

Constituent Letter Template

Subject: Urgent Request to Support Strengthened International Action Against Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT)

[Date]

The Honourable [MP's Full Name], P.C., M.P. House of Commons Ottawa, ON [MP's Postal Code]

Email: [MP's Email Address]

Dear [Mr./Ms./Mx.] [MP's Last Name],

I am writing to you today as a concerned constituent from [Your City/Town], and a supporter of global efforts to protect endangered species, particularly elephants, from the devastating impact of the illegal wildlife trade (IWT).

I am aware of the letter written by the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime and Elephanatics who has subsequently written to the Canadian government to encourage Canada to champion this specific, urgent international initiative: **the creation of an additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)**, specifically focused on wildlife trafficking.

As you know, the illegal wildlife trade is one of the largest transnational criminal enterprises globally, estimated to be worth billions of dollars. This trade fuels corruption, weakens security in source countries, and is a direct threat to global biodiversity. For keystone species like elephants, this criminal activity is pushing populations toward extinction.

While existing agreements like CITES are important, a new UNTOC Protocol is necessary because:

1. **It addresses IWT as a serious crime:** This protocol would better equip global law enforcement to treat wildlife trafficking as the serious, transnational organized crime that it is, enabling greater cross-border cooperation and stricter penalties.
2. **It closes legal gaps:** It would strengthen the international legal framework, helping to bring more countries up to a common standard for tackling this illicit trade.

I urge you, as my representative, to bring this matter forward within the House of Commons and to encourage the relevant Ministers (Environment and Climate Change, Foreign Affairs, and Justice) to **publicly and actively support the merits of an additional Protocol to UNTOC on illegal wildlife trafficking.**

Canada has a recognized commitment to curbing the illegal wildlife trade, and supporting this global agreement is a proactive, essential step to fulfill that commitment and demonstrate international leadership in conservation.

Thank you for considering this critical request to protect our planet's invaluable wildlife. I look forward to your response on how you plan to support this initiative.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name] [Your Street Address or Electoral District] [Your Phone Number or Preferred Email Address]