

# We need a total ban on ivory sales

Level 3 | Advanced

## 1 Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these keywords from the text:

smokescreen    ivory    poacher    wipe out    mantra  
moratorium    habitat    thrive

1. The type of place that an animal normally lives in is called its \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is an official agreement to stop an activity temporarily.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is something that you say or do that hides your real intentions or activities.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a word or phrase that is often repeated.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the yellowish-white bone that an elephant's tusks are made of.
6. If something \_\_\_\_\_ it becomes very successful or healthy.
7. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who hunts animals illegally.
8. To \_\_\_\_\_ means to destroy something completely.

## 2 What do you know?

Choose the best answer

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. The elephant population of Africa is</p> <p>a) falling</p> <p>b) rising</p> <p>c) stable</p>  | <p>2. Most elephants are killed by</p> <p>a) disease</p> <p>b) official hunters</p> <p>c) poachers</p>   |
| <p>3. Which countries want to trade in ivory?</p> <p>a) South Africa and Namibia</p> <p>b) Kenya and Angola</p> <p>c) Egypt and Namibia</p> | <p>4. To conserve elephants we should:</p> <p>a) regulate the ivory trade</p> <p>b) ban the ivory trade</p> <p>c) allow an unrestricted trade in ivory</p> |

Now look in the text and check your answers

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Richard Leakey

Fifteen years ago, the world's television screens relayed images of Daniel arap Moi, Kenya's then president, and myself setting fire to 2,000 elephant tusks. Kenya could have earned millions of dollars by selling the stockpile. But we had to illustrate graphically the impact of the ivory trade, and show that the only way of saving Africa's elephants was to destroy the trade.

Throughout the 1980s, ivory trading, most of it fed by poaching, had slashed the continent's elephant population from 1.3 million to just 625,000. Kenya, especially, was hit hard: 80% of its elephants were massacred. A few months after the burning, the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) banned the trade, and the bloodshed slowed. Recently Cites adopted an "action plan" that places further controls on the illegal ivory trade in Africa by calling on African "range states" with large elephant populations to prohibit unregulated domestic sales in ivory. But conservationists say the plan does not go far enough.

The mantra of "use it or lose it" holds that conservation is only possible if a price is put on the heads of endangered species, and that people in developing countries will only hold back from wiping out species if they can see a financial benefit in preserving them. Yet, historically, trade has been the foremost factor in the decimation of many species, from tigers to cod. Opening up a limited legal trade creates a smokescreen, allowing the illegal market to thrive. Sustainable use may sound reasonable, but in reality it dodges definition. There is a gulf between ecological and economical sustainability. All elephants could

be slaughtered tomorrow and yet an economically sustainable ivory trade maintained for years to come with invested profits could provide an income in perpetuity.

Swayed by a few pro-trade southern African countries, whose fenced-in elephant populations were relatively unaffected by poaching, Cites agreed to allow sales of stockpiled ivory. Subsequently, we have witnessed a resurgence in poaching and ivory seizures. And yet the push to reopen the trade continues: Namibia is asking Cites for an annual ivory export quota, as well as permission to trade in worked ivory, elephant hair and, with South Africa, leather.

These countries say they have the right to profit from their natural resources. This sounds reasonable until one considers that many poorer countries are campaigning against this. Kenya, supported by many other African states, is proposing a 20-year moratorium on ivory trade. The economics of the ivory trade do not add up. Most countries where elephants live are poor, and the effect of allowing even a limited trade would outweigh any benefits. Already struggling to protect their wildlife, these countries will be the first port of call for poachers.

With human populations growing, many countries are experiencing serious habitat destruction and human-wildlife conflict. We should compensate farming communities for destruction caused by animals. However, given that Kenya still has only 20% of the elephants it had in 1970, this is an issue to be resolved by developing long-term land-use policies rather than exterminating wildlife.

Richard Leakey was director of the Kenya Wildlife Service until 1999

*The Guardian Weekly* 15/10/2004-10-15, page 13

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## 3 Comprehension check

Decide whether the following statements are True or False according to the text:

1. The author of the text believes that the only way to conserve Africa's elephants is to prohibit the ivory trade.
2. Kenya lost nearly half its elephant population in the 1980s.
3. Africa as a whole lost half its elephant population in the 1980s.
4. Conservationists are happy with the new proposals put forward by Cites.
5. Trade is the main factor in the decimation of animal species.
6. If all the elephants in the world were killed tomorrow, people would still profit from ivory.
7. Most countries where elephants live are rich.
8. The author of the text believes that the best solution for farmers is to exterminate wildlife.

## 4 Vocabulary - find the word

1. Find four verbs which mean 'to kill'.
2. Find a two-word expression that means 'for ever'.
3. Find a noun which means 'a large collection of things that may be needed in the future'.
4. Find a verb which means 'to reduce dramatically'.
5. Find a verb which means 'to influence or change someone's opinion'.
6. Find a noun which means 'the start of something again that quickly increases in influence or effect'.

## 5 Vocabulary - collocations

Which prepositions follow these words? Check your answers in the text:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. to campaign _____  | 2. to profit _____     |
| 3. to hold back _____ | 4. to trade _____      |
| 5. a moratorium _____ | 6. to compensate _____ |
| 7. to set fire _____  | 8. the impact _____    |

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### 6 Grammar focus

Gerunds and infinitives.

Fill the gaps using either the gerund or infinitive form of the verb in brackets, eg:

*Many countries have banned the killing of elephants for their ivory.*

*Cites is trying to limit trade in ivory.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the stockpile would have earned Kenya millions of dollars. (SELL)
2. Cites has called on states \_\_\_\_\_ unregulated domestic sales in ivory. (BAN)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ up a limited legal trade creates a smokescreen. (OPEN)
4. Some countries are trying \_\_\_\_\_ the trade in ivory. (RESTRICT)
5. Other countries, on the other hand, want \_\_\_\_\_ from their natural resources. (PROFIT)
6. Namibia wants permission \_\_\_\_\_ in worked ivory, elephant hair and leather. (TRADE)
7. Many countries are struggling \_\_\_\_\_ their wildlife. (PROTECT)
8. The author believes long-term land-use policies are better than \_\_\_\_\_ wildlife. (EXTERMINATE)

### 7 Discussion

Should a regulated ivory trade be allowed?

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## KEY

### 1 Key Words

- |            |               |                |
|------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. habitat | 2. moratorium | 3. smokescreen |
| 4. mantra  | 5. ivory      | 6. thrives     |
| 7. poacher | 8. wipe out   |                |

### 2 What do you know?

1. a; 2. c; 3. a; 4. b

### 3 Comprehension check

1. T; 2. F; 3. T; 4. F; 5. T; 6. T; 7. F; 8. F

### 4 Vocabulary 1 Find the word

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 1. massacre, wipe out, slaughter, exterminate (also destroy) | 2. in perpetuity |
| 3. stockpile   | 4. to slash      |
| 5. to sway   | 6. resurgence    |

### 5 Vocabulary 2 Collocations

- |            |         |         |       |
|------------|---------|---------|-------|
| 1. against | 2. from | 3. from | 4. in |
| 5. on      | 6. for  | 7. to   | 8. on |

### 6 Grammar focus

- |              |             |               |                  |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. selling   | 2. to ban   | 3. opening    | 4. to restrict   |
| 5. to profit | 6. to trade | 7. to protect | 8. exterminating |