



February 18, 2021



Animal Welfare Institute  
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The Honorable 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

Dear Governor Koike:

In March 2020, we reached out to you to commend you and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government for taking steps to assess Tokyo's ivory trade and consider regulations to prevent illegal trade and export. Following up on our 2020 letter, and with the upcoming scheduled Games, we hope you will consider our appeal and recommendations.

While the COVID-19 crisis and postponement of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games have delayed Tokyo's efforts, we appreciate your continued leadership in this important conservation issue, as demonstrated in your meeting with Minister of Environment Koizumi in October last year. We are also pleased that the panel of experts is meeting again to consider and propose recommendations to address the illegal ivory trade and export problems to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and hope prompt action will be taken.

Last year, we urged the prohibition of 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 by the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly. We also urged you to recommend to the Government of Japan to close the domestic ivory market nationwide pursuant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18).

We continue to support the closure of Tokyo's ivory market, and by the Government of Japan at the national level. Even though we understand that implementing a legal ban on ivory trade prior to hosting the Games this summer might be challenging, it is critical for Tokyo to accelerate its preparation to pursue market closure in anticipation of the near-future resumption of international tourism and business levels regardless what transpires with the 2020 Games. Tokyo must send a clear signal of its intentions to the international community as soon as possible.

However, there are also a number of actions the Tokyo Metropolitan Government can take to prevent illegal export of ivory during the 2020 Games when international visitor numbers will increase and during the transitional period while pursuing legal market closure. Namely, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government should publicly declare its intent to be an "ivory free" international city, aiming for no further ivory sales or purchases within its boundaries, but with current possession unaffected.

We respectfully propose the following measures to be taken before the implementation of a legal ban:

- By 1 June 2021, issue a declaration of a new Tokyo-wide policy stating the goal of being an "ivory free" international city
- To prepare for the 2020 Games as scheduled, take the following measures:
  - Develop guidelines for ivory retailers to suspend ivory sales temporarily, including online transactions, at least from 1 July 2021 until 30 September 2021 to comply with the "ivory free" policy
  - Widely publicize the policy recommendations to educate ivory traders and the public/potential consumers about Tokyo's new "ivory free" declaration through a range of media (press release, signs, billboards, television, radio, newspaper, in various languages for international visitors, etc.)





- After the Games, or should the Games not proceed as scheduled, take the following measures:
  - Develop guidelines prior to the implementation of a legal ban for ivory retailers to phase-out ivory sales
  - Consider publicly acknowledging and commending retailers who opt to comply with the “ivory free” policy and end their ivory sales, for example by featuring a public list, issuing certificates/signs for store windows, etc.
  - For retailers who intend to continue to sell ivory, urge them to report on what measures they are taking to ensure that ivory sold by them is not being illegally exported, sales records, and basic customer information to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government



In addition to the above, we continue to recommend that the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department elevate law enforcement efforts to stop illegal trade in and export of ivory.

We echo our hope that Tokyo will take a stand to protect the world's precious remaining elephants from the trade in and demand for their ivory by taking steps to close its ivory market and send a clear signal to the global community that elephants are worth more alive than their ivory.

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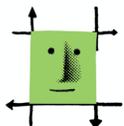


Thank you in advance for your leadership and consideration. Please note that for accountability and transparency, we intend to make this letter public.

Sincerely,



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