

STOP AUSTRALIA'S IVORY AND RHINO HORN TRADE



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**
AUSTRALIA

ELEPHANTS STILL AT RISK

Elephant populations declined by 68% between 1973 and 2015, at which time there were estimated to be just 415,428 elephants remaining. The African savannah elephant is now listed as Endangered, the African forest elephant is Critically Endangered and the Asian elephant is Endangered. Poaching for the ivory trade remains a key threat.

Analysis confirms that elephant poaching levels remain alarmingly high in West, Central and Southern African regions and are unsustainable. Ivory seizure analysis confirms that illegal ivory networks remain active with Malaysian Customs confiscating over 6,000kg of illegal ivory imports in July 2022.

POACHING A GROWING THREAT

Sadly, the western black rhino and northern white rhino are extinct in the wild and three other species of rhino - black, Javan, and Sumatran - are Critically Endangered. Numbers of the southern white rhino have dropped 12% since 2017.

There are growing concerns that increasing demand from Asian nations over the last decade has led to a poaching crisis that has decimated many rhino populations. Between 2018 and 2021, there were 2,707 rhino poaching incidents across Africa alone.



LEGAL MARKETS DRIVE POACHING

Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), international trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn is banned. However, continuing legal domestic ivory and rhino horn markets risk undermining the protection and conservation of elephants and rhinos. That's because they allow ivory and rhino horn to be laundered through into domestic trade, complicating monitoring and enforcement, confusing consumers, and undermining international trade bans. Legal ivory markets also help to maintain the status of ivory as a prestigious and desirable item, stimulating further market demand which in turn stimulates poaching and fuels the threat to elephant and rhino populations throughout their range. Australia still permits domestic trade in ivory and rhino horn.



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS CALLING FOR CHANGE

In 2016 Parties to CITES recognised the role of domestic markets in maintaining illegal trade in ivory, and moved a consensus motion to on elephant trade stating: "...all Parties and non-Parties in whose jurisdiction there is a legal domestic market for ivory that is contributing to poaching or illegal trade, and that have not closed their domestic ivory markets for commercial trade in ivory to implement the above recommendation as a matter of urgency".

WHAT DOES AUSTRALIA NEED TO DO?

Australia formally announced its intention to ban domestic trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn in August 2019. This decision was endorsed by all states and territories at its Ninth Meeting of Environment Ministers in November 2019. Despite this commitment, there are currently no laws that prohibit the domestic trade in elephant ivory or rhino horn in Australia. The Commonwealth Government must work with state and territory governments to implement a domestic ivory and rhino horn trade ban.

Support our call for change and sign the petition at: <https://hsi.org.au/international-wildlife/stamp-out-australias-ivory-trade/>

