

# *U.S. President Puts Hold on Elephant Trophy Imports*

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Washington, November 20 (RHC)-- Just days after the Donald Trump administration relaxed regulations on the importation of trophies from hunted elephants, the U.S. president reversed his decision. The president, who has been an advocate for closed borders, going so far as to propose a wall to completely seal the U.S.' southern border and advocating for a travel ban that indiscriminately targets Muslim-majority countries, once floating a 'Muslim registry' policy, planned to open entry for animal body parts.

After an outcry, Trump announced on Twitter that he would put a "hold" on the decision until he could "review all conservation facts."

Animal rights activists took to social media to chastise the president for his inhumane decision. Trump's two adult sons, Eric and Donald Jr., are both big game hunters. A picture of Donald Trump Jr. circulated around social media that depicted him holding the severed tail of a dead elephant that he had apparently killed.

Conservation experts have continually reported that the population of African elephants is plummeting due to several factors, both environmental and artificial. The African elephant population dropped 30% from 2007-14, according to statistics from the 2016 Great Elephant Census.

Political observers pointed out that the Trump administration is no stranger to falling short on

environmental issues. Trump's proposed budget promised to cut funding to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the president is a notorious denier of climate change, a huge threat to endangered species around the world.

"President Trump and I have talked and both believe that conservation and healthy herds are critical," Ryan Zinke, the Secretary of the Interior, said in a statement. "As a result, in a manner compliant with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, the issuing of permits is being put on hold as the decision is being reviewed."

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