



Extinct Species and CITES: Listing the Woolly Mammoth to Protect Elephants

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Roadmap

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)**
- **International trade in elephant and mammoth ivory**
- **CITES CoP18 proposal to list the woolly mammoth**
- **Potential implications**
- **Concluding thoughts**



Image source: National Geographic, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com.au/history/why-did-the-woolly-mammoth-die-out.aspx>



CITES

- ▶ **Regulates international trade of endangered animals and plants to help prevent over-exploitation**
- ▶ **Species may be listed in Appendix I, II, or III**
- ▶ **Requirements for international trade vary depending on the Appendix in which a species is listed**
- ▶ **Asian elephants and some African elephant populations are listed in Appendix I (a few African elephant populations are listed in Appendix II)**



Image source: Pixabay, www.pixabay.com



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Image source: National Geographic,
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com.au/history/woolly-mammoth-fact-file.aspx>

International Trade in Elephant and Mammoth Ivory



Image source: Arctic Antiques, <https://www.mammothivorytrade.com/en/product/handcarved-woolly-mammoth-ivory/>

- ▶ International trade in elephant ivory continues to negatively impact elephant populations
- ▶ Mostly unregulated trade in mammoth ivory
- ▶ May be difficult to distinguish between elephant and mammoth ivory
- ▶ Risk of elephant ivory being mislabeled as mammoth ivory



Image source: USFWS National Digital Library, <https://digitalmedia.fws.gov/digital/collection/natdiglib/id/12478/rec/1>

CITES CoP18 Proposal



- ▶ CITES 18th Conference of the Parties (CoP18)
- ▶ Proposal to list the woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*) in CITES Appendix II
- ▶ Mammoth as a “look-alike” species under CITES Article II, paragraph 2(b)
- ▶ Goal is to help prevent elephant ivory from being laundered as mammoth ivory by regulating international trade in mammoth ivory
- ▶ Proposed listing would not prohibit trade in mammoth ivory

Potential Implications



Image source: American Museum of Natural History, <https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent-exhibitions/paul-and-irma-milstein-hall-of-advanced-mammals/mammoth>

► Possible benefits

- Help prevent laundering of elephant ivory
- Improved identification and regulation
- Increased data and knowledge

► Possible drawbacks

- Distraction
- Diversion of resources
- Unintended negative effects on elephants

Concluding Thoughts

- Predicted outcome at CoP18
- What the proposal represents more broadly
- A note on de-extinction



Thank you!

To learn more about Stetson's Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy, please email me at okuno@law.stetson.edu or visit www.stetson.edu/law/biodiversity.



Image source: Carol M. Highsmith, Library of Congress,
<https://www.loc.gov/resource/highsm.23193/>