



*President
State House
Harare
Zimbabwe*

6 December 2017

His Excellency, Mr Donald Trump
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20 006

RE: CONSERVATION OF ZIMBABWE'S ELEPHANT

On behalf of the people and Government of Zimbabwe, and indeed on my own behalf, I write to express profound appreciation for the US Fish and Wildlife Service determination that Zimbabwe's elephant conservation programme warrants the issuance of import permits in the United States of America after nearly three years. The conservation of elephant and other wildlife species in Zimbabwe is based on sustainable use and approach, much like the user-pay system in North America or the North American Model of Conservation. It is imperative that American safari hunters be permitted to bring their trophies home for the success of our conservation programme.

Your Excellency, Zimbabwe has the second largest elephant population in Africa and the most up-to-date national elephant action plan which includes four regional plans. We need the participation of American hunters for revenues needed for management and to better control poaching. Importantly, our rural communities working with our Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) programme need the support and incentives as well. Elephants will only survive in the long term if they are more valuable to people than their damage to alternative forms of land use, such as subsistence farming.

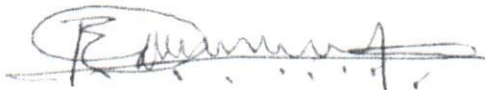
Furthermore, without a way of benefitting from the elephants, they are regarded as a liability and economic cost to poor rural communities, who suffer crop losses, other damages and loss of human life. Consequently, the

most effective strategy to prevent this displacement is to integrate elephants into rural economies as assets and to demonstrate that elephants contribute to the welfare and development of people. The involvement and empowerment of rural people in natural resources management, in combination with economic and financial incentives through sustainable use, capacity building and skills development, have been driving forces behind changes in attitudes towards wildlife on communally owned land in Zimbabwe.

Your Excellency, I wish to assure you that under my Presidency, the successful elephant programme will continue, including the implementation of the National Elephant Action Plan. Our country is politically stable, and we had a smooth transition from the previous administration, following my inauguration and swearing in as President and Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces on 24 November 2017. All noble conservation initiatives being championed by Zimbabwe will not be reversed but enhanced. The Minister, Permanent Secretary and Director General are confirmed to remain in place.

Going forward, I do hope to improve communications and cooperation between your great country and Zimbabwe, in general, and particularly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with the aim of strengthening our partnership in wildlife conservation, rural development and related spheres for an improved quality of life for our people.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Hon. E.D. Mnangagwa
President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

cc e-mail to Secretary Ryan Zinke and Greg Sheehan - USFWS