

“What is going on?”

Now, we should know the state of Elephants



# August 12<sup>th</sup>: World Elephant Day

A day to call on the world to protect elephants from **the danger of extinction**

The Elephants of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's Zoos

Of the approximately 5,400 species of mammals that inhabit the Earth, only three of them belong to the elephant family – the Asian elephant, African elephant, and African forest elephant. Of the zoos operated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the Ueno Zoological Gardens has Asian elephants and the Tama Zoological Park has Asian and African elephants. Asian and African elephants inhabit different regions, but in both species, the females, in the wild, form herds and live together, helping each

other, including caring for their young. The males, on the other hand, leave the herd when they become adults and either live alone or in male-only groups.



■ Asian Elephant



■ African Elephant

UENO ZOO & TAMA ZOO

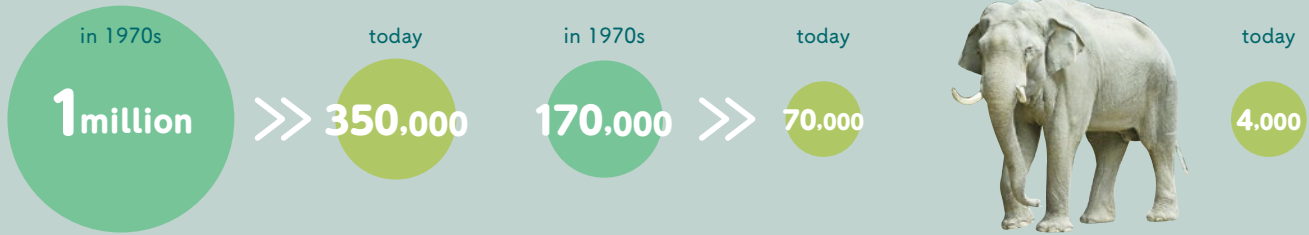
# The Wild Elephant Population is in Decline

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List Categories

African Elephant VU: Vulnerable

African forest elephant VU: Vulnerable

Asian Elephant EN: Endangered



Reasons for declining numbers

## Poaching for ivory



Ivory, the elephant's tusks, has long been used around the world for various purposes, such as works of art and craft, accessories, and piano keys. In Japan, it was traditionally used to make personal seals and *bachi*, the plectrums used to play the *shamisen*, a traditional Japanese string instrument. International trade in ivory was prohibited by CITES (also known as the Washington Convention) in 1989, but poaching of elephants and illegal import and export of ivory continue to this day.

## Loss of habitat due to deforestation



In Southeast Asia, more and more natural forests are being cleared to make way for oil palms, which are harvested for palm oil, and acacia trees, which are used to make paper. These crops are used to make products that are indispensable to our daily lives.

# - A Few Things Zoos Do for Conservation -

What zoos can do

## Researching about elephants



We are researching the habitat and using that knowledge to breed and raise them.

## Multiply the number



We are cooperating with other zoos on breeding programs.

## Share the knowledge



We share what we have known such as the present state and the fascinating features.

What individuals can do

1. Post about what you learned today at the zoo on Twitter, Facebook and other social media.
2. Donate to conservation organizations involved in the protection of elephants.
3. Refuse to buy ivory products.
4. Avoid wasting food and daily items.
5. Choose environmentally-friendly products.



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