

8 WALK, WALK, WALK Migration

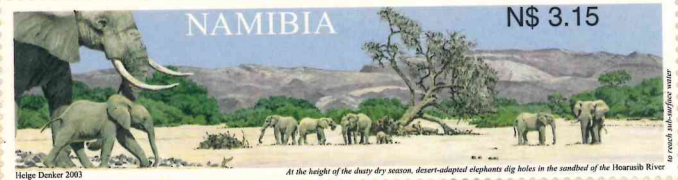
Elephants can move forwards and backwards, but cannot trot, jump, or gallop. They use only two gaits when moving on land: the walk and a faster gait similar to running. The circular feet of an elephant have soft tissues or cushion pads which expand and contract, and reduce both the pain and noise that would come from a very heavy animal moving.

1983 UGANDA MIGRATION

Elephants go on seasonal migration in search of food, water, minerals, and mates. Both Asian and African elephants migrate and generally follow the same migratory route annually.

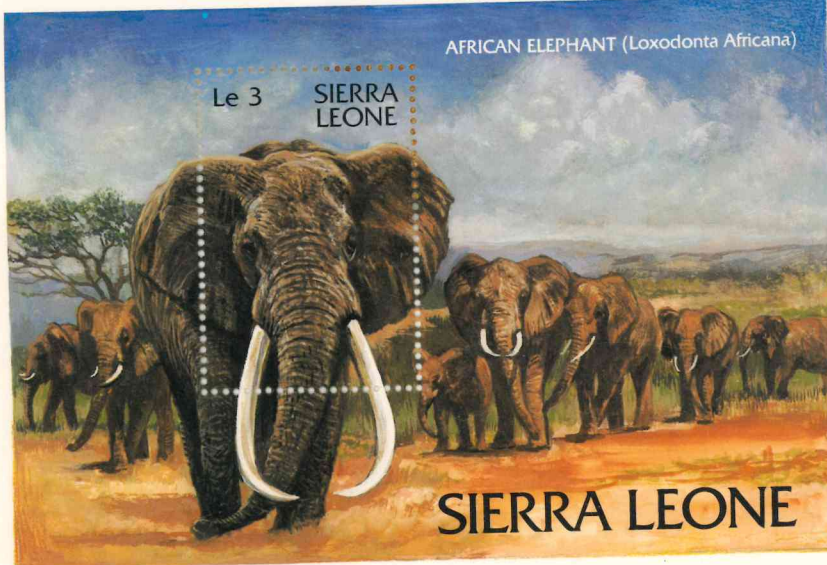


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2003 NAMIBIA Digging water holes

The habit of uprooting trees can transform savannah into grasslands. When they dig for water during drought, they create water holes for other animals. Elephants are important seed dispersers over large distances.

Research has shown that elephants in Eastern Africa at some point started hiding by day and traveling / foraging at night to avoid the threat of poaching. They have also developed sophisticated sounds, gestures, infrasound, and even chemical secretions to enable them to communicate across distances and stay safe.