



Endangered Species Bulletin 3 November & December 2015



UPDATE

Unfortunately the news on our Rhino's is not good. As of today the 8th of December 2015 we have lost 1120 Rhino's to the hands of poachers. We have also seen increased poaching of our elephants in Kruger as well as in Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe.

In this Bulletin we are going to cover the threat to the African Elephant.

Introduction

Since 1970 elephants have declined from 1.3 million to 470 000. This equates to a 60 % decline in elephants numbers over the past 10 years.

Since 2010 the current estimated annual off-take of 7,3 % is higher than elephants' average annual reproductive rate of 4-6%, bearing in mind that an elephant has a gestation period of 22 months.

Between 2010 – 2012 over 100 000 elephants have been poached.

Up to 35 000 are poached per year which equates to 1 elephant every 15 minutes.



MAJOR THREATS

The situation in Mozambique is far from tangible.

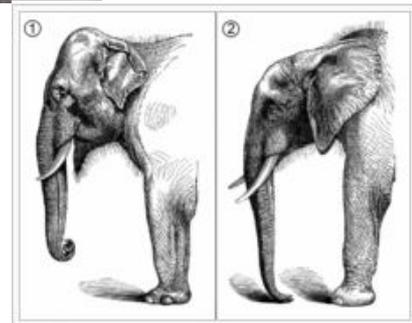
During the 1970's there were estimated to be 50 000 elephants, there are now less than 19 000.

Should the trends continue unabated there will be NO Elephant Herds in 10 years time.

- The only known reason for elephant poaching is the use of their tusks as well as other trinkets like elephant hair bracelets.
- But by far the most sort after part of the elephant are the tusks.
- Terrorist groups in Africa namely Boko Haram and Al Shabab are known to acquire over USD 600 000 a month from the sale of illegally gained Ivory.

Elephant Species

- African Elephant
- (*Loxodonta Africana*)
- Asian Elephant
- (*Elepha Maximus*)
- There are also sub species of the Asian Elephant.



Indian

African

CLOSING

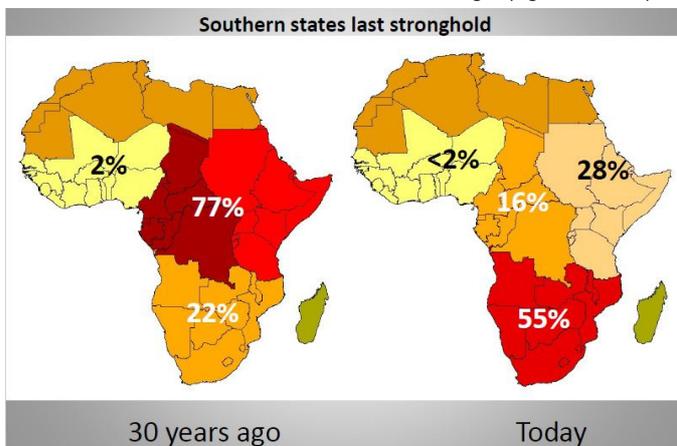
On a positive note:

The Chinese Basketball Player Yoa Ming who currently plays for the NBA, recently started filming a documentary about the Northern White Rhinoceros. He is also an ambassador for Elephant Conservation, Yao has filmed a number of public service announcements for elephant and rhino conservation for the "Say No" Campaign with partners African Wildlife Foundation and WildAid.

He was granted an audience at the Great Hall of China where the plight of the elephants as well as Rhino's was raised and where he requested the Chinese Government to recognise the declines which are due to the consumptive use of ivory and rhino horn in China.

This is one of the first times where an individual has been granted such an honour.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, if you are travelling please travel safe.



Last Stronghold

- The Map above shows how elephants have declined over the past 30 years.
- What is of interest is how the elephants in the southern hemisphere have increased from 22 % to 55 %.
- The powers that be have blamed the decline in Northern Africa to the unbanning and the sale of legally acquired tusks, however this is not so in Southern Africa even with the sales of ivory stock piles in Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa these populations are seen to have increased.
- We are now seeing a new trend in Southern Africa, where recently in 2015 we have seen an increase of poaching.
- Are we now about to see similar trends and poaching increases to that of Northern Africa?