

Center for Conservation Biology

Tracking Poached Ivory 2013 Calculations

Assuming that the average elephant has 1.8 tusks, each weighing an average of 3.7 kg, 6.7 kg of ivory represent one elephant.

46,500 kg of seized ivory / (6.7 kg/elephant) = 6,940 elephants

Customs authorities generally assume that seizures represent 10% of smuggled contraband.

Assuming a 10% seizure rate, 6,940 elephants = 69,820 dead elephants.

Assuming a 20% seizure rate, this = 34,970 dead elephant.

Averaging the two = 52,365.

Some of these elephants may have been killed prior to 2011. However, given the amount of ivory being shipped annually, we believe that this number is close to the annual total.