



PRESS RELEASE

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 4 OCTOBER

CHORUS CALLS FOR NEW ZEALAND TO BE ON THE SIDE OF WILDLIFE

World Animal Day 4th October

This World Animal Day, the Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand (JGI NZ) has brought together an assembly of prominent organisations with their sights set on an industry which is threatening to cause the extinction of two of the world's most iconic animals, and the need for New Zealand to be part of the global response.

JGI NZ is campaigning for an end to New Zealand's domestic trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn, and will celebrate World Animal Day by delivering a letter to parliament co-signed by Dr. Jane Goodall, former Prime Minister, UNDP Administrator and JGINZ patron, Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, and more than forty national and international institutions, asking the New Zealand government to put the stronger measures in place to ensure New Zealand plays its part to protect these iconic animals.

JGI NZ Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Dr. Melanie Vivian, also a signatory on the letter, says the global wildlife trade is an important cause for the Jane Goodall Institute, because it impacts animals, people and the environment.

"The tragedy of this trade is that it is not only rapidly pushing elephant and rhinoceros to extinction, but it is also creating serious environmental, development, and security problems.

"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.

"The ivory trade is truly global as shown by how much ivory enters New Zealand. According to Department of Conservation, between 2010 and 2016 more than 5,000 elephant ivory items crossed our borders for personal, trade and hunting purposes."

Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand Ambassador, and environmental policy analyst, Fiona Gordon says, "One upcoming auction in New Zealand features over 60 items containing ivory and about 35 of these are carved ivory tusks and figures. The catalogue descriptions for the majority of the carved ivory items don't reference the age, source and history of the item, making the legality of their origin impossible to prove. It's really not good enough considering the phenomenal effort globally to close domestic ivory markets.

"Without checks and balances on domestic trading, there is a risk that any ivory that gets into New Zealand illegally can easily be sold on the domestic market and make money for those who would seek to profit from the extinction of these animals" says Ms Gordon.

“The tragedy is every piece of elephant ivory or rhinoceros horn, illegal or legal, sold counts towards their demise. We are asking the New Zealand Government to close the domestic trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn, before it is too late to save the animals.”

Last month [The Atlantic](#) reported a disturbing new trend. With many of the largest elephants having been killed, poachers are turning their guns on younger individuals. A seizure comprised of 1,800 tusks saw most under two feet long and a hundred barely longer than a pencil, and hollow on the inside indicating they belonged to calves just a few years old.

Dr Vivian says JGI NZ is calling on New Zealand to join many other countries including the United States, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, France and the United Kingdom, who are taking steps to stop this brutal industry by announcing ivory trade bans. Whilst an Australia Parliamentary Inquiry recently concluded with a recommendation for a national domestic trade ban.

“Indications from the New Zealand government thus far have been that they are reluctant to close our domestic market due to concerns that the resources required to do so would take away from protecting New Zealand’s indigenous species. New Zealand, a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and member of the CITES Standing Committee, has a responsibilities to become part of the solution.

“Despite this, we are heartened by Prime Minister Ardern recent address to the UN General Assembly which highlighted the need for a global response to challenges, as this issue would value from New Zealand joining the global community and closing our domestic market,” says Dr. Vivian.

Ms. Clark, who has been supporting the ‘No Domestic Trade’ campaign, is a vocal advocate to the closure of the New Zealand market and will be in attendance at the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference being held in London on October 11 and 12, along with representatives of the Jane Goodall Institute. Parties calling for the closure of New Zealand’s domestic ivory and horn market are hopeful that New Zealand will take a stance at this meeting and join the global community.

As Ms Clark says, “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.”

#NoDomesticTrade #JanesTrafficStop #ForeverWild

[‘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 passionate 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