



# Notes of the 282<sup>nd</sup> Session

Thursday 19 April 2012, 15.00 – 16.00 hrs  
Room LOW N3.2 – European Parliament, Strasbourg

## I. Introductory remarks

- Recording of the meeting: [link](#)
- Two new official Intergroup Members

The Intergroup has warmly welcomed the MEPs [Piotr Borys \(EPP, PL\)](#) and [Keith Taylor \(Greens/EFA, UK\)](#) who have registered to become new Members of the Animal Welfare Intergroup.

[Interview with Piotr Borys](#)

### Written declaration Nr. on the implementation of the ban on individual sow stalls by 1 January 2013

by George LYON, Esther de LANGE, Dan JØRGENSEN, Marit PAULSEN, Janusz WOJCIECHOWSKI

- Date opened : 12 March 2012
- Lapse date : 14 June 2012
- Number of signatories : 91 - 30-04-2012
- [Text of the written declaration](#)

The Chairman called on all MEPs present to sign the written declaration and to promote it among fellow colleagues.

## II. Report on the Elephant Slaughter in Cameroon and the global Ivory Trade

Julie Landry, Communications Officer for West Africa with IFAW who has been in Cameroon at the beginning of this year commented some picture- and film footage about this year's massacre of hundreds of elephants in the National Park of Bouba Njida in Northern Cameroon this country.

### 1) Bouba Njida National Park:

- is situated is the largest park in Cameroon (220 000 ha ) but also the most remote and isolated;
- The elephant population is estimated at 600/800 according to sources on the ground
- The elephant population migrates to and from Chad;
- Only 6 to 7 rangers are charged with the security of the Park. Unlike the poachers, they have limited means and are armed only with old weapons.

### 2) Elephant poaching in the sub-region:

- Poaching in Boubanjida NP is at its highest recorded levels with more than 300 elephants killed within 6 weeks
- wounded elephants and roaming elephant cubs have also been reported in the region
- Intelligence sources believe the poachers are headquartered in Chad during the poaching season;
- Poaching takes place every year during the dry season
- Oct/Nov – Poaching begins in CAR,

### Bureau Members

#### President:

Dan Jørgensen MEP

#### Vice-Presidents:

Kriton Arsenis MEP

Jacqueline Foster MEP

Nadja Hirsch MEP

Elisabeth Jeggle MEP

Jörg Leichtfried MEP

Kartika Liotard MEP

David Martin MEP

Cristiana Muscardini MEP

Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP

Raül Romeva i Rueda MEP

Daciana Sârbu MEP

Michèle Striffler MEP

Janusz Wojciechowski MEP

Andrea Zanoni MEP

#### Honorary President:

Carl Schlyter MEP

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Established in 1983

- Dec/Jan – Poaching continues in Chad
- Jan/Feb – Poaching ends in Cameroon
- Revenue raised by the poachers is used to support civil and tribal unrest in some parts of South Sudan.
- The primary market for the ivory collected is the Asian market

### 3) Profile of poachers & modus operandi:

- Professionalised and organised in gangs (number vary from 5 up to 50)
- Poachers in each group have specialised roles: hunters / tusk removers/ sentries
- Heavily armed (automatic machine guns – mostly AK47) / Very important stocks of ammunitions;
- Assumed to be mainly Sudanese rebels (as they speak Arabian) but also Chadians identified;
- Ride horses and use dromedary (Arabian camel) to carry elephant tusks
- Do not eat bush meat; instead buy food for them and their horses in villages;
- Indicate to villagers elephant carcasses have been left, for them to use as bush meat
- Region has seen an explosion in the sale of elephant meat in this period;
- Villagers are complicit in this act as they are keen to use the poachers as a means to resolve Human/Elephant related problems;

**Satyen Sinha** Political and Campaigns Officer with IFAW Europe to spoke about the worrying increase of ivory trafficking on global level.

Early in 2012, heavily armed poachers decimated elephant populations in Cameroon. More than 300 elephants were killed in just six weeks. Killing sprees like these are fuelled by Asian demand for ivory.

Recent reports have indicated that there were more large-scale seizures of illegal ivory in 2011 than in any other year during the past 23, highlighting the grave and growing dangers elephants face from ivory poachers.

Every piece of ivory comes from a dead elephant. In the past year, close to 5000 tusks have been seized, an alarming rate of about four seizures per day. The ivory trade is so lucrative it has become commonplace for armed gangs of poachers to cross from Sudan to Chad, Central African Republic and Cameroon to kill elephants for their ivory; the money raised is used to fund arms purchases for use in regional conflicts, particularly ongoing unrest in Sudan.

The slaughter in Cameroon is the continuation of a terrible trend taking place across Africa. Indeed, the story is an exact repeat of what happened in Chad's Zakouma National Park between 2005 and 2009. Ivory is becoming a 21st Century 'blood diamond'; lured by easy money and low risk of prosecution, warlords and groups such as the Janjaweed have expanded their killing to that of endangered species.

The skill and determination of these gangs of poachers is no longer in question and underscores the need for decisive EU action to confront both the humanitarian crisis and environmental crisis. IFAW is playing its part in finding a solution to this crisis. In August, IFAW partnered with Interpol to provide training for law enforcement officials in how to combat the illegal wildlife trade. Police and wildlife officers from 11 countries participated in the six-day training course, comprising classes, exercises and drills. The curriculum was put together by experts from Environment Canada, INTERPOL and IFAW, and culminated in a joint sting in their respective countries. This sting took place earlier this month and has led to a number of arrests, as can be seen from the video we are about to see.

The black market for wildlife is now one of the largest illegal markets in the world. In 2011, Yuri Fedotov, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), emphasised the profound impact of the illegal wildlife trade on both developed and developing countries. Wildlife crime involves money-laundering, fraud, counterfeiting and violence and may also have links to terrorist activities. Fedotov stated that the "illicit trade in wildlife is a form of transnational organised crime that, just like trafficking in illegal drugs, weapons and human beings, brings negative consequences to security and development." The UNODC further stressed that wildlife crime is "emblematic" of the larger threat that transnational organised crime poses not only to the environment, but to sustainable development.

That is why IFAW trains customs agents, border police, game wardens and wildlife law enforcement officials to more effectively prevent international wildlife trafficking. Since 2009, IFAW has also provided anti-poaching training and material support to rangers and conservation officials in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) to help them overcome the severe challenges they face in the fight to end the bloody and cruel poaching of elephants. IFAW is about to extend its programme of anti-poaching training and support to rangers and law enforcement officials in Chad's Sena Oura National Park. Sena Oura NP lies along the Chad/Cameroon border. IFAW's initiative is intended to help establish a coordinated approach to safeguarding elephants in the region. We are also

working hard to reduce demand for ivory and other wildlife products across the world, and in particular in China and South East Asia, through our *Think Twice* campaign.

IFAW launched last years Think Twice season in the European Parliament. The campaign included awareness raising events at Schipol Airport amongst others. The programme has also led to IFAW cooperating with the Kenyan embassy in China where we provide a “green passport” for any Chinese individual seeking a visa to Kenya. This Green passport contains information on wildlife and the penalties of wildlife trafficking.

However, without government support there is only so much IFAW can do on its own. In Europe, as in other parts of the world, high profit margins and minimal deterring factors create incentives for organised criminal groups to become involved in the illegal wildlife trade. As a major importer of wildlife, the EU must enforce laws more strictly against wildlife trafficking and ensure that penalties are commensurate with the seriousness of these crime. This enforcement must expand to the internet which is fast becoming a major source for purchasing illegal wildlife products. The Czech Republic has led the way in Europe by enacting stricter legislation. This legislation should be promoted and expanded across the EU. Indeed, the EU should, through its trade, and other such partnership relationships with other countries, promote and assist countries in meeting their international obligations with regard to wildlife crime.

Most importantly, however, the EU must also bring its knowledge and resources to bear in the countries where these animals reside, by supporting efforts to reduce the illegal killing of elephants and the illegal trade in elephant ivory products; to maintain elephant habitats and restore connectivity between subpopulations; and to reduce human-elephant conflicts. Only by fully tackling these issues, will the EU be able to prevent slaughters such as the one which took place in Cameroon from happening again.

## Questions and debate

**Dan Jørgensen (S&D, DK):** stressed on the fact that the EU is by value the biggest market for wildlife products and asked which Member States are particularly concerned. **Satyen Sinha** answered that on the legal side it would be difficult to tell but Spain and Belgium are major entry points for wildlife trade. The most recent threat is trade on internet and this goes beyond borders. The bigger the country is the bigger also the problem.

**Stuart Agnew (EFD, UK)** asked what products are produced the most out of ivory, nowadays. **Satyen Sinha** answered that in Japan and also in China there is a custom to offer an ivory stamp to men who reach adulthood. Other items are necklaces bracelets and carved decoration objects.

**Catherine Bearder (ALDE, UK)** reported that she has worked on elephant protection herself in Cameroon. At the beginning of the year, 45 MEPs joined her with a congratulations letter to the President of Cameroon for having reacted quickly against the poaching activities in the National Park of Bouba Njida in Northern Cameroon. It is a considerable cost for poor countries to look after such iconic animals and to fence off a lot of land. The poaching cases in Cameroon have had industrial scale. She was surprised to hear that Europe is still a big market for ivory but was convinced that most of it would go to East Asian countries. The evidence is there for it. China has a law that allows every Chinese citizen to have at least one piece of ivory. The demand is still huge but the market has to be stopped. She intended writing to the Commissioner for Trade to call on him that the EU mentions this issue in all trade agreement with China and other Eastern countries.

**Michèle Striffler (EPP, FR)** agreed with Mrs Bearder. The European Union has to have a firmer approach when it comes to cross compliance in trade agreements. She was particularly shocked about the behaviour of the King of Spain who participated recently in an elephant hunting safari in Botswana. Even if this cannot be compared with industrial poaching it is an unacceptable behaviour from a person supposed to set an example for others.

**Anna Rosbach (ECR, DK)** inquired how the situation would be for the Asian elephant populations. **Satyen Sinha** replied that Asian elephants are still at risk. Especially in the past they were hunted and poached. The ivory of the Asian elephant is more fragile and therefore more difficult to carve. The market demand is therefore higher for ivory from African elephants. Habitat loss is a bigger threat for Asian elephants.

**Carl Schlyter (Greens/EFA, SE)** said that the Parliament and the Intergroup has been in contact with Chinese authorities on several occasions concerning wildlife protection. Quite often they agree to the requests put forward and declare that they will do something. **Satyen Sinha** said that the Chinese authorities are working with NGOs to educate people not to buy ivory item. However they are very often turning a blind eye on the large amounts of ivory that are imported to China by Chinese tourists. To counter this, IFAW has worked with the Kenyan Embassy in China to issue a [green passport](#) to Chinese citizens wishing to travel to Kenya. This green passport urges among other not to buy items in ivory.

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Cristiana Muscardini (EPP, IT) welcomed the green passport initiative and stressed that such schemes should be used much more to raise awareness of tourists who travel to foreign countries and are often not well informed about the consequences of their actions on the environment or the socio economic structure of the country they visit.

Kriton Arsenis (S&D, GR) suggested sending a letter by the intergroup to the King of Spain which should be signed by as many Intergroup Members as possible. The Chairman replied that he would draft a letter to send to the Commission as well as to the King of Spain.

## Further information

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Satyen Sinha, IFAW EU

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The following link <http://elephantdigimag.ifaw.org/#1/1> will take you to *IFAW - Using Science to Save Elephants*, an interactive digital brochure produced by the Southern Africa Office to highlight and explain IFAW's more than 10 years of scientific work in partnership with CERU to promote ethically and scientifically sound approaches to elephant management in southern Africa

## Follow-up action

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- Letter to the Commissioners Piebalgs and Potočník
- Letter to the King of Spain on elephant hunting

## III. The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

### 1. Research opportunities on farm animal welfare and trends for horizon 2020

Danièle Tissot, Programme Officer, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, gave a presentation about research opportunities for farm animal welfare in the context of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

[Link to the PowerPoint presentation](#)

### 2. Advancing Safety Science & Health Research with modern Non- Animal Tools

As Nina Cohen, Science Policy Officer, Humane Society International (HSI) has had an accident the same day, Jo Swabe, Director of the Humane Society International Europe spoke on her behalf about research on non-animal tools that can substitute the use of animals in safety and health tests.

[Link to the PowerPoint presentation](#)

## Questions and debate

Carl Schlyter (Greens/EFA, SE) said that the John Hopkins University in the US is currently developing a new method for checking endpoints and for directly screening them. This method will be much more efficient and also cheaper to use. Once it is ready, European legislation should be adapted as quickly as possible.

Anna Rosbach (ECR, DK) wanted to have some information about the use of animal in long term research to fight diseases such as cancer. Jo Swabe replied that this information would be provided by Nina Cohen in writing.

## Further information

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Nina Cohen, Science Policy Officer, Humane Society International (HSI)  
Mobile: 00 31 613550771 email: [ncohen@hsi.org](mailto:ncohen@hsi.org)

## I. Closing remarks

The next Intergroup meeting will be held on **Thursday 24 May** in Strasbourg. Further details about the meeting will be dispatched in time.

### Members of the European Parliament (13)

Agnew, John Stuart	EFD	UK
Arsenis, Kriton (Vice-President)	S&D	GR
Bearder, Catherine	ALDE	UK
Hirsch, Nadja (Vice-President)	ALDE	DE
Jørgensen, Dan (President)	S&D	DK
Leichtfried, Jörg (Vice-President)	S&D	AT
Liotard, Kartika Tamara(Vice-President)	GUE/NGL	NL
Muscardini, Cristiana (Vice-President)	EPP	IT
Rosbach, Anna	S&D	DK
Schlyter, Carl (Honorary President)	Greens/EFA	SE
Striffler, Michèle (Vice-President)	EPP	FR
Taylor, Keith	Greens/EFA,	UK
Wojciechowski, Janusz (Vice-President)	ECR	PL

### Assistants and Interns to Members of the European Parliament (13)

Amall, Amanda	Assistant to Mr Gustafsson(GUE/NGL, SE)
Anselmi, Antonio	Assistant to Mrs Muscardini (EPP, IT)
Brennetot Claire	Assistant to Mr Lyon (ALDE, UK)
Carter, Rob	Stagiaire to Mr Lambert (Greens/EFA)
Fuglsang, Niels	Assistant to Mr Jørgensen (S&D, DK)
Hiriart, Sandra	Assistant to Mrs Striffler (EPP, FR)
O' Flynn, Jessica	Assistant to Ms Girling (ECR, UK)
Orey, Pilar	Assistant to Mr Romeva y Rueda (Greens/EFA, ES)
Pahlen, Marita	Assistant to Mr Schlyter (Greens/EFA,
Sergo, Leida	Assistant to Mrs Paulsen (ALDE, SE)
Sprackett, Joanna	Assistant to Mr Taylor (Greens/EFA, UK)
Valtanen, Aino	Assistant to Mrs Pietikäinen (EPP, FI)
Weber, Johannes	Assistant to Mrs Jeggle (EPP, DE)

### Guest Speaker and Observers (13)

Aboulin, Agnes	Presse, Internet
Busquet, François	CAAT - EU Policy Coordinator
Dalton, Dan	ECR- Political Adviser
Gandini, Edoardo	OIPA, International Officer
Laissy, Kathleen	EBCD
Lamaison Mélanie	EBCD
Landry, Julie	IFAW, Communications Officer for West Africa
Majerczyk, Magdalena	ECR- Political Adviser
Miczki, Tamara	Parliament Official
Moser, Eleonora	Pet Psychologist
Sinha, Satyen	IFAW, Political and Campaigns Officer
Swabe, Joanna	Humane Society International (HSI)
Tissot, Danièle	European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

### Secretariat (1)

Erlar, Andreas	Eurogroup for Animals, Political Officer
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