



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-0234, 28 November 2016

The UK Ivory Trade

This Debate Pack has been prepared ahead of the debate on the UK ivory trade to be held in Westminster Hall on Thursday 8 December at 3.00pm.

The subject for the debate has been chosen by the Backbench Business Committee, following a representation made by Jeremy Lefroy.

Alison Pratt and
Nikki Sutherland

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Summary

On 21 September 2016 the Government announced a ban on the sale of 'worked' ivory produced after 1947 (pre-1947 ivory are classified as 'antique' and trade in them will be permitted). The Government plan on consulting with environmental groups, industry and other individuals on developing this ban on 'modern day' ivory sales. The Government have been criticised by some conservation groups for not going far enough in its ban.

Backbench Business Committee

This debate was selected by the Backbench Business Committee. In his recent submission to the Backbench Business Committee, Jeremy Lefroy MP said that he would like the Government to make some clear commitments about their intentions. He said the debate is about encouraging the Government in its course of action but asking them to go further:

Ideally, we would like the Government to make some clear commitments about what they intend to do about the ivory trade both in the UK and overseas. Clearly, we realise that there is a lot of work going on at the moment and it is more to encourage the Government on the course that they are pursuing now and to go further. The UK has shown leadership in this. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge has also taken a great deal of interest in this. We want to encourage the Government to do more of what they are doing and to go further.¹

Ban on modern day ivory sales

In their manifesto for the 2015 General election the Conservative Party said that they would 'press for a total ban on ivory sales'.² In their 2010 manifesto they had also said they would 'press for a total ban on ivory sales and the destruction of existing stockpiles'.³

On 21 September this year, the Government [announced](#) plans to ban the sale of 'worked' ivory produced since 1947. Ornaments and works of art dating prior to 1947 are classified as 'antique' and trade in them will be permitted. The sale or trade of raw or unworked tusks of any age is already illegal. The Government plan to 'consult with environmental groups, industry and other relevant parties to establish how and when a ban could be introduced, as well as any necessary exemptions' early in 2017.

On 20 September, prior to the 17th Conference of Parties to CITES (CoP17), held in South Africa between 24 September and 5 October 2016, Defra Minister, Lord Gardiner of Kimble, set out the Government's actions towards securing a total ban on ivory sales in answer to a PQ:

¹ Backbench Business Committee, [Representations: Backbench Debates](#), 22 November 2016

² Conservatives, [The Conservative Party Manifesto 2015](#), p55

³ Conservatives, [The Conservative Party Manifesto 2010](#), p96

The Government has conducted informal discussions with representatives of the arts and antique sector on the scale of legal trade in ivory currently taking place. An accurate assessment is challenging as records for antiques may not necessarily record an item as containing ivory where this is only a small component of a larger item. Extrapolation from available data indicates that sales of items containing ivory may be worth in the order of several tens of millions of pounds per annum.

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring organisation, has recently published its report: "A Rapid Survey of the UK ivory market". Although not an exact comparison with a survey conducted in 2004, TRAFFIC's survey found the number of market stalls offering ivory for sale had declined by approximately two-thirds and the number of items offered for sale had halved. No new or raw ivory was seen in any of the physical market outlets or online platforms; only one ivory item seen for sale was reportedly from after the legal cut-off (1947) for antique ivory being sold without Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) documentation within the EU. Ivory is a key UK wildlife crime priority with an enforcement action plan in place to tackle risk. For example, UK Border Force through Operation Quiver has in particular successfully targeted ivory sent through postal systems.

We are actively exploring options with interested parties and other Government Departments about how to implement the UK Government's manifesto commitment to press for a total ban on ivory sales. The UK has successfully lobbied for the EU-wide adoption of the existing UK ban on trade in raw ivory tusks, which was agreed through European Council Conclusions on an EU Action Plan on Wildlife Trafficking adopted in June. Trade in such tusks presents the greatest risk of poached ivory entering the legal market. In addition, these conclusions urged EU Member States to consider further measures to put a halt to commercial trade in ivory from elephants.⁴

CITES CoP17

The Government's announcement of the ban came just ahead of the 17th meeting of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) Conference of Parties. Environment Minister, Dr Thérèse Coffey, attended the conference on behalf of the Government. Ahead of the meeting she commented:

Working with other governments, I want to see strong outcomes from this conference to protect our precious global wildlife, including elephants, lions and rhinos. I hope the world takes note of the UK's decisive action at this important time.⁵

The conference accepted a resolution to phase out domestic ivory markets and rejected the proposal to develop a 'decision making mechanism' which would allow international trade in ivory.⁶

⁴ [HL Deb 1615W](#)

⁵ [GOV.UK press release: UK ban on modern day ivory sales, 21 September 2016](#)

⁶ Environmental Investigation Agency, [Unpacking CITES CoP17: The wins and the losses](#) 5 October 2016

Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in Hanoi

The UK Government supported Vietnam in holding a [third “high level” conference on 17 November](#) and which built on the London and Botswana conferences held in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

The intention of the UK Government at this conference was to focus on encouraging countries to take action on commitments they have already made. As stated by Lord Gardiner of Kimble in a recent Lords PQ:

The Government is working closely with Vietnam to support a successful conference that secures high level attendance that will maintain political momentum. In particular we want to focus on encouraging countries, including Vietnam itself, to take concerted action on the commitments they have already made.

Officials, both in London and Hanoi, have been in regular contact with a range of NGOs concerning preparations for the Conference, and anticipate continuing to do so up to and at the Conference.⁷

The UK’s commitments at the conference were:

- Building on the commitment made during China’s State Visit to the UK in 2015, UK and China will adopt pragmatic measures to jointly tackle the illegal trade of wildlife products including ivory. To prevent smuggling of illegal wildlife products and effectively deter the offenders, UK and China will jointly develop and implement a law enforcement training project in Africa in 2017. With support from the range states, the training project will focus on enforcement, the identification of species and conservation issues.
- The UK will fund Interpol to expand their work with key nations, tracking and intercepting illegal shipments of ivory, rhino horn and other illegal wildlife products.
- The British military will train a new team of anti-poaching trackers to be deployed in African range states, beginning with Malawi in 2017.
- The UK will commit up to £4 million to the International Consortium for Combatting Wildlife Crime to strengthen criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional and international level to combat wildlife and forest crime⁸

The Conference’s [statement](#) lists commitments by all participating countries.

Comments on the ban

The Government has been called on by environmental organisations to ban all ivory trade in the UK.

Action for Elephants UK and 124 signatories wrote a [letter](#) to Prime Minister Theresa May on 24 September 2016, calling on the government to ban **all** ivory trade in the UK. The signatories were

⁷ [HL Deb 2627W](#)

⁸ [Hanoi Statement on Illegal Wildlife Trade](#) 17 November 2016

concerned that the proposed ban does not apply to all sales of ivory, including pre-1947 pieces, as they believe that:

the existence of a legal ivory trade serves as a cover for illegal sales of ivory, while continuing to perpetuate the cycle of supply and demand.⁹

The Government has been criticised by organisations such as Tusk, the conservation charity, for not going far enough, who said that, 'The proposals do not represent a near-total ban as promised'.¹⁰

Petition

There is currently a petition, calling on the Government to 'Shut down the domestic ivory market in the UK'. The petition currently has 75,683 signatures. The Government have recently responded as follows:

The Government is deeply concerned by the continued poaching of elephants for their ivory, which is why we are committed to maintaining the current global ban on any international trade in new ivory.

We have been actively exploring options to implement the Government's manifesto commitment to press for a total ban on ivory sales. On 21 September the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced a ban on sales of items containing ivory dated between 1947 and the present day, making UK rules on ivory sales among the world's toughest. The Government will consult on the ban early next year as a first step in meeting the manifesto commitment. This will complement our existing approach of not permitting sales of raw ivory tusks of any age.

Dr Thérèse Coffey, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, attended the recent 17th Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) during September 2016. The UK was pleased that at the CITES Conference, Parties voted against a resumption of trading in modern day ivory, in line with recent domestic UK action. There was also a clear direction to close national ivory markets where these fuel poaching and illegal trade and decisive action to strengthen National Ivory Action Plans, which help combat ivory trafficking in key markets.¹¹

⁹, ['Letter to Prime Minister'. Action for Elephants UK + 125 signatories](#), 24 September 2016

¹⁰ ['UK Government falls short in modern day ivory ban'. Tusk](#), 21 September 2016

¹¹ [Petitions, UK Government and Parliament: Shut down the domestic ivory market in the UK \[deadline 28 February 2017\]](#)

2. News items

Guardian

Boris Johnson makes 'save African elephant' plea

Patrick Wintour 2 December 2016

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/dec/02/boris-johnson-makes-save-african-elephant-plea?CMP=share_btn_tw

Telegraph

We will defeat the illegal trade in wildlife

Andrea Leadsom 17 November 2016

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/17/we-will-defeat-the-illegal-trade-in-wildlife/>

Independent

Prince William calls for total ban on ivory trade in UK

17 November 2016

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/prince-william-ivory-trade-ban-uk-a7422381.html>

Telegraph

Meet Britain's award-winning wildlife policeman hunting down animal poachers and smugglers

Joe Shute 9 November 2016

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/thinking-man/meet-britains-award-winning-wildlife-policeman-hunting-down-animal/>

Independent

Ivory trade awash with tusks from freshly killed elephants, scientists prove

Ian Johnston 7 November 2016

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/ivory-elephants-dated-poaching-study-nuclear-bomb-tests-extinction-a7403311.html>

FT

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall condemns ivory trade

11 October 2016

<https://www.ft.com/content/1745d2ea-a4e0-11e6-8898-79a99e2a4de6>

Guardian

Bid for strongest protection for all African elephants defeated at wildlife summit

Damian Carrington 3 October 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/oct/03/bid-for-stronger-protection-for-all-african-elephants-defeated-at-wildlife-summit>

Guardian

Conservationists and MPs call for a total UK ban on ivory sales

Damian Carrington 22 September 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/sep/22/conservationists-and-mps-call-for-a-total-uk-ban-on-ivory-sales>

Elephant Protection Initiative

US adopts near total ban on African elephant ivory sales

Kevin Freking 2 June 2016 (via Associated Press)

http://www.elephantprotectioninitiative.org/epi_in_action/us-adopts-near-total-ban-on-african-elephant-ivory-sales/

3. Press releases

TUSK

Tusk and others call for a TOTAL ban on UK ivory sales

31 October 2016

Tusk is among almost 100 wildlife conservationists, biologists, wildlife trade experts, MPs and others that have sent an open letter calling on the British Government to implement a total ban on the ivory trade within the UK, and to continue taking a strong lead in the battle to stop the illegal wildlife trade.

The letter has been issued in response to the [Government's announcement](#) in September that it would implement a ban on sales of "modern day ivory". It also coincides with the broadcast of the second episode of BBC1's [Saving Africa's Elephants: Hugh And The Ivory War](#), which documents how illegal ivory is still being sold within the UK, using a number of loopholes that would still exist if only the trade in ivory dated between 1947 and the present day were banned. Only the full closure of the UK's domestic market will effectively contribute to international efforts to tackle the illegal ivory trade and protect elephants.

The Government's previous announcement was made ahead of Tusk's [Time for Change](#) event at which HRH The Duke of Cambridge told an international audience that "Now is the chance to send an unambiguous message to the world that it is no longer acceptable to buy and sell ivory". The event was introduced by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, and features in the BBC documentary, in which he calls on the UK Government to toughen its plan of action in response to his findings.

The release of the open letter also follows the recent [CITES conference](#), at which Parties agreed that every country should "take all necessary legislative, regulatory and enforcement measures to close their domestic markets for commercial trade in raw and worked ivory as a matter of urgency".

The letter can be read in full [here](#) in *The Telegraph*.

National Geographic Voices for Wildlife

[Process for Establishing Future Ivory Trade Rejected at CITES Conference](#)

September 26, 2016

For the last nine years, [CITES](#) parties have been negotiating a "decision-making mechanism," (DMM), which would establish a process for a

future trade in ivory. Today, the parties of CITES voted to end the long-running discussion.

The notion of a DMM was [established](#) at CoP14 in 2007 as part of a compromise that put in place a nine-year moratorium on the international ivory trade. Namibia and several other countries agreed to the moratorium back then so long as a DMM was established.

Since then, the development of the DMM has only become more controversial as the poaching crisis escalated. There has been a net decline of approximately 110,000 African elephants from 2007 through 2015, according to a [report](#) released yesterday.

Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe put forward a [proposal](#) at this week's CoP17 conference in Johannesburg calling for the DMM to be established. A group of eight other African states put forward a counter-[proposal](#) calling for the discussions to be abandoned. Both proposals were rejected; the former by a secret ballot.

A third vote, on a [proposal](#) put forward by the CITES Standing Committee itself asking the parties to decide on whether DMM discussions should be extended, was rejected. That was the final word—the DMM is off the table.

It's yet to be seen how Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe will respond. In their proposal calling for the establishment of the DMM, they essentially threaten to pull out of the ivory trade moratorium if DMM discussions are ended.

"It was on the basis of [establishing] this DMM that Namibia and others agreed to the moratorium," said the Namibian representative during debate before the vote.

But the debate isn't over yet: Later this week, CITES will be debating two other proposals from Namibia and Zimbabwe that could revive the ivory trade.

DEFRA

UK ban on modern day ivory sales

21 September 2016

Plans announced to help bring an end to illegal elephant poaching and ivory trafficking

Environment Secretary Andrea Leadsom today announced plans for a ban on sales of modern day ivory – putting UK rules on ivory sales among the world's toughest.

It comes as the UK government prepares to back urgent global action to end elephant poaching, which has reached crisis levels in recent years. New action to tackle the illicit trade will be discussed at the upcoming conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in South Africa.

Global demand for ivory has seen almost 150,000 elephants lost to poaching in under a decade, leaving numbers down by almost a third.

Environment Secretary Andrea Leadsom said:

The UK has a strong record as a global leader in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade and I'm determined to do all we can to bring an end to poaching and ivory trafficking.

Elephants are some of our world's most iconic animals and it will take truly global action to stop the insidious criminals who selfishly prosper from the ivory trade.

This ban will send the message that the ivory trade is a thing of the past. I hope it increases pressure on other nations to implement bans and save our elephants before they disappear.

The announcement comes ahead of the start of the 17th meeting of the CITES conference in Johannesburg.

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey, who will attend the conference, said:

Working with other governments, I want to see strong outcomes from this conference to protect our precious global wildlife, including elephants, lions and rhinos.

I hope the world takes note of the UK's decisive action at this important time.

The government will consult on plans for the ban early next year, seeking views from conservationists, traders and other relevant parties to ensure clear rules and guidance for those operating within the law, while cracking down on illegal sales.

Notes to editors:

- Figures on elephant poaching taken from the Great African Elephant Census.
- The ban will cover the sale of items containing ivory dated between 1947 and the present day. Trade in 'worked' items, such as works of art and ornaments dating from before 1947 (deemed 'antiques') will continue to be permitted.
- The UK already has a total ban on trade in raw tusks, or 'unworked' ivory, of any age.
- The government will consult with environmental groups, industry and other relevant parties to establish how and when a ban could be introduced, as well as any necessary exemptions, early next year.
- The CITES CoP17 will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 September to 5 October 2016.

UK's ivory trade 'ban' just so much smoke and mirrors

21st September, 2016

UK Environment Secretary Andrea Leadsom today announced plans for a ban on 'modern day' ivory sales, a move she claimed would put the country's rules on ivory sales among the world's toughest.

But the proposal outlined by the Government does not go nearly far enough and is effectively only a tightening of the present outdated regulations – the ivory trade in Britain will not be banned, nor even be further restricted.

Meanwhile, elephants throughout Africa will still be killed in their tens of thousands every year as domestic markets mask the illegal trade.

Other countries, including the US and France, have gone much further than the UK's proposals and have enacted near-total bans on the ivory trade, despite survey data showing that 85 per cent of the British public supports a total ban.

The UK must pull its weight in global conservation efforts and close its domestic ivory market as well as voting in favour of a resolution to close all domestic ivory markets which will be tabled next week at the 17th Conference of Parties (CoP17) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in South Africa.

Reacting to the Environment Secretary's statement, EIA Executive Director Mary Rice, in Johannesburg for CoP17, said: "Now is not the time for Britain to be shy in its global leadership. It's time for a decisive announcement of substantive action at home and meaningful leadership on the global stage to ensure elephant populations are not wiped out across Africa.

"A ban on all ivory trade in the UK has been in the Conservative Party's manifesto for some years now and it's clear the British public wants the trade shut down. Botswana, which holds the world's largest elephant population, announced this week that it wants to see a global ban on all international and domestic ivory markets – as clear a signal as could be wanted for all governments, including the UK, to follow.

"The evidence shows that the UK's legal market provides cover for the illegal international trade, a wholly unacceptable state of affairs for a country which has shown strong leadership on elephant conservation over the last three years in particular.

"The only meaningful way the UK can stop contributing to the killing of elephants is to close its ivory market and in so doing show others the way forward.

"Elephants no longer have time for these kind of half-measures. It is to be hoped that the Government ultimately announces a far stronger and more meaningful commitment."

Will ivory burn fuel the fire for action?

Heather Sohl 29 April 2016

On Saturday 30 April, the world's largest ever ivory destruction will take place. Kenya will be burning 105 tonnes of ivory, along with 1.5 tonnes of rhino horn, in Nairobi National Park. This will be a strong symbolic gesture that Kenya will not tolerate the illegal wildlife trade that is killing so many of its iconic animals.

The stockpile of ivory and [rhino](#) horn to be destroyed has been seized from poachers or traders and therefore can never be legally sold under the rules of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It follows a high level summit today of representatives from African governments that have come together to discuss the conservation of elephants, including how to tackle the poaching driven by the illegal ivory trade.

Reflecting on this ivory burn we should all remember that it is estimated to represent the deaths of six to seven thousand elephants at the hands of poachers. These tusks are the only remnants of these once majestic creatures that are vital to the African ecosystem and the people who live near them. The demand for the ivory comes mostly from Asia, where its carvings are seen as a luxury item showing status and wealth. The growing wealth in Asia is unfortunately one of the factors driving this high level of poaching.

Every year an estimated 30,000 African elephants are killed by poachers. Some of the hardest hit areas are Tanzania which lost 60% of their elephants in the last five years, mostly to poaching; Mozambique which lost 50% in five years; and Central Africa which is suffering from twice the continental average rate of elephant poaching. Terrifyingly, if the current poaching trends are not addressed here *we could see the extinction of elephants in Central Africa in our lifetime.*

South Africa, which is home to 80% of Africa's rhinos, lost 1175 rhinos to poachers in 2015- a slight decrease on the 1215 in the previous year but still far too many and over 8,900% more than the 13 killed in 2007. Sadly neighbouring countries have seen an increase in poaching: *in Namibia 80 rhinos were lost to poachers in 2015 up from 25 in 2014;* and in Zimbabwe 50 rhinos were poached in 2015 more than double the previous year's total.

Elephants are icons for the continent's poaching crisis. Poaching has been a threat to elephants for decades, but it is more complicated now as it's driven by international organised crime, which also spans across many more species. This is not just an environmental issue; it is a serious crime that threatens national security, good governance and sustainable development. It is about lost economic opportunities, depriving communities and countries of vital natural resources, including tourism revenues.

However, we know there can be effective change and wildlife crime can be controlled. Key is an approach that combines high-level political will, professionalisation of ranger forces, enhancing local community

stewardship of natural wildlife resources, collaboration with all sectors along the [illegal wildlife trade](#) chain and effective behaviour change initiatives to reduce the demand for illegal products.

Today's summit is a good example of the African leaders' commitment to ending wildlife crime. WWF has been deeply involved in both international and African policy processes and is ready to help countries to fulfil their commitments. Gabon was the driving force behind the adoption of the historic United Nations General Assembly Resolution on illicit wildlife trafficking. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed last year include a specific outcome on reducing poaching and illegal wildlife trade. Through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) 50 African states and China have committed to work together against wildlife crime. African Union leaders have endorsed the African Common Strategy on Combatting Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora and its Action Plan in 2015. We're working with international governments to turn these political commitments into action on the ground.

Pressures are also building on Africa's wild spaces

Infrastructure and agricultural projects are quickly encroaching on spaces that were previously shared by people with wildlife. Private and multilateral investments influence how many and in what way projects are developed. So we're calling on governments to integrate land-use plans while focusing on development to ensure that spaces such as protected areas and water sources are kept intact.

We must work together to save our shared natural and cultural heritage. The development decisions on how to use Africa's natural and ecological resources that are made over the next two decades will determine the future of the continent's people and economies for a long time to come. And the future of iconic African species such as elephants and rhinos.

4. Parliamentary material

PQs

[Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Pauline Latham

My right hon. Friend will be aware that both the 2010 and 2015 Conservative party manifestos said that we would ban all ivory trade. Will she update the House on what progress she made towards that aim at the Vietnam conference last week?

Answering member: Andrea Leadsom | Department: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

I am grateful to my hon. Friend for raising that matter. The conference was superbly successful and some real steps were taken towards improving awareness of the importance of preserving endangered species, the elephant in particular. In this country, we have announced our intention to ban the trade in post-1947 ivory—that is 70 years—and we will consult on that shortly to consider how we implement that and what further steps can be taken to meet our manifesto commitment.

HC Deb 24 Nov 2016 | vol 617 c1015

[Elephants: Africa](#)

Asked by: Mann, John

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions her Department has had with governments in African countries with an elephant population on the survival of that animal in the wild.

Answering member: Dr Thérèse Coffey | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The UK is actively supporting efforts to ensure the survival of tigers, rhino and elephant in the wild and this involves discussions with key range countries.

I attended the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Conference of Parties held in Johannesburg from 24 September to 5 October, where the UK, working with the Member States of the European Union and Asian and African range countries, played a leading role in achieving strong outcomes for tigers, elephants and rhinos that will help ensure their survival in the wild.

For example, the UK engaged with influential tiger range countries such as India to ensure substantial decisions relating to enforcement and tiger breeding facilities were adopted. Through our work as Chair of the CITES Rhino Working Group we discuss conservation and illegal trade issues with both African and Asian countries which have populations of rhino. Elephant and ivory issues formed a significant part of the conference and the UK discussed these issues with a wide range of

countries, including a number of African range states. The CITES Conference also adopted decisions in relation to cheetahs which the UK supported although we had no direct engagement in those discussions.

Poaching is a major threat to elephants, rhino and tigers and the UK has played a leading role in efforts to combat the illegal wildlife trade. The UK was represented by the Secretary of State at the Illegal Wildlife Trade Vietnam conference, on 17-18 November in Hanoi, where the UK goal is to promote further international practical action on the key themes identified and the commitments agreed at the London Conference in 2014. As part of this we have discussed this matter with a number of key range states, as well as transit and consumer countries.

HC Deb 17 Nov 2016 | 52512W

[Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade: Hanoi](#)

Asked by: Lord Hague of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what approach they intend to take in relation to the Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in November.

Answered by: Lord Gardiner of Kimble | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The UK has a strong record as a global leader in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade, and remains committed to working with our international partners to bring an end to this scourge.

We have been leading ambitious international agreements in this area and are supporting Vietnam to host a third high level conference on 17 November which builds on the ground-breaking London and Botswana Conferences in 2014 and 2015. Building on this we The Government have provided specific funding for the conference, and is providing ongoing advice and support through the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will attend the Conference, as will HRH Duke of Cambridge.

The Government is working closely with Vietnam to support a successful conference that secures high level attendance that will maintain political momentum. In particular we want to focus on encouraging countries, including Vietnam itself, to take concerted action on the commitments they have already made.

Officials, both in London and Hanoi, have been in regular contact with a range of NGOs concerning preparations for the Conference, and anticipate continuing to do so up to and at the Conference.

We are investing millions in projects around the world to tackle IWT on the ground. We have already committed £13 million to practical action around the world to reduce demand, strengthen enforcement and develop sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by IWT, primarily through Defra's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.

HL Deb 8 November 2016 | HL2627W

Ivory: Sales

Asked by: Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government which authority or authorities are responsible for upholding the ban on the sale of ivory items created or carved after 1947, and what training is provided to enable employees working in those authorities to distinguish items created or carved after 1947 from antique ivory items.

Answering member: Lord Gardiner of Kimble | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The police and the National Crime Agency (NCA) are responsible for enforcing the legislation on the sale of ivory in the UK under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997. Training is provided to police and NCA officers on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). When enforcing these controls, the police look for documentary evidence, including details of origin; that the ivory was legally acquired; and is still legal for commercial use. If further investigation is needed, there is the potential to use carbon dating techniques which are currently the most reliable method used by law enforcement to accurately identify an age for ivory. This expert advice is provided by the National Wildlife Crime Unit or the CITES authority, which are available to officers to assist in these investigations.

HL Deb 08 Nov 2016 | HL2674W

Ivory: Sales

Asked by: Lord Hague of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are proposing to take to implement the text in Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species (CITES) document CoP17 Com. II. 6 (revisions to CITES Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16), calling for the end of any domestic ivory trade "contributing to poaching or illegal trade".

Answering member: Lord Gardiner of Kimble | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

We will be working with EU Member States to consider our approach to Resolution 10.10 (Rev Cop16) as amended and any necessary changes to the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations to implement the decisions made at the 17th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). In doing this, we will also draw upon the Council Conclusions on an EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking agreed in June which ask Member States not to export or re-export raw, old ivory from elephants and to consider further measures to stop the commercial trade in ivory, an outcome the UK actively negotiated to secure.

In addition, prior to the CITES Conference on 21 September 2016, Defra's Secretary of State announced plans for a ban on sales of items containing ivory dated between 1947 and the present day. The Government will consult on plans for the ban early next year. This is a key step forward as we work towards our manifesto commitment to press for a total ban on ivory sales.

HL Deb 08 Nov 2016 | HL2630W

[Ivory: Sales](#)

Asked by: Julian Knight

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 1 November 2016 to Question 50488 and the Answer of 13 October 2016 to Question 47024, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential effect of the total ban on domestic ivory sales on the number of elephants poached for ivory.

Answering member: Dr Thérèse Coffey | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The UK has made no formal assessment of the potential effect of a total ban on domestic ivory sales on the number of elephants poached for ivory. The UK's proposed ban on trade in modern day, post-1947 ivory, announced by the Secretary of State on 21 September, is a significant step towards implementation of our Manifesto commitment to press for a total ban on ivory sales. It sends a global message of the need to combat the threat to elephants from poaching and puts pressure on other countries to act.

HC Deb 08 Nov 2016 | 51733W

[Ivory: Sales](#)

Asked by: Latham, Pauline

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what account the Government has taken of the number of elephants killed for their ivory since 2010 in assessing the effectiveness of its ban on sales of ivory dating from 1947 to the present day.

Answering member: Dr Thérèse Coffey | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Africa's elephant population has seen the worst declines in 25 years, mainly due to poaching, with a reported decline of around 111,000 over the past decade. The UK's proposed ban on trade in modern day, post-1947 ivory announced by the Secretary of State on 21 September will send a global message of the need to combat this threat to elephants and put pressure on other countries to act. The ban has not yet entered into force and we will consult on plans early next year. We will have to look at the impact of this change to current controls but it will put UK rules on ivory sales among the world's toughest.

HC Deb 01 Nov 2016 | 50488W

Ivory: Trade

Asked by: Streeting, Wes

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent representations she has received on closing the UK domestic ivory trade.

**Answering member: Dr Thérèse Coffey | Department:
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

A number of representations have been made to the Department in recent months on the issue of UK domestic ivory trade. These primarily consist of correspondence to Ministers from individuals and interested organisations calling for the Government to act in this area.

On 21 September the Secretary of State announced plans for a ban on sales of items containing ivory dated between 1947 and the present day, putting UK rules on ivory sales among the world's toughest. We will consult on plans for the ban early next year.

HC Deb 28 Oct 2016 | 50095W

Ivory

Asked by: Goldsmith, Zac

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what her Department's policy is on seeking a ban on ivory sales.

**Answering member: Dr Thérèse Coffey | Department:
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

The Government is deeply concerned by the continued poaching of elephants for their ivory, which is why we are committed to maintaining the current global ban on any international trade in new ivory. The UK has made no formal assessment of the impact of other countries' additional measures to restrict trade in ivory. However, as a further step in delivering the Government's manifesto commitment to press for a total ban on ivory sales, on 21 September the Secretary of State announced plans for a ban on sales of items containing ivory dated between 1947 and the present day, putting UK rules on ivory sales among the world's toughest. We will consult on plans for the ban early next year. This will complement the existing UK approach not to permit the trade of raw ivory tusks.

The Government also successfully lobbied for the EU-wide adoption of the existing UK ban on sales of raw ivory tusks, which was advocated through the EU Council Conclusions on an EU Action Plan on Wildlife Trafficking and adopted in June. This urged EU Member States not to issue export or re-export documents under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) for raw, pre-

Convention ivory (pre-1990) and to consider further measures to put a halt to commercial trade in ivory from elephants.

At the CITES Conference that took place from 24 September to 5 October the UK was involved in negotiations that successfully secured a strong agreement calling for the closure of domestic ivory markets where they contribute to poaching or illegal trade. This was agreed by all 183 Parties to CITES.

HC Deb 13 Oct 2016 | 47071W

Ivory

Asked by: Mc Nally, John

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will commit the UK to voting in support of the closure of domestic ivory markets at forthcoming international conferences.

Answering member: Dr Thérèse Coffey | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

At the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) that took place from 24 September to 5 October, proposals on the closure of domestic ivory markets where they contribute to poaching or illegal trade were agreed by all Parties by consensus. The UK supported this outcome, negotiating on the basis of a common EU and Member State position.

The agreement at CITES should form a strong basis for a global position on this important issue, which the UK will continue to support. It will not be revisited in the CITES context before the next Conference of Parties, which will take place in 2019. The UK will continue to comply with our EU treaty obligations, including our duty of sincere cooperation, until we formally leave the EU.

HC Deb 13 Oct 2016 | 46930W

Ivory: Smuggling

Asked by: Mann, John

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance she has issued to police forces on initiatives to stop the illegal trading of ivory.

Answering member: Brandon Lewis | Department: Home Office

We have not issued specific guidance to the police on tackling the illegal trading of ivory. With the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, we fund the National Wildlife Crime Unit which provides intelligence and specialist assistance to assist all police forces in the United Kingdom to deal effectively with wildlife crime investigation, including cases that involve the illegal trading of ivory.

HC Deb 12 Oct 2016 | 47201W

Ivory: Sales

Asked by: Lord Hague of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to secure a total ban on ivory sales, and what discussions they have had with other countries about implementing such a ban.

Answered by: Lord Gardiner of Kimble | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Government has conducted informal discussions with representatives of the arts and antique sector on the scale of legal trade in ivory currently taking place. An accurate assessment is challenging as records for antiques may not necessarily record an item as containing ivory where this is only a small component of a larger item. Extrapolation from available data indicates that sales of items containing ivory may be worth in the order of several tens of millions of pounds per annum.

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring organisation, has recently published its report: "A Rapid Survey of the UK ivory market". Although not an exact comparison with a survey conducted in 2004, TRAFFIC's survey found the number of market stalls offering ivory for sale had declined by approximately two-thirds and the number of items offered for sale had halved. No new or raw ivory was seen in any of the physical market outlets or online platforms; only one ivory item seen for sale was reportedly from after the legal cut-off (1947) for antique ivory being sold without Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) documentation within the EU. Ivory is a key UK wildlife crime priority with an enforcement action plan in place to tackle risk. For example, UK Border Force through Operation Quiver has in particular successfully targeted ivory sent through postal systems.

We are actively exploring options with interested parties and other Government Departments about how to implement the UK Government's manifesto commitment to press for a total ban on ivory sales. The UK has successfully lobbied for the EU-wide adoption of the existing UK ban on trade in raw ivory tusks, which was agreed through European Council Conclusions on an EU Action Plan on Wildlife Trafficking adopted in June. Trade in such tusks presents the greatest risk of poached ivory entering the legal market. In addition, these conclusions urged EU Member States to consider further measures to put a halt to commercial trade in ivory from elephants.

A substantial number of proposals on elephant and ivory related issues will be discussed at the Conference of Parties to CITES to be held in South Africa between 24 September and 5 October 2016. This will include discussions on the existing global ban on the trade in ivory, which the UK is committed to maintaining, and the role of domestic ivory markets in illegal trade. The UK is, and will continue to, play a full role in these discussions.

In relation to the confirmation by the USA Government to limit commercial trade in African elephant ivory to items more than 100 years old, with some exemptions, the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs, Rory Stewart, discussed this issue with the USA Government during a trip earlier this year. In addition officials in Defra are in regular contact with their US counterparts and have discussed the US measures on a number of occasions.

Finally on the Elephant Protection Initiative, this has grown from 5 to 14 members since the London Conference in February 2014. A Ministerial-level meeting of members to agree governance arrangements took place in Addis Ababa in September 2015. Range states have been supported to develop their National Elephant Action Plans and through these a number of priority conservation projects have been funded.

HL Deb 6 September 2016 | HL1615W

Written Ministerial Statements

[Hanoi Conference on illegal wildlife trade](#)

The Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade took place on 17-18 November 2016, bringing together leaders from across the world to secure international political commitment to action on tackling the illegal wildlife trade (IWT). The Hanoi Conference was the third global conference on IWT to follow the London Conference in 2014 and Kasane Conference in 2015.

I was delighted to attend the Conference on behalf of the UK, alongside His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. The Conference was successful, with 42 countries and the EU adopting the Hanoi Statement by consensus and 23 countries, the EU and 6 international organisations pledging new and specific actions in the Statement Annex to deliver on their commitments from London and Kasane.

The UK played a key role in supporting Vietnam as chair and host, including direct financial support and seconding staff to the conference secretariat. Our contribution and leadership were widely recognised and commended by international partners. At the Conference, I was able to announce an additional £13million in UK funding for IWT and a number of new initiatives, including expanded British Military training for African park rangers; a project with China to deliver joint training to African border forces; additional funding for Interpol to expand their work with key nations, tracking and intercepting illegal shipments of ivory, rhino horn and other illegal wildlife products; and up to £4million for the International Consortium for Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC).

Finally I was also pleased to announce that the UK will host a fourth high level meeting on IWT in 2018, to ensure that this urgent global issue stays at the top of the political agenda and that we continue to deliver on our manifesto commitment to lead the world in tackling IWT.

The UK was able to lead further progress in the margins of the Conference. I hosted a meeting of ASEAN Heads of Delegation, attended by the Duke of Cambridge, where I pressed for enhanced collaboration in this critical region, particularly on enforcement. The Philippines, chair of ASEAN in 2017, agreed that IWT would feature on the agenda.

In my meetings with Vietnamese Ministers, I welcomed recent positive steps taken by Vietnam to tackle IWT, and encouraged them to intensify further demand reduction and law enforcement efforts, including in respect of specific cases recently highlighted by NGOs and the media. I made clear the UK's commitment to ongoing practical cooperation between our two countries on these issues.

That so many countries and organisations came together once more in Hanoi to agree further action on IWT is a positive signal of ongoing political attention and also a consensus on the importance and urgency of the issue. We will remain focussed on driving forward this momentum and ensuring the commitments made in Hanoi are delivered in the lead up to the next event in London 2018.

HC Deb 01 Dec 2016 | HCWS295

[17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species](#)

The 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) took place in Johannesburg between 24 September and 5 October 2016. CITES is a vital international mechanism for protecting some of our most precious yet vulnerable global wildlife.

Having attended the conference, I can report it was a great success, delivering strong agreements to protect some of the world's most iconic species. I am pleased that much of this action was driven by the UK.

For example, the UK led negotiations on African Lions which saw the trade in wild lion bones banned and the establishment of a new CITES Task Force.

We also chaired discussions on rhinos, resulting in investigative action into failures to halt rhino horn trafficking in key destinations. A proposal to allow trade in rhino horn was also rejected.

Perhaps most significantly and in recognition of the peril facing many elephant populations, the conference voted against a resumption of trading in modern day ivory, in line with recent domestic UK action. There was also a clear direction to close national ivory markets where these fuel poaching and illegal trade and decisive action to strengthen National Ivory Action Plans which help combat ivory trafficking in key markets.

In addition, global rules on hunting trophies were enhanced, with export permits now mandated for almost all species listed as endangered.

The many victories for global wildlife are too numerous to detail, with action also delivered for Pangolins, as the world's most trafficked mammal, the African Grey Parrot and species of sharks amongst others.

Vitality, while CITES deals with the legal trade in species, Illegal Wildlife Trade was also a strong focus, with agreements reached on increased global cooperation, and intelligence sharing to boost efforts to reduce demand for wildlife products and tackle corruption. This agreement is crucial as we look towards the Hanoi conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade which will bring together global leaders in November to push further action. Following on from the ground-breaking London Conference, the UK is providing funding and advice to Vietnam in hosting this latest conference, assuring the Illegal Wildlife Trade's place at the top of the global political agenda and delivering on our manifesto pledge to continue to lead the world on this issue. The Secretary of State Andrea Leadsom will lead HMG's delegation to the Conference, which will also be attended by HRH the Duke of Cambridge. Their presence at this vital time will show that the UK continues to be at the forefront of global action, pushing for an end to this brutal trade.

UK leadership in this area is clear. At home, we are tackling wildlife crime through our National Wildlife Crime Unit, which will receive £1.2 million of funding over the next four years. Abroad, the British military is delivering anti-poaching training to rangers in Gabon, home of Africa's largest population of forest elephants. We are also investing £13 million in projects around the world to support communities and boost law enforcement through our Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, including specialised interception tracking courses to protect rhino and elephant populations across sub-Saharan Africa.

Decisions made in recent weeks will have a real impact in safeguarding some of the world's most vulnerable species. The UK has been at the forefront of driving this and we will remain committed to protecting global wildlife for generations to come.

HC Deb 18 Oct 2016 | 198WS

5. Useful links and further reading

Traffic Report: *A rapid survey of UK ivory markets*, August 2016

<http://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/157301/27217988/1472570776477/UK-ivory-markets.pdf?token=8Tijf%2B0un%2BE4W6v%2Bb2wCJHC2QrE%3D>

Nature Communications: *Estimating economic losses to tourism in Africa from the illegal killing of elephants*, November 2016

<http://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms13379>

RUSI: *An Illusion of Complicity: Terrorism and the Illegal Ivory Trade in East Africa*, Tom Maguire and Cathy Haenlein, 21 September 2016

<https://rusi.org/publication/occasional-papers/illusion-complicity-terrorism-and-illegal-ivory-trade-east-africa>

Born Free Foundation: The ivory trade

<http://www.bornfree.org.uk/animals/african-elephants/projects/ivory-trade/>

Save Me Trust: The ivory trade

<http://www.save-me.org.uk/the-ivory-trade>

University of Portsmouth School of Law: The Ivory Project

<http://www.port.ac.uk/school-of-law/research/the-ivory-project/>

CITES Elephant Trade Information System

<https://www.cites.org/eng/prog/etis/index.php>

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