

**The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister David Cameron, MP**

Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

January 8, 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

In the lead up to the 66<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in Geneva from the 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> January, we the undersigned 26 organisations, are writing to you to request that the UK government fulfils its pledge to "press for a total ban on ivory sales", as stated in the Conservative Party's election manifesto in 2010 and reiterated in its 2015 manifesto, and provide a timeframe for implementation and action.

As you are aware, Africa's wildlife is in crisis, with the number of elephants lost to poaching higher than ever before, and with many other species being poached and trafficked in ever-escalating and unsustainable numbers. Recent estimates indicate that more than 100,000 elephants were illegally killed between 2010 and 2012, and elephant populations in many regions in Africa are in significant decline with some populations becoming extinct.

Given the remarkable leadership shown by the UK on the issue of illegal wildlife trade at a global level including, among other things, the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in 2014 (and the follow-up Conference in Botswana in 2015), support for the Elephant Protection Initiative, the considerable aid provided under the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and the government's high-level support for United for Wildlife's Transport Task Force, we urge that the same leadership be shown through action at a national level by ending all ivory trade in the UK. Any legal trade enables illegal trade in ivory, and undermines enforcement and demand-reduction efforts.

The world continues to look to the UK government to fulfil its commitment to end all ivory trade particularly as actions are increasingly being taken around the world to close domestic ivory markets including by China and the United States who have both declared their commitment to work together towards near total closure of their domestic ivory markets. Moreover, China has challenged other countries to follow its lead in closing its domestic ivory markets and so action by the UK can only help strengthen China's new resolve to help end the elephant poaching crisis.

Without your strong stance on this issue and your continued help, elephants will continue to perish and be pushed towards extinction.

We look forward to your reply and to providing assistance to your government in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Fearnhead  
CEO  
**African Parks**



Ian Redmond OBE  
Founder  
**African Ele-Fund**



Cynthia Moss  
Director  
**Amboseli Trust for Elephants**



Susan Millward  
Executive Director  
**Animal Welfare Institute**



Adam M Roberts  
CEO  
**Born Free Foundation and Born Free USA**



Sarah Uhlemann  
International Program Director  
**Center for Biological Diversity**



Elizabeth Wade  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Elephant Family**



Mary Rice  
Executive Director  
**Environmental  
Investigation Agency, UK**



Rob Faber  
Chairman  
**Friends of the Elephant**



Iris Ho  
Wildlife Program Manager  
**Humane Society  
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Marcelle Meredith  
Executive Director  
**National Council of  
SPCAs, South Africa**



Andrew Wetzler  
Director, Land & Wildlife  
Program  
**Natural Resources  
Defense Council**



Dr. Christoph Schmidt  
Chair  
**Pro Wildlife**



Adam Grogan  
Head of Wildlife  
Department  
**Royal Society for the  
Prevention of Cruelty to  
Animals, UK (RSPCA)**



Iain Douglas-Hamilton  
Founder & CEO  
**Save the Elephants**



Dr. Trevor Jones  
Director  
**Southern Tanzania  
Elephant Program (STEP)**



Dr Max Graham  
CEO  
**Space for Giants**



Alexander Rhodes  
CEO  
**Stop Ivory**



Angela Sheldrick  
CEO  
**The David Sheldrick  
Wildlife Trust**



Sally Case  
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**The David Shepherd  
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Philip Mansbridge  
UK Regional Director  
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