

## WHY IS THIS ELEPHANT SKULL ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM?

This skull of an **African elephant** (*Loxodonta africana*) was donated to the Museum by the Combonian missionaries in the 1960's. It's a specimen that comes from sub-Saharan Africa.

## WHO IS HE?

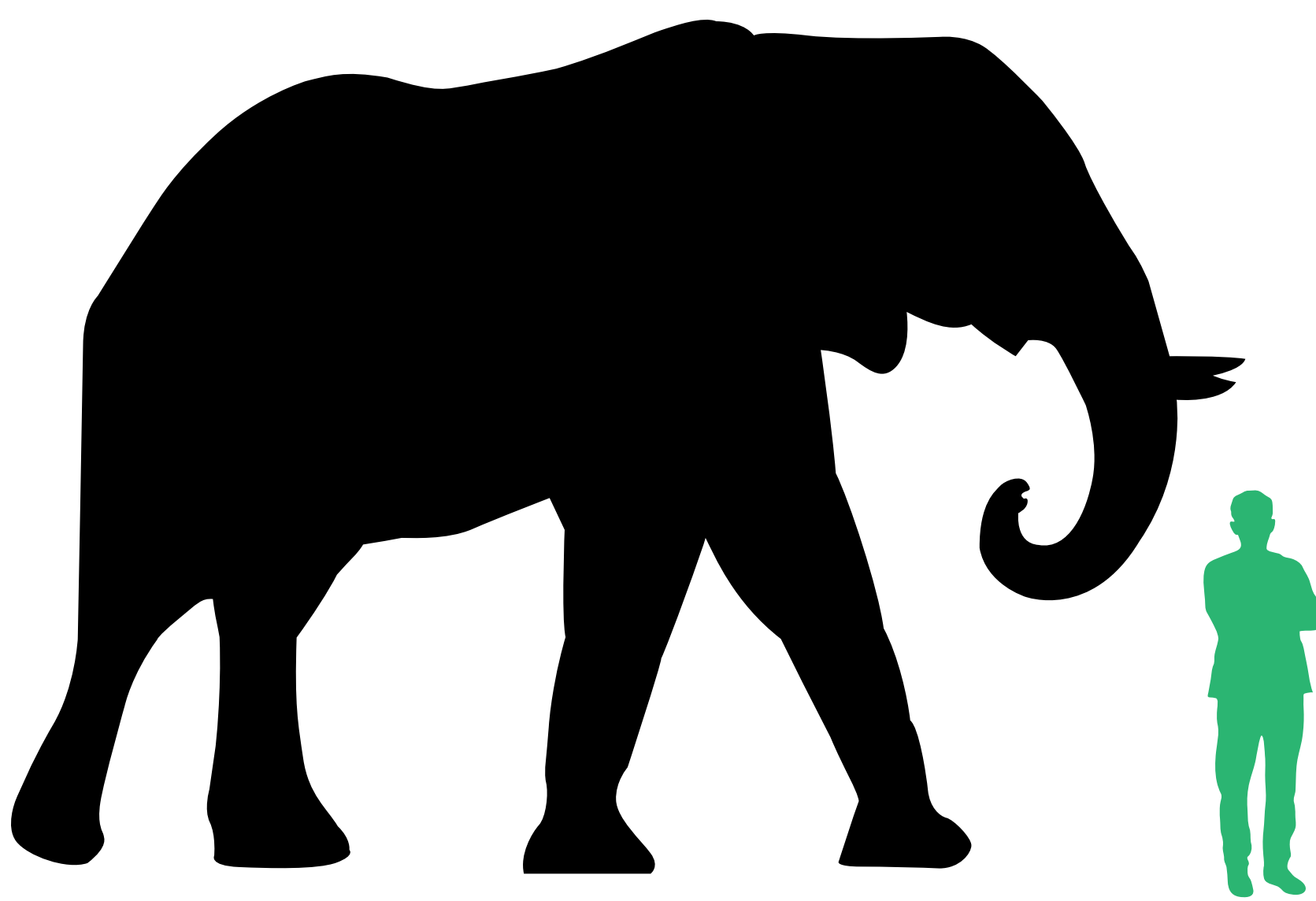
He is the largest terrestrial mammal its scientific name "*Loxodonta*" in Greek it means "Oblique Tooth" and refers to one of its attributes: The tusks. They are the two superior incisors which grow continuously. **Another feature is the trunk, and thanks to this appendix, which is controlled by thousands of facial nerve cells, the animal explores the world by smell and touch, and can hold objects with the two extremities of the trunk.**

The skull has two ocular cavities with relatively small eyes.

They have a rather weak eyesight, and a highly developed sense of smell and hearing. The receptors present in the feet, transmit the sound up to the inner ear.

The front feet have 4 toes, the rear ones 3.

They are herbivorous and require a large quantity of food (fruits and seeds from the forest) and spend up to 18 hours a day feeding.



## Did you know?

The trunk can suck and retain more than 5 litres of water.