

## Africa's Endangered Elephants

The African elephant is the largest land animal in the world. It is thought that the population of African elephants once numbered nearly 5 million. Today that number is closer to five hundred thousand. The actions of humans are to blame for this sharp decline in numbers.

### Shrinking Habitat

The habitat of the African elephant continues to shrink. The human population in Africa has increased rapidly causing a growing demand for farmland. As a result, elephants have less space to roam, meaning they come into contact with humans more frequently. People's fields and crops are often disturbed by these wandering elephants, leading to conflict between humans and elephants. Logging and mining industries are also responsible for the declining numbers of elephants. Both of these practices destroy elephants' natural habitat, making it more and more difficult for these animals to survive.

### Poaching

Another serious problem for the African elephant population is poaching. Although African elephants are a protected species, meaning it is illegal to kill African elephants, people make a lot of money from hunting them. These people are called poachers. Poachers work quickly, quietly and often in the dark of night. The main reason poachers kill elephants is for their tusks. The ivory from the tusks is carved into jewellery and ornaments. African elephants are also targeted for their skin and meat.



The human population continues to grow at a faster and faster rate. Unless effective action is taken soon, it could very well be too late to save these beautiful animals.

1. Highlight the topic sentence of each body paragraph.

2. What features have been used to help the reader navigate this information report?

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3. Why has this particular picture been included? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What purpose does the introduction serve? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How are the introduction and conclusion of this report similar? How are they different?

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