

## ***Loxodonta africana*: Does the species, population, satisfy the biological criteria for Appendix I in Annex I of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP 14)?**

**Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton of Save the Elephants<sup>2</sup>  
Dr. Joyce Poole of ElephantVoices<sup>1</sup>**

The CITES Secretariat has stated that neither Tanzania nor Zambia meets the biological criteria for retention on Appendix I, which requires that a species or population shows a decline of over 50% over the last 10 years or three generations, whichever is longer. Seventy-five years ago there were very little data available but data do exist to suggest that the Precautionary Principle should apply.

### Tanzania

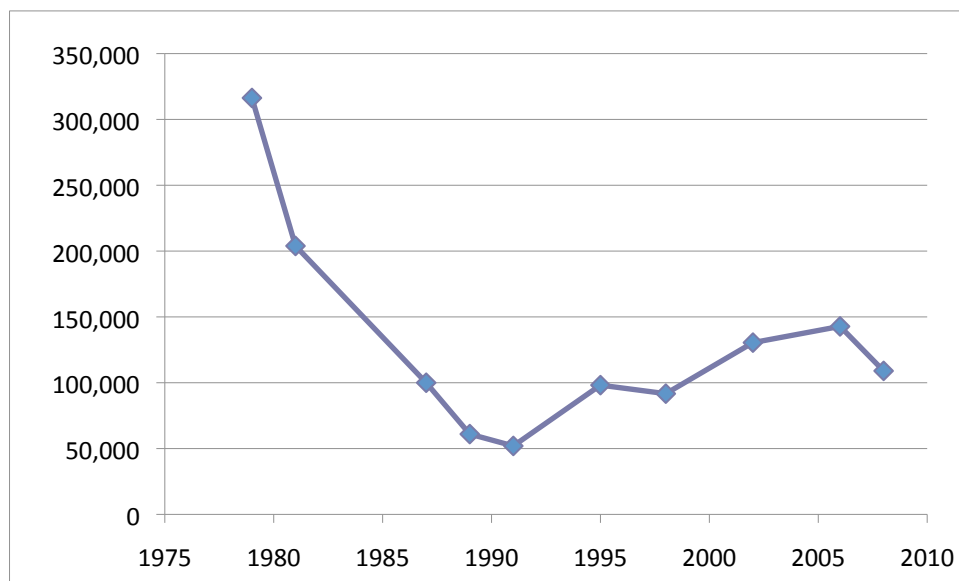
We agree with the Secretariat's recommendation to reject Tanzania's proposal, on the grounds of evidence of currently increasing levels of poaching (MIKE and other sources) and proliferation of illicit markets.

We disagree with the Secretariat's statement that the biological criteria show that *Loxodonta africana* does not meet the criteria for retention in Appendix I. There are no figures available for the Tanzanian elephant population three generations ago with which to compare present estimates. However, there has been a massive drop of over 65% of the elephants since 1979.

After a period of recovery following the 1989 ivory trade ban, there is once again an ominous decline of 30,000 elephants in the last three years. On evidence of recent surveys, cited in the Panel of Experts, Tanzania may be at a tipping point poised for massive declines.

Therefore, we contend that Tanzania's population should remain in Appendix I on the basis of the application of the Precautionary Principle.

**Figure 1.** African Elephant Specialist Group and Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute estimates for Tanzania.



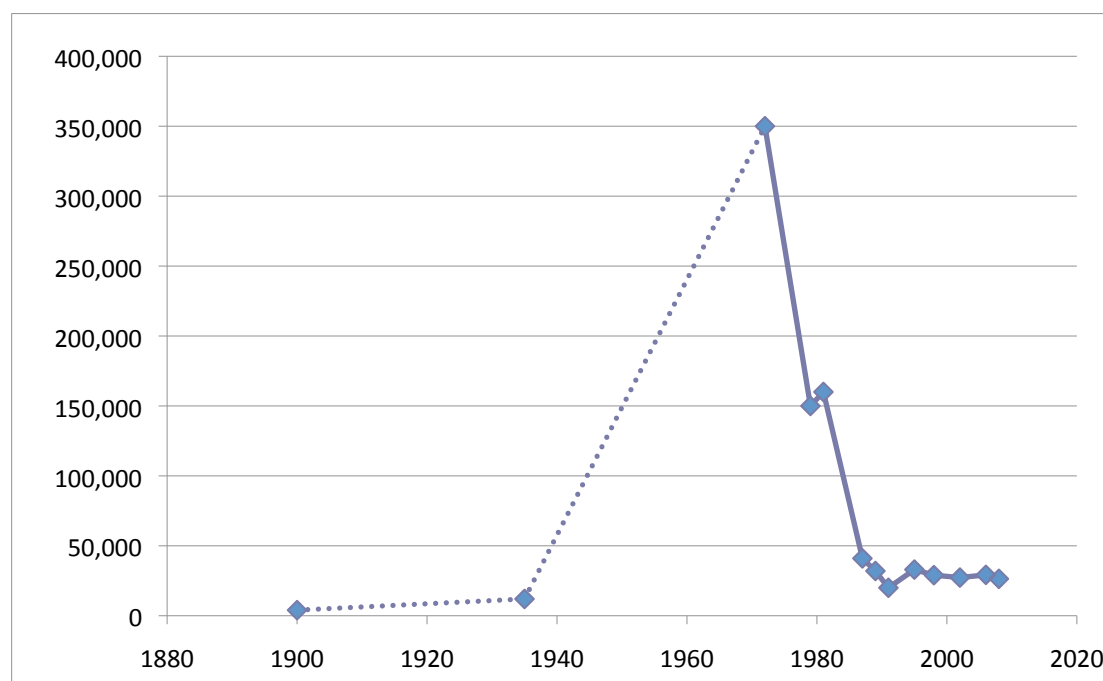
## Zambia

We disagree with the recommendation of the Secretariat that the proposal should be adopted. We also disagree that the biological criteria show that elephants in Zambia should no longer be retained in Appendix I.

Figures quoted by the Secretariat from Game Warden Charles Pitman of 4,000 elephants for 1900, and 12,000 for the mid-1930s, are likely to be significant underestimates from the pre-aerial census era. By contrast, leading scientific authority Graeme Caughley estimated 350,000 for Zambia's elephant population in 1972 (see letter attached), and the African Elephant Specialist Group estimated 160,000 in 1981. It is, therefore, highly probable that Zambia's population has declined by more than 50% over the last 75 years and thus meets the criterion for retention in Appendix I.

With the biological criteria in doubt and the currently increasing levels of poaching (PIKE) and illicit markets, the Precautionary Principle should be invoked and Zambia's population should remain in Appendix I, which also means no trade of ivory is permitted.

**Figure 2.** Pitman, Caughley and African Elephant Specialist Group estimates of Zambia's elephants.



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# THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

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Telephone: 692 1122

4th November 1976

Dr. I. Douglas-Hamilton,  
World Wildlife Fund,  
P.O. Box 38,  
Naivasha,  
Kenya

Dear Dr. Douglas-Hamilton,

Enclosed is a filled-in questionnaire relating to elephants in part of the Luangwa Valley, Zambia, in 1972. My guess for the number of elephants in all of Zambia at that time is 350,000.

In answer to your question, I am keen to continue work on elephant-vegetation relationships but an opportunity has not presented itself. The reprints you require have been sent by separate post.

Sincerely,

Graeme Caughley