



Global March for Elephants & Rhinos ATX Press Release

Website: www.marchforelephantsatx.org

Email: info@marchforelephantsatx.org

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World's Largest Grass Roots March Against Extinction October 21, 2017

What: Local March Across S Congress St Bridge to Palm Park for Speakers, Music

When: Saturday, October 21, 2017 - 11:00am-8:00pm

Where: Assemble at 118 Riverside in Parking Lot to March Across Bridge

Who: The Global March ATX Leads March, Open to Public, Family Friendly

U.S. Department of State Accolade: In 2016, the GMFER marches were singled out by the U.S. Department of State's news platform, ShareAmerica, as one of the three big wins for elephants in 2015. They said: "According to experts, these marches keep political pressure on leaders to protect the world's largest land animal." <https://share.america.gov/elephantivory-prices-plummet>

How does Global March for Elephants and Rhinos help?

1. The GMFER motivates everyday citizens across the globe to organize marches and other special annual events on behalf of elephants, rhinos and other threatened species.
2. Throughout the year we engage in strategic lobbying, advocacy and "awareness raising" in our communities.
3. We collaborate with local and international NGOs to engage political representatives in drafting and passing new legislation that delivers a more just world for endangered species.
4. We organize peaceful protests and rallies at select consulates and embassies, as well as at targeted events.
5. Each of these activities takes discipline, grace, goodwill, humility and often, very hard work. Our objective is to grow a people's movement on behalf Earth's charismatic, and last, mega fauna. We hope to speak and sing in a voice that is loud, that is understood by all, sharable by all, reachable by all and heard by all: a voice of and by the people for the non-human. This new voice of conservation for the wild creature must engage the everyday man, the voice of the people must be brought to the table, it must be considered and considered with respect and dignity.

A partner with the international grass roots movement (march4elephantsandrhinosaurs.org) demanding an end to the trade in ivory and rhino horn driving elephants and rhinos to the brink of extinction, The Global March for Elephants & Rhinos ATX is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which raises awareness of threats to wildlife and funds to support top conservation charities working on the front lines to save, protect and secure a future for endangered species:

For more information, please contact:

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COUNTDOWN TO EXTINCTION

One Elephant is killed every 15 minutes. One Rhino is killed every 6 hours. Forest Elephants & Desert Elephants may be EXTINCT in only 24-36 MONTHS. ALL MAY BE EXTINCT IN 10 Years.

"It's a race against time..." Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton of Save the Elephants



The continental lion population has fallen from an estimate of over 75,000 in 1980 (IUCN) to around 32,000 in 2012 (Duke University), and we fear that the numbers could be as low as 25,000 (down by 50% in the last thirty years), distributed over only 22% of their historic range. This clearly shows that African lions require increased international protection from all threats, including over-utilization for commercial or 'recreational' purposes: trophy hunting. Between 1999 and 2008 off-take for recreational purposes was unsustainable by any standard in at least sixteen of the twenty range states trading in 'wild source lion parts.'



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WHAT THE EXPERTS HAVE TO SAY:

The extinction of the African elephant is under way. The question we are asking the decision-makers in Europe is: 'Do they want to see this happen?' Perez Olindo, Government of South Sudan

It is very discouraging having to fight the battle to save elephants once again. The 1989 ban helped elephants to recover in most parts of Africa. Now, even in Amboseli, we're losing elephants to ivory poachers for the first time in many years. The sale of any ivory--legal or not--is creating demand. **No one needs ivory. It is a beautiful substance, but the only ones who need it are elephants.** Cynthia Moss, Amboseli Elephant Research Project

The African Elephant Action Plan must be implemented in our countries as soon as possible. We are hopeful that the global community will understand how serious and urgent this crisis is, and donate to the African Elephant Fund, the funding mechanism for the Action Plan. With such support we can ensure that we don't lose elephants from across much of their range. Fidelis Odiakaose Omeni, Deputy Director, Wildlife Management, Nigeria

As long as ivory is valued as a commodity, every tusker is at risk from poachers, and only where anti-poaching efforts are sufficient will elephants survive. Anti-poaching costs money and lives. Banning the ivory trade has been the single-most effective and economical way to slow the loss of elephants across their whole range - not just where they can be protected by anti-poaching units. Ian Redmond OBE, Wildlife biologist/Ambassador for the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species

Protecting elephants is an important part of fighting climate change. Why? Because every day across Africa and Asia, elephants disperse billions of seeds, some of which will grow into the forests of tomorrow, sequestering and storing carbon, generating rainfall and stabilising our climate. **Save the elephants to save the forests to save the world!** Ian Redmond OBE, Wildlife biologist and Ambassador for the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species

Elephants are a natural wonder of the world. We are proud and honoured to have these remarkable animals in our countries, but they are disappearing fast from many places and action is needed now. Ibrahim Lankoande, Directeur Général des Forêts et de la Faune, Burkina Faso

In 1970 my country was home to 70,000 elephants. Today as a result of poaching, and primarily significant transboundary poaching, the wildlife law enforcement officers are fighting to protect **less than 200 individual survivors.** We are really in a situation of crisis and I appeal to the international community to support the range States and protect this charismatic animal. Jean-Baptiste Mamang-Kanga, Director of Fauna and Protected Areas, Central African Republic

As an attorney and author who has been deeply involved in issues pertaining to elephant welfare for 10 years, **I am categorically opposed to resumption of ivory trade because all evidence points to such trade fueling the human appetite for ivory** and the consequent, indiscriminate slaughter of these Appendix I protected animals. Lisa Kane, JD Attorney and author

Elephants need a creative mix of international response attacking the ivory trade and local, on-the-ground reduction of the corrupt mafias which siphon off Africa's biological riches. There are alternatives out there, but the greed of few comes at the expense of many, including both local people and biodiversity. Naftali Honig, Projet d'appui à l'Application de la Loi sur la Faune sauvage (Project for the Application of Law for Fauna), Republic of Congo

Seized ivory stocks around Africa are recycled back into illegal trade due to corruption. Ivory stocks should be burnt together with the hopes of traffickers for any "legal" way to allow them to slaughter our elephants. Ofir Drori, Director, Last Great Ape Organisation (LAGA)

Our daily battles are to get traffickers behind bars, but the war for the fate of elephants is far away from the field and our sweat, **it is a war of values vs greed, where more elephants can be killed by a vote than by any gun.** Ofir Drori, Director, Last Great Ape Organisation (LAGA)

It isn't only our elephants that are being killed. Our dedicated rangers in the field are losing their lives while trying to protect elephants from organised, well-armed and ruthless criminal gangs. The death of these unsung heroes must not be in vain. Patrick Omondi, Senior Assistant Director, Kenya Wildlife Service

A single word can send out the wrong signal for those in the illegal trade, that they can start killing as quickly as possible. Perez Olindo, Government of South Sudan

Poaching is reducing continent-wide elephant populations by more than 8% annually, although some countries are being hit much harder than others. This level of off-take is unsustainable and will have serious ecological consequences given the keystone role elephants serve in African ecosystems. Samuel K. Wasser Ph.D Director, Center for Conservation Biology, University of Washington

Elephants are living treasures. Nature's gardeners. Nature's great teachers. Tragically some people don't give a damn. They prefer the dead treasure to the living one. The ivory. We must challenge this so-called 'trade' with all our might and shame on those who would condone it. Virginia McKenna, OBE Founder & Trustee Born Free Foundation



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GLOBAL MARCH BACKGROUND

What is **GMFER** and how did it come about?

The **Global March for Elephants and Rhinos (GMFER)** comes about as a result of pure grass roots advocacy and is the consequence of the dedication of a core group of advocates and hundreds of leads who organize to march in more in than 130 cities across the globe every Fall.

Inspired by the first **Kenyans United Against Poaching** and **The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's iWorry** campaign marches in 2013, the **GMFER** has evolved into the world's most powerful grass roots movement.

The **GMFER** is a people's movement to raise awareness on behalf of elephants and rhinos now being poached to extinction, primarily to satisfy the demand for ivory trinkets and snake oil medicine in China, Asia as well as the USA and other regions of the world.



The **GMFER's mission** is to demand accountability of range nations and those nations where domestic trade in ivory is permitted and to work with CITES, Governments, the United Nations, NGOs, conservationists and particularly with everyday citizens to change the story for elephants and rhinos who are on their way to extinction:

Our motto: **"Not On Our Watch!"** Our mission: **"We Will"**

We continue to deliver each year a memorandum of demand citing specific demands to all embassies of the gang of 19 (as named by CITES) as well as South Africa. Specifically, we have asked China to shut down its 37 "legal" ivory carving factories and its more than 145 retail outlets trading in "legal" ivory. We have issued similar demands on behalf of the world's last rhinos. The MOD and related documentation can be found on the global web site's **Objectives and Strategies** section (www.march4elephantsandrhinosaurs.org)

The Global March for Elephants and Rhinos is an unprecedented, truly grass roots movement calling out to world leaders to take note. We are here; we are not going away; we will keep calling to you to assume accountability. **We are a social justice movement and will continue to work until every elephant is safe and until every rhino is safe.**