

End Japan's Ivory Trade

Letter to:

Japanese Consulate Munich:

Generalkonsulat Japan
Japanischer Botschafter in Deutschland, **Mr Takeshi Yagi**
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and:

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
H.E. Mr Hiroshige Seko - Minister Economy, Trade and Industry
Contact: https://wws.meti.go.jp/honsho/comment_form/contact_us.html

Ministry of the Environment
H.E. Mr Masaharu NAKAGAWA - Minister of the Environment, Japan.
Contact: <https://www.env.go.jp/en/moemail/>

Hon. Mr. Keiichi KATAKAMI
Ambassador of Japan to the European Union
info@eu.mofa.go.jp

Copy to:

International Strategy Division, Global Environment Bureau
Mr Kazuki KITaura - Section Chief
kazuki_kitaura@env.go.jp

September 27, 2017

Your Excellencies

The undersigned 29 organisations welcome the Japanese government's actions to strengthen certain aspects of internal ivory trade regulations for businesses under the Law for the Conservation of the Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (LCES) taken in June 2017, but we also urge Japan to take a stronger stand and establish a comprehensive domestic trade ban on elephant ivory.

Every day that in Japan domestic trade in elephant ivory occurs, this trade legitimizes the desire for these luxury wildlife 'products', stimulates demand and drives the current elephant killing spree.

Thanks to an outcry from the global community, China and other countries around the world have taken steps to strictly limit their domestic ivory trade. We applaud Japan's e-commerce giant Rakuten banned ivory sales starting from August 2017. Rakuten sends a loud signal that trafficking will not be tolerated, and the company deserves a great deal of credit for taking such a decisive step. AEON, one of Japan's largest retail companies with more than 50 malls across Japan, prohibited ivory sales in its directly managed stores in June 2015 and recently



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announced it is expanding its policy to all mall tenants, phasing out all sales of elephant ivory by tenants by March 2020.

Therefore, we call on the Government of Japan to take more important key steps to stop ivory trade.

Last October during the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Parties adopted a resolution (10.10) recommending that all Parties in whose jurisdiction a legal domestic market for ivory exists that is contributing to elephant poaching or illegal ivory trade, should take all necessary legislative, regulatory and enforcement measures to close their domestic markets for commercial trade in raw and worked ivory as a matter of urgency.

Japan's ivory trade is extraordinarily active: For example, within just two years, between 2012 and 2014, at least 12 tons of ivory, including whole tusks and cut pieces, were sold on Yahoo! Japan's Auctions site.¹²

Japan has more ivory retailers (more than 8,000), ivory manufacturers (more than 300), and ivory wholesalers (more than 500) than any other nation in the world.

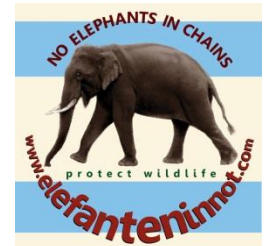
EIA's recent report also states that evidence collected during investigations confirms what seizure data over the past decade have demonstrated: large quantities of ivory are being illegally exported to China, often after being purchased online.

It is widely recognized that all ivory markets are fuelling demand and contributing to the poaching of elephants. Reports by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)³⁴ and a new report by the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC⁵ show that the ivory trade in Japan is largely uncontrolled, and it is easy for smugglers to launder illegal ivory onto the legal market. Japan has repeatedly been criticized for a lack of controls, lax requirements for proof of legal acquisition and serious loopholes in its legislation, which inter alia fail to regulate ivory trade.

In recent years, tens of thousands of African elephants have been poached annually to satisfy the demand for ivory in Asia. Poaching for the ivory trade poses the biggest current threat to African elephants.

Japan's tremendous ivory trade is part of the problem. But we hope that Japan could choose to be part of the solution and choose for the best of the elephants and for their future.

It is time for the Japanese government to address the international and public concerns over the survival of elephants and enact a comprehensive domestic ban on the trade in elephant ivory to help stop the poaching.



¹ <https://eia-global.org/reports/japan-s-illegal-ivory-trade-and-fraudulent-registration-of-ivory-tusks>

² <https://voices.nationalgeographic.org/2017/08/12/its-japans-turn-to-save-the-african-elephant/>

³ https://s3.amazonaws.com/environmental-investigation-agency/assets/2015/12/Japans_Illegal_Ivory_Trade.pdf

⁴ https://eia-global.org/reports/dirty_secrets_of_japans_illegal_ivory_trade-report

⁵ https://www.wwf.or.jp/activities/data/20170808_wildlife02.pdf

As already announced to your consulate in Munich, a demonstration organized by Future for Elephants will take place in front of your consulate on 29th September 2017 calling on Japan's government to close its ivory market.

Yours sincerely



Birgit Hampl
Future For Elephants



 Jane Goodall Institut Deutschland

On behalf of the following organisations:

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)
Kaddu K. Sebunya

Amboseli Trust for Elephants
Cynthia Moss

Animals United
Viktor Gebhart

Big Life Foundation
Richard Bonham

Born Free Foundation
Will Travers OBE

Center for Biological Diversity
Sarah Uhlemann

David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation
Karen Botha

Deutscher Tierschutzbund
James Brückner

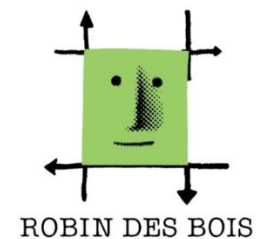
Elefanten in Not
Brigitte Uttar Kornetzky

Elephant Action League
Andrea Crosta

ElephantVoices
Joyce H. Poole, PhD

Environmental Investigation Agency
Allan Thornton

Fondation Franz Weber
Vera Weber



Global March for Elephants and Rhinos
Rosemary Alles



IFAW - International Fund for Animal Welfare
Sonja Van Tichelen



Jane Goodall Institute Deutschland
Monica Lieschke

JTEF Japan Tiger and Elephant Fund
Masayuki Sakamoto



Pro Wildlife
Daniela Freyer

Rettet die Elefanten Afrikas
Thomas Töpfer

Robin des Bois
Charlotte Nihart



Sauvez les Elephants d'Afrique
Susan Bätz

Save the Elephants
Iain Douglas-Hamilton D Phil CBE



Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals, Denmark
Birgith Sloth

Species Survival Network
Will Travers

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
Angela Sheldrick



Tusk Trust
Charlie Mayhew

Verein der Elefantenfreunde
Claudia Somm



WildAid Hong Kong
Alex Hofford