



Japan's response to the CoP17 Prop. 16

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History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

1 attachment



Japan Comment CoP17 Prop 16.pdf

Dear Secretariat,

Please find Japan's response to the CoP17 Prop. 16, regarding the African Elephant proposal.

I would appreciate if you can confirm your receipt by reply for our record.
Thank you.

Best regards,
Kato

Comments of the Government of Japan on the proposals to amend Appendices I and II at CITES/COP17

African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) [Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Uganda] (CoP17 Prop.16)

(Include all populations of *Loxodonta africana* (African elephant) in Appendix I through the transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I of the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe)

(Comment)

A species shall be included in Appendix I only if it meets biological and trade criteria for such an inclusion, considering the fundamental principles in paragraph 1 of Article II of the Convention.

The four African elephant populations which this proposal proposed to transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I do not appear to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I as set out in Annex I of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16), when looking at the trends of estimated population and distribution area based on the latest data by the African Elephant Database. Therefore, we consider it is not appropriate to adopt this proposal.

Also, this proposal seeks to unify all African elephants' range States to address threats to conservation of the species and send a clear message to the world that elephants are protected globally, through listing all African elephant populations in Appendix I. However, those objectives would not be accomplished by listing in Appendix I. As mentioned in the response to this proposal from South Africa, we consider that it is desirable that African range States share concerns about the illegal killing of elephants and illegal ivory trade and then develop an African common determination and position through discussion on those concerns among themselves.

While this proposal points out that the control of domestic ivory trade is inadequate in Japan, it should be noted that Japan has been making sufficient efforts to control domestic ivory trade and we consider such reference in the proposal as improper. We would like to invite to refer to our information document submitted to SC66 (SC66 Inf.24) for details on view of Japan regarding trade in African ivory.