



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe
Statement on France's Destruction of Seized Ivory

February 6, 2014

Today, France's Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy announced the destruction of approximately 3 tons of ivory seized by customs and other law enforcement officials.

On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I commend the French government for signaling their commitment to end wildlife trafficking by destroying 3 tons of confiscated ivory from the nation's stockpile. France now joins the United States, China, Kenya, Gabon and the Philippines in sending a message to wildlife traffickers and poachers that their ivory is worthless.

If African elephants continue to be killed at current rates to fuel the demand for ivory, their extinction in the wild is inevitable in just a matter of a decade or two. The survival of the African elephant can only be assured with the support of every nation to halt both the demand for and the supply of ivory. I am greatly encouraged that the first European Union country has now underscored that support with this symbolic event, and I hope that others will follow.

To learn more about the U.S. ivory crush, visit <http://www.fws.gov/le/elephant-ivory-crush.html>