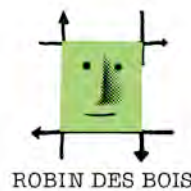


To the French Minister of Ecology, of Sustainable Development and Energy,
from :



HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL



WILDAID



ORIGINAL IN FRENCH

January 20, 2015.

Madam the Minister of Ecology,
of Sustainable Development and Energy
246, boulevard Saint-Germain
75007 Paris

Copy :
Special Envoy for the Protection of the Planet
Presidency of the Republic

Subject : Elephant Ivory trade in France

Madam Minister,

Trade in elephant ivory is developing within the European Union and specifically in France. Over the last 3 months of 2014, at least 118 entire tusks have been auctioned on the French territory (1). According to the CITES trade database, in 2013 France delivered export certificates for 116 tusks from African elephants, a record number, never before reached since 1990 and the listing of African elephants to CITES Appendix I. The main importer country of these tusks is China where a recent study confirms a market boom and where illegal retail shops are many more than the legal ones (2).

In letting raw ivory trade develop on its territory and by supplying international trade, France renders itself an accomplice to the elephant's disappearing. Failures in checks and controls of this market enable to feed the "legal" circuits with ivory from poached elephants.

Some countries have already taken action. United Kingdom and Sweden no longer deliver certificates allowing trade and export of raw ivory. Germany has introduced export ban of such ivory. The United States of America have taken measures to limit the internal ivory market, including that of carved ivory; and the general principle in the country is that of a ban of exports of raw ivory.

The 37 organizations presently signing request instantly you take immediate measures in order to ban in France all trade and export of raw or cut ivory (3).

Also, within the framework of the European Committee on trade in wild fauna and flora, France has been invited to formulate propositions before the 31 January 2015 regarding European trade and re-exportation of ivory. **We therefore wish Madam Minister that you or your services take this occasion to call on all European countries to enact such measures indispensable for the protection of the elephants.**

We thank you for the attention you will give to this request,

Sincerely yours,

Charlotte Nithart, Robin des Bois and on behalf of:

(1) Surveillance carried out from October 1 to December 31, 2014 in 9 French cities– Robin des Bois jan.2015.

(2) http://savetheelephants.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2014_ChinaConservationChallenge.pdf

(3) According to the definition of raw and cut ivory as presented in the French Circulaire DNP/CFF n° 98-84 dated 30 June 1998.

Amboseli Trust for Elephant, Dr. Cynthia Moss, Kenya
Animal Defenders International, Jan Creamer, United Kingdom
ASPAS (Association pour la Protection des Animaux Sauvages), Marc Giraud, France
Animal Welfare Institute, DJ Schubert, USA
Awely, Des animaux et des hommes, Renaud Fulconis, France
Born Free Foundation, Adam Roberts, United Kingdom
Born Free USA, Adam Roberts, USA
Eastern Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness (ECCEA), Lesley Suttly, Martinique
Ecologie sans frontière, Franck Laval, France
EIA (Environmental Investigation Agency), Mary Rice, United Kingdom
ElephantVoices, Dr. Joyce Poole and Petter Granli, Norway / USA
Fondation Brigitte Bardot, Christophe Marie, France
Fondation Franz Weber, Vera Weber, Switzerland
Gallmann Memorial Foundation, Kenya
Hong Kong for Elephants, Alex Hofford, Hong Kong
Humane Society International, Teresa Telecky, USA
IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare), Céline Sissler-Bienvenu, France
International Animal Rescue, Max Farrugia, Malta
L214, Brigitte Gothiere, France
Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux, Allain Bougrain-Dubourg, France
Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, Katherine Stansfield, Malawi
Mille Traces, Jean-Marie Ouary, France
OSCAP (Outraged South African Citizens Against Rhino Poaching), Allison Thomson, South Africa
Pan African Wildlife Conservation Network, Pat Awori, Kenya
Performing Animal Welfare Society, Ed Stewart, USA
Planète Tigre, Frédéric Geffroy, France
Prowildlife, Daniela Freyer, Germany
Save The Elephants, Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton, United Kingdom / Kenya
Shark Research Institute, Princeton, New Jersey USA
Sharkprotect e.V., Jupp Kerckerinck, Germany
SNPN (Société Nationale de Protection de la Nature), Jean Untermaier, France
SSN (Species Survival Network), Will Travers
WildAid, Peter Knights, USA
Wildlife Friends International, Edwin Wiek, Nederland
Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand, Edwin Wiek, Thailand
30 Millions d'Amis, Jean-François Legueulle, France