

Revision of the Section 4(d) Rule for the African Elephant

On September 21, 2015, the Office of Advocacy published a comment letter in response to the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) proposed rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of the Section 4(d) Rule for the African Elephant". On July 29, 2015, the Service published this proposed rule which would eliminate these exemptions and end all commercial trade in African Elephant Ivory that does not meet the strict standards set forth in the ESA or one of the limited exemptions.

- Advocacy heard from small businesses that several provisions of the rule were unclear. Advocacy suggests that that FWS clarify provisions of the rule.
- Advocacy believes that certification of the rule is inappropriate. Advocacy suggests that FWS conduct an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis and publish that analysis for public comment.