



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**
CANADA

July 23, 2021

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

We, the undersigned concerned stakeholders and citizens, wish to express our support for an immediate prohibition on elephant ivory trade in Canada.

Every year, as many as 35,000 elephants die at the hands of elephant ivory poachers in Africa. The African elephant population has declined by a staggering 96 percent in the last century, and African elephants are at risk of becoming extinct within a couple of decades. In March of 2021, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) updated the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and declared the African forest elephant to be Critically Endangered and the African savanna elephant to be Endangered. Africa's biodiversity is already threatened, and further loss of elephant populations will have devastating consequences.

The decline of African elephants is largely driven by poaching, motivated by demand for ivory. Accordingly, a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) resolution calls on the world community to shut down legal domestic ivory markets "as a matter of urgency". This resolution mirrors the position of The African Elephant Coalition, which represents 78 percent of African elephant range States, as well as the position of a IUCN resolution on closure of domestic ivory markets. Canada's top trading partners, including the United States, China, and the United Kingdom have taken action in response.

Canada recently backed the *G7 2030 Nature Compact* to stop and reverse biodiversity loss, specifically pledging to "meet targets to increase the abundance of species populations worldwide, significantly reduce overall species extinction risk and eventually stop human-induced extinctions". We also note the commitment in the *2021 G7 Climate and Environment: Ministers' Communiqué*, which states that illicit wildlife trade activities "drive biodiversity loss, corruption, money laundering, insecurity and other forms of organised criminal activities as well as undermining our efforts to tackle climate change and its impacts. We commit to continue our efforts to strengthen international and transboundary cooperation to tackle these crimes and harmful activities."

Allowing elephant ivory trade, including the import of elephant ivory from cruel trophy hunts, not only creates channels for laundering illegal elephant ivory but also perpetuates the demise of African elephants and biodiversity. Canada now has an opportunity and a responsibility to follow through on its G7 commitments.

As a nation that prides itself on conservation and biodiversity leadership, Canada must act. We are calling on you to help African nations protect elephants by ending Canada's elephant ivory



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Sincerely,

Bif Naked - Musician

Bryan Adams, O.C. – Musician

Cristina Mittermeier – Photographer, Biologist

Edward Burtynsky - Photographer

Georges Laraque – Commentator, Former Athlete

Dr. Harvey Locke – Conservationist

Jennifer Baichwal – Filmmaker

Professor John Bemrose – Victoria College, University of Toronto

Dr. John England, O.C., F.R.S.C. – Professor Emeritus, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences

Dr. Martin Sharpe – Earth Scientist

Nicholas de Pencier – Filmmaker

Paul Nicklen – Photojournalist, Marine Biologist

Dr. Peter Abrams, F.R.S.C. - Professor Emeritus, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Robert Bateman, C.M., O.B.C. – Artist

Shelton Dupreez - Filmmaker

Tzeporah Berman – Environmental Activist

William Shatner, O.C. – Actor