



Thank you for choosing to write to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to urge them to keep in place the ban on the import of elephant and lion trophies. The letter template below is intended to act as a guide in drafting your own letter, so please do personalize it as you see fit. On the second page of this document you will find a list of contacts at the Service, we advise sending your message to each of them.

Suggested subject line: FAO Principal Deputy Director Sheehan - Elephants and lions need your help

Dear Principal Deputy Director Sheehan,

I was shocked to learn that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has resumed plans to lift our country's ban on the import of elephant and lion trophies from animals hunted and killed in Zimbabwe and Zambia. This despite the public outcry in November 2017 when your department first attempted to lift the ban, which included President Trump voicing his own opposition to the hunting of elephants and lions. I urge you to stand against this decision and ensure the ban stays in effect.

African elephants and lions have been under siege for decades, targeted by ivory poachers and legal hunters, and in parts of the continent their numbers have dropped perilously. According to the Great Elephant Census the elephant population dropped by 30% from 2007 to 2014, a loss of 144,000 elephants. Across Zimbabwe it fell 6% and substantial declines have been recorded along the Zambezi River in Zambia.

With these species in decline, every effort must be taken to protect those animals that remain.

A concerted global effort has seen the closure of ivory markets, a decline in elephant and lion poaching and an acceptance that ethical conservation practices, such as photography safaris and wildlife tourism are the way forward. Lifting the ban on the import of elephant and lion trophies is counter-intuitive to all that is being achieved for the species and further stands against the wishes of our great nation. A poll of US citizens revealed that 83% supported the ban on elephant and lion trophies – our country does not wish to be associated with the killing of elephants and lions and I urge you and the administration to respect the wishes of the people, of which we are one.

Killing an elephant or lion will not conserve these species and lifting the import ban will act only to encourage hunters to secure permits to kill elephants and lions in the knowledge they can bring their 'trophy' home.

So I ask you again, I implore you, please ensure this critically important ban is not lifted and help keep this protection in place.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

USFWS does not provide a contact email for the Principal Deputy Director.

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