



The Honourable Yuriko Koike
Governor of Tokyo
Secretarial Section, General Affairs Division, Office of the Governor for Policy Planning
Tokyo Metropolitan Government
8-1 Nishi-Shinjuku 2-chome
Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo 163-8001
Japan

8th July 2020

Dear Governor Koike,

Congratulations on your recent, well-deserved confirmation for a second term as Governor of Tokyo. Your leadership in the extraordinary times in which we live will be most important for the city, and indeed Japan as a whole. It will have been a great disappointment to have had to postpone the Olympic Games, and the opportunity to showcase Tokyo as one of the world's leading international cities.

As a research and conservation organisation based in Kenya, we are all too aware of the terrible impacts of the ivory trade on Africa's elephants. We have counted the carcasses that have resulted from attempts to control a legal trade, and strongly believe that the only way to secure a future for elephants is to end the sale of elephant ivory products.

We therefore hope that the postponement of the Games will not delay the progress of the Tokyo Advisory Committee, as momentum is still very much needed to address the ivory trade problem. We greatly applaud your initiatives in examining Tokyo's ivory trade, and believe that the closure of Tokyo's ivory markets would be looked on favourably by the international community. Japan currently stands out as the only significant legal market for elephant ivory in the world, and the Government of Japan has inadequate regulations that provide cover for an illegal ivory trade (as evidenced most recently by numerous documented illegal exports of Japan to other countries, including China).

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U.K. Reg. Charity No. 1118804 · HMRC Number: XT11693



We respectfully add our voice to those of colleagues from around the world in proposing the following outcomes for your consideration:

- Prohibit the sale and purchase of ivory, as well as the display or advertisement of it for sale, within the Tokyo jurisdiction, as soon as possible through an Ordinance adopted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly;
- Appeal to the Government of Japan to close the domestic ivory market nationwide pursuant to CITES Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18);
- Declare a Tokyo policy to pursue being an ivory-free international city and delivery of a guideline to be in effect until a ban enters into force, which advises the ivory dealers in Tokyo to suspend ivory sales in accordance with the Tokyo policy; and,
- Implement an awareness campaign on the Tokyo policy and the regulation on ivory exports for Tokyo citizens and visitors.

Elephants – and ivory – are a very visible element in what is a much bigger challenge in the global battle to preserve biodiversity in the face of enormous pressures from wildlife trafficking and habitat loss. The world has suffered an enormous blow from the coronavirus as a result of our incursions into nature, but the shutdown has left many around the planet with a renewed sense of our responsibility towards the environment. Closing the great city of Tokyo's ivory markets would send a very positive signal to the world ahead of the rescheduled Olympic games.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Iain Douglas-Hamilton'.

Iain Douglas-Hamilton C.BE.

Founder & President, Save the Elephants

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