**AFRICAN ELEPHANT**

**FACTFILE**
- **Number Living in the Wild:** Around 415,000
- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable
- **Scientific Name:** *Loxodonta africana*
- **Weight:** 3,500 to 6,500 kilograms (kg)
- **Size:** Up to 3.4 m
- **Life Span:** 60 to 70 years
- **Habitat:** Savannah, grassland, desert and rainforest
- **Diet:** Herbivore

**Where Do They Live?**
African elephants live in a variety of habitats all across Africa including savannas, grasslands, deserts and rainforests.

**Why Are They in Danger?**
Since 1986, the IUCN has listed the African elephant as in danger. The biggest threat to the species comes from poaching. Poachers illegally kill African elephants for their tusks, which are made from ivory and are extremely valuable. The ivory tusks are sold at high prices and are mostly used to make carvings.

A pile of illegally poached ivory tusks.

**How Are They Being Protected?**
In December 2016, the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) agreed to ban the domestic ivory trade in all of the 183 countries who are members of the organisation. This includes China, which has the largest domestic ivory market in the whole world. Many people hope that this ban may save the African elephant from extinction in the future.

Each year, poachers kill over 8% of the total population of African elephants. At this rate, elephants may become extinct within the next ten years.

This statue has been carved from elephant tusks.