

TO LOSE OUR ELEPHANTS **WOULD BE TO LOSE A KEY** PART OF OUR HERITAGE, AND WE QUITE SIMPLY **WILL NOT ALLOW IT ...FOR US, IVORY IS WORTHLESS UNLESS IT IS ON OUR ELEPHANTS. KENYA'S NATIONAL IVORY BURN 30TH APRIL 2016**

Executive summary | Our progress 2017

In Stop Ivory's 2015 report, we cited two ways by which Stop Ivory must measure its success: government-led collaborative action to protect elephants at a local and national level, and a drop in the commercial value of ivory. By these measures, 2016 was a game-changer; 9 countries are now implementing National Elephant Action Plans (NEAPs) with the support of Stop Ivory and our partners, while the price of ivory is reported to be falling in both Chinese and African markets. We find ourselves at the start of a new year with a remarkable platform from which to continue our work.

The Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) is the African-led Initiative to secure a future for elephants. It was launched in 2014, and has grown every year since – delivering real change on the ground. Leaders from every corner of the continent have committed to maintain the international ivory trade ban, close their own domestic ivory markets and put ivory beyond economic use; ensuring that demand for ivory does not lead to the extinction of Africa's elephants.

Notable activities in 2016, which Stop Ivory has been proud to support, included: transparent ivory inventories completed by Gabon, Uganda, Mozambique, Malawi, Angola and Congo; the successful advocacy for resolutions on domestic ivory market closure at crucial international conservation conferences; five further African states joining the EPI - South Sudan, Somalia, Congo, Angola and Sierra Leone – bringing the number of EPI members to 15; and Kenya's record breaking destruction of 105 tonnes of ivory in April, which made headlines around the world.

Then, in December, the commitment and actions of EPI members and others was rewarded by the momentous announcement from China, the foremost destination for ivory from innumerable poached elephants, to close its ivory market as soon as the end of 2017. Hong Kong also committed to close its ivory market by 2021.

The closure of key consumer markets is widely considered to be the single most important step towards securing a future for elephants.

However, there is still much to be done. The illegal wildlife trade remains a lucrative form of transnational, organised crime, pushing iconic species like the elephant toward extinction, while undermining national security, sustainable livelihoods, and the rule of law. The African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP) was agreed to by all African elephant range States as a continent-wide plan to keep elephants safe for future generations. Stop Ivory's focus in 2017 will be on the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan at a national level, through the funding of 10-year NEAPs.

9 NEAPs have been developed by range States so far, with the support of Stop Ivory and partners, through fully inclusive in-country stakeholder workshops. These plans are designed to deliver urgent measures as well as establish sustainable long-term elephant conservation. We are urgently seeking funds to deliver these plans in full.

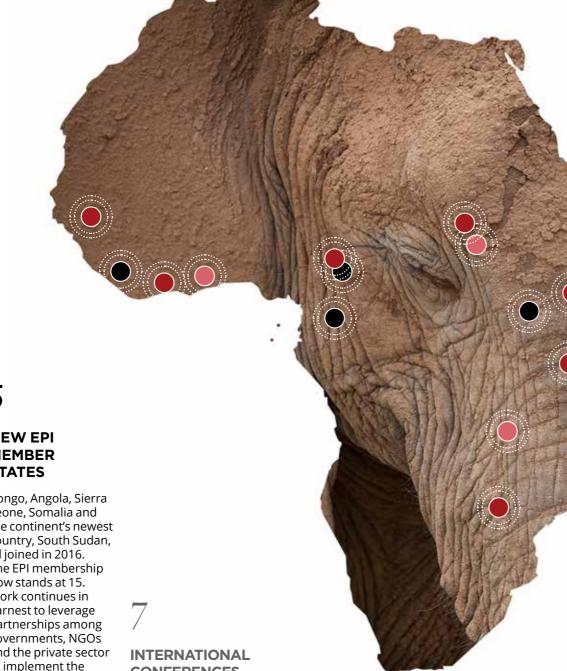
It is our hope that the recent moves to clamp down on ivory trade taken by China and others will bring the aims of the EPI much nearer to realisation. We will need the continued endorsement of partner governments and NGOs, and the generous support of donors and the private sector, to ensure that 2017 is the year that this historic policy shift realises the change we need on the ground.

NGOS WORKING TOGETHER AS CO-SECRETARIAT OF THE EPI

Renowned NGO Conservation International has partnered with Stop Ivory - lending their considerable expertise and capacity to ensure the success of the EPI.

SCOPING VISITS TO PLAN INVENTORIES IN 2017

Scoping visits were made to Zambia, Cote d'Ivoire and South Sudan in preparation for stockpile inventories in 2017.



AFRICAN ELEPHANT RANGE STATES THAT RECEIVED FUNDING FROM STOP IVORY FOR THEIR **NEAP PRIORITY PROJECTS**

\$500,000 was awarded in grants for projects across Uganda, Mozambique, Liberia, Chad, Tanzania, Congo, Gabon and Malawi, to be cofunded, implemented and reported on by our internationally respected NGO partners on the ground. A further \$200,000 will be awarded in grants in first quarter of 2017.

105

TONNES OF IVORY DESTROYED IN KENYA

Stop Ivory teams worked with the Kenya Wildlife Service to manage and record the movement of 105 tonnes of ivory from regional sites to Nairobi for the largest ivory disposal ceremony in history.

\$1,165,000

SPENT BY STOP IVORY ON DIRECTLY IMPLEMENTING THE EPI AND FUNDING **NEAPS IN 2016**

A 34% increase on 2015 made possible by generous donors and successful bids for institutional grants. Much of this work included pro bono support from our partners in the private sector - including Mishcon de Reya, 20 Essex St Chambers, Geopolicity, EY, and Huawei Technologies.

NEW EPI MEMBER STATES

Congo, Angola, Sierra Leone, Somalia and the continent's newest country, South Sudan, all joined in 2016. The EPI membership now stands at 15. Work continues in earnest to leverage partnerships among governments, NGOs and the private sector to implement the EPI in these member states - as well as other non-EPI States such as Mozambique.

CONFERENCES AT WHICH THE **EPI WAS** REPRESENTED

With financial, logistical, and advisory support from Stop Ivory. Advocacy from EPI members was instrumental in securing resolutions against the ivory trade.

Ivory is for elephants Stop Ivory's work to protect elephants and stop the ivory trade through the EPI continues.

The transparent inventory of government held

ivory stockpiles remains a central tenet of our work to implement the EPI. The inventories are a vital contribution to minimising the opportunity for seized or accrued ivory to leak back into circulation. Stop Ivory has been busy again this year providing countries with the tools and support to undertake ivory stockpile inventories. 7 Inventory trips were undertaken in 2016: to Gabon, Malawi, Congo Brazzaville, Cambodia, Mozambique, Angola and Uganda. Across these countries, 18.37 tonnes of ivory was counted, and 133 personnel from wildlife departments and law enforcement agencies were trained in the use of the inventory protocol, with senior staff also trained in the stockpile management software. In April, Stop Ivory's unique Stockpile Management System was put to its toughest test in Kenya: Stop Ivory teams worked with the Kenya Wildlife Service to manage and record the movement of 105 tonnes of ivory from regional sites to Nairobi for the largest ivory disposal ceremony in history. Our open-source Stockpile Management System instruction manuals are now in three languages - English, French and Portuguese.

Looking ahead, scoping visits were made to Zambia, Cote d'Ivoire and South Sudan in preparation for inventories in 2017.

MOZAMBIQUE

Stop Ivory worked closely with Mozambique in 2015, with partners Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Flora and Fauna International (FFI), after the Great Elephant Census results for the country revealed unprecedented losses to its elephant herds: a 58% decline in just 5 years. In 2016 our collaboration continued.

A second transparent inventory of ivory took place in March 2016, with further stockpile management training for 14 of Mozambique's National Agency for Conservation Areas (ANAC) team, counting and reporting to CITES over six tonnes of ivory. The seizure of such a substantial quantity of ivory in the year since Mozambique's 2015 ivory disposals is a testament to both heightened enforcement efforts, and the significant level of poaching and ivory trafficking ongoing in the country.

In May, in another key response to the urgent need to tackle Illegal wildlife crime in Mozambique, Stop Ivory worked with ANAC and WCS to develop Mozambique's National Elephant Action Plan. A broad spectrum of experienced attendees, who will be involved in the implementation and reporting process, provided crucial input on a 10-year vision for elephant conservation in the country, and the priority actions for immediate funding.

We are working on leveraging our productive working relationship with Mozambique to a formal declaration of support for the EPI.

UGANDA

Although recent counts suggest that Uganda's elephant population has stabilised, the country has been identified as a hotspot of illegal wildlife trade activity between East and West Africa, posing a major challenge for Uganda's law enforcement agencies. At CITES' 16th Conference of the Parties in 2013, Uganda pledged to develop action plans to address the illegal flow of ivory – and Stop Ivory has been engaged to help. Here, as elsewhere, illegal wildlife trade transcends national borders; the response must be a continent-wide, collaborative effort.

Uganda joined the EPI in 2015, and in March and August 2016 the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) partnered with Stop Ivory to conduct a full inventory of the ivory stockpile held by the UWA, the Aviation Police (AVIPOL) and the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA). 26 people were trained in the Inventory process and the use of the Stockpile Management System software, and almost 10 tonnes of ivory were counted and declared to the CITES Secretariat.

Stop Ivory is also supporting the training of sniffer dogs for ivory detection at Entebbe Airport, which was identified as a priority in Uganda's NEAP. The implementation of the Stockpile Management System means that new seizures, made with the help of the canine enhanced border force, will be accurately recorded.





ANGOLA

Angola achieved several milestones for elephant protection in 2016.

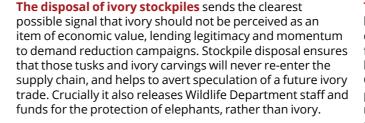
Vulcan Inc.'s Great Elephant Census results revealed a much smaller elephant population in Angola than previous estimates suggested. At the 66th Standing Committee of CITES in January, all trade with Angola in CITES-listed species was suspended for failure to submit progress reports on the state of their ivory markets.

Angola, through the work of the Institute of Biodiversity under the Ministry of the Environment, has worked tirelessly with us to take actions to combat the ivory trade. Benfica Market in Angola's capital, Luanda, was one of the largest ivory markets on the continent - the existence of which made the country a target for poaching, trafficking and laundering, and the crime and corruption they generate. Following consultation with Stop Ivory on a process for implementing a ban, domestic ivory trade was formally outlawed in March. Ivory is no longer on display in markets in Luanda, and Angola is taking rigorous steps to implement the ban throughout the country.

Angola formally joined the EPI in April 2016, and in May Stop Ivory worked with the government to conduct an inventory of their ivory stockpile. 26 officials from Customs, the Police and the Ministry of Environment were trained in the Stockpile Management Process. They counted and marked 1,223 individual pieces over 4 days.

On 5th June, Angola hosted World Environment Day, with the theme of illegal wildlife trade, organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The occasion was also the start of a workshop, in partnership with Stop Ivory and the Kissama Foundation, to develop a 10-year NEAP. Over a 2-day period, governmental officials and partners discussed the vision for elephant protection in Angola and the activities to put this into practice. The NEAP is now being finalised and the next step is to prioritise urgent projects for funding.





As in previous years, 2016 saw yet more countries, in Africa and beyond, act on this conviction. Sri Lanka started the year with a disposal as a touching world-first 'apology to elephants' for their complicity in the illegal trade. Malawi, as part of the conclusion of a major prosecution, disposed of the seized ivory at the heart of the case in March. Italy, Malaysia and Cameroon followed suit – building up to the record-breaking disposal of 105 tonnes of ivory by Kenya's President Kenyatta, an occasion that made headlines around the world. Before the year was out South Sudan, Singapore and Vietnam had all taken a stand – putting another 15 tonnes of ivory out of reach forever.

The governance mechanism of the EPI was agreed by EPI members in 2015. An Implementation Board consisting of EPI member representatives - senior figures in each country's designated wildlife protection body - is responsible for the EPI's success. Stop Ivory and Conservation International, as the appointed secretariat, provide technical and financial support, and convene Board meetings to report on progress and seek approval for development projects.

In 2016 we convened 6 EPI Implementation Board meetings, of which 3 were in person - using the margins of key conferences. The Board has tasked us to update the NEAP Standards and Guidelines following invaluable feedback from the NEAP workshops in 2016, and to develop a resourcing strategy for the NEAPs – which is now complete. A priority for both Stop Ivory and the EPI will be the successful delivery of this strategy in 2017.

KENYA

Kenya's ivory pyre in 1989 became the iconic image of a public outcry over the ivory trade that had caused the death of hundreds of thousands of Africa's elephants during the 1970s and 80s. The international ivory ban was brought into effect the same year and western ivory markets never recovered from the collapse in demand that followed.

On the 30th April 2016, President Uhuru Kenyatta sought the same effect on Asia's markets today, sending 105 tonnes up in flames. Huge pyres of burning ivory represented the unnecessary deaths of thousands of elephants, but also hope for elephants still living – in Kenya, and across Africa.

The event showed the EPI's diverse partnerships in action. Kenya Wildlife Service, with Stop Ivory as lead partners, had the financial and technical support of African Wildlife Foundation, Save The Elephants, Bityarn Consult, EY, Robin Hollister of Global Locations, Total and Safaricom. It was a record breaking event that drew the attention of the world and, with the CITES conference in Johannesburg shortly afterward in September, sent a strong, well-timed message from the continent against the ivory trade.

This action prompted many high-level messages of support, including a declaration from France that it would close its domestic market and lobby the EU to support measures to follow suit, and a number of other disposal ceremonies in the run up and aftermath.

...IT IS OUR HOPE THAT BY JOINING THE EPI, WE CAN WORK SLOWLY TO REBUILD THIS HISTORY AND JOIN TOGETHER WITH OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS TO STOP THE HARROWING CONSEQUENCES THAT ELEPHANT POACHING AND TRAFFICKING IS BRINGING TO OUR CONTINENT.

SAID HUSSEIN LID MINISTER FOR LIVESTOCK AND PASTURE FOR SOMALIA | SOMALIA JOINS THE EPI | 14TH SEPTEMBER 2016





National Elephant Action Plans (NEAPs) are an integral part of the EPI – and funding them is the focus of our work this year. All African elephant range States agreed, in 2010, to The African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP): a set of actions to protect their elephants – and NEAPs are the practical, budgeted and timelined means for each range State to do so. Our NEAP Standards and Guidelines and the funding of inclusive stakeholder workshops have been essential development tools: quickly developing dependable, high-calibre NEAPs that function as working documents for Government's wildlife departments, and producing priority projects that have been funded in 9 range States so far.

COUNTRY	DEVELOPMENT OF A NEAP SUPPORTED BY STOP IVORY & PARTNERS	PARTNERS	STOP IVORY MATCHING GRANT AWARDED FOR PRIORITY PROJECTS	PROJECT SUMMARY
Angola	Workshop held in June 2016, NEAP drafted in 2016	Government of Angola and Kissama Foundation	Expected in 2017	Investigating and addressing domestic and trans-boundary ivory trade, strengthening the criminal justice system for wildlife crime, and developing sustainable alternative livelihoods initiatives for domestic ivory market closure that can be applied elsewhere.
Chad	Workshop in December 2014, NEAP finalised in December 2015	Government of Chad and African Parks	Delivered in 2015	Mapping elephant distribution and identifying new areas for elephant habitat protection, establishing a setting Central Elephant Management Team and developing protocols for managing human-elephant conflict.
Congo	Funding agreed for NEAP development workshop in 2017	Government of Congo, Wildlife Conservation Society and PALF	Delivered in 2016	NEAP development, improvement of wildlife crime investigations across Congo, and strengthening the capacity of law enforcement authorities to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products in Conkouati-Douli National Park.
Ethiopia	Workshop held in June 2014, finalised in March 2015	Government of Ethiopia and Born Free	Expected in 2017	A scoping trip gets underway in early 2017 to ascertain progress and where support is required.
Gabon	Assessment of elephants and range funded in 2015, and updated NEAP drafted in 2016	Government of Gabon	Delivered in 2016	Two grants have supported the establishment of a national ivory stockpile management system using Stop Ivory's bespoke software application, and supported the urgent finalisation of the NEAP.
Kenya	Mid-term NEAP review workshop held in April 2016, updated NEAP due	Government of Kenya & Wildlife Conservation Society	Expected in 2017	New priority actions in line with emerging threats identified – and a budgeted, time-lined plan is expected.
Liberia	Workshop held in June 2016, NEAP presented in November 2016	Government of Liberia and Fauna and Flora International	Delivered in 2016	Two grants have supported the development of the NEAP and the collection of socio-biological data to inform effective elephant management that positively impacts local men and women's well-being in the Wonegizi-Ziama Forest.
Malawi	Workshop held in January 2015, NEAP launched in December 2016	Government of Malawi, RSPCA, and Lilongwe Wildlife Trust	Delivered in 2016	Strengthen the enforcement of legislation to conserve elephants through court monitoring and building the capacity of the judiciary, investigators and the prosecution.
Mozambique	Workshop held in May 2016, final NEAP expected in 2017	Government of Mozambique and Wildlife Conservation Society	Expected in 2017	Priority projects have not yet been funded, but two grants have supported the development of the NEAP and the inventory of the national ivory stockpile.
Tanzania	In discussion for completion in 2017 – while urgent projects are underway with The Frankfurt Zoological Society	Government of Tanzania, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Frankfurt Zoological Society.	Delivered in 2016	Grants have been delivered for intelligence and investigations training and equipment for rangers to combat the threat of poaching in the Serengeti Ecosystem, Tanzania.
Uganda	NEAP finalised in 2016 following April 2016 workshop	Government of Uganda and Wildlife Conservation Society	Delivered in 2016	Support to establish a sniffer dog unit within Uganda Wildlife Authority to increase the detection of ivory trafficking through Entebbe airport.

Making the case: spreading the word
With many successes to celebrate, a commitment to informing
our supporters and an urgent fundraising mission to launch,
Stop Ivory stepped up its public advocacy in 2016, and that
of the EPI.

International wildlife events of 2016 saw proposed resolutions to stop the elephant crisis and combat the ivory trade command headlines around the world.

Each high-level meeting is a critical opportunity for Stop Ivory to engage partners and governments in order to broaden the reach of the EPI and to translate the momentum achieved, both for elephants and against the ivory trade, into concrete international agreements. It is an important part of our role as Secretariat to ensure the EPI is always well represented.

This year more than ever - at the CITES Standing Committee in January, the Save Wildlife Conference and the African Elephant Coalition meeting in March, the IUCN World Conservation Congress and 17th Conference of the Parties to CITES in September, and the 3rd Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in Hanoi in November – EPI members, with the co-Secretariat's financial and logistical support, were instrumental in securing resolutions against the ivory trade. Somalia and Sierra Leone also used their platform at events this year to announce their membership of the EPI.

LANDMARK DECISIONS

Harmonising policy when it comes to ivory trade has always been a primary focus of our work - so the outcomes of these important international conservation meetings remain hallmarks of our progress. In this respect, the IUCN World Conservation Congress and the 17th CITES Conference of the Parties in September 2016 were of particular importance. Landmark decisions were made: both the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) World Conservation Congress and the CITES COP bolstered the momentum against trade, with African range States leading the charge. The IUCN Congress, held in Hawaii in September, voted to close domestic elephant ivory markets - widely thought to serve as a cover for the sale of illegally acquired ivory. Just weeks later, in South Africa, the Parties to CITES at COP 17 adopted a resolution supporting closure of all domestic ivory markets "contributing to illegal killing [of elephants] or illegal trade".

THE CITES AND IUCN IVORY
DECISIONS THIS MONTH HAVE
HIGHLIGHTED THE LEADERSHIP
OF AFRICAN NATIONS BEHIND THE
MOVEMENT TO SAVE ELEPHANTS,
INCLUDING AFRICAN-LED EFFORTS
SUCH AS THE ELEPHANT PROTECTION
INITIATIVE. AFRICA'S LEADERSHIP
HAS BEEN INSPIRING TO ALL.

SUE LIEBERMAN VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY FOR WCS | CITES COP17 | 2ND OCTOBER 2016 | SOUTH AFRICA

HITTING THE BIG SCREEN

Stop Ivory hit the big screen this year - with support from Warner Brothers and in partnership with Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux of Gabon - as part of the launch of the film The Legend of Tarzan. The sweeping African landscapes which featured prominently in the film were captured on location in Gabon, and the film was set at a time when elephant numbers were far greater than they are today forging a link to our work. A charity auction, a "Tweet for Good" campaign, and a special message from the film's stars, Alexander Skarsgard and Margot Robbie, directed global audiences to say "no" to the ivory trade and to support Stop Ivory. The partnership raised Stop Ivory's profile, increased awareness of the issues, and generated funding for specific forest elephant field conservation in Gabon.

Academic thought-leadership has guided our policy work since inception, and remains critical to ensuring our strategy is in line with the changing economic and legal landscape. This year was no exception – but, in addition, we were afforded the opportunity to disseminate the results of this work through some remarkable platforms.

Ahead of the CITES COP in September, Tusk Trust held "Time for Change" - a truly global event. Keynote speeches - by HRH The Duke of Cambridge at the Shard in London, CITES Secretary General John Scanlon from the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg and philanthropist Dr Haruhisa Handa from the Park Hyatt Hotel in Tokyo - were streamed live online and to an audience of ministers, leading conservationists and other top diplomats gathered in the three locations. Together, they urged an audience of millions worldwide to join them in the fight to save the elephant and rhino, and highlighted the plight of rangers killed by poachers.

The event at the Shard in London was a welcome opportunity to highlight a new, collaborative NGO campaign: Stop Ivory, in conjunction with Blackstone Chambers, published a legal opinion outlining how to quickly and cost-effectively close domestic ivory markets in the UK, and we have joined with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Tusk Trust, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and The Royal Foundation, to advocate the adoption of these guidelines by the UK government. We are working with Lexington Communications, experts in public affairs and media management, to press the UK government to close the UK's domestic ivory trade.

Growing public interest in the ivory crisis has generated high-profile media opportunities to further our work. In October, our inventory of a recent large ivory seizure made at London's Heathrow Airport featured in the BBC documentary "Saving Africa's Elephants: Hugh and the Ivory War", presented by campaigner Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. Former CEO Alex Rhodes explained the importance of inventorying ivory and taking DNA samples - which are used to determine the origin of seized ivory, analyse trade routes and support prosecution of the criminals involved. The Ivory Game, released later in the year, featured Leonardo DiCaprio as an Executive Producer and the Duke of Cambridge amongst its cast, along with two of the Stop Ivory team. Board Chairman Ian Craig spoke passionately about the daily realities of anti-poaching work on the ground in Northern Kenya, and our EPI Technical Advisor Dr Winnie Kiiru explained the complexity of her task in supporting Kenya's ivory inventory and eventual burn.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PATHWAY

We are taking on the urgent need to improve the Criminal Justice Pathway for wildlife crime- the journey of an accused person from arrest to successful conviction, a journey that hitherto all too often has resulted in legal collapse or insufficient sentences. Working in partnership with ICCF and Space for Giants, a joint report "Stopping Poaching and Wildlife Trafficking Through Strengthened Laws and Improved Application" was published as a resource for countries to identify actions to improve investigations and prosecutions for wildlife crime.

TIME FOR CHANGE

In the Time for Change room in Johannesburg in September, Stop Ivory presented its work with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) - the leading policy think-tank in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. SAIIA's analysis reinforces the case that international trade in ivory is not a viable economic model for conservation goals or the economic wellbeing of rural communities, and that elephants are an invaluable resource that can be sustainably managed, with local communities at the forefront and conservation as a national priority. These papers are available on our website www.stopivory.org

I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT LONDON WAS A TURNING POINT. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE SEEN UNPRECEDENTED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO WORK TOGETHER TO FIGHT POACHING THROUGH THE ELEPHANT PROTECTION INITIATIVE.

PRINCE WILLIAM THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE | THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE TRADE CONFERENCE | 17TH NOVEMBER 2016







