



PRESS RELEASE

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 12 AUGUST

KILLING THE NEW ZEALAND TRADE IN IVORY

World Elephant Day 12th August

Elephant and rhinoceros are being traded into extinction by a global demand for trinkets, carvings, ornaments and jewellery. The statistics are sobering: One elephant is killed for its ivory every fifteen minutes. One rhino is brutally killed for its horn every eight hours. New Zealand is part of the problem.

This World Elephant Day the Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand is calling for the end of the domestic trade of elephant ivory and rhino horn and New Zealand's contribution to the death of thousands of elephants and rhinos each year. Timely given that the theme for World Elephant Day this year is "bringing the world together to help elephants."

The international trade in elephant ivory was banned in 1989 and elephant ivory continues to be confiscated at New Zealand's border. Inevitably items slip through and according to Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand Ambassador, and environmental policy analyst, Fiona Gordon, "If you manage to get your ivory or rhino horn into New Zealand, you are home and hosed to make a killing on our domestic market".

Two recent convictions for illegal trade reveal that elephant ivory items worth tens of thousands of dollars were illegally imported into New Zealand, undetected by border authorities. Worse still, some of that illegally imported ivory was sold on New Zealand's domestic ivory market under the guise of legality.

The laundering of illegal products into legal domestic ivory markets is a well-recognised problem. To address this, in 2016 the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) announced historic resolutions calling for the closure of global domestic ivory markets. This call is officially supported by New Zealand, a Party to CITES since 1989.

The United States, China, Hong Kong, France, United Kingdom, European Union and Taiwan are all taking substantial measures to close or further restrict their domestic ivory markets. Australia recently concluded a Parliamentary Inquiry into the trade.

New Zealand remains a stark outlier in this global action.

New Zealand's legal domestic trade is completely unregulated, without any checks and balances to verify when and where the ivory or horn offered for sale was obtained. "There's an assumption that our market is just 'old' ivory handled cutlery, serving ware or piano keys", says Ms Gordon, "but the majority of items for sale are solid ivory carvings, ornaments and tusks". Ivory sells for hundreds to thousands of dollars and rhinoceros horn sells for tens of thousands of dollars.

Less than 470,000 African elephant and 30,000 rhinoceros remain.

Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute, and UN Messenger of Peace says, "When I see tusks, ivory trinkets or rhinoceros horn I see the suffering and brutal death of some of the most magnificent creatures that walk our planet."

"The closure of each and every domestic market around the world spells hope for these extraordinary animals and positive impacts for global communities", says Dr. Melanie Vivian, JGINZ CEO and Co-Founder.

Helen Clark, JGINZ Patron, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Former UNDP Administrator has been supporting the 'No Domestic Trade' campaign work towards this ban and highlights the complex impacts. "Trade in these items is abhorrent and must stop if elephant and rhino species are to survive. The illicit trade is fuelling corruption and conflict, wreaking lives, and deepening poverty and inequality. Let us be sure as we look back on this time that we know we acted when we could and as much as we could, before it was too late.

On World Elephant Day, Sunday 12 August, the Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand is encouraging New Zealanders to call for an end to New Zealand's domestic trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn. To send a 'No Domestic Trade' message to the Minister of Conservation, Hon Eugenie Sage visit: <http://www.janegoodall.org.nz/jgi-nz-campaigns/1-click-campaigns/no-domestic-trade-1-click/>

#NoDomesticTrade #JanesTrafficStop

'No Domestic Trade' Campaign Details

<http://www.janegoodall.org.nz/jgi-nz-campaigns/janes-traffic-stop/>

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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 compassionate conservation leaders 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

Images attached:

1. Eight items made from African elephant tusks that cost a New Zealanders \$12,000 in fines.

Photo credit: NZ Department of Conservation

2. NZ No Domestic Trade logo