



Joint NGO statement welcoming the historic UK Ivory Act closing the country's domestic ivory market

As a group of 10 leading NGOs working together to close the UK domestic ivory market, and on behalf of the millions of our supporters, we welcome the fact that today the UK's Ivory Bill received Royal Assent and became the Ivory Act 2018. This is a significant moment, enacting tough new rules on the commercial trade of ivory in, from and to the UK.

The new law reflects the overwhelming public support in the UK and globally for the closure of the UK ivory market. When the Government launched its consultation on a proposed ivory ban, the public response was one of the largest ever received to any Government consultation.

The Ivory Bill also received cross-party support in Parliament, showing that politicians across the political divide have listened to the concerns of the British public and appreciated the need to take firm action on behalf of elephants. We applaud the Members of Parliament who supported the enactment of the Bill.

The ivory trade continues to pose a serious threat to elephants in the wild. Domestic ivory markets, wherever they may be, contribute to poaching and illegal trade in ivory and sustain demand for ivory which kills up to 20,000 elephants in Africa each year. The UK's action will have a resounding impact, not only within its borders but it will also support and encourage enforcement efforts and initiatives to reduce ivory trafficking around the world.

We call on the UK Government to ensure that the relevant authorities have the required resources to implement and effectively enforce the new law. We also urge the UK to ensure that the narrow exemptions in the new law are limited to trade in a few items only. We hope that the late amendments to devolve responsibility for secondary legislation under the Act to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will not distract from the seamless implementation of the new law across the UK.

The UK's ban is one of the strongest in the world and is testimony to the need for global action to end ivory trade for good. We strongly urge other

governments which have yet to adopt similarly tough measures to follow suit, particularly the EU and Japan, two of the principal remaining legal markets for ivory. We urge them to join the UK and to act now in ending the ivory trade and the scourge of elephant poaching.

Issued by:

1. Born Free Foundation
2. David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation
3. Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)
4. International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
5. Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
6. Space for Giants
7. Stop Ivory
8. Tusk Trust
9. Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
10. Zoological Society of London (ZSL)