EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.1.2025)

The study is an analysis of the already available data from 1964-2016. The Commission is aware of this data, which shows that global elephant densities are decreasing. The data shows also that densities in some populations, especially of *L. africana* in southern African countries were increasing. These are the countries where sustainable management forms an integral part of elephant conservation. The study did not include the most recent available population data for *L. africana* from Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe from 2022 (Bussière & Potgieter 2023), which harbour about 50% of all African elephants and which confirmed a stable population in this region.

The African elephants are currently listed in App. I, while some populations from southern Africa are listed in App. II, which allows conservation and management interventions appropriate to the conservation needs of specific populations. Furthermore, discussion is ongoing within the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)[1] on changing the standard nomenclature for elephants, accepting *L. cyclotis* as separate species.

In the process of the preparation of the upcoming meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, the Commission will carefully analyse any proposals, including those related to trade in African elephants, and propose to the Council of the European Union an evidence-based and proportionate EU position.

[1] https://cites.org/eng