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PROPOSAL: CITES CoP18 – **Prop. 11 Annotation 2**
African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)

PROPONENTS: Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe

SUBJECT: Amend annotation 2 essentially to allow a) trade in hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes, b) trade in live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations as defined in Resolution Conf. 11.20(Rev. CoP17) for Botswana and Zimbabwe and for in situ conservation programmes for Namibia and South Africa; c) trade in hides; d) trade in hair; e) trade in leather goods for commercial or non-commercial purposes for Botswana, Namibia and South Africa and for non-commercial purposes for Zimbabwe; f) Trade in individually marked and certified ekipas incorporated in finished jewellery for non-commercial purposes for Namibia and ivory carvings for non-commercial purposes for Zimbabwe; g) Trade in registered raw ivory (for Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, whole tusks and pieces) subject to the following: i) only registered government-owned stocks, originating in the State (excluding seized ivory and ivory of unknown origin); ii) only to trading partners that have been verified by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to have sufficient national legislation and domestic trade controls to ensure that the imported ivory will not be re-exported and will be managed in accordance with all requirements of Resolution Conf. 10. 10 (Rev. CoP17) concerning domestic manufacturing and trade.

IWMC RECOMMENDS – ADOPTION of PROP. 11

Since trade in Ivory has returned to the regime prevailing prior to CoP14, it has become necessary to amend Annotation 2 in order to fuel legal trade and, consequently, to counter the illegal activities resulting from the establishment of the Moratorium.

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 the compromised reached at CoP14 (The Hague 2007). The decision to establish a nine-year moratorium on ivory trade sparked the substantial increase in poaching and other illegal activities as witnessed over the last decade. As long as there was supply of legal ivory, either from accumulated stocks and/or 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.

This Moratorium has undermined the fundamental principles of CITES and impose its anti-use policy to the detriment of range States that have successfully managed and conserved the species.

Botswana elephant populations is healthy, secure and viable. There are no major threats to the elephant population, as poaching is generally under control. In a bid to conserve elephant habitat and to maintain biodiversity, the Government of Botswana came up with a management plan for conservation and management of elephants

Botswana is a very dry country with little surface water, and on the other hand elephants are highly water dependent. As such during the dry season their densities near permanent water bodies increase greatly. This has affected the structure of vegetation through killing mature trees and preventing regeneration

1. The biggest potential long-term threat to Botswana elephant population is the loss of habitat that my subsequently affect other wildlife species and the elephants themselves.
2. The international community should also support Botswana on elephant conservation strategy aimed at establishing and maintaining a balance between elephant conservation and sustainable use of elephants, as a natural resource by communities who feel the pinch or impact of living side by side with the elephants.

The excellent management programs carried by Namibia and Zimbabwe, based on communities involvement, are a guaranty of this proposal being beneficial to the conservation of the African elephant and an important factor in the elimination of illegal activities.

IWMC strongly recommends to the CITES Parties to adopt the proposal by the above-mentioned proponents. The rejection of the proposal will undermine the fundamental principles of CITES and impose its anti-use policy to the detriment of range States that have successfully managed and conserved the species.