

**Question for written answer E-002601/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**César Luena (S&D)**

**Subject:** Alarming decline in African elephant populations and their critical situation

A recent study published in the scientific journal PNAS<sup>1</sup> reveals an alarming decline in African elephant populations in most of the continent. The data, covering 1964 to 2016, shows that elephants are surviving mainly in protected areas, with a dramatic reduction in forest elephants. The savannah species has almost completely disappeared from the Sahel and has declined by up to 70 % in other regions.

In 2021, the IUCN raised the threat level of the African savannah elephant to ‘endangered’ and classified the African forest elephant as ‘critically endangered’.

1. In the context of CITES, is the Commission advocating the inclusion of all African elephants in Appendix I and opposing attempts to ensure that any elephant population is relegated from Appendix I to Appendix II?
2. Given that poaching to supply the ivory trade is the main cause of this decline, in what way is the Commission supporting the closure under CITES of all remaining legal national ivory markets and what is the Commission doing to oppose all proposals to lift restrictions on the trade in ivory?

Submitted: 20.11.2024

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<sup>1</sup> Survey-based inference of continental African elephant decline.