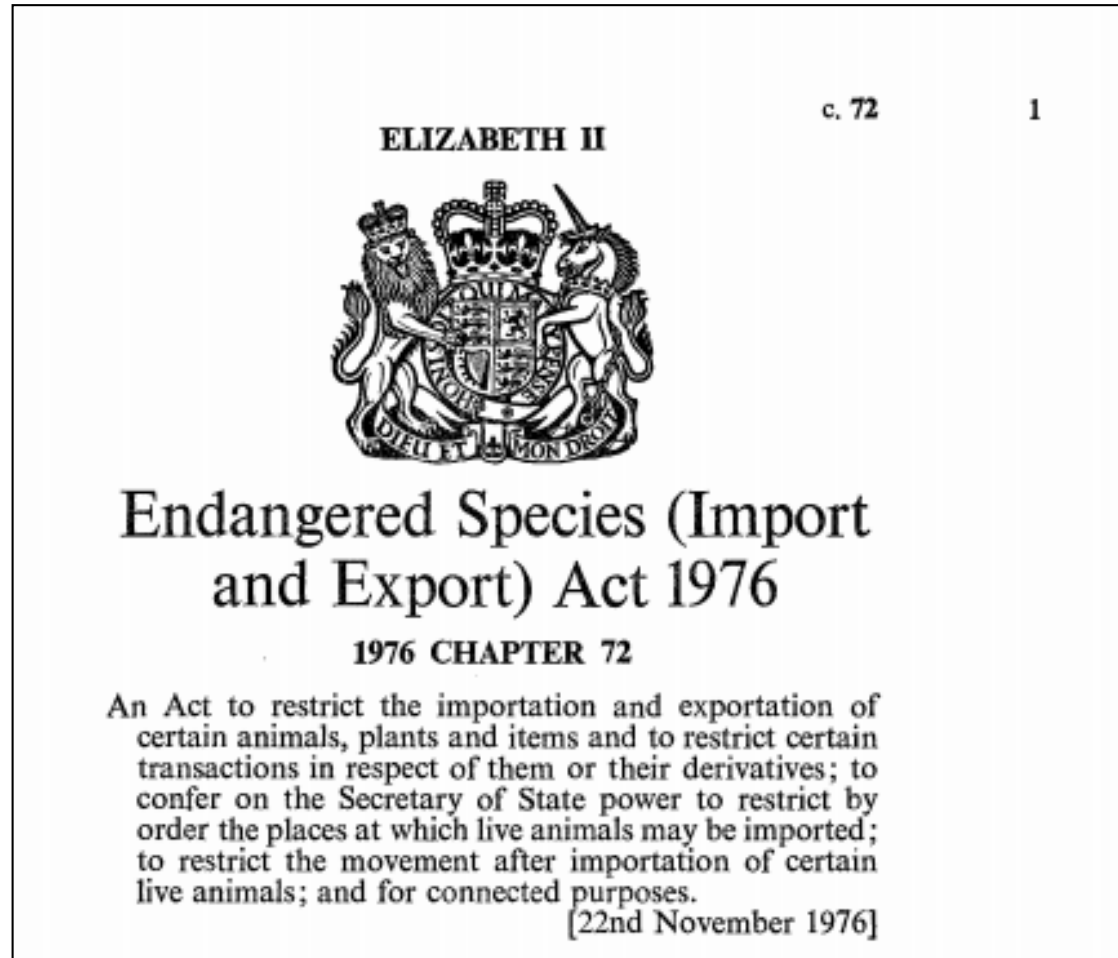


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CITES Appendix I

All species threatened with extinction which are or may be affected by trade. Trade in specimens of these species must be subject to particularly strict regulation in order not to endanger further their survival and must only be authorized in exceptional circumstances

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Penalty:

£5000 fine and/or 3 months imprisonment

Fine and /or up to 2 years' imprisonment

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Loxodonta Africana (African bush elephant)



Remaining Population: 370,000

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Loxodonta cyclotis (African Forest elephant)

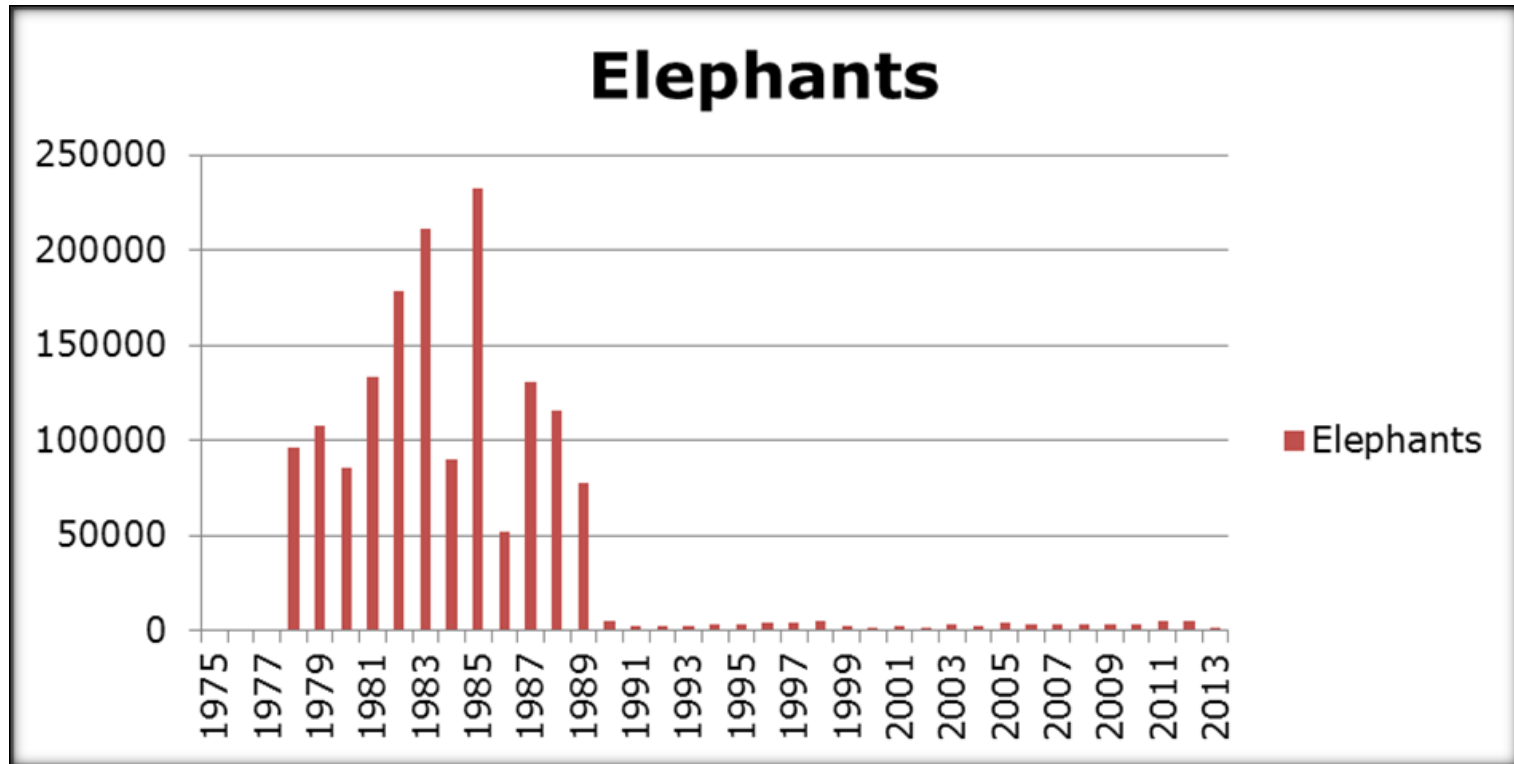


Remaining Population: 100,000

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Import into the UK of Elephant derivatives (1977-2013)

90% are *Loxodonta*

Both male and female have tusks

Tusks are larger

Elephant Range States, Corruption, GDP Elephant Numbers

Country	Corruption rank (2014, /175)	GDP per capita rank (2013, /212)	Elephants (2007)	Impact	
				Score	Rank
Tanzania	119	184	136753	41436159	1
Zimbabwe	156	183	91449	31001211	2
Botswana	31	100	154658	20260198	3
Kenya	145	175	24669	7894080	4
Zambia	85	167	22510	5672520	5
Mozambique	119	201	16475	5272000	6
Republic of the Congo	152	143	17349	5117955	7
Gabon	94	87	24980	4521380	8
DRC	154	205	10402	3734318	9
South Africa	67	103	17847	3033990	10
Namibia	55	115	15807	2687190	11
Uganda	142	194	4332	1455552	12
Chad	154	187	3885	1324785	13
Burkino Faso	85	191	4474	1234824	14
Central African Republic	150	209	1798	645482	15
Angola	161	114	1619	445225	16
Benin	80	189	1223	328987	17
Cameroon	136	172	905	278740	18
Ghana	61	160	1176	259896	19
Ethiopia	110	203	634	198442	20
Malawi	110	210	508	162560	21
Mali	115	192	357	109599	22
Nigeria	136	147	348	98484	23
Côte d'Ivoire	115	171	340	97240	24
Guinea	145	198	214	73402	25
Eritrea	166	202	96	35328	26
Niger	103	208	85	26435	27
Mauritania	124	170	31	9114	28
Rwanda	55	196	34	8534	29
Sudan	173	168	20	6820	30
Togo	126	199	4	1300	31
Senegal	69	178	1	247	32
Liberia	94	207	0	0	33=
Sierra Leone	119	188	0	0	33=
Somalia	174	212	0	0	33=
Equatorial Guinea	--	45	0	0	33=

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2008:

CITES authorises one-off series of auctions of 104 tonnes of ivory to China and Japan. Ivory could be worked and resold with proper certification.

Raised £15m

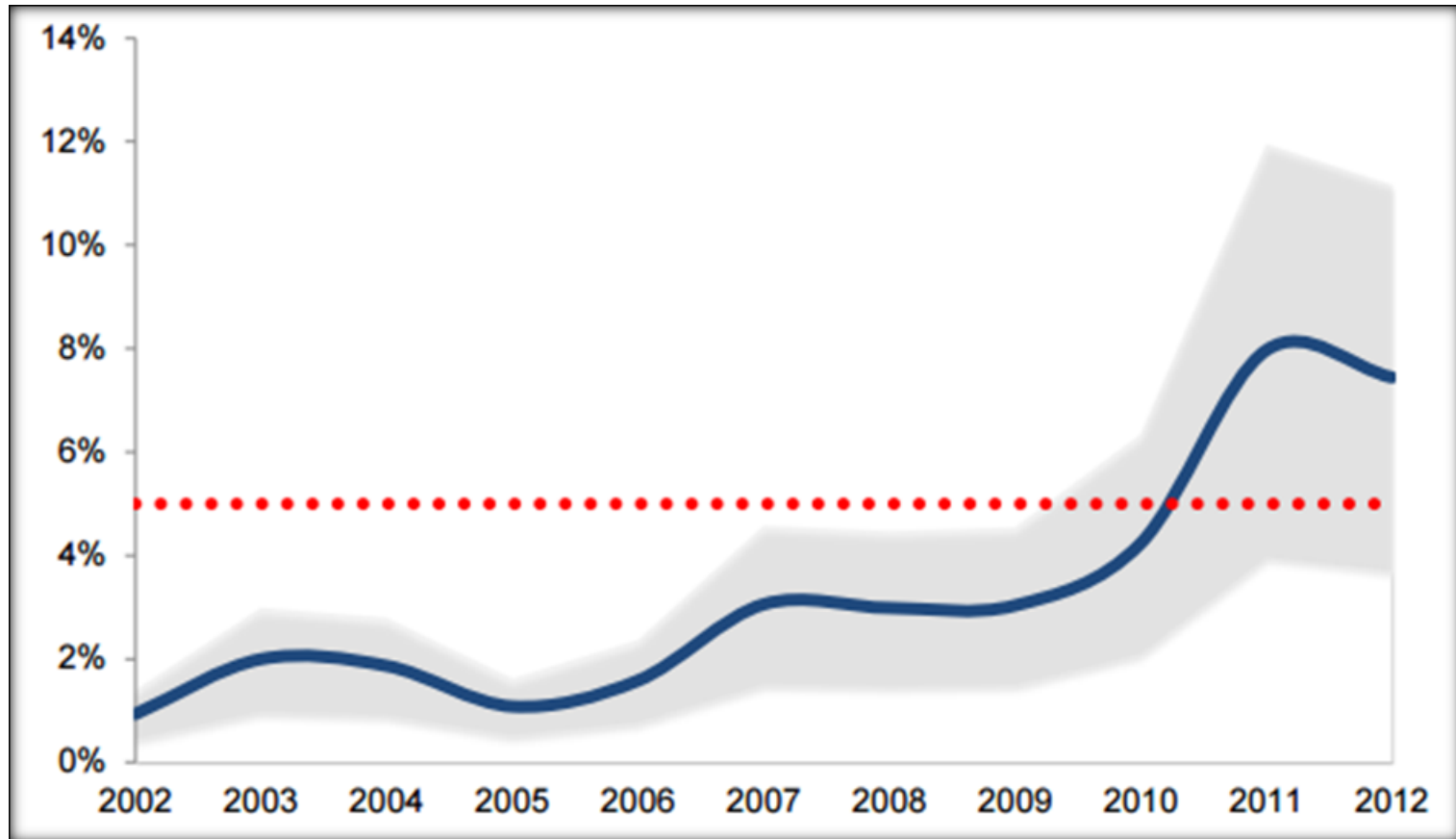
Ivory “was bought for an average price of \$157/kg by approved buyers such as the Chinese State Forestry Administration, which sold its ivory to traders for up to \$1,500/kg”

Since 2008:

Forging certificates has now become almost as profitable for organised criminals as the trade in ivory itself

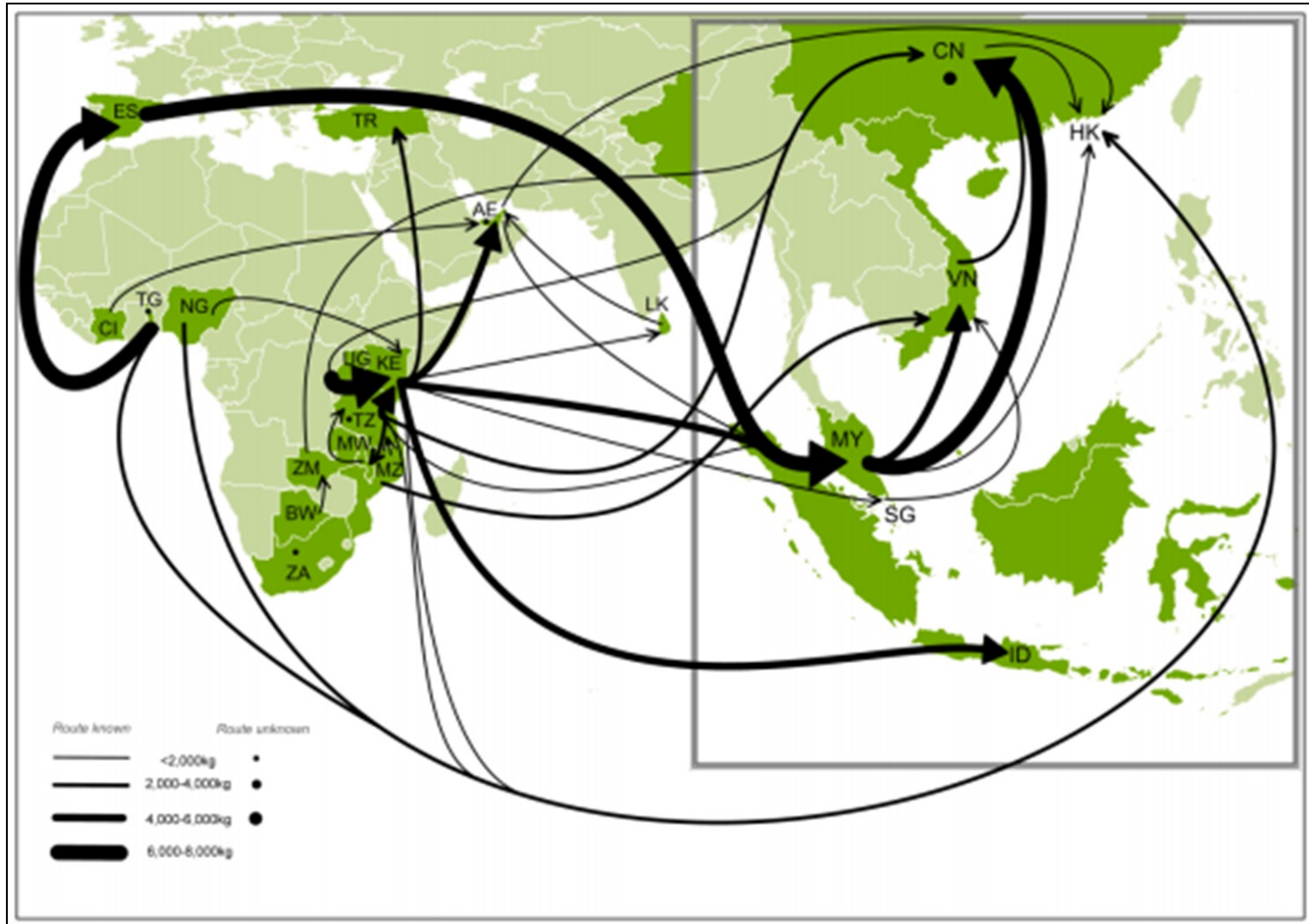
Sharp rise in poaching in Africa, and up to 90 per cent of the ivory currently being sold in China is illegal.

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CITES / IUCN /TRAFFIC estimated absolute poaching rates
(*L. africana* and *L. cyclotis*)

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Trade Routes for >500kg seizures of ivory (2012-13)

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London Conference (2014) & Kasane Conference (2015)

41 states met in London, 33 in Kasane. Absent were 17 African Elephant range states, but only 1.8% of “definite” and “probable” population

Elephant Protection Initiative

Set up at London Conference (Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon and Tanzania), later joined by Malawi, Uganda and the Gambia (March 2015) and Kenya (July 2015) – now cover 63% of elephant population

UK government “committed to match fund the first tranche of private sector funding that had been raised to support the EPI, amounting to around £1m”

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Summary of Underpinning issues:

1. Ivory market is thriving. Tackling demand is the most effective, yet hardest, remedy
2. Elephant populations are declining – time is running out
3. Local law enforcement is underfunded – problems of stopping poaching and stockpile security
4. Many tonnes of ivory have been (and will be) burned in 2016 – reduces supply but not demand...
5. One-off sales of stockpiled ivory to be introduced legally into the market place lead to increase in the illegal trade
6. Elephants die of old age and natural causes, so stockpiles are going to continue to increase, leading to problems of storage and security for the host nation
7. 35 of the 37 Elephant range states are ex-colonies of European powers, primarily France (14) and the United Kingdom (13).

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SOLUTION?

Ex-colonial powers purchase stockpiled ivory from the countries which have seized it at agreed pseudo-market rate

Funds raised go directly to wildlife bodies charged with protecting the remaining elephant stocks.

Two conditions:

- a) Vendor country must not reduce funding to its conservation bodies to take into account any extra funding generated by the sale.
- b) Purchasing state must not reduce any extant aid provisions to take into account any extra funding generated by the sale.

Differs from the 2008 auction to China and Japan - purchasing states could not sell the ivory, must securely store, but encourage to destroy it once purchased

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SOLUTION?

Defra (2015) said they would rather stick to match-funding the £1m from private donors under EPI.

This £2m would be split across projects in 9 (currently) members of EPI.

In July 2015, Mali (with 357 elephants, and 2013 GDP per capita of \$715) destroyed 2.4 tonnes of ivory, worth around £4m.

Under the EPI, Mali would receive a ninth share of the £2m – around £220,000.

Under my scheme, that £4m would have been paid to the government of Mali by the Government of France, and would have had considerably more impact on protecting the northernmost elephant population in Africa – an extra \$11,000 per elephant.

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SOLUTION?

In 2013 and 2014 MIKE estimated 20,000 African elephants were killed by poachers. 2014 estimates are the same.

At this rate, the world's largest land mammal will be extinct by 2050.

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CHARITIES



Bronx Zoo-based Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is probably the “best”

Normally, c15% of donations go towards overheads

Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) – 26%

International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) – 36%