

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS



**Green Member of the European Parliament
for the South East of the UK**

Ben Bradshaw MP
Minister for Nature Conservation and Fisheries
DEFRA
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

24th January 2005

Dear Minister,

I am writing to bring to your attention the need for urgent action to secure consensus among EU Member States against the ivory trade.

I understand that at the recent Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), a lack of consensus among EU Member States contributed to the failure of Kenya's proposals for a moratorium on the ivory trade. Similarly, in the final vote on Namibia's request for permission to trade 'carved' ivory, the Member States' decision to abstain pushed this vote in Namibia's favour. The Member States' ambiguous position on the ivory trade is undermining efforts towards the protection and conservation of the elephant population.

In light of this, I urge you to take action to ensure that DEFRA works together with other EU Member States to ensure consensus against the ivory trade at the next Conference of Parties.

I would be grateful if you could inform me of how DEFRA intend to proceed on this matter.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Caroline Lucas
Green Party MEP for South East England