



#NODOMESTICTRADE



the Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand



*Addressed to:
Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern,
Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs, Winston Peters
Honourable Minister of Conservation, Eugenie Sage
Attorney-General & Minister of Trade and Export Growth, David Parker*



4 October 2018

Dear Prime Minister Ardern, Deputy Prime Minister Peters, Minister Sage and Minister Parker,

A Truly Global Response: Calling for the closure of New Zealand's domestic trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn.

The number of incidents of internationally protected wildlife seized at the New Zealand border has increased by 300% from 2,268 seizures in 2011 to 9,078 seizures in 2017. While border control provides the first line of defence against the global illegal wildlife trade, domestic legislation must provide the second - to effectively deal with items that do slip through.

The elephant and rhinoceros are the world's flagship species in the global fight against illegal wildlife trade. Their slaughter continues at an alarming rate, feeding the illegal international trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn. 1 elephant is brutally killed for its tusks every 25 minutes and 1 rhinoceros is slaughtered every 8 hours.

This is a crisis that poses serious environmental, development, and security challenges. It destroys lives, deepens poverty and inequality. More than 100 wildlife rangers are killed every year², leaving behind financially vulnerable families. Ivory trafficking fuels crime, corruption and violence, undermining governance and fragile democracies, and finances criminal organisations.

It is more than two years since President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya set fire to thousands of confiscated elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn stating, "No-one, and I repeat no one, has any business in trading in ivory, for this trade means the death of our elephants and death of our natural heritage." (April 2016)

Unfortunately, New Zealand exemplifies the global extent of this problem.

While New Zealand authorities continue to confiscate illegal elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn products, court evidence shows that numerous ivory items have been illegally imported into New Zealand without detection at our border. Two recent New Zealand convictions link our illegal trade in ivory directly to the United States, France,

United Kingdom and China. Further, court evidence confirms that illegally imported African elephant ivory has been sold within New Zealand's unregulated domestic market³.

Legal domestic markets for ivory and rhinoceros horn, such as New Zealand's, continue to enable the laundering of illegal products under the guise of legality. This is why the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has called for all nations to close their domestic ivory markets.

Parties to CITES, including New Zealand, adopted important measures that urge all Parties to close their domestic ivory markets where these contribute to illegal trade or poaching, and to regulate their domestic ivory and rhinoceros horn markets. New Zealand officially supports the call to close domestic ivory markets. Now that New Zealand is also a member of the CITES Standing Committee, representing the Oceania region, it has even greater responsibilities to show global leadership.

According to Department of Conservation records between 2010 and 2016 more than 5,000 elephant ivory items crossed our borders for personal, trade and hunting purposes. Over the same period approximately 100 elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn items were seized at the border.

Despite these facts, New Zealand's domestic ivory and rhino horn trade remains lucrative and completely unregulated. Ivory carvings, figures, netsukes, okimono, tusks and rhinoceros horn continue to be sold on New Zealand's domestic market for hundreds of dollars without any documented evidence of their age, origin or import history⁴. Further, selling agents and vendors legally exempt themselves from any liability with regard to the authorship, origin, date, age, attribution, genuineness, or provenance of any lot.

In contrast, many of New Zealand's main international trading partners are taking action. The United States, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, France and the United Kingdom have implemented or announced ivory trade bans. The European Union is in the process of considering further restrictions to ivory trading and a senior Minister in Singapore spoke of similar plans earlier this year. Significantly an Australia Parliamentary Inquiry by the Joint Committee on Law Enforcement recently concluded with a recommendation for a national domestic trade ban on elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn⁵.

Fewer than 415,000 African elephants (based on the 2016 Great Elephant Census) and less than 30,000 rhinoceros remain. These magnificent animals are not only falling victim to the work of highly organized international criminal syndicates, but also to the seemingly innocuous purchase of trinkets and the unwitting infractions by otherwise law-abiding citizens.

Every single piece of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn counts towards their demise.

We therefore ask the New Zealand Government to close its domestic trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn, as a matter of urgency.

In doing so New Zealand will become part of the global solution and show great leadership heading into the 4th Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, to be convened by the Government of the United Kingdom in London on the 11th and 12th of October 2018.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr. Melanie Vivian
Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder
the Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand



the Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand



Fiona Gordon
Director & Principle Consultant
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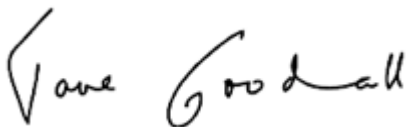


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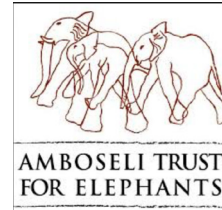
Right Honourable Helen Clark
Former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Former UNDP Administrator



Dr. Jane Goodall. DBE
Founder - the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace



African Wildlife Foundation
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Amboseli Trust For Elephants
Vicki Fishlock
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Animals Asia Foundation
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Animal Welfare Education Manager



Auckland Zoo
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Invent Africa Safaris
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Nature Needs More
Dr. Lynn Johnson
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New Zealanders for Endangered Wildlife
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OSCAP - Outraged SA Citizens Against Poaching
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Save African Rhino Foundation
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Sharon Pincott



Sir Stephen Tindall



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Peter Eastwood
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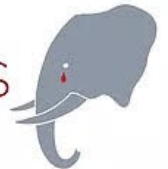


The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
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Tusk & Horn Wildlife Trust
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TWO MILLION TUSKS



Two Million Tusks
Jane Alexandra & Louise Ravula
Co-Founders

WELLINGTON



Wellington Zoo
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WildAct Vietnam
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WildAid
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- Dr. Melanie Vivian
 - Fiona Gordon
 - Rt. Hon. Helen Clark
 - Dr. Jane Goodall
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- African Wildlife Foundation
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 - David Shepard Wildlife Foundation
 - David Thomson
 - Fondation Franz Weber
 - For The Love of Wildlife
 - Forest & Bird
 - Global March for Elephants & Rhino
 - Gordon Consulting
 - Greenpeace New Zealand
 - Helping Rhinos
 - Humane Society International
 - International Fund for Animal Welfare – IFAW
 - Invent Africa Safaris
 - Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand
 - Nature Needs More
 - New Zealanders for Endangered Wildlife
 - Orana Park
 - Outraged SA Citizens Against Poaching - OSCAP
 - People For The Ethical Treatment of Animals - PETA
 - Pro Wildlife
 - Save Animals For Exploitation - SAFE
 - SAVE African Rhino Foundation
 - Sharon Pincott
 - Sir Stephen Tindall
 - Society For The Protection of Animals - SPCA
 - Tanglewood Foundation

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- Tusk & Horn Wildlife Trust
- Two Million Tusks
- Wellington Zoo
- WildAct Vietnam
- WildAid
- Wildlife Conservation Network
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- WWF New Zealand

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