




Since Europeans began to colonize Africa, elephants, specifically their tusks, have been targeted in order to produce a variety of goods.

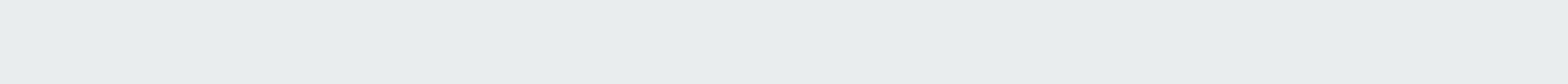
By far the greatest threat to the survival of the African elephant is poaching for the Ivory trade. To add to the problem of poaching, the reproduction rate has remained low, around 10 or 12%. This means that there are not enough calves being born to make up for the losses caused by poaching.

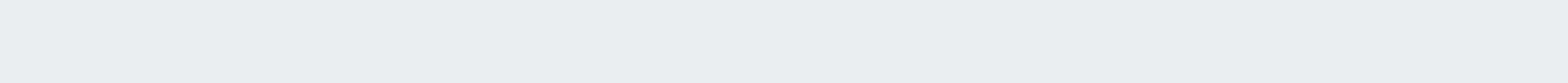
Elephants live in herds, which makes it far easier for them to be hunted in large numbers. In simple terms, the supply of elephants has not been able to keep up with the massive demand for Ivory.




As the ivory trade has expanded internationally (and especially to China) and enforcement efforts by African countries have increased to prevent the international trade, the ivory trade has adapted to underground exporting

This underground exporting of ivory has led to increased corruption in the government as organized crime profits from ivory and influences officials, thus weakening enforcement efforts. Sub-Saharan African countries are unfortunately already vulnerable to corruption due to poor governance, weak institutions, and a lackluster economy, so organized crime can take advantage of these realities at the cost of damaging the elephant population.








Poaching for the illegal ivory trade is one of the biggest threats to the elephant population.
Around 1 African elephants are killed a day for their tusks

The WWF has put into place a program where you can symbolically adopt an elephant.
Adopting an elephant helps fund these programs that serve to protect elephant habitats, reduce poaching, and other services for elephant protection.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBixNiDgts&feature=emb_logo




A lot of musical instruments that are used in symphonies and orchestras often utilize ivory parts, and for music groups traveling internationally these instruments are often not allowed into countries due to the ban on ivory trade

Many musicians fear that the instruments they have played for many years will be confiscated because of these restrictions

Symphonies are having to replace musical instruments that contain ivory with other alternatives which could cost more and not sound as good when traveling

Instruments could also be damaged when removing ivory to make them legal to travel with


The League of American Orchestras has led an effort for musical instruments to be excluded from the recent bans on ivory trade



Acoustic guitars used Elephant ivory for saddles and nuts until the mid-1970s. This is when the international ban of Ivory trade was enacted.

Ivory used to be used to cover the exterior of Piano keys.


Collectors of Vintage instruments are asking for change in the law, as the resale of instruments made with Ivory is prohibited.



The law does not account for issues like what percentage of the instrument is made from ivory or what the intended use is for a buyer. Many buyers simply like to play the instrument, and most instruments have little to no Ivory other than small, specific pieces.

Musicians believe that logical concessions by federal regulators would allow antique or vintage instrument dealers to stay in business while also accomplishing the reduction or abolishment of Elephant poaching.

One concession is changing the definition of "antique" when it comes to the law stating that these instruments must have entered the country through verified ports. Another is the allowance for items with very small amounts of ivory that actually have a purpose such as an old school guitar.



Elephant overpopulation problem and the destruction of crops and farms
The Environment Ministry cites the rising levels of human-elephant conflict as one of the primary reasons why President Masisi ended the nationwide 10-year ban on hunting in May

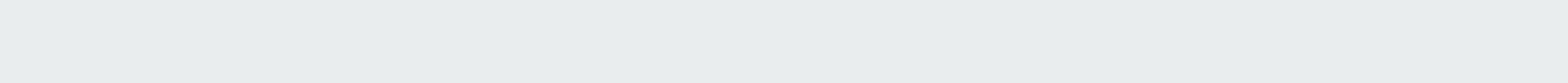
Department of Wildlife and National Parks are ill equipped to deal with animal control issues and believes the reinstatement of hunting in an orderly and ethical manner is necessary

February 2024 : Botswana held its first auction to sell 100 hunting licenses of elephants each

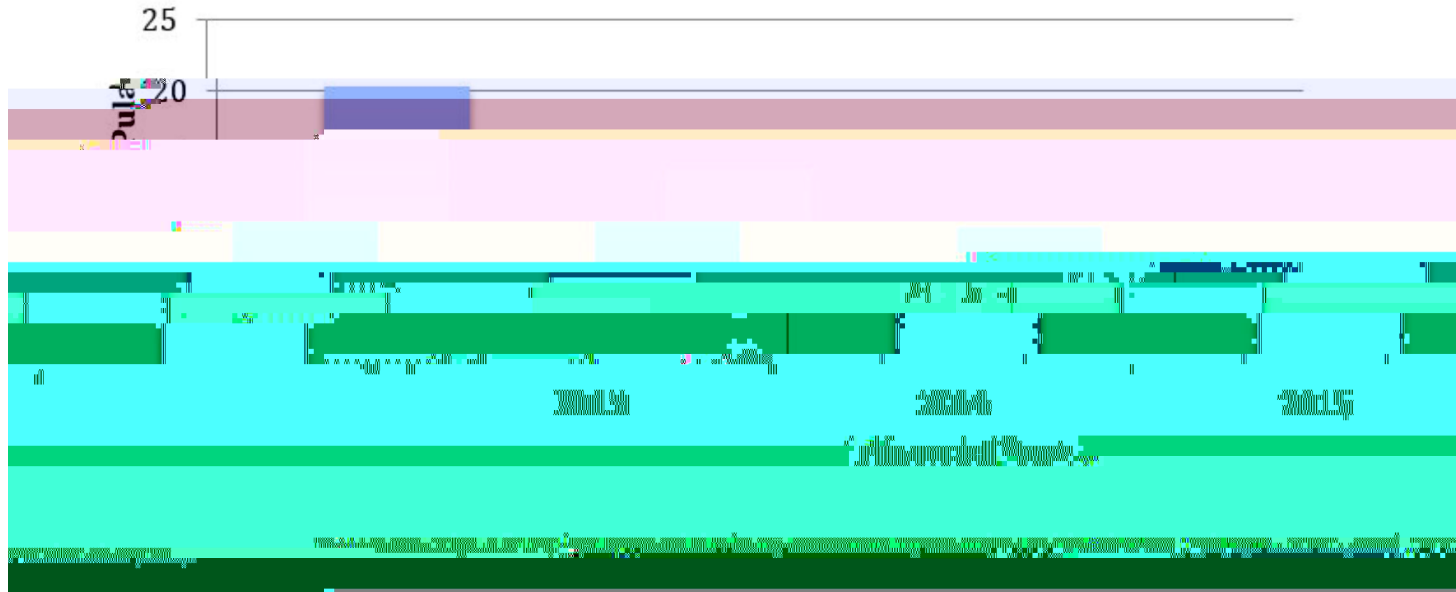
Prices ranged from 1.5 million to 2.5 million pula (\$ 1,500,000 - \$ 2,500,000)

Government ensured that hunting will be controlled and confined to areas impacted by human wildlife conflict

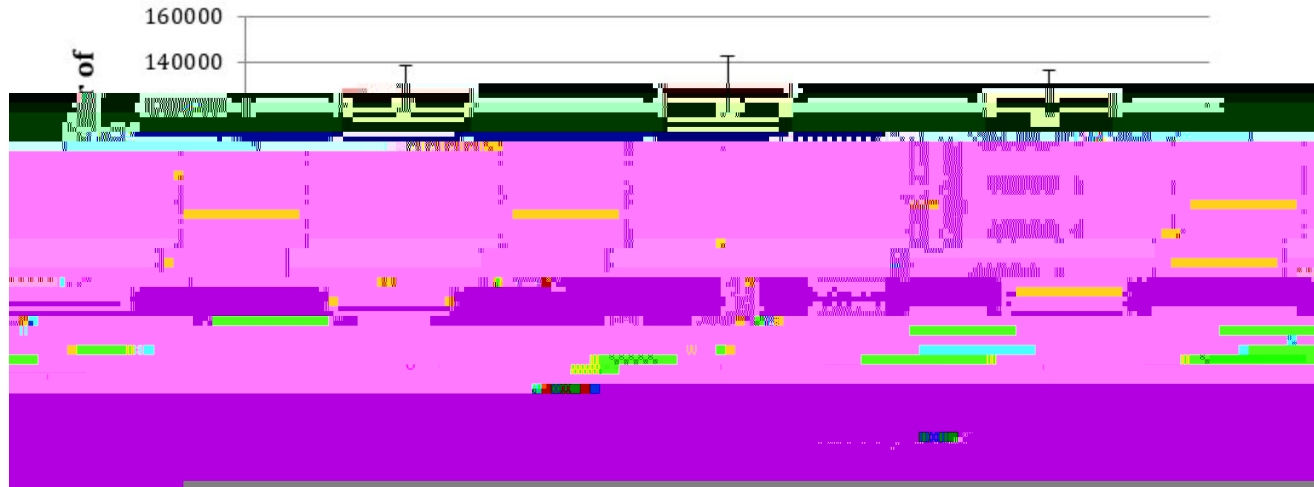
In order to bid on a hunting license, bidders had to have "demonstrable and appropriate elephant hunting experience" and no wildlife criminal convictions



The income of locals declined significantly in the year following the ban on hunting in




Richard Leakey argues that if private property in savannas and wildlife resources could be established they could be managed to enhance land-use productivity. The auctioning of hunting licenses would therefore save elephants from destruction and enhance the economic wellbeing of the indigenous people who co-exist among the wildlife herds as they do not need to fear being trampled or having their crops destroyed.






The temporary ban on trophy-hunting created issues such as human-elephant conflict and income deficits within Botswana



While the majority of tourism income in Botswana is due in large part to the hunting licences granted to visitors to take down elephants, Audrey Delsink, wildlife director for Humane Society International has questioned the effectiveness of licences in regards to completing their goal of mitigating the population. She told the AFP that "hunting is not an effective long-term human-elephant mitigation tool or population control method."

The ultimate goal to contain the elephant population is not solved through the permission of licences as resources could be easily depleted if not easily regulated, and the incentive for Botswana to increase the amount of licences permitted is present and shows a clear conflict of interest

To control the elephant population in the long run, the nation of Botswana can take poachers and turn them into mitigation hunters as it has already begun to do so. The nation could pour its existing resources to help poachers turn into game wardens with year round access to the elephant population instead of relying on untrained tourists to participate.



When Botswana stopped hunting in _____, the government wanted to focus on photographic tourism. In some areas, the new business model is _____