

Elephant-Related Trade Timeline

- 1975** **CITES banned the international commercial trade in Asian elephant ivory.** The Asian elephant was listed on CITES Appendix I. Generally, any ivory possessed prior to this date is “pre-Convention” and can be traded internationally for commercial purposes.
- 1976** Ghana’s population of African elephants was listed on CITES Appendix III.
- The United Kingdom entered a reservation on behalf of Hong Kong to the CITES Appendix I listing of the Asian elephant.
- 1977** African Elephants are listed on CITES Appendix II. The United Kingdom entered a reservation on behalf of Hong Kong to this.
- 1978** The UK withdrew its reservation on behalf of Hong Kong to the African elephant’s Appendix II listing and the Asian elephant’s Appendix I listing.
- 1989** The African Elephant Conservation Act banned certain ivory imports into the U.S.
- 1990** **CITES banned the international commercial trade in African elephant ivory.** The African elephant is listed on CITES Appendix I, and Botswana (BW), China (CN), Hong Kong, China (HK), Malawi (MW), South Africa (ZA), Zambia (ZM), Zimbabwe (ZW) entered reservations to this. African elephant ivory legally imported to the U.S. prior to 20 Jan. 1990 may be sold on the domestic market.
- Hong Kong withdrew its reservation to the CITES Appendix I listing of the African elephant.
- 1991** China withdrew its reservation to the CITES Appendix I listing of the African elephant.
- Namibia entered a reservation to the CITES Appendix I listing of the African elephant.
- 1997** Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe withdrew their reservations to the CITES Appendix I listing of the African elephant.
- Botswana’s, Namibia’s and Zimbabwe’s populations of African elephants are transferred to CITES Appendix II for certain commercial trade purposes.
- CITES agreed to allow a one-time “experimental” export of 49 metric tons of ivory from Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe to Japan.
- 1999** The one-time export of ivory agreed to in 1997 occurred.

- 2000** Zimbabwe's, Namibia's, and Botswana's African elephant populations remained on Appendix II, but the specific commercial trade purposes were modified.
- South Africa withdrew its reservation to the CITES Appendix I listing of the African elephant, and this country's population of African elephants was transferred to CITES Appendix II for certain commercial trade purposes.
- 2002** CITES conditionally approved the international sale of 60 metric tons of African elephant ivory from South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia.
- ~2004** Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa's African elephant populations remained on Appendix II, but the specific commercial trade purposes were modified.
- 2006** The CITES Standing Committee approved Japan as the trading partner if the 2002 sale is permitted. The decision on the sale was deferred to the June 2007 CITES meeting.

Sources:

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