



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
From the Secretary of State for Environment, Food
and Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T 03459 335577
defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Rt Hon George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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20 George,

Thank you for your email of 11 July on behalf of your constituents about the trade of ivory. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

Bringing an end to elephant poaching is a priority for this government. We are currently considering the next steps and will set these out in due course.

The UK already prohibits trade in raw ivory, going beyond EU regulations. The United States has introduced a federal ban on the sale of ivory items on a 100 year rolling basis, including various exemptions. As this is a federal-level ban, sales of ivory are still permitted within states; although six states, including New York and California, have introduced stricter measures to also prohibit sale of items within the state. We were pleased to hear China's announcement that it intends to end its domestic commercial ivory trade this year and we look forward to seeing further detail on the measures announced.

The estimated worth of the global illegal wildlife trade per annum is £7-17 billion. Global demand for ivory has seen over 140,000 savannah elephants lost to poaching in under a decade leaving numbers down by 30%. The rate at which elephants are being killed for ivory is unsustainable if African elephant populations are to survive.

We continue to target the illegal wildlife trade using our law enforcement agencies within the UK and around the world, sharing our expertise to help tackle poaching and trafficking, including support for British Military training of anti-poaching trackers in key African countries.

Through our Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, we support projects around the world aimed at tackling the root causes of elephant poaching. This includes challenging demand, enhancing law enforcement efforts and supporting communities living alongside wildlife.

Thank you again for your letter.

With every good wish,

Yours,
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