



## MEDIA RELEASE

18 October 2019

### NEW ZEALAND IVORY TRADE GROWING

The Government's proposal to close down New Zealand's elephant ivory market is a move welcomed by the Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand (JGI NZ). Thousands of elephants are slaughtered each year for their tusks. In response to the crisis many countries including the UK, China, US, France, the Netherlands, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, Belgium and Israel have either closed or are preparing to close their domestic ivory trades.

Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand Ambassador, and environmental policy analyst, Fiona Gordon says, "Ivory is still freely traded within New Zealand and it's a practice now grossly out of step with the rest of the world."

A recent 10-month survey indicates that domestic ivory trade has doubled in size since the first ever study in 2016 co-authored by Ms Gordon.<sup>1</sup> "This is a worrying trend," says Ms Gordon, "it's also counter-productive to international efforts to reduce demand and to programmes working hard to protect elephants on-the-ground in Africa."

A large proportion of ivory items for sale in New Zealand are ivory carvings with no information verifying their age or source. According to Department of Conservation data, between 2010 and 2016 more than 5,000 elephant ivory items crossed our borders for personal, trade and hunting purposes. Less than 415,000 African elephants remain in the wild today.

JGINZ Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dr Melanie Vivian, is encouraging all New Zealanders to make a submission in support of Government's proposal to ban the domestic trade and importation of elephant ivory. A ready to send submission is available on the JGINZ website. Submissions close 5pm on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

Dr Vivian said that the global wildlife trade is an important cause for the Jane Goodall Institute, because it impacts animals, people and the environment. "Each year more than 100 wildlife rangers are killed protecting these animals, and the ivory trade fuels crime, corruption and violence, undermining governance and fragile democracies, and financing criminal organisations."

Last year JGINZ delivered an open letter to parliament co-signed by Dr. Jane Goodall, Former Prime Minister, UNDP Administrator and JGINZ patron, Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, Dr Vivian, Ms Gordon and more than forty national and international organisations, asking the New Zealand government to end to New Zealand's domestic trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn.

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Reference:

<sup>1</sup> <https://africanelephantjournal.com/new-zealand-domestic-ivory-trade-doubles/>

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#NoDomesticTrade #JanesTrafficStop #ForeverWild

#### 'No Domestic Trade' Campaign Details

JGINZ No Domestic Trade campaign information - <http://www.janegoodall.org.nz/jgi-nz-campaigns/janes-traffic-stop/fighting-wildlife-crime-in-new-zealand/>

Ivory Trade Template Submission - <http://www.janegoodall.org.nz/nz-ivory-trade-submission/>

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#### **The Jane Goodall Institute of New Zealand**

The Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand exists to undertake work on global and local sustainability issues and to inspire and empower people to take action to make the world a better place for animals, people, and the environment.

The Jane Goodall Institute is a global community conservation organisation that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall. Founded in 1977 by Dr. Goodall, JGI makes a difference through sustainable development initiatives, protecting biodiversity and sustainability education. We work closely with local communities around the world, inspiring hope through the collective power of individual action. Through Roots & Shoots, our youth-led sustainability education and action programme, young people in 100 countries are acquiring the knowledge and skills to become passionate conservation changemakers in their own backyards.

The Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand works towards our vision of a healthy planet where people live sustainably and in harmony with animals and our shared environment.

**Every individual matters and makes a difference, and even our small actions, collectively, can help to change the world for the better – thus providing hope for the future of our planet.**

**– Dr. Jane Goodall**