



©Ike Leonard A confident teenage Samburu elephant (named Philo by conservationists) seen in this photo at 15 years old on January 22, 2013.

### **Support the Vermont Ivory Trade Ban Bill H.297**

***Ban the import, sale, offer for sale, purchase, barter, or possession with intent to sell of any ivory, ivory product, rhinoceros horn, or rhinoceros horn product.***



©Carl Safina Philo, five days later, after he was shot by poachers who hacked his tusks off, leaving him to rot.

**Vermonters want to put a stop to this global security and ecological crisis. Any permission of the ivory trade allows for abuse.**

**Please ask YOUR Vermont State Representative to support the bi-partisan bill being co-sponsored by Representative Kurt Wright (R-Chittenden 6-1) and Representative Joan Lenex (D-Chittenden 5-2). To find out who represents you, go to <http://legislature.vermont.gov/people>**

**For more information about the blood ivory trade, go to [www.elephantsdc.org](http://www.elephantsdc.org) or email Ashley McAvey at [ashley96@aya.yale.edu](mailto:ashley96@aya.yale.edu) or Joanne Bourbeau at [jboubeau@humanesociety.org](mailto:jboubeau@humanesociety.org).**

- **Wildlife trafficking, the fourth largest illegal trade in the world, after drugs, counterfeit goods, and human trafficking is an escalating \$19 billion a year global crisis that the President has identified as a threat to our national interests.**
  - The \$1.4 billion ivory trade feeds crime syndicates and armed militias that use blood ivory to finance terrorism.
  - Political instability and corruption across Africa have made the enormous profits from the ivory black market a viable source for funding military resistance groups such as the Somalia-based Al-Qaeda affiliate, al-Shabaab, Janjaweed militia in Sudan and Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda as well as Boko Haram and many others.
  - The ivory trade is so lucrative and poachers' activities are so rampant that ivory has been given the name of "white gold" or "blood ivory." Today raw ivory costs more than \$1,500 a pound.
- **Elephant poaching may soon drive the species to the brink of extinction because of high demand for their ivory tusks.**
  - Elephant poaching in Africa is at a record high—one is slaughtered for its tusks every 15 minutes. Experts estimate they will be gone from the wild in 10 years.
  - As a keystone species, elephants are vital to the health of their ecosystems—both plants and animals. Their loss would have catastrophic consequences in the natural world and for the millions of people who depend on ecotourism for their livelihoods.
- **Cruel ivory trade impacts not just animals but also exacts human tolls.**
  - In the last decade, over a thousand park rangers across the world have been killed by poachers while on duty. The loss of park rangers has profound ripple effects across the local communities.
- **Federal laws do not regulate intrastate (within a state) ivory sales and allow continued sale of certain ivory. Prohibiting ivory sales within the state would cease Vermont's participation in the killing and the terrorist gains.**
  - Federal laws and the recent USFWS Director's Order No. 210 significantly restrict the import and interstate sale of ivory. A law prohibiting ivory sales within the state of Vermont would complement existing, strengthened federal regulations by ensuring that blood ivory has no place in the Green Mountain state.
- **The United States is contributing to the poaching crisis by providing the second largest market in the world, after China.**
  - Recent studies have found more than half the ivory on the "antique" market in the United States is actually illegal and sourced from recently killed elephants. In some places the figure is as high as 90%.
  - The trade in elephant ivory is a gray market. Immediate action is needed to ban ivory and rhino horn sales to combat wildlife as new ivory is easily tampered to look old and then is sold on the marketplace hidden under the guise of legality via "antique" labels.
  - Countries around the world in 2013 and 2014 have destroyed stockpiles of ivory to place value on elephants not ivory and New Jersey and New York took action in 2014 to shut down the ivory trade. It is time for Vermont to do the same and join dozens of other states with identical measures in progress.