

27 May 2018

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement
PO Box 6100 Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**Submission in support of a total ban on Australia's
domestic trade in ivory and rhino horn**

Dear Members of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement,

Thank you for your new inquiry into the trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn. We know of the tragic figures of an elephant dying a grisly death every 15 minutes for illegal ivory and 1300 rhinos killed, faces chopped off. From the information presented, there are no legal requirements on sellers and you will study adherence to CITES regulations, involvement to organized crime, dating of products and adherence to Australian domestic policies. All is essential to a thorough study of the serious problem of the sale of ivory and rhino horn in Australia. I ask that you conclude that it is essential that Australia support a total ban on domestic trade in ivory and rhino horn.

Both ivory and rhino horn are traded extensively and daily globally in illegal trade, producing billions for illegal cartels. There is also legal trade in ivory. This (legal) ivory still required the brutal killing of an elephant and that it (the ivory) is old-- in no way makes it honorable nor was the killing less painful.

The Data from the Great Elephant Census makes clear the massive, dangerous decline in elephant populations. These mammal are sentient, intelligent, kind, caring, and a key species to Africa. There is no advantage to any global citizens, except criminals, to continue selling the tusks ripped from their faces or those hacked from the rhinos.

Reference to the great decline in populations, due to poaching below:

Paul G. Allen's Vulcan Inc. announced the results for the Great Elephant Census showing a decline of 30 percent in African savanna elephant populations in 15 of the 18 countries surveyed
Final results show:

- Savanna elephant populations **declined by 30 percent**(equal to 144,000 elephants) between 2007 and 2014.[2]
- The current rate of decline is **8 percent per year, primarily due to poaching**. The rate of decline accelerated from 2007 to 2014.
- **352,271 elephants were counted in the 18 countries** surveyed. This figure represents at least 93 percent of savanna elephants in these countries.
- **Eighty-four percent** of the population surveyed was sighted in legally protected areas while 16 percent were in unprotected areas. However, high numbers of elephant carcasses were discovered in many protected areas, indicating that elephants are struggling both inside and outside parks.

I visit Africa often now, leaving May 31 for Kenya--South Africa, Kenya, Zimbabwe, a bit of Namibia, Botswana and see the beauty of the elephant, their magnificence and value; and elephants belong in Africa. They belong to Africa. They do not belong to the poachers and the illegal cartels and the ivory houses of Australia, the EU or other countries.

Thank you for your inquiry. I hope you will find on behalf of the elephants and rhinos. You will save their lives and deal a huge blow to the illegal wildlife crime cartels.

Warm regards,

Joan L. Huddleston