
THE ELEPHANT PROTECTION INITIATIVE FOUNDATION RESPONSE TO THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF THE 6TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) was launched in 2014 by the leaders of 5 countries: Gabon, Chad, Tanzania, Botswana and Ethiopia. Since then, it has grown to 23 member countries, across Francophone, Lusophone, and Anglophone Africa. The EPI aims to secure the harmonious coexistence of people and elephants with herds able to travel across their range. The EPI is supported by its Secretariat, the EPI Foundation.

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The EPI Foundation welcomes the publication of the Zero Draft of the Ministerial Declaration of the 6th Session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly ('the Zero Draft') and congratulates all those involved in the work to date.

The EPI is an African-led response to the elephant crisis and the EPI Foundation's 'Vision 2030' is designed to recognise and address the increasing challenges African nations face as a result of wildlife and people coming into increasingly close proximity as a result of Africa's growing human populations and economic development. Our Vision 2030 has a particular focus on human-elephant conflict, which we believe is now a major threat to elephant conservation. However, we remain committed to supporting the international moratorium on elephant ivory trade and preventing Africa's ivory stockpiles from leaking onto the illegal market.

We also support our 23 member countries to develop National Elephant Action Plans (NEAPs), based on the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP), which was agreed by all African elephant range states in 2010. NEAPs include budget, monitoring and evaluation plans for countries to protect elephants and benefit people who live alongside them.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS



Paragraph 7

Be replaced with new text:

~~We are aware that in order to revitalize the multilateral system and inspire decisive and collective action to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution we surely need to reinforce global inclusiveness and solidarity.~~

We recognise the interconnection between biodiversity and climate change identified by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in its 'Biodiversity and Climate Change' workshop report and call for deeper convergence between efforts to protect biodiversity, tackle climate change and combat desertification and restore degraded land.

Paragraph 8

Be replaced with new text:

~~We are strongly committed to urgently address our common and global environmental challenges through effective, inclusive, sustainable, transformative, inter-generational and science and knowledge-based actions together with all stakeholders including civil society, citizens, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the private sector, and academia; and we therefore decide to take the following actions, taking into account, the special needs and circumstances of the least greenhouse gas emitters and the most vulnerable, in particular, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), African States, and developing middle-income countries:~~

We note the interdependence between the preservation of healthy ecosystems, their carbon sequestration potential, and the presence of resilient populations of wild animals. We acknowledge the utmost importance of safeguarding wild animals from overexploitation, including both legal trade and illicit wildlife trafficking. Additionally, we recognize the significant carbon benefits of rewilding efforts contributing to climate change mitigation and a sustainable future for humanity.