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PROPOSAL: CITES CoP18 – **Prop. 10 App. I to App. II**  
**African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)**

PROPOSERS: Zambia

SUBJECT: Transfer the population of Zambia

### **IWMC RECOMMENDS – ADOPTION of PROP. 10**

Paragraph “h” of Annotation 2. became *null and void* as of 7 November 2017, therefore ending the moratorium (nine years from the sale of ivory) that was completed on 6 November 2008, as stipulated in the compromise reached at CoP14 (The Hague 2007). The decision to establish a nine-year moratorium on ivory trade sparked a substantial increase in poaching and other illegal activities as witnessed over the last decade. As long as there was a supply of legal ivory, either from accumulated stocks or from the two authorized sales, poaching and related illegal activities were kept at acceptable levels. They skyrocketed shortly after the establishment of the ill-fated moratorium which told the poachers: “There will be no more legal Ivory, so Go Ahead, the field is yours...”.

The negative impact of the moratorium on conservation of the African elephant has been greatly enhanced by the several attempts and decisions related to “domestic trade in Ivory”, further pushing the ivory benefits in the hands of poachers and traffickers. The latest attempt to eliminate even domestic trade – and establishing legal activities as the cause/source of illegal ones - is found in Document CoP18 Doc, 69.5 entitled “IMPLEMENTING ASPECTS OF RESOLUTION CONF. 10.10 (REV. COP17) ON THE CLOSURE OF DOMESTIC IVORY MARKETS”. Evidence of the weaknesses of the arguments behind this document can be found in the opening of Paragraph 29. of Doc.69.5 : “ *All domestic ivory markets, legal or illegal, contribute to poaching. The burden should be placed on those Parties that claim the contrary to demonstrate it.*”

IWMC sees this initiative by Zambia as a major step forward in eradicating illegal activities related to ivory from African elephant.

**IWMC strongly recommends to the CoP18 Parties to adopt the proposal by Zambia to transfer its elephant population from Appendix I to II population**

**subject to: a) Trade in registered raw ivory (tusks and pieces) for commercial purposes with CITES approved trading partners who will not re-export; b) Trade in hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes; c) Trade in hides and leather goods.**

**It is further recommended, should Proposal 11 be adopted, that Zambia be added to the list of Parties covered by the Amendment to Annotation 2.**