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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 20/01/13

## Elephant poaching in Africa

Today, let's talk about elephant poaching in Africa. The killing of these giant beasts for their ivory is truly shocking. Africa has seen its elephant population decimated because of it.

The situation was at its worst during the 1980s, when more than half of Africa's elephants were estimated to have been wiped out by man. Most of them were killed by poachers for their ivory.

In 1990, many countries signed up to an international ban on the trade of ivory. The result was that global demand dwindled. This was mainly due to a successful worldwide public awareness campaign. Elephant numbers began to increase. However, in recent years those advances have reversed. In 2011, an estimated 25,000 elephants were killed. Figures for 2012 are still being collated but will almost certainly be high.

The finger of blame is being pointed at China. They are the largest buyer of ivory in the world. As a result ivory prices have soared.

Lagos in Nigeria, West Africa, is the centre of a booming trade in illegal African ivory. In fact, it is the largest retail market for illegal ivory in Africa. This is despite the strict legislation introduced in 2011 by the Nigerian government to clamp down on the trade when it made it illegal to display, advertise, buy and sell it.

The ivory is being brought from Kenya in East Africa to Nigeria. It is then exported by Nigerians to China. Kenya though is trying to stop the illegal poaching. It has a Rapid Response Unit of about a dozen men who track and shoot dead any poachers they discover. Widespread poverty and easy access to guns in Africa mean the rewards of poaching far outweigh any risks.

### SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about elephant poaching in Africa. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) Name the countries
- 2) Name the continent!
- 3) What have soared?
- 4) What is the Rapid Response Unit?
- 5) What far outweigh any risks? Why?

#### Student B questions

- 1) How many elephants were killed in 2011?
- 2) What happened in 1990?
- 3) What has been decimated?
- 4) Who does the finger point at?
- 5) Where is the illegal ivory sold?

**Category: Africa / Elephants Poaching / The Ivory Trade**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Elephant poaching in Africa – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Elephant poaching in Africa**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**Elephant poaching in Africa** - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three similar ideas of your own. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

*The teacher* will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

Think of three good reasons for banning the sale of ivory. Then add three ways on how to stop the illegal sale of it. Finally, add three things an elephant should do when they see a poacher. Write down your thoughts. (Make a 'trunk' call to the Rapid Response Unit!)

*The teacher* will choose some students to read out their work to the class.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Have you ever been to Africa?
- 3) Why does man kill elephants?
- 4) Should there be another public awareness campaign to help save elephants?
- 5) What is the future like for African elephants?
- 6) What should the government in Kenya do about elephant poaching?
- 7) Do you own any ivory? If yes, what?
- 8) Would you like to be an elephant?
- 9) Should seized ivory be destroyed?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *BBC Africa* TV studio. Today's interview is about: *Elephant poaching in Africa*.

- 1) Leader of the Kenyan Rapid Response Unit
- 2) A poacher in Kenya
- 3) A market seller of ivory in Lagos, Nigeria
- 4) A leader from Africa

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs.* One of you is a sleazy ivory buyer. The other a poacher. You are in a sleazy bar in Lagos, Nigeria. Start a conversation about: '*Buying some ivory!*' 5 mins.

### SPEAKING - GAME – 10 mins

Form a circle. *I went to Africa and I saw a...* Choose an animal. Go round the circle, repeating the animals then add one of your own. Forget an animal and you are poached!

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*Allow 10 minutes – As a class.*

*Discuss the following...*

Elephant poaching in Africa

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Would you like to go on a safari?
- 3) How can you help save elephants?
- 4) What should the world do to stop elephant poaching?
- 5) Is China to blame for the poaching?
- 6) Should there be a complete ban on the ivory trade?
- 7) Would you like a job with the Kenyan Rapid Response Unit?
- 8) Would you like to live in Lagos, Nigeria?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson in English for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**Elephant poaching in Africa**

Today, let's talk about (1)\_\_\_ poaching in Africa. The killing of these giant (2)\_\_\_ for their ivory is (3)\_\_\_ shocking. Africa has seen its elephant population decimated because of it.

The (4)\_\_\_ was at its worst during the 1980s, when more than half of Africa's elephants were estimated to have been wiped out by man. Most of them were killed by (5)\_\_\_ for their ivory.

In 1990, many countries signed up to an international ban on the trade of (6)\_\_\_ . The result was that global demand dwindled. This was mainly due to a successful worldwide public awareness (7)\_\_\_ . Elephant numbers began to increase. However, in recent years those advances have reversed. In 2011, an estimated 25,000 elephants were killed. Figures for 2012 are still being collated but will almost (8)\_\_\_ be high.

**ivory / elephant / truly / certainly / poachers / situation / beasts / campaign**

The (1)\_\_\_ of blame is being pointed at China. They are the largest buyer of ivory in the world. As a result ivory prices have soared.

Lagos in Nigeria, West Africa, is the centre of a booming trade in illegal African ivory. In fact, it is the largest retail market for (2)\_\_\_ ivory in Africa. This is despite the strict (3)\_\_\_ introduced in 2011 by the Nigerian government to (4)\_\_\_ on the trade when it made it illegal to display, (5)\_\_\_, buy and sell it.

The ivory is being brought from Kenya in East Africa to Nigeria. It is then exported by Nigerians to China. Kenya though is trying to stop the illegal poaching. It has a Rapid Response Unit of about a (6)\_\_\_ men who (7)\_\_\_ and shoot dead any poachers they discover. Widespread (8)\_\_\_ and easy access to guns in Africa mean the rewards of poaching far outweigh any risks.

**poverty / illegal / advertise / dozen / finger / legislation / clamp down / track**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**Elephant poaching in Africa**

Today, let's talk about elephant poaching in Africa. The killing of (1)\_\_\_ giant beasts for (2)\_\_\_ ivory is truly shocking. Africa has seen its elephant population decimated because of it.

The situation was at its worst during the 1980s, (3)\_\_\_ more than half of Africa's elephants were estimated to have been wiped out by man. (4)\_\_\_ of them were killed by poachers for their ivory.

In 1990, (5)\_\_\_ countries signed up to an international ban on the trade of ivory. The result was that global demand dwindled. (6)\_\_\_ was mainly due to a successful worldwide public awareness campaign. Elephant numbers began to increase. (7)\_\_\_, in recent years those advances have reversed. In 2011, an estimated 25,000 elephants were killed. Figures for 2012 are (8)\_\_\_ being collated but will almost certainly be high.

**still / many / their / however / most / these / when / this**

The finger of blame is being pointed (1)\_\_\_ China. They are the largest buyer (2)\_\_\_ ivory in the world. (3)\_\_\_ a result ivory prices have soared.

Lagos in Nigeria, West Africa, is the centre of a booming trade in illegal African ivory. In fact, it is the largest retail market for illegal ivory in Africa. This is despite the strict legislation introduced in 2011 (4)\_\_\_ the Nigerian government to clamp down (5)\_\_\_ the trade when it made it illegal to display, advertise, buy and sell (6)\_\_\_.

The ivory is being brought from Kenya (7)\_\_\_ East Africa to Nigeria. It is then exported by Nigerians to China. Kenya though is trying to stop the illegal poaching. It has a Rapid Response Unit of about (8)\_\_\_ dozen men who track and shoot dead any poachers they discover. Widespread poverty and easy access to guns in Africa mean the rewards of poaching far outweigh any risks.

**in / it / of / at / by / a / as / on**

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### Elephant poaching in Africa

Today, let's talk about \_\_\_\_\_ in Africa. The killing of these giant beasts for their ivory is truly shocking. Africa has seen its elephant population decimated because of it.

The situation \_\_\_\_\_ during the 1980s, when more than half of Africa's elephants were estimated to have been wiped out by man. Most of them were killed by poachers for their ivory.

In 1990, many countries signed up to an \_\_\_\_\_ the trade of ivory. The result was that global demand dwindled. This was mainly due to a successful worldwide public awareness campaign. \_\_\_\_\_ began to increase. However, in recent years those advances have reversed. In 2011, an estimated 25,000 elephants were killed. Figures for 2012 are \_\_\_\_\_ but will almost certainly be high.

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs*, name as many *animals* as you can! *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The ivory \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The elephants \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The poachers \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **The Ivory Trade**. Your email can be read out in class.

### GAP FILL READING

- 1) Elephant
- 2) beasts
- 3) truly
- 4) situation
- 5) poachers
- 6) ivory
- 7) campaign
- 8) certainly

### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) legislation
- 2) poachers
- 3) situation
- 4) elephant
- 5) giant
- 6) decimated
- 7) countries
- 8) however
- 9) because
- 10) dwindled

### ANSWERS

- 1) finger
- 2) illegal
- 3) legislation
- 4) clamp down
- 5) advertise
- 6) dozen
- 7) track
- 8) poverty

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**  
**Good = 15**  
**Very good = 18**  
**Excellent = 20**

- 11) Nigeria
- 12) Kenya
- 13) though
- 14) outweigh
- 15) illegal
- 16) dozen
- 17) discover
- 18) advertise
- 19) certainly
- 20) beasts

Elephant poaching in Africa – *20<sup>th</sup> January 2013*