

Number of elephants in Africa in 1979: over a million
Number of elephants in Africa today: about half a million

Elephants in Africa are in trouble. People are taking over the elephants' land. There is often not enough water for the elephants. Hunters kill lots of elephants.

Because of these problems, many baby elephants lose their families and become orphans. But at a special place in Kenya, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, people help, protect and take care of orphan elephants.



Facts About Elephant Endangerment

Some African elephants are **endangered**. This means that their population is getting so small that they are in danger of disappearing from Earth.

Endangering African Elephants

Elephants eat up to 880 kilograms (400 pounds) of plants each day. Because they eat so much, they need a large amount of land to live on. But humans are cutting down forests and building houses in the elephants' habitat.

Hunters have killed many elephants for their valuable ivory tusks. Also, local farmers sometimes shoot elephants to protect their farms.

When elephants and humans cross paths, it can be dangerous for everyone.

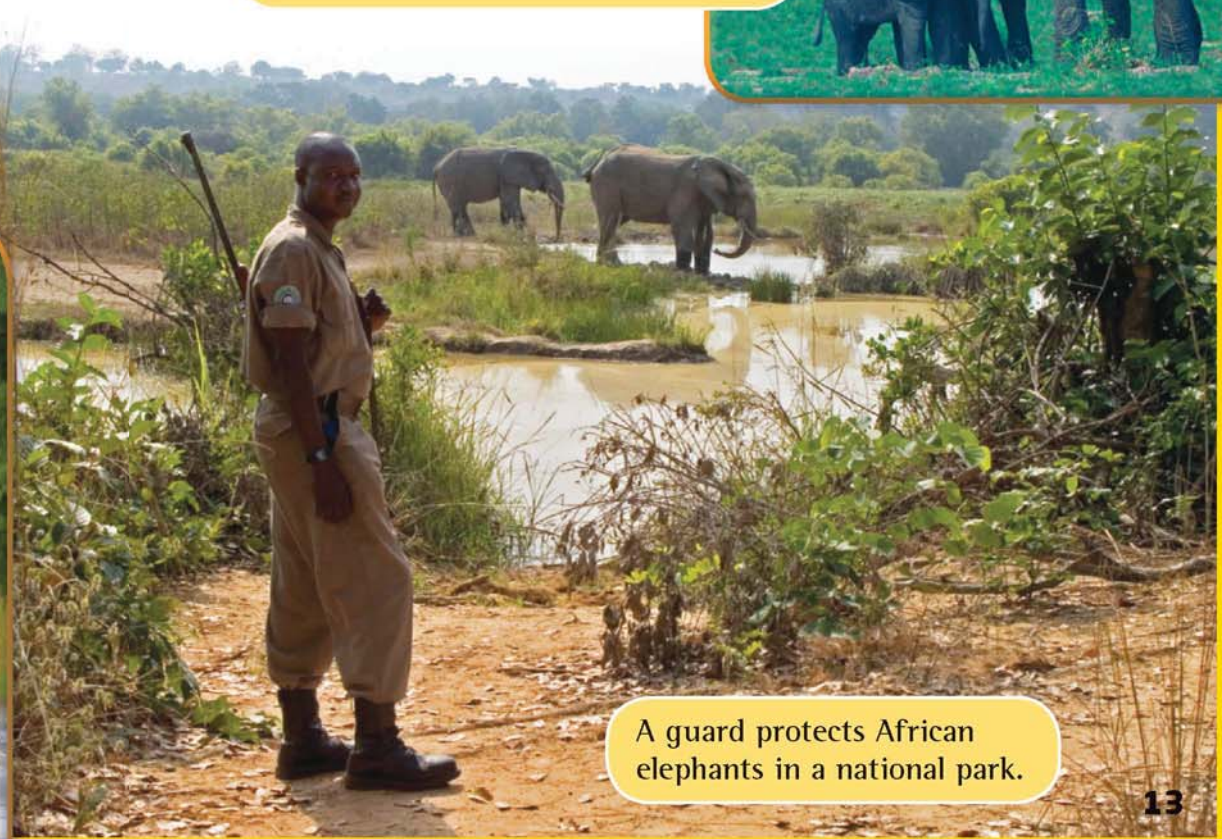


Protecting African Elephants

People have endangered African elephants. But people can also help protect them. Many countries have laws that make it illegal to buy or sell elephant tusks. There are also many national parks in Africa where elephants can live peacefully with their families in their natural habitat.

If we keep protecting African elephants, we can save these beautiful animals from disappearing.

At many national parks in Africa, elephant families are better protected from hunters and habitat loss.



A guard protects African elephants in a national park.