



Proposal CoP17 Prop. 16 to transfer the populations of *Loxodonta africana* from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe from Appendix II to Appendix I was introduced by Benin on behalf of the co-proponents.

Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic; Conservation Alliance of Kenya, and the Fondation Franz Weber, speaking on behalf of the

Born Free Foundation, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, **Documentation Center for Species Protection**, Humane Society International, Pro Wildlife, Species Survival Network and Stop Ivory supported the proposal, many noting the significant decline in elephant populations over recent years.

Chad and Côte d'Ivoire noted the transboundary and migratory nature of the species.

Botswana, Côte D'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Conservation Alliance of Kenya and the Fondation Franz Weber believed that legal trade in ivory stimulated illegal trade. Botswana informed the Committee that they had banned all ivory trade until 2024 and urged caution in stimulating further trade.

Brazil, China, the European Union and its member States, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia felt

the populations did not meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I set out in Resolution

Conf. 9.24 (Rev.CoP16) on Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II. Together with IWMC Wildlife Conservation Trust and Namibia Nature Foundation, they opposed the proposal. Namibia, supported by South Africa and Zambia, believed that an Appendix-I listing would have detrimental impacts on rural community livelihoods.

Namibia indicated that, were the proposal to be accepted, they intended to invoke Article XXIII of the Convention.

Speech by Alejandro Nadal:

“I’m Alejandro Nadal, full professor of economics at El Colegio de Mexico in Mexico City.

I’m speaking on behalf of the Fondation Franz Weber, the David Sheperd Wildlife Foundation, Pro Wildlife, Robin des Bois, Born Free, HSI, Documentation Centre for Species Protection and the more than 100 members of the Species Survival Network.

Madame Chair, I want to draw the attention of the Conference to a critical argument from the standpoint of economics and market dynamics that lends support to Proposal 16 to list all elephant populations in Appendix I. This is not an emotional argument. It comes straight from economics.

Today the international ivory market is expanding at a very rapid pace. The numbers in front of us are unequivocal: growth of the global ivory trade is a runaway process.

Every year the illegal killing of 30,000 African elephants produces 300 tons of raw ivory for the international market. Approximately 30 tons are the object of customs seizures according to the data from ETIS.

This means that 270 tons of raw ivory coming from poaching are effectively injected into the international market every year.

This is equivalent to taking the amount of the second one-off sale (2008), multiplying it by a factor of 2.5, and inserting it into the international ivory market every year.

This extraordinary increment of supply has been accompanied by fast growth rates in the price of ivory. In the period 2009-2015 the price of ivory increased by more than 280 per cent (going from 750 to 2,100 US dollars per kilo of raw ivory).

The coexistence of an increased supply with growing prices can only mean one thing.

The international ivory market is expanding and will continue to do so under the current system.

In this context, legalizing the international trade in ivory will unleash powerful economic forces that need to be taken into consideration.

The different components of the international legal and illegal ivory markets are all part of the same economic space. Market forces do not recognize split listing. The connectivity of markets is a well-known phenomenon in economics. This is why deleting annotations and legalizing international ivory trade will maintain today's poaching rates in all range states.

Madame Chair, from the standpoint of economics one thing is clear: the expansion of the international ivory trade and the connectivity of markets are a dangerous combination of economic forces that will inexorably drive elephant populations to extinction.

The solution in response to the plight of elephants is to list all elephant populations in Appendix I.”

Thank you Madame Chair