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Known Elephant Numbers and Distribution in Africa

Iain Douglas-Hamilton

IUCN/WWF Elephant Survey and Conservation Programme, African Division

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here in Detroit, the elephant issue is kept alive as much as we can. Several articles were written in local newspapers, radio interviews were given, and a display case was arranged in the Biology Science Hall on the Wayne State University campus. In the "South End", our campus paper, a short article (actually an excerpt from the newsletter) on elephants appears weekly in the section entitled "Potpourri".

Readers who wish to voice their opinion on any points of the above issue, are welcome to do so by writing to:

Keith M. Schreiner
Associate Director - Federal Assistance
Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240
telephone: 202-343-4646

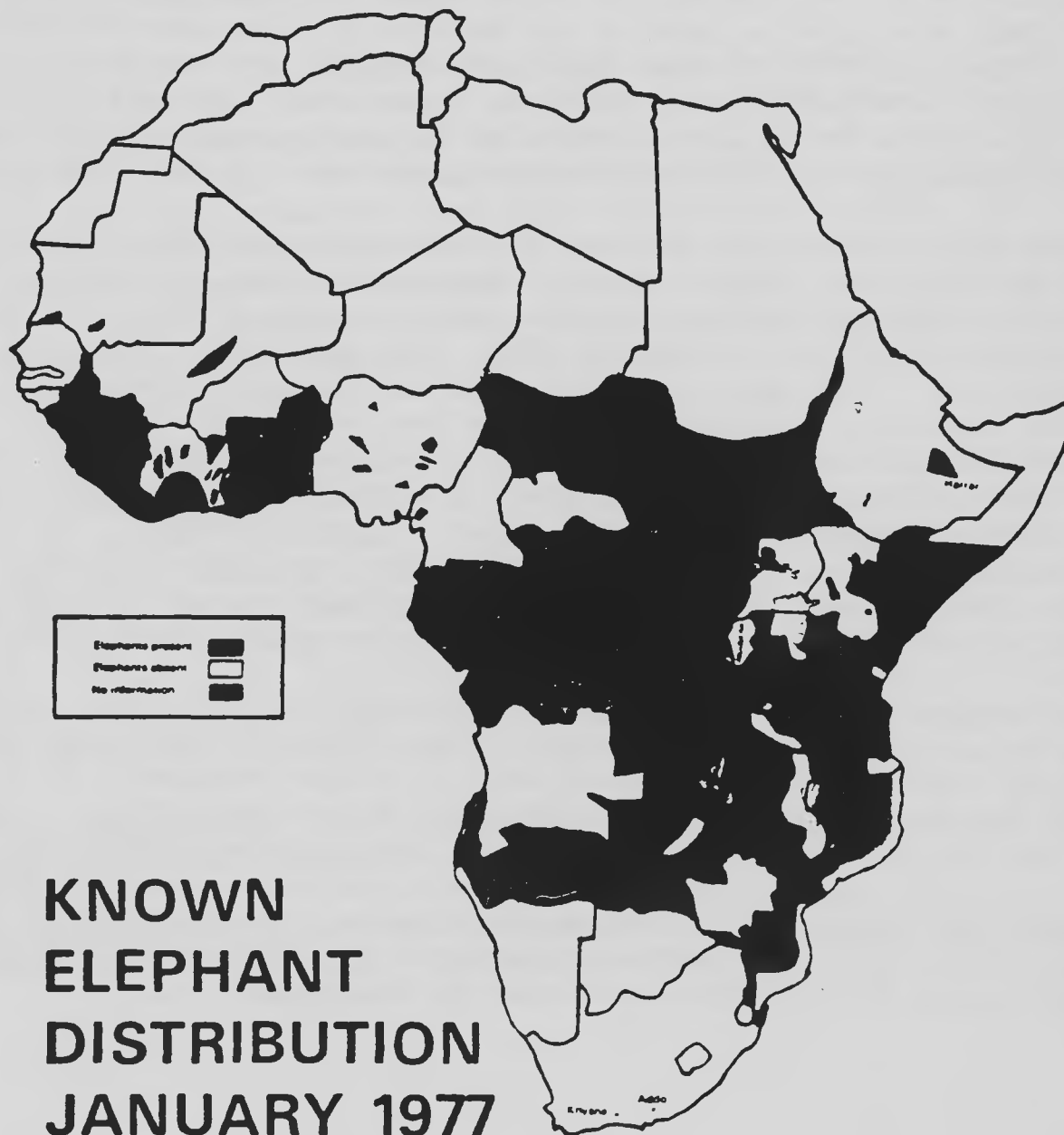
Please send a copy of the letter to: Craig Van Note*
"Monitor"
1522 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20036 USA

*Craig Van Note is vice president of a consortium of U.S. conservation agencies.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES

KNOWN ELEPHANT NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION IN AFRICA

by Iain Douglas-Hamilton



RECENT POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT
(from Douglas-Hamilton, 1977c)

<u>Country</u>	<u>Provisional Minimum Population Estimate</u>	<u>Population Trend</u>	<u>Information Available</u>
Angola	5,000	Decreasing	Little
Benin	600	Decreasing	Considerable
Botswana	25,000	Probably stable	Nearly complete
Burundi	Unknown	Unknown	None current
Cameroon	7,000	Increasing in North; Decreasing in South	Little
Central African Empire	68,500-103,000	Decreasing	Considerable
Chad	15,000	Decreasing rapidly	Considerable
Congo	2,000	Decreasing rapidly	Little
Equatorial Guinea	Unknown	Unknown	None current
Ethiopia	500	Decreasing	Little
Gabon	Unknown	Unknown	None current
Gambia	Recently extinct	-	-
Ghana	1,000	Decreasing in some areas; increasing in others	Little
Guinea-Bissau	Recently extinct	-	-
Ivory Coast	5,000	Decreasing rapidly	Considerable
Kenya	55,000-75,000	Decreasing rapidly	Nearly complete
Lesotho	Recently extinct	-	-
Liberia	200-1,000	Decreasing	Little
Malawi	2,800-3,200	Decreasing slowly	Considerable
Mali	1,000	Decreasing	Little
Mauritania	Possibly small relict pop. 10	Unknown	Little
Mozambique	1,500-5,000	Unknown	Little
Namibia	2,000	Stable	Considerable
Nigeria	1,200-1,500	Decreasing	Considerable
Rhodesia	22,000	Decreasing slowly	Considerable
Rwanda	170	Stable	Nearly complete
Senegal	400	Decreasing	Considerable
Sierra Leone	100-500	Decreasing	Little
Somalia	13,000-25,000	Increasing	Considerable
South Africa	7,750	Stable	Nearly complete
Sudan	50,000	Unknown	Little
Swaziland	Recently extinct	-	-
Tanzania	300,000	Probably decreasing overall	Nearly complete
Togo	100	Unknown	Little
Uganda	4,000	Catastrophic decline in 1973-6	Nearly complete
Zaire	300,000	Unknown	Little
Zambia	350,000	Decreasing	Considerable

Total Minimum Population Estimate for Africa: 1.3 Million

The Table above is reprinted, with permission, from Information Report, Vol. 27, No. 1, 1978. The map is reprinted, with permission, from WWF/IUCN Elephant Survey & Conservation Programme, Newsletter No. 2, 1977 (see references 361 and 387). Additional information on elephant numbers was provided by Jeffery K. Towner while visiting Detroit. Towner informed the editor that there are about 600 elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in National Park W in Niger and about 1000 elephants in all Niger as of December, 1976. The area of the National Park W is 2,200 sq. km., that is, the density of the elephants is 0.5/sq. km.