

## **Eight Time NBA All Star Yao Ming Delivers Petition to the Chinese Government requesting a Complete Ban on Ivory Sales.**

Yao Ming signed the petition along with fellow CPPCC members including Wang Wenjing (Chairman and CEO of Yonyou Software), Liu Jun (Chairman of Eagle International Holdings), Xu Shaochun (Founder of Kingdee Software), Zhu Xinli (Chairman of China Huiyuan Juice Co.), and Yu Minhong (Founder of New Oriental Education).

Last week, China's 36 top business leaders released a pledge to never purchase, possess, or give ivory as a gift. WildAid China Board Chairman, Huang Nubo spearheaded pledge recruitment including Cao Guowei, CEO of Sina Corp., China's largest internet portal, as well as 10 individuals from the Forbes 2013 China Rich List including Jack Ma, founder of the Alibaba Group.

*Translated text of Yao Ming's petition during the opening session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference asking China's government to ban sales of ivory (March 4, 2014).*

### **Proposal to issue a ban on ivory sales**

#### **Overview**

In recent years, the revival of trade in ivory has resulted in rampant poaching and smuggling of ivory, leading to significant reductions in elephant populations. In order to combat ivory smuggling and illegal sales of ivory, China has issued a series of laws and regulations. But because of the immense size of China's ivory market, complex management systems, and consumers often unable to determine the legal status of ivory products, smuggling and illegal ivory continue to enter China, adding pressure and complexities to the work of customs officials, and damaging our economy and safety.

#### **Background**

Estimates show that at least 20,000 elephants are being killed each year for their ivory. Elephant populations have been reduced 62% in the last 10 years. Rampant poaching is damaging the economies, tourism industries, and stability of many African nations, while some terrorist organizations are receiving funding from the trade in illegal ivory.

A recent survey carried out by WildAid and [the African Wildlife Foundation and Save the Elephants] of 961 residents in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou indicates that 94% of those surveyed support a government ban on ivory. China has recently begun strengthening enforcement on illegal ivory smuggling, and earlier this year destroyed over 6 tonnes of confiscated ivory, showing the resolve of the Chinese government to stifle the trade in illegal wildlife products.

#### **Issues**

1. After the ban on international ivory sales in 1989, the market for ivory was significantly reduced, leading to corresponding reductions in poaching of elephants and an increase in elephant populations. After the purchase of an ivory stockpile in 2008 which has helped revitalize Asian markets for ivory, poaching of elephants across Africa has increased rapidly. This shows that the trade in ivory is the main driver of elephant poaching.

2. Criminal gangs are increasingly smuggling ivory into China, causing China to spend a great amount of manpower, funding, and other resources to combat this smuggling and storing of confiscated ivory. This is to the detriment of China's economy and safety.

3. Because of ivory's high market value, it is often purchased to be given as gifts, very often leading excess and corruption in the government.

4. China has made great achievements in recent years on the protection of wildlife, but China's ivory market and ivory smuggling have damaged China's international reputation.

### Recommendations

Because the ivory trade is leading to the poaching of elephants, I recommend that China ban all sales of ivory, prohibit imports of ivory, prohibit the sale, purchase, transport, carrying, and shipping of all ivory products. I believe that this ban on ivory will lead to the protection of elephants, ease the burden on customs officials, maintain safety, and help make China a leader in wildlife conservation.

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## 拒绝购买象牙制品 个人承诺信

为保护大象，由野生救援协会中国理事会长、全球理事黄怒波先生在企业界发起号召，联合三十六位著名企业家及学者签署了以下拒绝购买象牙制品承诺信：

近年来，研究表明非法象牙贸易导致的大象偷猎行为严重威胁大象生存。我了解到：

1. 据统计，每年大约有25,000头非洲大象因为象牙被猎杀；
2. 十年来大象数量比过去减少了62%；
3. 猎杀的大象偷猎给非洲很多国家的经济、旅游和国家安全等带来巨大的负面影响。

因此，我承诺：

1. 个人不购买和使用象牙制品，不将象牙制品作为礼品送人
2. 鼓励和劝告亲戚朋友和公司员工不购买象牙制品

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