

LARGE LAND ANIMALS

(ELEPHANT – RHINOCEROS – HIPPOPOTAMUS)

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“All of Earth’s largest land animals are in danger of becoming extinct.” Read that statement again. Yes, our most magnificent large animals will be gone “forever” from the Earth’s surface unless mankind does something quick to stop the slaughter of these wonderful animals. I’m talking about the Elephants, Rhinoceroses, and Hippopotamuses. Since I have a little trouble spelling and pronouncing the words Rhinoceros and Hippopotamus, we will call them Rhino(s) and Hippo(s) for the rest of this article.

Here are the six largest land animals:

1. African Elephant (Up to 15,400 pounds)
2. Asian Elephant (Up to 13,200 pounds)
3. White Rhino (Up to 8,000 pounds)
4. Common Hippo (Up to 7,500 pounds)
5. Indian – also called the Greater One-horned Rhino (Up to 6,000 pounds)
6. Black Rhino (Up to 3,200 pounds)

Some of the more alarming headlines and news statements are in **RED**:

African and Asian Elephant

“A recent study by leading elephant experts has found that an average of almost 36,000 elephants were killed each year by poachers since 2010 in Africa. This trend is pushing the world's largest land mammals closer and closer to extinction.”

“In 2014 and 2015, more than 100 elephants were killed by poachers every day in Africa.”

AFRICAN ELEPHANT | ASIAN ELEPHANT

What are the differences?



EARS: Large, "Africa-shaped" ear
TRUNK TIP: Two "fingers" for grasping
HEAD: Single dome
HEIGHT (*tallest at shoulder*): 9 – 13'
WEIGHT: 8,800 – 15,400 lbs.

TOP SPEED: Up to 25 mph
LIFESPAN: Up to 70 years
RANGE:



EARS: Small, rounded ear
TRUNK TIP: One "finger" for grasping
HEAD: Twin dome
HEIGHT (*tallest at back*): 6.5 – 9'
WEIGHT: 6,600 – 13,200 lbs.

TOP SPEED: Up to 16 mph
LIFESPAN: Up to 48 years
RANGE:



“Poaching is now believed to account for 75 percent of elephant deaths each year. A decade ago, that number was 25 percent – Not many elephants die of old age anymore.”



African Elephant



Asian Elephants

“There are still healthy growing elephant populations in parts of Africa – Botswana, for example. But in most other places, the poaching levels are devastatingly high, and that is particularly the case in Central Africa.”

“The African elephant population in the central part of the continent has fallen by 70 percent in a decade, according to the BBC. Elephant numbers in Tanzania’s Selous Game Reserve dropped from 40,000 to 13,000 in the last three years alone.”

“Elephants have been revered for centuries in Asia, playing an important role in the continent's culture and religion. They are also play a critical role in maintaining the region's forests. But their habitat is shrinking and Asian elephants are now endangered.”

Elephant Fun Facts - Did you know?

- Only one mammal can’t jump — the elephant.
- The average weight for an elephant heart is 27 to 46 pounds!

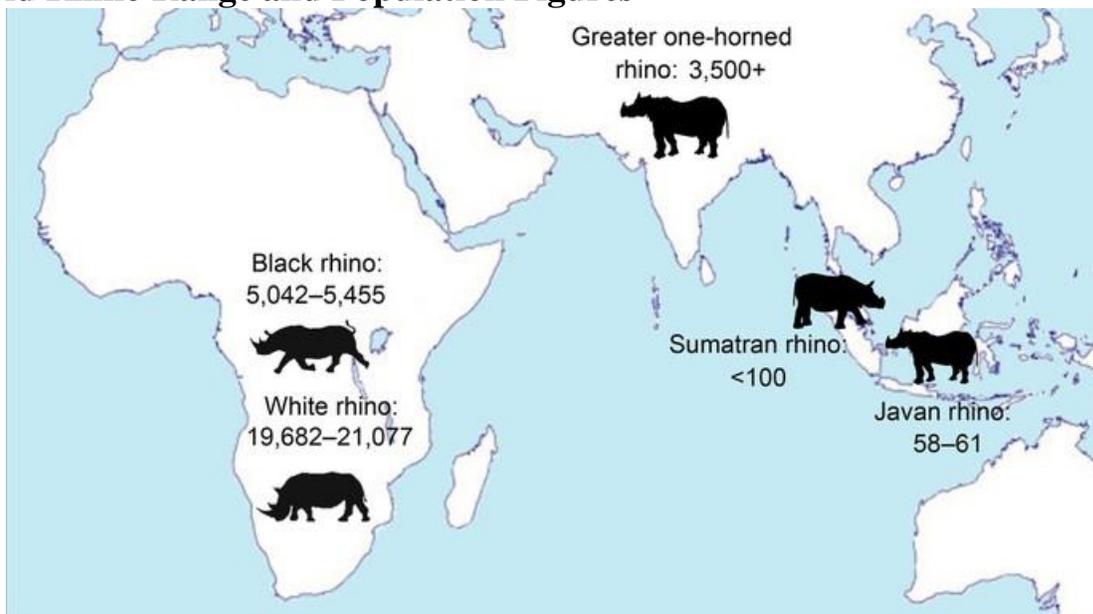
- **Elephants have a highly developed brain and is 3 or 4 times larger than that of humans although smaller as a proportion of body weight.**
- **Elephants have a slow pulse rate of 27.**
- **An elephant's skin is an inch thick.**
- **Elephants have poor eyesight but an amazing sense of smell.**
- **At the age of 16, a female elephant can reproduce, but rarely has more than four children throughout her lifetime. At birth, an elephant calf weighs about 230 pounds!**
- **Elephants have the longest pregnancy of all the animals. It takes a female 22 months from conception to give birth.**
- **Elephants purr like cats do, as a means of communication.**
- **Elephants prefer one tusk over the other, just as people are either left or right-handed.**
- **Tusks are an elephant's incisor teeth. They are used for defense, digging for water, and lifting things.**
- **Elephants have four molars, one on the top and one on the bottom on both sides of the mouth. One molar can weigh about five pounds and is the size of a brick!**
- **The elephant trunk has more than 40,000 muscles in it.**
- **Elephants wave their trunks up in the air and from side to side to smell better.**
- **The elephant's trunk is able to sense the size, shape and temperature of an object. An elephant uses its trunk to lift food and suck up water then pour it into its mouth.**
- **Elephants cry, play, have incredible memories, and can also laugh. Yes, it is true that an elephant never forgets a face or a smell.**

- **Elephants can swim – they use their trunk to breathe like a snorkel in deep water.**
- **Elephant feet are covered in a soft padding that help uphold their weight, prevent them from slipping, and dull any sound. Therefore, elephants can walk almost silently!**
- **Elephants can use their feet to listen, they can pick up sub-sonic rumblings made by other elephants, through vibrations in the ground. Elephants are observed listening by putting trunks on the ground and carefully positioning their feet.**
- **Elephants are highly sensitive and caring animals. if a baby elephant complains, the entire family will rumble and go over to touch and caress it. Elephants also express grief, compassion, self-awareness, and like to play.**
- **Elephants have greeting ceremonies when a friend that has been away for some time returns to the group.**
- **Elephants have large, thin ears. Their ears are made up of a complex network of blood vessels which regulate an elephant’s temperature. Blood is circulated through their ears to cool them down in hot climates.**
- **An elephant is capable of hearing sound waves well below our human hearing limitation. The far reaching use of high pressure infrasound opens the elephant’s spatial experience far beyond our limited capabilities.**
- **Elephants are social creatures. They sometimes “hug” by wrapping their trunks together in displays of greeting and affection.**
- **Elephants pay homage to the bones of their dead, gently touching the skulls and tusks with their trunks and feet. when an elephant walks past a place that a loved one has died, he/she will stop dead still; a silent and empty pause that can last several minutes.**

“Despite a ban on the international trade in ivory, African elephants are still being poached in large numbers. Tens of thousands of elephants are being killed every year for their ivory tusks. The ivory is often carved into ornaments and jewelry – China is the biggest consumer market for such products”

The Rhino

World Rhino Range and Population Figures



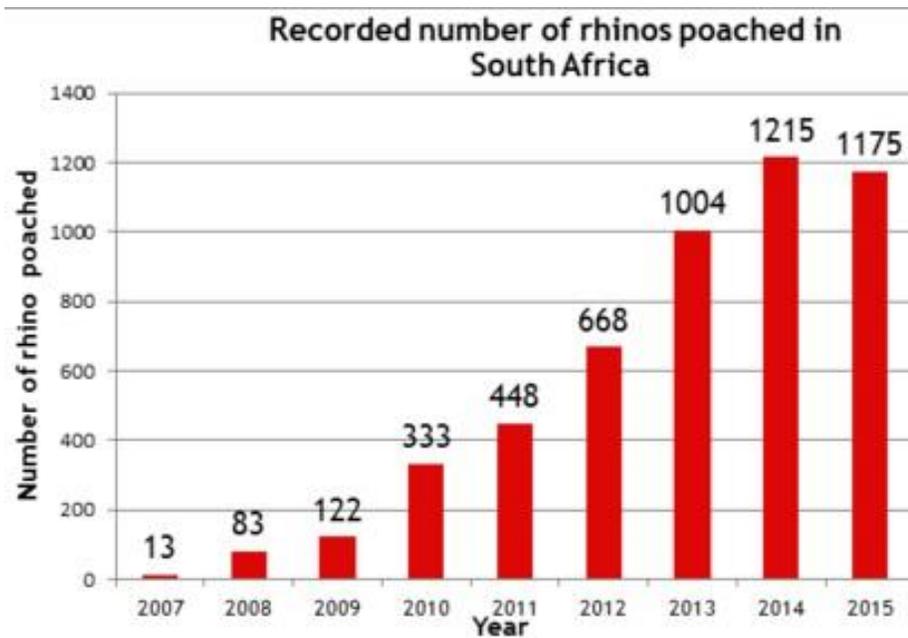
White Rhino

“Since 2009, poachers have killed more than 6,000 White and Black African rhinos! Rhino poaching is currently at a crisis point. By the end of 2015, the number of African rhinos killed by poachers had increased for the sixth year in a row with at least 1,338 rhinos killed by poachers across Africa in 2015.”



Black Rhino

“South Africa has by far the largest population of rhinos in the world and is an incredibly important country for rhino conservation. However, rhino poaching levels have dramatically escalated over recent years. The below graph shows the exponential increase in poaching from 2007 - 2015.”





Indian (also known as the Greater One-Horned) Rhino

“At the turn of the century, the population of Indian or Greater One-horned rhinos had decreased drastically to about 20 individuals. However, through strict protection in India and Nepal, this species has since been brought back from the brink of extinction, with more than 3,500 individuals existing today.”

Rhino Fun Facts - Did you know?

	<u>White Rhino</u>	<u>Black Rhino</u>	<u>Indian Rhino</u>
Weight	Up to 8000 pounds	Up to 3,200 pounds	Up to 6,000 pounds
Length	Up to 13 feet	Up to 12 ft. 3 in.	Up to 12 ft. 5 in.
Height	Up to 6 ft. 10 in.	Up to 5 ft. 11 in.	Up to 6 ft. 3 in.
Lifespan	Up to 50 years	Up to 50 years	Up to 40 years
Top Speed	33 miles per hour	35 miles per hour	34 miles per hour
Population	About 20,000	About 5,200	About 3,500
Range	Southern Africa	Central Africa	Northern India

- The name rhinoceros means ‘nose horn’ and is often shortened to rhino.
- There are five different species of rhinoceros, three native to southern Asia and two native to Africa. They are the Black Rhinoceros, White Rhinoceros, Indian Rhinoceros, Javan Rhinoceros and Sumatran Rhinoceros.
- Three of the five rhino species are listed as being critically endangered.

•White rhinoceros are generally considered the second largest land mammal (after the elephant).

•Rhinoceros have thick, protective skin.

•Relative to their large body size, rhinoceros have small brains.

•Rhinoceros horns are made from a protein called keratin, the same substance that fingernails and hair are made of.

•Rhinoceros are often hunted and killed by poachers for their horns.

•Rhinoceros are herbivores (plant eaters).



•Despite their names, White Rhinoceros are actually light gray and Black Rhinoceros are a dark gray.

•The Rhinoceros relies on their sense of smell and their hearing. They don't have very good vision at all so these other senses have to kick in for them to be able to survive.

•The Nile Crocodile is considered to be the biggest natural predator of the Rhinoceros. They will generally attack the young when they wander from their mother or when they are drinking water.

•Birds often do perch on the body of the Rhinoceros. This is so that they are able to eat insects and other elements that are on the skin of the Rhinoceros. This is a relationship that the Rhinoceros seems to be accepting of as they go about their own eating without it bothering them.

•A female Rhinoceros will carry a baby in her body for a period of time that ranges from 15 months to 16 months.

•The Rhinoceros is considered to be an animal that still looks very primitive. There are indicators though that they have been around for millions of years. In some locations they may have had fur on them too for survival in the cold.

•The Rhinoceros tends to be active in the early morning and then again at dusk. They like to move around at night looking for food. They tend to try to stay out of the heat during the day due to their sensitive skin.

•Despite its large size and weight, a Rhinoceros can sleep lying down.

•Even after the body of the Rhinoceros stops growing, the horns will continue to grow.

•A group of Rhinoceros are referred to as a crash. This is due to the fact that they can create a sound that is similar to a crash when they are all moving at once.

•A baby Rhinoceros can weigh from 88 to 140 pounds at birth.

“A large percentage of the population of Rhinoceros have been depleted due to poaching in the past 30 years. Right now they are considered to be the animal on Earth that is at the highest risk of becoming extinct in the near future.”

“Despite protection measures, poaching for horns and other body parts remains a serious threat today for all rhinos. There is a high demand for rhino horn in traditional Chinese medicine, making it an expensive commodity; it has been reported that a kilogram of rhino horn is worth approximately \$92,500 US dollars, making it more than twice as valuable as gold.”

“In some places, such as Vietnam, a large rhino horn can run you \$500,000 US dollars.”

Common African Hippo

“The world’s biggest population of hippos has been reduced by 95 per cent, leaving the giant creature as the latest of the planet’s large animal to be in danger of extinction. Less than 30 years ago, more than 29,000 hippos lazed in the rivers and rainforest backwaters of the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Now, after a decade of civil war, naturalists have returned to discover that just 1,300 remain.”

“The Congo carnage may not be unique. In neighboring Burundi, a recent census found that 200 hippos – two-thirds of the national population – had disappeared in the last five years.”



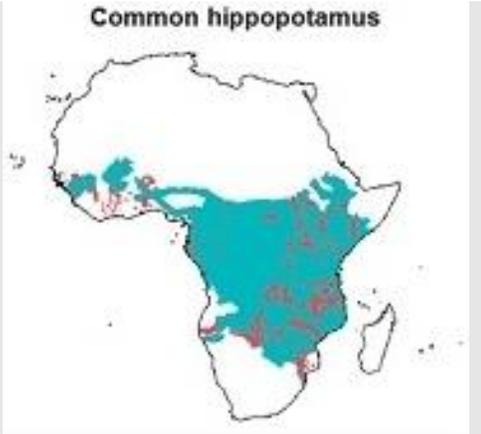
“This is disastrous news for the hippo,” warns Susan Lieberman, species director at the conservation charity WWF. “Unless poaching is stopped, hippos will be threatened with extinction.”

“Today in 2016, only 120,000 to 140,000 of these hippos still roam wild on the planet.”

Some Hippo Facts and Information

- Hippopotamuses are large, round, water-loving animals that are native to Africa. Though they're sometimes thought of as cute and cuddly, hippos can

actually be quite dangerous; they kill about 3,000 people every year, according to the National Wildlife Federation.

Weight	Up to 7,500 pounds	 <p>Common hippopotamus</p>
Length	Up to 16 feet	
Height	Up to 5 feet 2 inches	
Lifespan	Up to 40 years	
Top Speed	19 miles per hour	
Range	Sub-Saharan Africa	

- Hippos live south of the Sahara Desert in Africa. They can only survive in areas with abundant water, though, so they live in areas with many rivers and lakes. Hippos are amphibious animals and spend up to 16 hours per day in the water. The water keeps them cool in the African heat. They spend all day in the water and then hunt for food at night on land.
- They are very social and hang out in groups called schools, bloats, pods or sieges. A group of hippos usually consist of 10 to 30 members of both females and males. No matter the size, the group is led by the most dominant male.
- Hippos are very aggressive creatures and are very dangerous. They have large teeth and tusks that they use for fighting off other animals that they see as threats, including humans. Sometimes, their young are the victims of their temper. During a fight between two adults, a young hippo can be hurt or crushed.
- Though hippos move quite quickly through the water, they can't swim. According to the San Diego Zoo, hippos move through the water by walking and pushing themselves off other objects.
- A hippo eats about 80 lbs. of grass each night, according to National Geographic. They travel up to 6 miles in a night to get their fill. They also eat fruit that they find during their nightly scavenging. Hippos can store food in their stomachs and go three weeks without eating.

- Females have a gestation period of eight months and have only one baby at a time. At birth, the baby, called a calf, is a whopping 50 to 110 lbs. For 18 months, the baby nurses while its mother is on land, or it swims underwater to suckle. When it dives, the calf closes its nose and ears to block out water. All hippos have this ability. They also have membranes that cover and protect their eyes while they are underwater. At 6 years old, the hippo calf is fully mature.



- The word "hippopotamus" comes from the Greek word for "water horse" or "river horse." However, hippos and horses are not related. The closest living relatives to hippos are pigs, whales and dolphins.

- A hippo must stay moist, because if its skin dries out, it will crack. Its skin also secretes a red fluid that is thought to be an antibiotic, sunscreen and skin moisturizer. People once thought that the red secretions were blood and that hippos sweat blood.

- Hippos can stay underwater for up to 5 minutes without coming up for air. When they sleep in the water, their bodies automatically bob up to the top of the water so that they can take a breath, and then they sink back to the bottom.

- Hippos' eyes and nostrils are on top of their head. This allows them to breath and look around while the rest of their body is submerged.

- Hippos are fast for their size. They can run up to 19 mph on land. Adult hippos move at speeds up to 5 mph in water; typically resurfacing to breathe every three to five minutes. The young hippos have to breathe every two to three minutes.
- Hippos do not really swim. Their method of travel is very simple: they walk underwater. Like many people, hippos enjoy resting in cool water and can let themselves float or sink by controlling their breathing and body position.
- Hippos are very loud animals. Their snorts, grumbles and wheezes have been measured at 115 decibels — about the same volume as being 15 feet from the speakers at a rock concert. Hippos can also use subsonic vocalizations to communicate.



- A hippo's mouth may be 2 feet wide at its lip. An adult hippo has 36 teeth, including tusks that can grow up to 3 feet long. Incisors and bottom incisors thrust vertically to the front of the mouth to stab foes. More commonly, male hippos size one another up by opening their mouth up to 150 degrees, stretching it to its full 4 to 5 feet length.
- Hippopotamus teeth are made of ivory, similar to the tusks of elephants. However, hippo ivory is even more highly prized because it does not turn yellow with age. It is commonly believed that George Washington's false teeth were made of wood; however, they were actually carved from hippo ivory.

WARNING!!! This page contains Graphic Pictures of DEAD African Animals



DEAD ELEPHANT



DEAD RHINO



DEAD HIPPO

POACHERS AND HUNTERS ARE KILLING OTHER AFRICAN ANIMALS



“CECIL THE LION” - DEAD



DEAD MOUNTAIN GORILLAS

Why are Poachers and Hunters Killing all of these Large Animals?

Simple, there is a very large and profitable market out there for the Elephant's and Hippo's Ivory Tusks, the Rhino's Horn, and also the Lion's and the Gorillas' skins for stuffing (Taxidermy) to show off as hunting trophies.

“Conservationists warn that the growth in the illegal ivory trade means elephants could be wiped out in parts of Africa in the next few years. As demand from China pushes levels of poaching and smuggling to new highs.”



Ivory Store in China



Elephant and Hippo Ivory Jewelers

Now days, poachers don't just go hunting with their rifles and kill one or two elephants. In the central African nation of Chad, where in a single night in mid-March, 89 elephants were slaughtered for their tusks. Reports described the ivory poachers as 50 or so men on camel and horseback, speaking Arabic, armed with AK-47s, and presumed to be the same band that came over from Sudan last year to execute more than 450 elephants in Cameroon -- on that foray, dispatching their victims with rocket-propelled grenades.

In Chad, near the Cameroon border to the south, they left their mark by sparing not even the 33 pregnant females and 15 elephant calves, and by hacking off the tusks while some of the creatures were still alive. Poachers are now using military-style operations that now include firing their AK-47 machine guns from helicopters. These killers are swarming into Africa using advanced weaponry, night-vision goggles and other such assets to slaughter more and more animals.

China has around 200 legal, government-licensed ivory shops. They are the only places legally allowed to sell ivory to individual buyers. The government says ivory carving is an ancient art it wants to keep alive. The bigger problem is that there are thousands of illegal ivory shops who buy their ivory from the poachers and the ivory smugglers.

Chinese consumers, increasingly wealthy, desire ivory. Some think it is lucky, while for some it is a way to display their status. Others see it as a good investment and many give ivory as a gift or bribe to win favor with an official or business contact.

China's ivory traders are moving online. Selling ivory on the Internet is illegal and major websites have banned it. But on sites specializing in auctions, antiques and collectables it is, easy to find dozens of photos of ivory pieces for sale. The government of Kenya reports that 90 percent of ivory smugglers caught there are Chinese citizens.

“As prices for precious ivory goods have surged in China, the number of poached elephants has also escalated. Iain Douglas-Hamilton, founder of Save the Elephants, said more than 100,000 African elephants have been killed for their ivory in just the past three years. Put another way, that is about 100 African elephants being killed every day!”

“China's skyrocketing appetite for ivory is leading to the unsustainable slaughter of African elephants.”

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE WERE 12 MILLION ELEPHANTS IN AFRICA 100 YEARS AGO? WELL, TODAY THERE IS ONLY 3% (YES, 3% OF 12 MILLION) ALIVE IN AFRICA. THAT EQUATES TO ONLY 360,000 ELEPHANTS.

THE ELEPHANT WILL BECOME EXTINCT IN LESS THAN 12 YEARS UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE IMMEDIATELY TO SAVE THEM.

THE RHINO WILL BECOME EXTINCT IN ABOUT 7 YEARS UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE IMMEDIATELY TO SAVE THEM.

THE HIPPO WILL BECOME EXTINCT IN ABOUT 10 YEARS UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE IMMEDIATELY TO SAVE THEM.

**SOME OF THE OTHER
ENDANGERED ANIMALS
IN AFRICA**

- 1. Riverine Rabbit**
- 2. Ethiopian Wolf**
- 3. Grevy's Zebra**
- 4. Pickergill's Reedfrog**
- 5. African Wild Dog**
- 6. Mountain Gorilla**
- 7. Rothschild's Giraffe**
- 8. Chimpanzee**
- 9. African Penguin**



African Wild Dog



Chimpanzee

How to Save Africa's Animals? We must think outside the box!!

Well, we know for sure that the current methods of protecting Africa's animals are not working. Wait a minute – What are the current methods of protecting animals? Local African Wildlife Rangers who are under paid, under trained, out manned, and not armed to deal with the invasion of poachers from outside the African Continent. Many of these animal killers come from Arabic countries where they are hired by smugglers who are hired by rich Chinese businessmen. They come to Africa with helicopters and machine guns to kill everything in their path.

Up to this point in history, no poaching prevention methods have worked and poaching is getting much worse!

The only thing that will stop these poachers is a greater FORCE. Here is my plan to save the animals in Africa:

1. Assemble an Animal Protection Task Force (APTF) for each country in Africa that has endangered animals. Each Task Force will consist of at least 100 well paid highly trained Animal Law Enforcement and military personnel.
2. Each Task Force will have a Task Force Commander and will be armed with the latest U.S. and African military weapons.



3. Declare WAR on the POACHERS!!

4. Don't mess around! Find the poachers and KILL THEM. Poachers need to know that if they get caught killing or trying to kill an Elephant or any other endangered animal, they are going to die too.

5. Make the area above animal reservations a no-fly zone. Helicopters with suspected poachers will be shot down.
6. If tourists want to see the wild animals in Africa, they can go on an African Safari. No guns or other weapons allowed!
7. Go after the ivory smugglers and kill them too if they resist arrest. Make smuggling ivory or rhino horns a felony.
8. Enforce the International Ban on Trading Ivory. Find and put the ivory sellers in jail! Make selling ivory a felony.
9. Enact heavy fines on the public for buying ivory.
10. No ivory or rhino horns leaves Africa – Even if the animal dies of natural causes.
11. Make hunting of all endangered animals illegal. See item 4 for the penalty.
12. Countries of the world must convince (make) China end its high demand and use of ivory.
13. The United States is giving most all these countries in Africa a lot of Foreign Aid dollars. Use this money to save the animals or else it will be cut off.
14. Other wealthy countries like China and Saudi Arabia should help finance this effort to save the animals in Africa.
15. Personal donations from animal lovers world-wide will also be used to support this effort.
16. Lastly, this not a one-time or even a one-year project. I recommend keeping these Animal Protection Task Forces in operation for 10 years or until all of the endangered animals are no longer endangered. By doing this, the ivory and rhino horn buying public will learn to get along without these items.

THE LARGE ANIMALS OF AFRICA HAVE SUFFERED LONG ENOUGH!!

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