

Indonesia mulls export of elephants to deal with excess

JAKARTA (Reuter) Indonesia is considering exporting some of its elephants following rampages by the animals, which have killed 14 people since 1989 in one province alone.

"If the number of elephants has become excessive, why don't we export them?" the

official Antara news agency Tuesday quoted Forestry Ministry spokesman Kardjono Kadarsono as saying.

Officials in Sumatra said last month that the island, with its expanding plantations and population, could not accommodate adequately its booming elephant popula-

tion.

Sumatra is home to about 4,000 elephants, a subspecies of the Asian elephant.

President Suharto has approved their selective culling, while Kardjono said the ministry hoped to study the possibility of exporting the remainder.

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