



2018 INTERIM REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ISN'T THE IVORY CRISIS OVER?

This is a question we're often asked after China and Hong Kong decided to close their ivory markets and since good news for elephants is coming from some parts of Africa. The situation on the ground for elephants has improved in ten of the 22 elephant range states supported by the Elephant Crisis Fund. In a few countries like Kenya, strong collaboration between government and the private sector, legal reform, and well-trained anti-poaching units have allowed elephant populations to recover.

In reality, the crisis is far from over. Across Africa elephants are still being killed at an unsustainable rate. The improved situation in parts of southern and eastern Africa overshadows the ongoing tragedy in other places, particularly in the central African rainforests, where the slaughter continues. Even hitherto unscathed Botswana, which holds Africa's largest elephant population, saw an increase in poaching in 2017 and into 2018—though still not yet enough to have an impact on the total population there.

In early 2018, Niassa Game Reserve in northern Mozambique experienced one of its worst poaching attacks; the ECF provided emergency helicopter support, and while poaching has been reduced the threat is still very high. In February Janjaweed horsemen from Sudan killed eight soldiers and rangers in Boubanjidah National Park in Cameroon and poached a reported 19 elephants from the few surviving in western Chad. Ivory is still being taken out of the vast forests of Gabon and Congo at a horrifying rate, despite all efforts to stop the poachers and traffickers. However, in other ECF-supported sites enhanced law enforcement has kept poachers at bay.

Illegal ivory is moving across Africa and into Asia at an undiminished rate. There has been an increase in trafficking activity in West Africa, as law enforcement has improved in East Africa. Our partners have continued to make impressive progress in arresting, prosecuting, and convicting low to mid-level ivory traders using tip-offs and sting operations. While it is more difficult to convict higher level traffickers, in some countries more in-depth investigations are underway, which should lead to significant arrests of some key players later in the year.

With funding from visionary supporters of the ECF, and collaboration between governments and NGOs, effective deployment of resources and an integrated approach to dealing with poaching and trafficking, projects aimed at eliminating the ivory crisis are working.



© Frank af Petersens

The most positive news for elephants in the last six months has been the final closure of ivory markets in China and the decision to close the Hong Kong markets over a five-year period. ECF grantee Natural Resources Defense Council has played a major role in supporting the Chinese government with the implementation of their ban. In Hong Kong, ECF grantees WWF and WildAid were active in lobbying members of the Legislative Council to vote for the closing of the trade.

Despite China's decision to close its markets, we are seeing signs of increased illegal ivory activity along the country's southern border, particularly in Laos and Myanmar. The ECF has supported surveys by Lucy Vigne and the late Esmond Bradley Martin, which have drawn attention to this problem.

With funding from visionary supporters of the ECF, and collaboration between governments and NGOs, effective deployment of resources and an integrated approach to dealing with poaching and trafficking, projects aimed at eliminating the ivory crisis are working. This gives us hope that the tide can be turned, even in some of the most difficult parts of Africa. What is needed is more funding, more collaboration and more willing governments. Saving elephants will still be a long struggle, but now we know that it can be done.

THE ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND

The ivory crisis is too big for any one organization to resolve; it requires a concerted response from a coalition of effective leaders, NGOs, institutions, media, and governments. This coalition must work to continue to implement a three-pillared strategy to end the crisis: anti-poaching efforts to stop the killing of elephants; anti-trafficking projects to prevent ivory from reaching markets; and demand-reduction efforts that reduce the profitability of the trade in ivory products.

Human greed led to this catastrophe, but human generosity can turn it around. In 2013, Save the Elephants and the Wildlife Conservation Network, in partnership with the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, created the Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), to galvanize that generosity and channel it to the most effective, strategic, and catalytic projects that can address the ivory crisis.

The Elephant Crisis Fund supports the best initiatives regardless of where they come from.

Uniquely, 100% of ECF funds are used to support on-the-ground programs that save elephants—not a single cent goes to administrative fees or overhead. The ECF is nimble, deploying funds sometimes within 24 hours in response to a poaching crisis, and can quickly bridge funding gaps to keep boots on the ground. Each project is quickly, but thoroughly, assessed by experts to ensure quality of granting and effective allocation of your investment. The Elephant Crisis Fund supports the best initiatives regardless of where they come from. The organizations able to make the biggest impact are supported, whether they are tiny local organizations or larger multinational institutions—for it will take the best efforts of all to end this crisis.

In just less than five years, the Elephant Crisis Fund has deployed more than \$14 million to the best efforts by organizations large and small to save elephants and end the ivory crisis.



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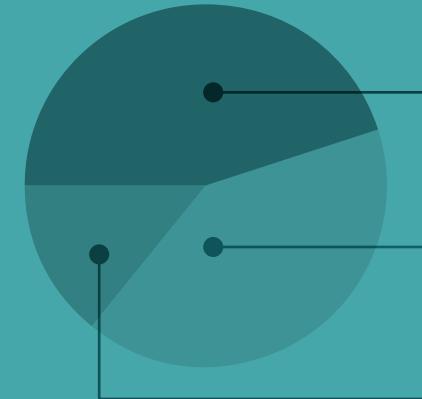
Projects supported by the ECF since it started.

63

Organizations receiving grants from the ECF to date.

0%

Of your donation going to administrative fees or overhead.



14 MILLION

USD Granted to STOP THE KILLING OF ELEPHANTS and STOP THE TRAFFICKING and DEMAND FOR THEIR IVORY.



THE CURRENT PICTURE

The situation for Africa's elephants is slowly improving, but elephant numbers continue to fall—and we cannot falter. Progress is being made, but more needs to be done across the three pillars of investment by the Elephant Crisis Fund: anti-poaching efforts to end elephant killing, anti-trafficking investments to stop the movement of ivory within and across borders and bring criminals to justice, and demand-reduction projects that end the desire for ivory and limit the ease with which it can be bought.

We are pleased to provide you with a snapshot of our investment in these three portfolios. In each of these pillars, we celebrate successes and tell you about our plans for further support to elephant conservation.

Each success we describe was made possible because of your support and it is your financial commitment to elephants that will enable us to fight for them in the second half 2018.



Anti-Poaching

With your support, so far in 2018 we have funded 39 anti-poaching projects carried out by 24 grantees (who are working with 19 other collaborators) in 16 countries, bringing the total to 93 anti-poaching projects supported by the ECF since its inception.

Support for Africa's savanna and forest elephants includes providing ranger training, establishing rapid reaction units and command posts, conducting aerial patrols, supplying new tracking and sensing technologies, patrol bases and vehicles, and strengthening communications infrastructure, informer networks, and intelligence programs to guide anti-poaching units.



The Forgotten Parks Foundation has partnered with the Congolese Wildlife Authority (ICCN) to protect the elephants of Upemba and Kundelungu National Parks in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

© Aydin Matlabi

Highlights

The last elephants in the south of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) live around Upemba and Kundelungu National Parks. For many years, because of the instability caused by the Mai-Mai rebels, it was unknown whether any elephants still survived. Last year the Forgotten Parks Foundation entered into a partnership with the DRC government to manage these parks with support from the ECF and found that there were about 180 surviving elephants. Sixty rangers were deployed to protect the elephants, and only one dead elephant has been reported since Forgotten Parks took over management. In January 2018, after months of surveillance and investigations, Rombeau Lunda

Ngandu, a notorious poacher responsible for killing at least 20 elephants in the region, was arrested and sent to a military court for trial.

Pendjari National Park in Benin is part of the WAP Protected Area Complex, which holds the majority of West Africa's elephants. It has been under intense poaching pressure since 2010, but in May 2017, the African Parks Network was given a long-term management contract for the park. The ECF supported start-up costs for law enforcement during the transition period, and for the first time in many years the rangers are providing real protection to the elephants. Since African Parks took over the management of the area, 16 poachers have been arrested and no elephants have been poached.

The Zambezi Society helps to coordinate law enforcement support to the Lower Zambezi region in Zimbabwe, which includes Mana Pools National Park, and the ECF has been supporting these efforts since mid-2015. This now seems to be bearing fruit with only 28 poached elephants recorded in 2017 compared to 73 in 2016.

There was an upsurge in poaching in Nouabalé Ndoki National Park in Congo in early 2018 with nine elephants killed inside the park, but an effective response from the ECF-funded rapid reaction unit meant that three of the poachers were arrested, sent to court, and given \$10,000 fines and the maximum prison sentence of five years.

Niassa National Reserve in northern Mozambique holds an important population of elephants which has been massively impacted by poaching over the last few years. There was an upsurge in poaching late in 2017, with 22 elephants killed in December alone, and the Wildlife Conservation Society, which co-manages the reserve, felt that it was essential to bring in a helicopter for the wet season (February to March), when poaching pressure is greatest and it is most difficult for rangers to respond. The ECF funded this helicopter deployment, and there was a decrease in recorded elephant poaching, from 24 killed in January to March 2017 down to 14 in the same period in 2018. This is still far too high, and Niassa remains a major area of concern.



Ivory and ammunition seized during anti-poaching operations at Nouabalé Ndoki National Park in the Republic of Congo.

© Zanne Labuschagne / WCS



The ECF funded deployment of a helicopter to Niassa National Reserve in Mozambique during a period of increased poaching pressure, to allow ranger teams to be deployed quickly.

© Peter Trevor / WCS

The Way Ahead

Our priorities for the rest of 2018 will continue to be responding to the emergence of new poaching threats or where park managers face an unexpected shortfall in funding that places their elephants at risk. We will also provide strategic support to allow the managers of major elephant strongholds to develop and strengthen integrated approaches to law enforcement that tackle the whole chain of illegality from poacher to trafficker. This includes the key elephant populations of Garamba (DRC), Nouabalé Ndoki and Odzala in Congo, and the Luangwa ecosystem in Zambia.

We will look for opportunities to support small, isolated and threatened iconic elephant populations whose recovery would eventually allow re-establishment of elephant populations in large areas of potential habitat. We will support the efforts of the African Parks Network in the Chinko landscape in war-torn eastern Central African Republic. Chinko's management team has been very effective in bringing protection to the core of this vast landscape but has not been able to put sufficient resources into the more remote southern parts of the reserve, which may be the last refuge of this elephant population—once tens of thousands strong, but now reduced to less than a hundred. Our support will allow them to create a new protection strategy specifically designed for elephants.

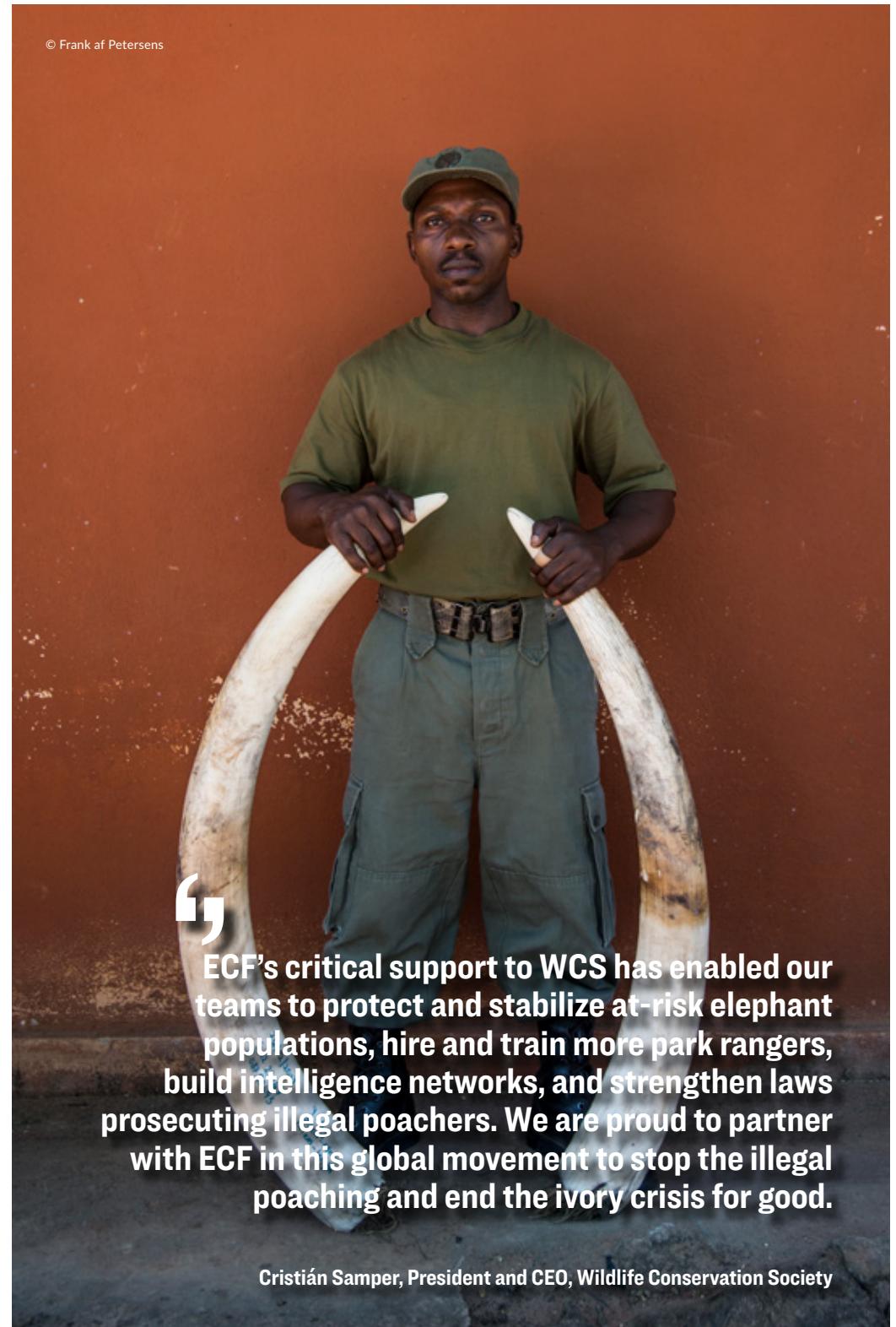
We will look for opportunities to support small, isolated, and threatened iconic elephant populations whose recovery would eventually allow re-establishment of elephant populations in large areas of potential habitat.

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I can't thank you enough for your trust and support. Without your grant, the elephants of Upemba and Kundelungu would have been exposed and vulnerable to continued poaching by militia and an active elephant poaching cartel. Your grant has enabled us to lay the foundations for a long-term program to secure and ultimately bring back an important elephant population on the edge.

Robert Muir, Director, Forgotten Parks Foundation

© Frank af Petersens



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ECF's critical support to WCS has enabled our teams to protect and stabilize at-risk elephant populations, hire and train more park rangers, build intelligence networks, and strengthen laws prosecuting illegal poachers. We are proud to partner with ECF in this global movement to stop the illegal poaching and end the ivory crisis for good.

Cristián Samper, President and CEO, Wildlife Conservation Society

Anti-Trafficking

To date in 2018, we have funded 31 anti-trafficking projects implemented by 21 grantees (plus another 11 collaborators associated with the projects) in 15 countries, bringing the ECF's total to 77 anti-trafficking projects since its inception.

The Elephant Crisis Fund has supported innovative and effective tools such as sniffer dogs, investigations into ivory seizures, development of intelligence capacity, and investigations into organized crime networks—all leading to arrests and convictions of increasingly high-level traffickers. Yet, many tons of ivory continue to move across the continent and on to markets, particularly in Asia, and the ECF is one of few funders investing heavily in the dangerous undercover operations needed to address ivory trafficking.



Highlights

Our grantees have continued to make impressive progress in arresting, prosecuting, and convicting low to mid-level ivory traders. For example, the Natural Resource Conservation Network (NRCN) work with the Uganda Wildlife Authority on investigations of trafficking networks, and prosecutions of traders and traffickers. In the first three months of 2018 alone they were responsible for 39 arrests in 21 operations. NRCN have just become independent

of their parent organization, the EAGLE network, so ECF is supporting their general operations as well as specific projects during this period of transition.

It is much more difficult to convict higher level traffickers because they are careful to avoid directly handling ivory. In several countries, our partners are carrying out investigations into major transnational criminal syndicates in order to target senior criminals. These investigations are sensitive, complex, and subtle, involving

numerous international partnerships between foreign governments and NGOs, many of which have been facilitated through the ECF. Higher-level prosecutions are likely to be strongly resisted by top-class legal teams (because the traffickers can afford the best) and therefore it is essential for law enforcement officials to put together watertight cases with professional handling of evidence. ECF grantees in several countries are working to improve the quality of prosecutions.

An ivory and rhino horn trafficking kingpin, Dumisani Moyo, has finally been tracked down after years on the run. He was long sought by ECF partners in Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Zambia and has been on Interpol's 'most wanted' list. He was originally arrested in Botswana in 2012, but jumped bail and was finally recaptured in Zimbabwe in August 2017 and extradited to Botswana in January 2018. He has since been granted bail, which is a serious concern given his history.

Key members of a major ivory smuggling network were arrested in November 2017 in Gabon (although the information was only released in 2018). This gang, headed by a Chadian, was responsible for smuggling more than six tons of ivory from Gabon to Cameroon and West Africa. The investigation mobilized ECF-supported units from Gabon's wildlife service, the gendarmerie, police and intelligence services as well as the French Directorate-General for External Security.

When the gang was finally arrested, elite tactical units, including tracker dogs, were deployed. A manhunt was launched for the operation's financial mastermind. He too was finally captured after being on the run for eight days. Forensic analysis of their telephones and computers showed a link to the Boko Haram terrorist network.

...the ECF is one of few funders investing heavily in the dangerous undercover operations needed to address ivory trafficking.





This case highlights the absolute priority of ensuring that investigations into wildlife crime are carried out in a professional manner, with due attention to collecting sound evidence.

The Way Ahead

We hope and expect that ongoing investigations into ivory trafficking networks in different parts of Africa will result in arrests of high value targets later in the year. We will be supporting a mentor for the Kenya Wildlife Service to develop anti-money laundering skills, to enable the targeting of senior traffickers who have previously been immune to conventional investigations. More effort will be needed to investigate West African networks and the links with Asia.

The sentencing of Kenyan ivory dealer Feisal Ali Mohamed to 20 years in prison in 2016 was a major milestone which sent a message around the world that ivory trafficking is a serious crime that can attract serious penalties. Feisal, however, appealed his sentence and his conviction was quashed by the courts on August 3, 2018. This is not necessarily evidence of current problems with the Kenyan judiciary but a recognition of weaknesses in the earlier gathering and alleged tampering of evidence by the police. The prosecution is appealing the judge's decision but in the meantime, Feisal is a free man. ECF grantee WildlifeDirect is playing an important role in ensuring that due process is followed. This case highlights the absolute priority of ensuring that investigations into wildlife crime are carried out in a professional manner, with due attention to collecting sound evidence.

There are multiple organizations investigating wildlife crime and because many networks are transnational, there is a real risk that different agencies may investigate the same traffickers. This raises the possibility of duplication of efforts, and even worse, of interference between agencies. The ECF is committed to ensuring that organizations working against wildlife crime are fully collaborative and share information without compromising operational security or national laws. We do this by funding complementary investigations in different places and ensuring that our grantees are in good communication with each other. We are also planning to establish a database of ivory seizures that will be open to all legitimate investigators and provide a means of exchanging information on the state of investigations into these seizures.

Demand Reduction

Without ending demand for ivory, we will never end the ivory trade. So far in 2018, the Elephant Crisis Fund has continued to make progress by supporting four organizations (who are working with three other collaborators), implementing six demand reduction projects in five countries. This makes a total of 27 demand reduction projects supported since the ECF's inception.



Members of the public, WildAid staff, and government officials demonstrating in Hong Kong ahead of the Legislative Council vote to ban the commercial sale of ivory in Hong Kong by 2021.

© WildAid

Highlights

At the end of 2017 China closed down its remaining ivory sales outlets. ECF grantee, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), has been providing advice to the Chinese government on the practical steps required to implement the ban. There are still some outstanding concerns including how culturally important ivory artefacts will be dealt with and how stockpiles of ivory will be managed. NRDC will continue to provide advice on these issues.

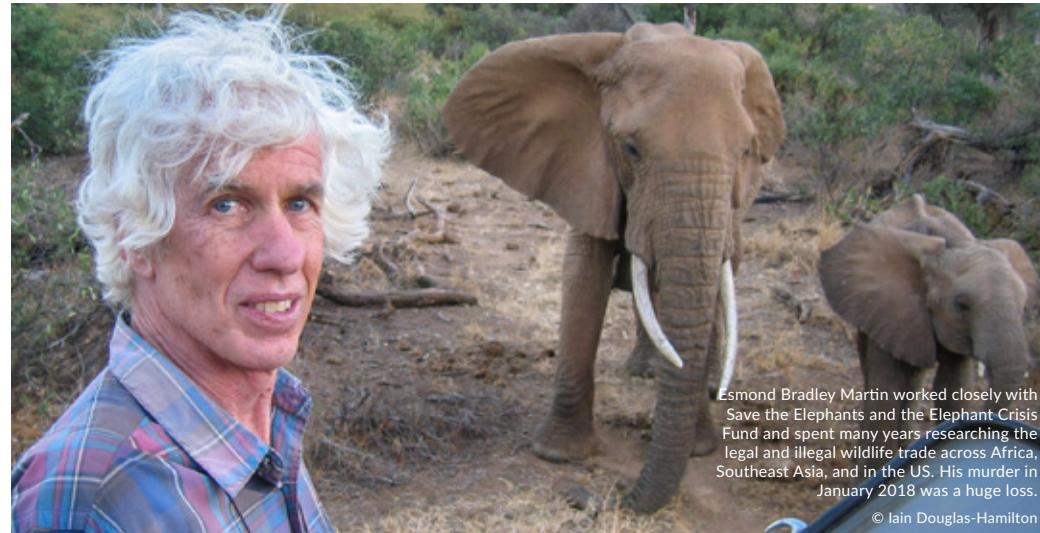
Hong Kong is now the city with the largest legal market for ivory products in the world. In 2016, the Hong Kong government started the process of passing legislation to ban the city's domestic ivory trade. The ECF has supported WildAid and WWF Hong Kong in their public relations campaigns

aimed at building backing for the ban to ensure a favorable vote. The Legislative Council vote took place on January 31, 2018 and despite huge pressure from ivory retailers, it was agreed by a majority of 49 to four to outlaw the commercial sales of elephant ivory by 2021. Current activities by our partners are focusing on amplifying the new policy and stopping the purchase of ivory by Hong Kong nationals, and Chinese nationals who are traveling to Hong Kong.

There is evidence that much of the illegal ivory market is being diverted to countries bordering China, particularly Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam. ECF consultants Lucy Vigne and the late Esmond Bradley Martin have been at the forefront of efforts to draw attention to this problem, using their unique and meticulous techniques for surveying ivory

markets, often working under dangerous conditions. They have produced detailed reports that have the authority and power to sway government opinions. Tragically, Esmond was murdered at his home in January 2018; investigations are ongoing but there is no evidence that his death was connected with his work. Lucy will continue their work; this will include finishing the report from their work in Myanmar in late 2017, where they found a massive increase in ivory for sale in Mong La, a gambling center on the Chinese border.

In mid 2017, Save the Elephants released a report by Vigne and Martin on the ivory markets in Laos. This included a detailed description of the Kings Romans casino complex where there were open sales of ivory and other illegal wildlife products. On January 30, 2018, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control designated the Zhao Wei network, the operator of Kings Romans, as a transnational criminal organization and imposed sanctions on them for engaging in drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, bribery, and wildlife trafficking.



The Way Ahead

While the Chinese ban on ivory sales is a key milestone, it is essential to make sure that it is well implemented. At the moment, the major loose ends are the management of stockpiles in factories and sales outlets, as well as government stockpiles, and exemptions for ivory artefacts considered to have high cultural value. The Natural Resources Defense Council will continue working with Chinese government agencies to ensure that these issues are satisfactorily addressed.

Now that the Hong Kong ban has been passed, there will be a five-year period during which sales of ivory from existing stocks will still be legal. It is probable that a significant proportion of these stocks actually date from after the 1990 ivory ban and are therefore illegal but will be falsely sold as legal, thus enabling Hong Kong to continue being used to further launder poached ivory. There needs to be constant pressure on ivory dealers to make sure that they really are only selling legal ivory to Hong Kong residents and not laundering ivory or selling to mainland Chinese. Our partners in Hong Kong—WildAid, WWF, and ADM Capital Foundation—are developing a plan to address these issues, and to encourage the Hong Kong government to treat illegal wildlife crime as serious organized crime.

We are in discussion with partners about how to move forward to ensure that the demand for ivory in all countries surrounding China can be reduced.

Carrying out demand reduction work in countries neighboring China will be difficult if the buyers of ivory are mostly traders rather than consumers since they are likely to be immune to emotional appeals or even to information about legal penalties. Also, if buyers are mostly foreign visitors rather than residents of the countries concerned they will not be affected by local language campaigns in major population centers. We are in discussion with partners about how to move forward to ensure that the demand for ivory in all countries surrounding China can be reduced.

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We are very grateful for your support and were thrilled to see our efforts culminate in the passing of the Hong Kong ivory ban bill in January!

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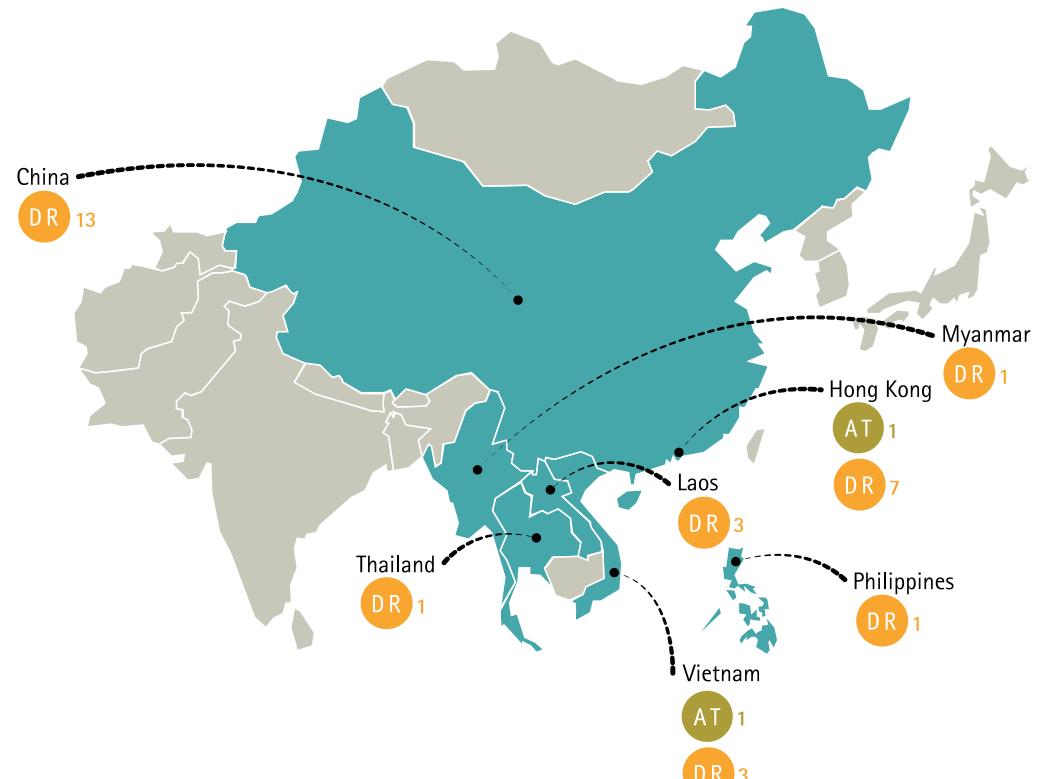
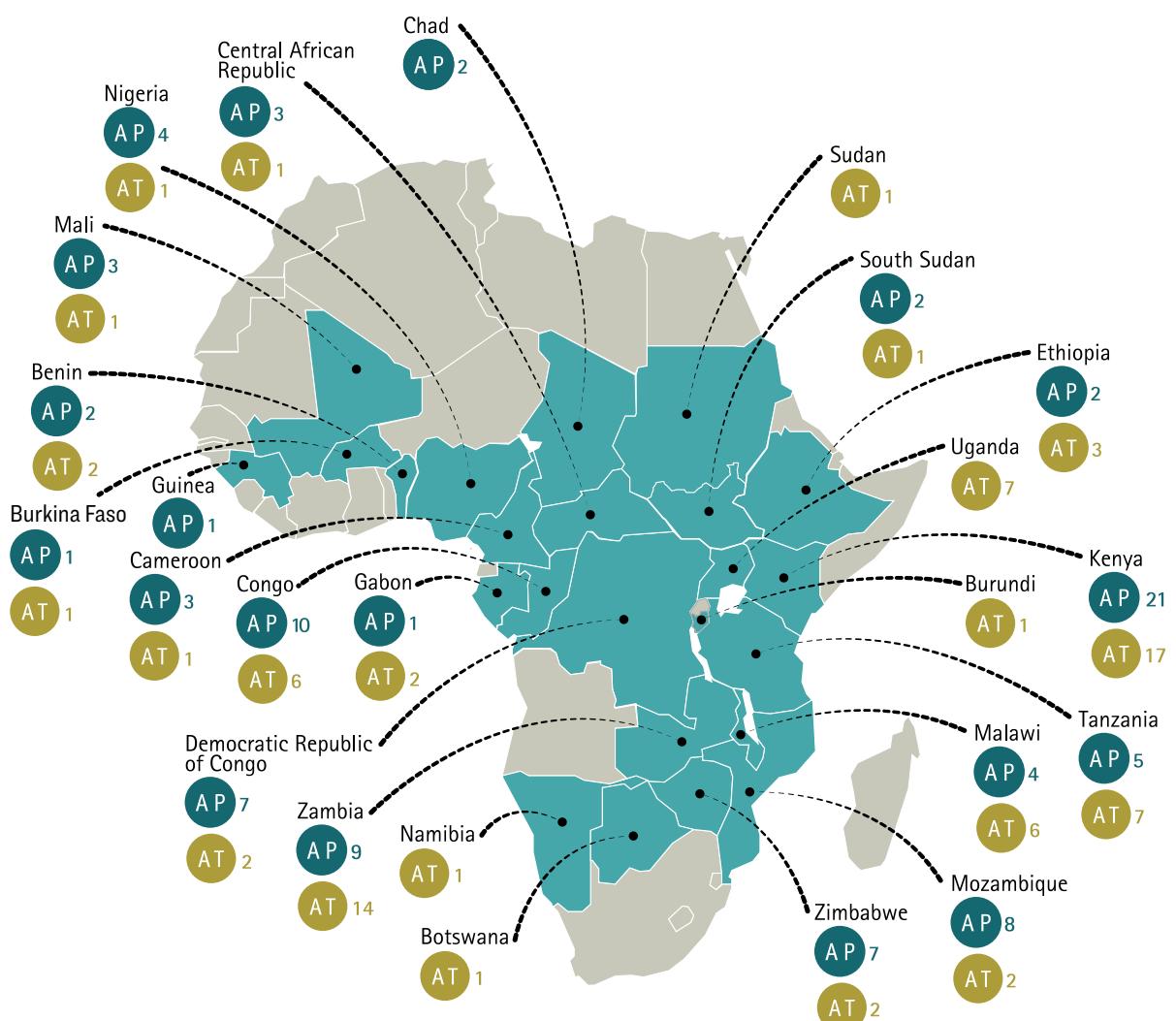
Christina Vallianos, Program and Grants Manager, WildAid

I can't express how grateful we are for the support that ECF has shown to NRDC over the years. I firmly believe that our work together played a significant role in the progress we have made in China.

Andrew Wetzler, Managing Director Nature Program, Natural Resources Defence Council

GLOBAL INVESTMENTS TO END THE IVORY CRISIS

ECF PROJECTS BY COUNTRY AND TYPE OF PROJECT



- Key**
- AP Anti-Poaching
 - AT Anti-Trafficking
 - DR Demand Reduction

Numbers to the right of the symbol refer to the number of projects within each ECF pillar for the specific location.

Some ECF projects have impact on more than one pillar or more than one country and are therefore repeated.

The ECF has also funded one anti-trafficking project that spans East Africa, one that spans West Africa and eleven that impact multiple regions in Africa. In addition, the ECF has funded one anti-trafficking project and three demand reduction projects in the USA.



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African Parks values our partnership with the ECF in five protected areas. The ECF has not only provided funding to strengthen our law enforcement capacity, but also brings insights and an integrated approach informed by their global efforts around the entire illegal wildlife trade. Together we identify good ‘boots on the ground’ practice and are able to more rapidly replicate effective approaches in the sector—which is critical given the urgency of the threat.

Peter Fearnhead, CEO, African Parks

OUR PARTNERS

The Elephant Crisis Fund is proud and humbled to be able to support the endeavours of the following organizations to end the ivory crisis. Each was rigorously vetted, and presented rapid, strategic, innovative, and effective investment concepts. Save the Elephants and the Wildlife Conservation Network worked with them to finalize projects that we determined to be critical for the future of elephants.

ADM CAPITAL FOUNDATION	MARA ELEPHANT PROJECT
AFRICAN PARKS	MAREJA COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROJECT
AGENCE NATIONALE DES PARCS NATIONAUX, GABON	NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION NETWORK
BIG LIFE FOUNDATION	NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
BIOCARBON PARTNERS	NORTHERN RANGELANDS TRUST
BORN FREE FOUNDATION	PAMS FOUNDATION
CENTRE ON ILLICIT NETWORKS AND TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME	SAVE THE ELEPHANTS
CHENGETA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION JUSTICE	SOUTH LUANGWA CONSERVATION SOCIETY
CONSERVATION LAKE TANGANYIKA	SOUTHERN TANZANIA ELEPHANT PROJECT
CONSERVATION LOWER ZAMBEZI	SPACE FOR GIANTS
EAST AFRICAN WILDLIFE SOCIETY	STOP IVORY
ELEPHANT VOICES	TASHINGA INITIATIVE TRUST
ELEPHANTS ALIVE	THE WILD FOUNDATION
ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY	THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY
FAUNA AND FLORA INTERNATIONAL	TIKKI HYWOOD TRUST
FOCUS AFRICA	TSAVO TRUST
FOCUSED CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS	UGANDA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
FORGOTTEN PARKS FOUNDATION	UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ISOFORENSICS
FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FREELAND	WHITLEY WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST
GAME RANGERS INTERNATIONAL	WILDAID
GLOBAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION	WILDLIFE ACTION GROUP MALAWI
GORONGOSA RESTORATION PROJECT	WILDLIFE CONSERVATION GLOBAL
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ASSET RECOVERY, BASEL	WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
INSTITUTE ON GOVERNANCE	WILDLIFE CRIME PREVENTION
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE	WILDLIFE TRAXX CONSULTANCY
LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE, NAMIBIA	WILDLIFE WORKS ELEPHANT PROTECTION TRUST
LILONGWE WILDLIFE TRUST	WILDLIFEDIRECT
LUKURU WILDLIFE RESEARCH FOUNDATION	WORKING DOGS FOR CONSERVATION
MAISHA CONSULTING	WWF
	ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

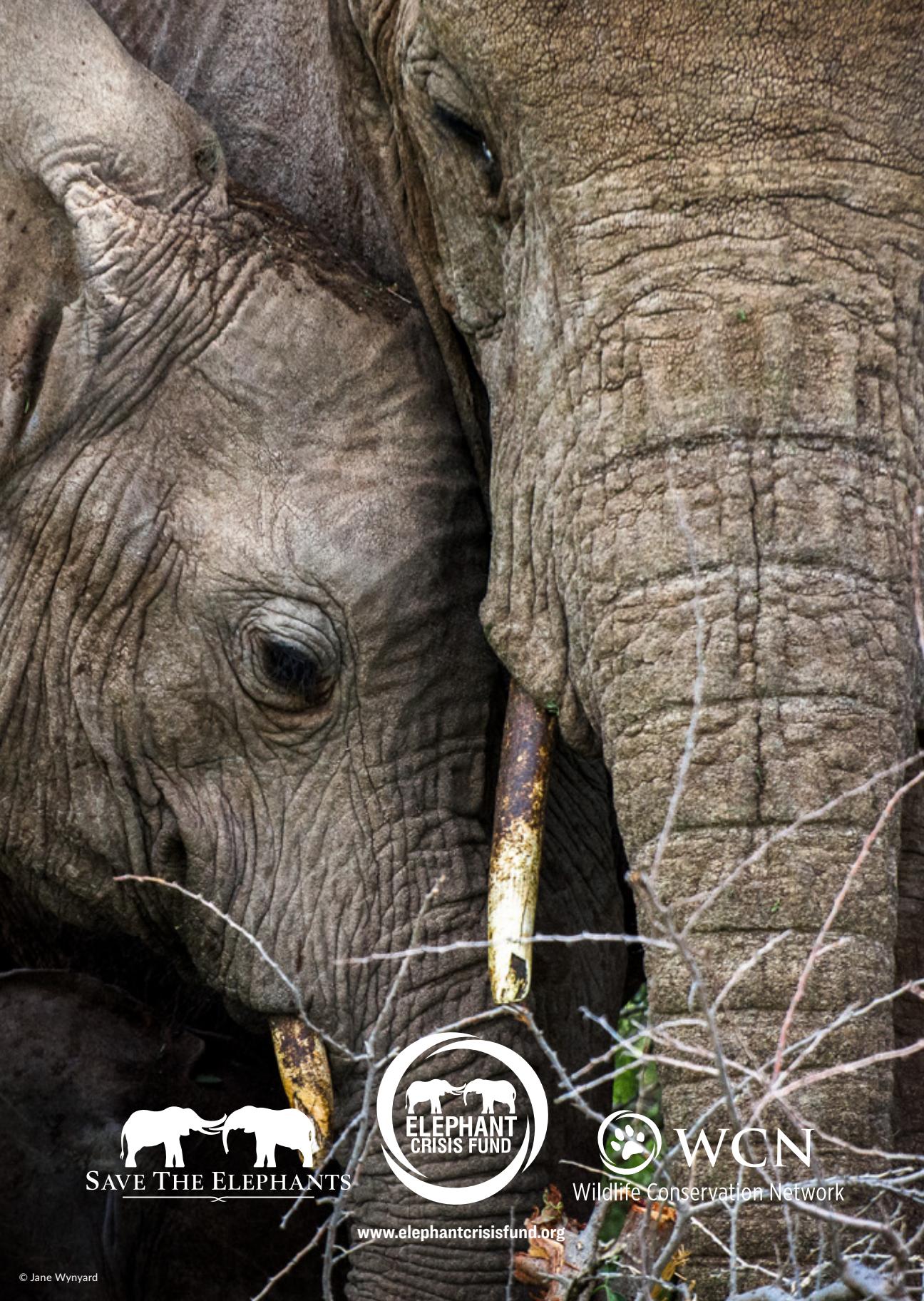


THANK YOU

The successes that the ECF and our partners have achieved are all because of you.

Save the Elephants and the Wildlife Conservation Network are deeply grateful for your financial support, but also for your vote of confidence...confidence that the ivory crisis can be conquered and elephants can once again have the freedom to roam in safety across the forests and savannas of Africa.

On behalf of the courageous and effective organizations supported by the Elephant Crisis Fund, and on behalf of the elephants themselves, we thank you.



www.elephantcrisisfund.org



Wildlife Conservation Network