

1925

E. AFRICA

C. C.
42093
16 SEP 25

DATE

15th September 1925.

SHARPE: SIR ALFRED.

CIRCULATION :-

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Asst. U.S. of S.

PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS.
WEIGHT OF TUSKS EXPORTED.

States views on subject.

Perms U.S. of S.

Perms U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

In 2 41917
(200)

See 41917

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Pl. and ...
benefit
C. C. 41917

Subsequent Paper

Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

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ST. STEPHEN'S CLUB,

WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.



Sept. 15. 1925.

Sir,
I have the honour to inform
you that, having received the enclosed
letter from Mr. Chalmers Mitchell
with its enclosures, - I now state,
as requested by him, my views on
the subject of restriction of weight
of ivory tusks for transport export
from Northern Rhodesia and
Uganda:-

I understand paragraph 1
of the Colonial Office letter N^o 31015/1925
of 14 August 1925, to mean that
the minimum weight per tusk
should, in East Kenya, Uganda,
the Sudan & Tanganyika, be put at

(1)

22 lbs. - which, for these countries appears to me to be reasonable. but that in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland the ^{minimum} weight per trunk (2) should be put at 11 lbs.

I am in accord with the views taken I think by the Colonial Office) that the minimum weights in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland should be lower than in the other territories above named for the reasons stated in paragraph 2 of the Colonial Office letter. but I think that the reduction of minimum weight to 11 lbs per trunk is perhaps too great.

It is quite true that elephants

ST. STEPHEN'S CLUB,

WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland
 carry smaller ivory than in the other
 territories further north. I shot for
 many years in Northern Rhodesia,
 Nyasaland and the Belgian Congo,
 also in Tanganyika territory (the
 stream Southern portion) and can
 say from experience that whereas
 in the two first named countries
 elephants with ^{comparatively} large tusks of
 say 40 lbs & over are few, - in
 the Congo there are many with
 80 lbs, 90 lbs and 100 lbs. - and no
 doubt also these big weights are
 still fairly plentiful in Tanganyika,
 Kenya, Uganda, & the Sudan.

I would suggest that if
 the minimum weight per tusk in
 the more northern territories

Zoological Society of London

SECRETARY,

PETERS MITCHELL, C.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.

REGENT'S PARK,

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
"ZOOLOGICAL" PHOENIX LONDONCOMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:-
"THE SECRETARY."

London, N.W.8.

TELEPHONE NO.
HAMPSTEAD 8014.

PLEASE QUOTE FOLLOWING REFERENCE

Sept. 14 1925

P.G.M.

Alfred Sharpe K.C.M.G.

Stephen's Club

Mr Alfred,

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Colonial Office and
reply connected by Hobley and myself.

I hope that you do not mind our use of your name. Naturally
they may give quite different advice from ours, but we trust
we are not far out.

yours very truly

P. Chalmer Mitchell

No. 31015/1925.

Downing Street,

14 August, 1925.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Amery to inform you that, in connection with measures which it has been proposed to take for the protection of elephants, it has been contended that the minimum weight allowable for tusks on export from Africa, which has been generally taken at 44 lbs. the pair, should be reduced to half that weight in the case of tusks exported from Northern Rhodesia on the ground that elephants in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland carry much lighter tusks than elephants elsewhere.

2. The purpose of the imposition of a minimum weight limit is to prevent the export of immature ivory, but it is stated that full-grown elephants in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland rarely have tusks weighing as much as 44 lbs. so that it would be incorrect to assume that any lower weight is evidence of immaturity.

3. I am to enquire whether you are in a position
to

SECRETARY,

THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

P.C.M.

14th September 1925.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

Sir,

Your letter No. S1015/1925. re African Ivory.

We are not prepared to accept the contention that the minimum weight allowable for tusks on export from Africa should be reduced to 22 lbs. the pair in the case of tusks exported from Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. We venture to suggest, however, that you should consult Sir Alfred Sharpe on this question, as he has unrivalled knowledge of the elephants of the regions in question and last travelled through the country a little over a year ago.

In our opinion agreement among the local governments of our Colonies and Dependencies in Africa with regard to a minimum weight of tusks is essential in order to prevent the export of immature ivory and consequent slaughter of young animals.

The test in fixing this weight should be the maximum weight of a pair of cow elephant tusks. If a few bulls are shot before they reach old age, no great harm is done; but for the preservation of the species, preservation of the cows is vital.

In Rhodesia and Nyasaland a pair of cow tusks of 44 lbs. would be a rarity; but so far as our information goes, mature bull elephants would normally carry a pair of tusks far in excess of 44 lbs. although the average weight would doubtless be less than further north in Tanganyika or Kenya. But it is quite conceivable that the rather indiscriminate slaughter which has taken place in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland during the last thirty years may have killed off all the mature elephants.

Our opinion in short is that a reduction in the export

weight

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

weight would be followed by the destruction of cow elephants.

Yours very faithfully,

P. C. M.

Secretary.

5/20/23 E. Green

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DRAFT.

- 7 NOV 1925

Alfred Shupe
KCMG 1 B

Sir

I am etc thank
 you for your letter of the
 15th of September last with
 regard to the restriction of
 weight of ivory tusks for
 export from East Africa, which
 has been of great assistance
 in the consideration of this
 difficult question.

(Signed) J. FREDK N. GREEN

the Company's various proposals and
for the preparation of revised drafts in the
form required by the local laws. All of
for this purpose they will furnish two further
facsimile prints of the three leases, showing
as in the copies enclosed with their letter,
the amendments made ^{suggested} (up to date. All then
to form the law accordingly.

We may also add any remarks
which Mr Bushe may have to make on the
amendments mentioned in (1) above.

? ~~copy~~ when the further facsimile
prints have been received we can send
copies of this letter & reply to the Governor, &
ask if he will now have the revised
drafts prepared & submit them with
his comments on the Company's amendments
which were referred to him in the despatch on
35724. (792 of 19 August), which have
now been provisionally embodied in the
drafts now enclosed. - draw) his attention
to the further suggested amendment to S(1) of
the ^{not} lease; referring to previous corres-
pondence with despatch of 1 October or 35684/1925,
& with his views on the Company's

See no duplicates
reviewed.

in accordance with
which already
in 10 recent them
(you prescribed
at legislation)