

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

November 2016

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the plight of the elephant and the ivory trade.

Like you, I am seriously concerned about the effect of illegal poaching and ivory trafficking on the long-term prospects for the survival of the elephant.

Just how seriously the Government takes this issue was demonstrated when it hosted and led the London Conference on Wildlife Trafficking. Over 40 countries adopted the London Declaration in an effort to save iconic species, including elephants, from being poached to the brink of extinction. The Buckingham Palace Declaration followed with a range of commitments to help the private sector tackle this illegal trade. The UK has also made available £13 million for various projects through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and is training rangers in Gabon, home of Africa's largest population of forest elephants, to combat poaching.

The UK does not permit trade in raw ivory tusks of any age, and is pressing for this approach to be taken internationally. The Government has also announced plans to ban sales of modern-day ivory, which will put the UK's rules on ivory sales among the toughest in the world. I am delighted that at its most recent conference in Johannesburg, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) adopted a proposal calling for the closure of all domestic ivory markets.

In addition to the issues in Africa, Ministers also recognise the growing threats to the Asian elephant from the illegal trade in live animals, fed by demand from the tourist and entertainment industries. The UK has also been working through CITES to increase protections worldwide.

I hope this reassures you that the UK remains committed to protecting elephants worldwide.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY