

Report of the Advisory Council on Regulation of Ivory Trade

March 2022

**Advisory Council on Regulation of
Ivory Trade**



TOKYO
METROPOLITAN
GOVERNMENT

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I. Introduction

1. Background of the Establishment of the Advisory Council

In response to the growing international concerns over ivory trade, such as the concern that ivory might be illegally taken overseas by foreigners visiting the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Tokyo 2020 Games”), the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (hereinafter referred to as the “TMG”) established the Advisory Council on Regulation of Ivory Trade (hereinafter referred to as the “Advisory Council”) on January 10, 2020, in order to look into the domestic regulations on ivory trade and to discuss measures to be taken by Tokyo as an international city.

2. Nature of This Report

For the purpose of contributing to the TMG’s future efforts to ensure proper ivory trade, this report provides an organized summary of discussions conducted by the Advisory Council during the period from January 2020 to March 2022, regarding, among other things, the current situation of, and challenges surrounding, ivory trade, and measures to ensure proper ivory trade.

This report provides an outline of the discussions that took place at the Advisory Council meetings, from the first meeting held on January 28, 2020 to the seventh meeting held on March 29, 2022.

*For the handouts, meeting minutes, and video recordings of the Advisory Council meetings, see the website of the Office of the Governor for Policy Planning (Japanese only):

URL: <https://www.seisakukikaku.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/cross-efforts/zouge/>



II. Current Status of Ivory Trade

1. International Situation Surrounding Ivory Trade

(1) CITES regulations on elephants

- Asian elephant and African elephant have been listed on CITES Appendix I since 1973 and 1989, respectively. In countries for which CITES has come into force, international commercial trade (i.e., import and export) of specimens of elephants, including ivory, has been prohibited up to present.

※ The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was adopted in March 1973 and came into force in July 1975. Japan joined CITES in 1980. CITES regulates international trade in wild plants and animals by classifying wild plants and animals that are thought to be in need of regulations on international trade into three categories, i.e., Appendices I, II and III, for the purpose of preventing the extinction of species as a result of excessive international trade between countries.

[Table 1: Outline of CITES]¹

	Appendix I	Appendix II	Appendix III
Listing criteria	Species threatened with extinction which are or may be affected by trade.	Species which although not necessarily now threatened with extinction may become so unless trade in such species is subject to regulation.	Species which any CITES Party needs the cooperation of other Parties for the purpose of protecting such species in its jurisdiction.
Details of control	- Trade for scientific research purposes is allowed. - Import and export permissions from both destination and originating countries are required.	- Trade for commercial purposes is allowed. - Export permission issued by the government of an originating country is required.	- Trade for commercial purposes is allowed. - Export permission or a certificate of origin issued by the government of the originating country is required.
Example of controlled species	Orangutans, slow loris, gorillas, Asian arowanas, giant pandas, <i>Saussurea costus</i> , false gharials, sea turtles, Indian star tortoises, Asian small-clawed otters etc.	Bears, hawks, parrots, lions, pirarucu, corals, cactus, orchids, spurge, etc.	Walrus (Canada), alligator snapping turtles (the United States), kolinsky (India), corals (China), etc.
Regulations on elephants	- Asian elephant (Indian elephant) - African elephant (Except the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, which are listed in Appendix II)	- African elephant (Only the populations in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe ; all other populations are included in Appendix I)	-

(Excerpts from Document 3 for the 1st Advisory Council meeting)

- However, the African elephant populations in three southern African countries (i.e., Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe) were transferred to Appendix II in 1997 and so were the populations in South Africa in 2000, on the grounds of their stability in size.

* When these populations were transferred to Appendix II, the conditions for trade in these populations were imposed on both exporting and importing countries by Annotation 2 of Appendix II, due to concern over the impact of international trade in ivory from these populations on elephants in other countries.

Annotation 2 of the Appendix II: This annotation sets conditions for trade in ivory from these

¹“About CITES” (website of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)

<https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/CITES/about_cites.html> (last accessed on March 29, 2022; the same applies hereinafter) Note: Species are listed in their common names.

populations, such as that only registered government-owned stocks may be traded, that the proceeds of the trade are used exclusively for elephant conservation and community conservation, and that export is allowed only to trading partners with sufficient domestic trade controls.

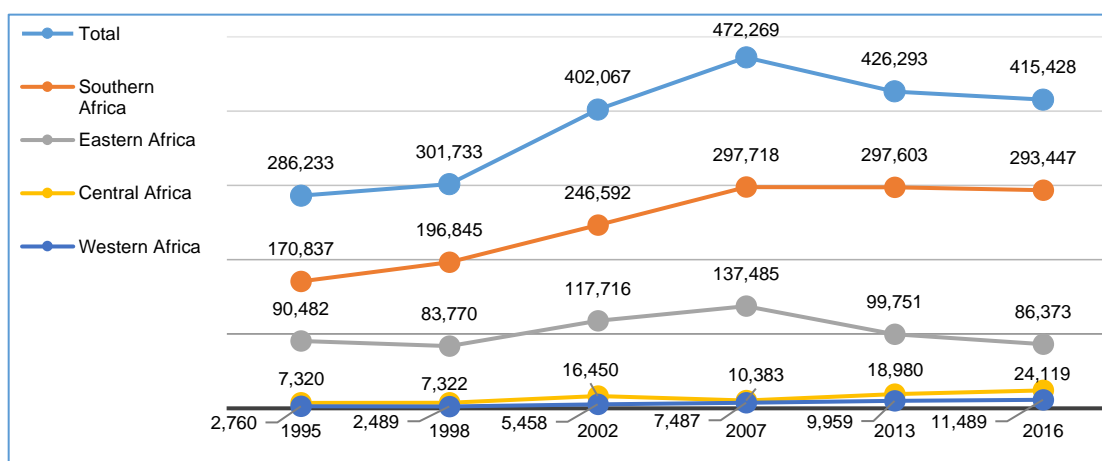
* Based on the recognition that these conditions were met, the aforementioned southern African countries exported ivory to Japan only in 1999 and to Japan and China only in 2009 (the “one-off sales”).

(2) Status of population sizes and poaching of and illegal trade in African elephants

◆ Status of population size of African elephants

- The population size of African elephants was estimated at 1340 thousand in 1979, which then decreased significantly to estimated 420 thousand in 2016, due to intense poaching of elephants for ivory mainly in eastern Africa in the 1980s, among other things. After the ban by CITES on the trade in African elephants, the estimated population size increased, but has decreased again since 2007. However, not all regions have seen decrease in their elephant populations; southern African regions have stable populations of elephants.

[Figure 1: Estimated population sizes of African elephants]² (Excerpt from Document 3 for the 1st Advisory Council meeting)

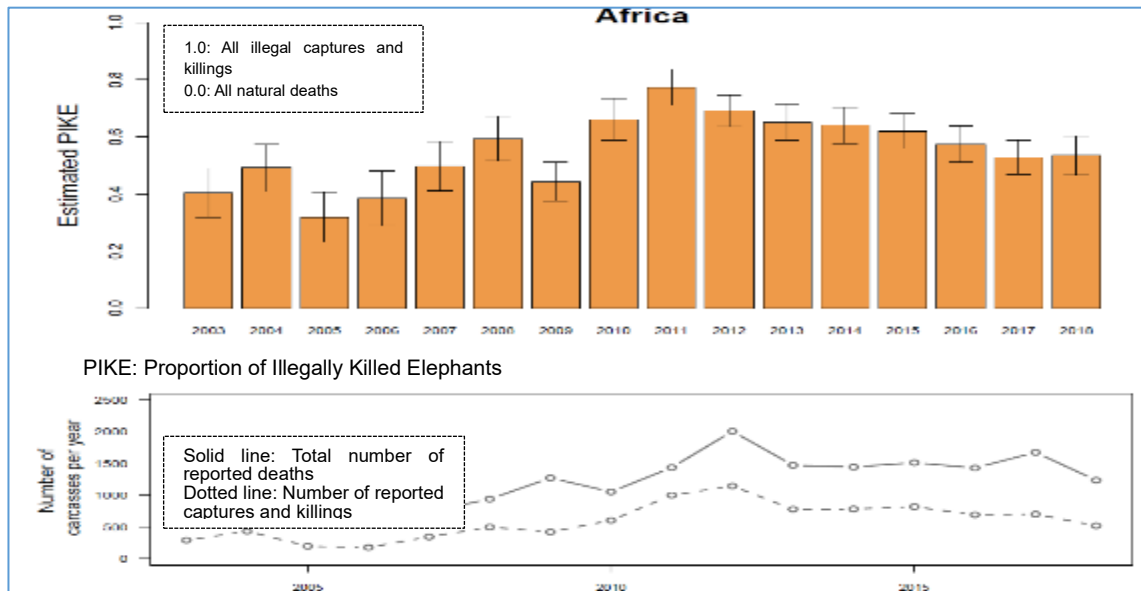


Created by the Secretariat from² the African Elephant Database (IUCN SSC African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) <<https://africanelephantdatabase.org/>> . Note: These estimates include data from “Estimates from Surveys (2013,2016)” or “Definite (1995-2007)” and do not include data from “Guesses” or others.

◆ **Status of poaching of African elephants**

- Poaching of African elephants has continued even after the ban on their international trade, with considerable amounts of poaching still taking place in recent years.

[Figure 2: Proportion of illegally killed elephants in Africa]³ (Excerpt from Document 3 for the 1st Advisory Council meeting)

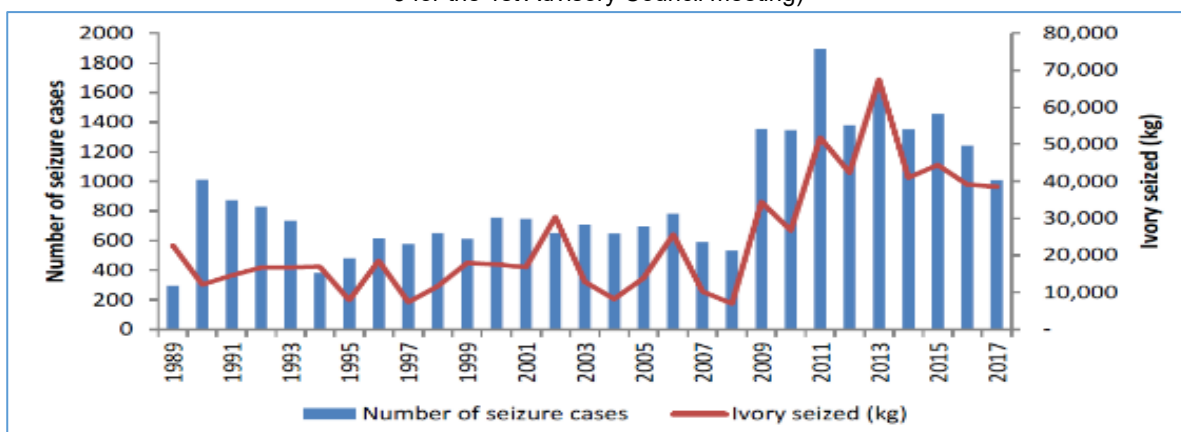


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◆ **Status of illegal trade in ivory**

- The amount of ivory seized from illegal trade remained low for about two decades after the ban on the international trade in African elephants, but then has increased since 2009⁴.

[Figure 3: Changes in the amount of ivory seized from illegal trade in the world]⁵ (Excerpt from Document 3 for the 1st Advisory Council meeting)



³ CoP18 Doc. 69.2 Addendum / Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) (2019) <<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/18/doc/E-CoP18-069-02-Add.pdf>>

⁴ At CoP16, discussions took place on the potential relationship between the 1999 and 2009 one-off legal exports of ivory (i.e., the one-off sales) to Japan only and Japan and China only, respectively, and the increase in the amount of seized ivory from illegal trade since 2009, but the causal relationship has not been established.

CoP16 Doc. 53.2.2 (Rev. 1), Monitoring of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens ETIS REPORT OF TRAFFIC (2013) <<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/16/doc/E-CoP16-53-02-02.pdf>>

⁵ CoP18 Doc. 69.3 / Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) (2019) <<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/18/doc/E-CoP18-069-03.pdf>>

* Revision of the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature

In March 2021, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) revised its Red List, in which African elephants were for the first time divided into two species, i.e., the African forest elephant and the African savanna elephant, in their assessment. This resulted in forest elephants being ranked as Critically Endangered (CR), which means they are most seriously threatened to extinction, and in savanna elephants being ranked as Endangered (EN), which is next to CR. ⁶

(3) Global movements

◆ Movements at CITES Conferences of the Parties

[Discussions at CoP17 in 2016]

- At the CITES Conference of the Parties in 2016 (CoP17), a resolution was adopted recommending the closure of domestic ivory markets contributing to poaching or illegal trade (Resolution Conf. 10.10).

* The Japanese national government's evaluation:

"With the shared understanding that the elimination of African elephant poaching or illegal trade is an urgent issue to be addressed by the Parties, Japan constructively participated in discussions at the working groups based on the view that commercial trade that does not threaten the survival of species may contribute to the conservation of species and ecosystems and to the development of local communities (so-called sustainable use). This led to a proposed amendment which reflects the views of some Parties, including not only Japan but also the United States, such as a view that domestic markets that is contributing to poaching or illegal trade should be closed. Japan appreciates that the resolution adopted does not demand closure of the Japanese ivory market which is under strict control. Japan intends to further tighten the control of domestic ivory trade. "⁷

[Discussions at CoP18 in 2019]

- At the 2019 CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP18), Nigeria, Kenya and other western and central African countries, etc. proposed amendments to the resolution and submitted draft decisions which urged all countries, including Japan and the EU, to take such actions as closing domestic markets with a narrow range of exceptions.

While these proposals and draft decisions were rejected, it was unanimously agreed, based on the draft decision proposed by the United States (as amended by Canada), that countries with domestic markets were required to report on their measures taken to ensure that their markets were not involved in poaching or illegal trade, and it was decided that all countries with domestic markets would submit a report at the 73rd and 74th Standing Committee meetings. ⁸

⁶"African elephant species now Endangered and Critically Endangered - IUCN Red List" (March 25, 2021) (IUCN website)

<<https://www.iucn.org/news/species/202103/african-elephant-species-now-endangered-and-critically-endangered-iucn-red-list>>

⁷"Washington Jouyaku Dai-17 Kai Teiyakukoku Kaigi (CITES COP17) no Gaiyou to Hyouka (Outline and Evaluation of the 17th CITES Conference of the Parties [CITES CoP17])," November 2, 2016 (a material for the 3rd meeting of *Tekisei na Zouge Torihiki Suishin ni kansuru Kanmin Kyougikai* [Council for Government-Industry Dialogue for the Promotion of Proper Ivory Trade]) (Japanese only)
<https://www.meti.go.jp/committee/kenkyukai/seizou/zouge_torihiki/pdf/003_01_00.pdf>

⁸"Washington Jouyaku Dai-18 Kai Teiyakukoku Kaigi (CITES COP18) no Gaiyou to Hyouka (Outline and Evaluation of the 18th CITES Conference of the Parties [CITES CoP18])," October 7, 2019 (a material for the 6th meeting of *Tekisei na Zouge Torihiki Suishin ni kansuru Kanmin Kyougikai* [Council for Government-Industry Dialogue for the Promotion of Proper Ivory Trade]) (Japanese only)
<https://www.meti.go.jp/committee/kenkyukai/seizou/zouge_torihiki/pdf/003_01_00.pdf>

* A report on the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) of CITES⁹ does not regard Japan as a destination or transit country for illegal ivory. ¹⁰However, the same analytical report on the ETIS points out that Japan is in a mid-range group in terms of the number of seizures and seized weight of illegal ivory in Japan or in which Japan was involved during 2015-2017, and that, in that group, Japan has a significantly lower than average rate of seizure within the country.¹¹

[Discussions on resumption of trade]

- The southern African countries that have been successful in conserving elephants expect to acquire funds for the conservation of elephants and for the development of local communities through international ivory trade. Proposals for resuming commercial ivory trade (such as proposals for deleting the annotation on the populations in Appendix II) were submitted by Namibia and Zimbabwe at CoP17 and by Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia at Cop18, but were all rejected by a majority vote. (CoP17 -- the proposal by Namibia and Zimbabwe: 21 in favor, 107 against, and 11 abstention)¹²(CoP18 -- the joint proposal by three countries including Botswana: 23 in favor, 101 against, and 18 abstention; and the proposal by Zambia: 22 in favor, 102 against, and 13 abstention)¹³

◆ Movements in countries across the world

- With discussions at international meetings of CITES serving as a momentum, movements towards a ban on domestic ivory trade have been seen in major countries of the world.

Laws and regulations of selected countries and regions¹⁴

- ▶ Thailand : Possession of and trade in African elephant ivory have been prohibited since 2015. Domestic trade in Asian elephants is under strict control.
- ▶ United States : Interstate ivory trade has been prohibited since 2016 with a narrow range of exceptions.
*In 12 states including California and New York, intrastate ivory trade is also prohibited.
- ▶ China : Ivory trade has been prohibited since 2017 with a narrow range of exceptions.
- ▶ UK : An act prohibiting ivory trade with a narrow range of exceptions was adopted in 2018 (yet to be enforced).
- ▶ Hong Kong : Ivory trade has been prohibited since 2021 with a narrow range of exceptions.
- ▶ EU : Ivory trade has been prohibited since 2021 with a narrow range of exceptions.¹⁵

* Trade prohibitions in these countries are subject to a narrow range of exceptions, such as antiques, works of art, musical instruments and rare items, depending on the situation of each country. ¹⁶

⁹ CITES Report on the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) (2019) <<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/18/doc/E-CoP18-069-03-R1.pdf>>

¹⁰“Japan’s View on Domestic Ivory Market in Japan, Poaching and Illegal Trade” (website of the Ministry of the Environment) <<https://www.env.go.jp/nature/kisho/kisei/en/conservation/ivory/poaching/index.html>>

¹¹ Same as footnote 9.

¹²Same as footnote 7.

¹³Same as footnote 8.

¹⁴ “Kakkoku Chiiki no Zouge Torihiki ni kansuru Ho Kisei Gaiyo (Outline of Laws and Regulations on Ivory Trade in Selected Countries and Regions)” by Ryoko Nishino, March 29, 2021 (Document 2-2 for the 4th Advisory Council meeting) (Japanese only) <https://www.seisakukikaku.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/cross-efforts/2021/03/images/zouge4_nishinoinkakkoku.pdf>

¹⁵ Ivory trade: Commission updates rules to end most forms of ivory trade in the EU (2021.12.16) (European Commission) <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_6887>

¹⁶Same as footnote 14.

2. Situation in Japan Surrounding Ivory Trade

(1) Use of ivory in Japan

- It is said that ivory carving came from China to Japan in Japan's Nara period. In the Edo period, ivory was used to make *netsuke*, hair accessories, combs, plectrums, etc. In modern times, ivory is widely used to make seals, Japanese musical instruments, etc.

* The TMG designated "Edo Zoge (Edo Ivory)" as a Tokyo traditional craft in 1983.¹⁷

- Since the international trade in ivory was prohibited in principle by CITES, the traditional industry relies on the ivory stock imported in the past for raw materials.

* Import volume: A total of 2,006 tons during 1981-1989. 18
A total of 89 tons by the one-off sales in 1999 and 2009.

* The proceeds from the one-off sales were used for the conservation of local elephants and for the development of local communities.



"Salome" made of ivory, a picture submitted by Mr. Kuroiwa Akira as reference at the 3rd Advisory Council meeting

(2) Reduction in market size and major domestic businesses' movements towards regulation of ivory sales

- Japan's domestic ivory market was about a 20-billion-yen scale in 1989. It is said that the market size was reduced to about a 2-billion-yen scale in 2014 due to such movements as the self-regulation of ivory sales by department stores and other businesses, which stemmed from the prohibition of international trade in ivory in the same year. ¹⁹Recent years have seen the self-regulation of ivory sales by major platform providers since 2017.

Major domestic businesses' movements towards regulation of ivory sales

- ▶ July 2017 : Rakuten, Inc. announced its intention to discontinue the sale of ivory products in Rakuten Ichiba.²⁰
- ▶ September 2017 : AEON Co., Ltd. announced its intention to discontinue the sale of ivory products at AEON malls.²¹
- ▶ November 2017 : Mercari, Inc. announced its intention to discontinue the sale of ivory products through Mercari.²²
- ▶ August 2019 : Yahoo Japan Corporation expressed its intention to discontinue the sale of ivory products through Yahoo! Shopping, Yahoo! Auctions etc.²³

¹⁷"TRADITIONAL CRAFTS of TOKYO" (Japanese only) (website of the Bureau of Industrial and Labor Affairs, Tokyo Metropolitan Government) <<https://www.dento-tokyo.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/items/15.html>>

¹⁸"Zouge Q&A (2020-nen 2-gatsu 6-nichi ban) (Ivory Q&A [February 6, 2020 Version]) (Japanese only), Ministry of the Environment <https://www.env.go.jp/nature/FAQ_on_ElephantIvory_JP_0421.pdf>

¹⁹ "Setting Suns: The Historical Decline of Ivory and Rhino Horn Markets in Japan," Tomomi Kitade and Ayako Toko, April 25, 2016, in TRAFFIC <<https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/2418/setting-suns.pdf>>

²⁰"*Tekisei na Zouge Torihiki Suishin ni kansuru Kanmin Kyogikai Follow-up Houkokusho* (Follow-up Report of the Council for Government-Industry Dialogue for the Promotion of Proper Ivory Trade)," *Tekisei na Zouge Torihiki Suishin ni kansuru Kanmin Kyogikai Follow-up Houkokusho* (Council for Government-Industry Dialogue for the Promotion of Proper Ivory Trade), November 2017 (Japanese only) <<https://www.meti.go.jp/report/whitepaper/data/20171122001.html>>

²¹"Policy to Discontinue Trade in Ivory Products," AEON Co., Ltd., September 4, 2017 <https://www.aeon.info/export/sites/default/common/images/en/pressroom/imgsrc/170904R_2.pdf>

²²"Teetering on the Brink: Japan's Online Ivory Trade," Ryoko Nishino and Tomomi Kitade, February 2020, in TRAFFIC <https://www.wwf.or.jp/activities/data/20201208_wildlife03.pdf>

²³"*Yahoo no e-Commerce Service ni oite Zen Zouge Seihin no Torihiki wo 2019-nen 11-gatsu 1-nichi yori Kinshi shimasu* (Trade in All Ivory Products Will Be Prohibited in Yahoo's e-Commerce Service from November 1, 2019)," Yahoo Japan Corporation (Japanese only) <<https://about.yahoo.co.jp/pr/release/2019/08/28a/>>

(3) Regulations on ivory trade by the Endangered Species Conservation Act

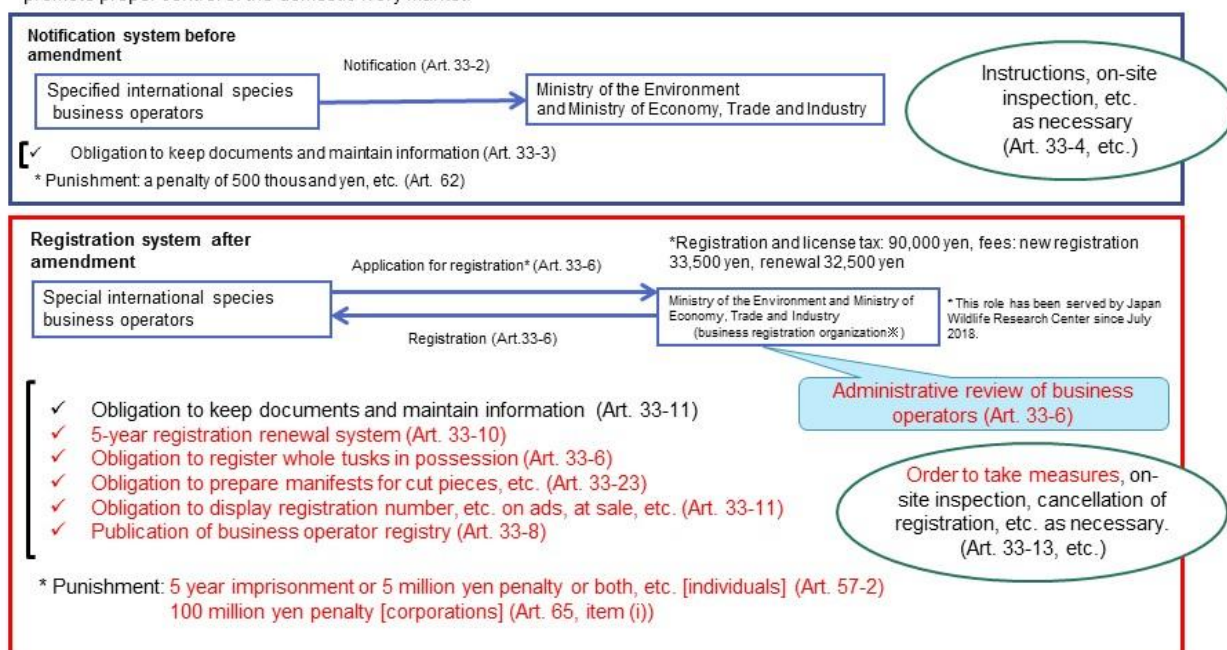
- In Japan, the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (the “Endangered Species Conservation Act”) was enacted in 1992. Its 1995 revision prohibited the trade in ivory products, etc. in principle, permitting commercial trade only in registered whole tusks and in cut pieces and ivory products by notified business operators. The revision also obligated business operators to keep documents and maintain information.
 - In 2018, the revised Endangered Species Conservation Act came into force, which tightened trade control including:
 - the notification system for business operators handling ivory products, etc. was transitioned to a registration system requiring every 5 year renewals;
 - registered business operators were now required to register whole tusks in their possession and to prepare manifests for cut pieces; and
 - penalties were strengthened, among other things.
- In 2019, the requirements for registration of whole tusks were tightened; age measurement was now required.

[Figure 4: Stricter ivory trade control by the Endangered Species Conservation Act]

Stricter Ivory Trade Control by Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

October 28, 2021
Advisory Council on Regulation of Ivory Trade
(5th Meeting)
Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau,
Ministry of the Environment

The Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was amended (enforced in Jun 2018) to transition the notification system to the registration system for business operators handling ivory cut pieces or products, in order to promote proper control of the domestic ivory market.



- Awareness program for monitoring ivory stocks: August 2017 - June 2019
- Stricter registration screening procedure for whole tusks: Since July 2019
 - In the screening of whole tusks for which individuals' registration is sought, supporting evidence for self-reported lawful ownership on or before the date of application of regulations was changed from "third-party testimony" to "corroboration supporting third-party testimony (i.e., objective documentation such as age measurement results of whole tusks obtained by radiocarbon chronology)" in addition to third-party testimony.

(Document 4-2 of the 5th Advisory Council meeting submitted by Ministry of the Environment)

(4) Status of business operators handling ivory in Tokyo

- With the transition from the notification system to a registration system as a result of the 2018 revision of the Endangered Species Conservation Act, there has been a considerable decrease in the number of “special international species business operators,” which are allowed to commercially trade ivory products, etc.

* Existing notified business operators which intend to continue business must file an application for renewal of registration no later than the end of May 2021.

- Number of facilities in Tokyo
3,019 (number of notified facilities as of October 31, 2019)

⇒ 1,329 (number of registered facilities as of October 5, 2021)

<a reduction to 44.0%>

- Number of business operators in Tokyo
2,565 (number of notified business operators as of October 31, 2019)

⇒ 1,062 (number of registered business operators as of October 5, 2021)

<a reduction to 41.4%>

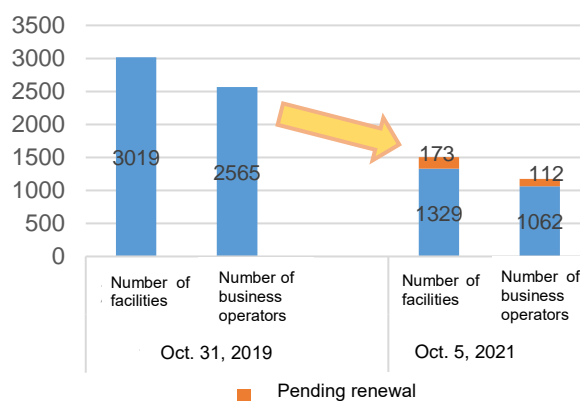
* Additional facilities and business operators are pending renewal (number of facilities: 173; number of business operators: 112).

* The number of business operators and the number of business operators pending renewal as of October 31, 2019 were estimated based on the number of addresses.

- The questionnaire survey of registered business operators in Tokyo conducted by the TMG in September 2021 revealed the following current situation of these business operators:²⁵

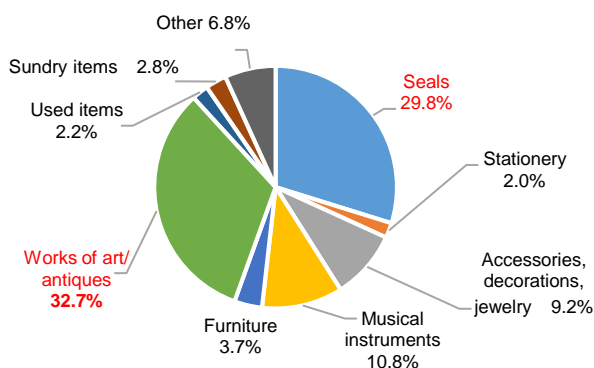
- Major lines of merchandise
Major lines of merchandise in manufacturing, wholesale, and retail industries are works of art/antiques and seals, each accounting for about 30%.

[Figure 5: Changes in number of business operators handling ivory in Tokyo]



* Created based on “Tokubetsu Kokusai Shu Jigyousha Tourokubu (Special International Species Business Operator Registry)” of Japan Wildlife Research Center (Japanese only).²⁴
(Excerpt from Document 4-1 of the 5th Advisory Council meeting)

[Figure 6-1: Major lines of merchandise in manufacturing, wholesale and retail industries] (n=544)

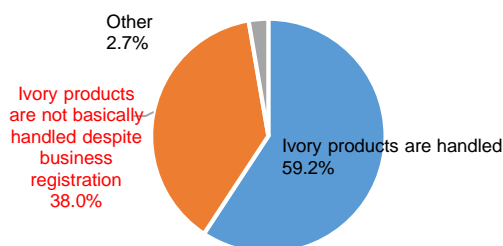


²⁴ Tokubetsu Kokusai Shu Jigyousha Touroku (Special International Species Business Operator Registration)” (Japanese only) (website of the Japan Wildlife Research Center) <<http://www.jwrc.or.jp/service/jigyousha/index.htm>>

²⁵ Tokubetsu Kokusai Shu Jigyousha e no Zouge Torihiki ni kansuru Ankeeto Houkokusho (Report on Questionnaire Survey of Special International Species Business Operators Regarding Ivory Trade),” October 2021 (Reference Material 1 of the 5th Meeting of the Advisory Council on Regulation of Ivory Trade) <<https://www.seisakukikaku.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/cross->

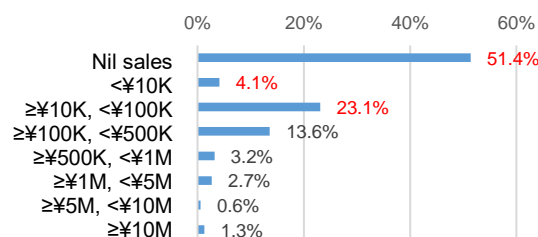
▶ Current status of handling of ivory
 38% of the registered special international species business operators do not basically handle ivory products, etc.

[Figure 6-2: Current status of handling of ivory products] (n=665)



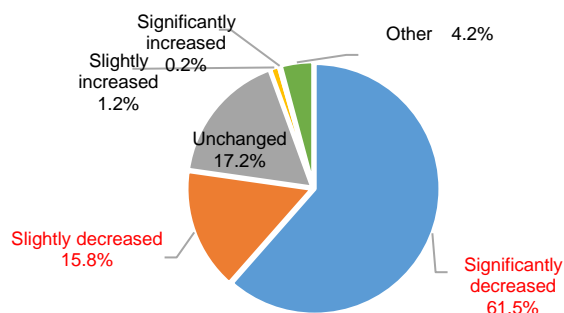
▶ Sales of ivory products
 In 79% of the business operators, annual sales of ivory products, etc. are less than 100 thousand yen.

[Figure 6-3: Annual sales of ivory products] (n=497)



▶ Number of potential purchasers
 77% of the business operators answered that there are fewer potential purchasers of ivory products, etc. compared to 10 years ago.

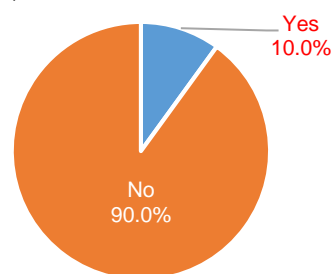
[Figure 6-4: Number of potential purchasers compared to 10 years ago] (n=431)



* Excluding those which answered that there were no potential purchasers in the first place.

▶ Internet sales
 10% of the business operators sell ivory products, etc. on the Internet.
 95% of those who sell ivory products online sell on their own website.

[Figure 6-5: Whether or not ivory products are sold on the Internet] (n=657)



(Excerpt from Document 3 of the 5th Advisory Council meeting)

III. Problems Surrounding Ivory Trade

1. Questions Raised against Japan's Trade System

(1) References to Japan at CITES meetings and opinions from overseas

- As described above, at the 2019 CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP18), certain western and central African countries, etc. made proposals including those which urged all countries, including Japan and the EU, to take such actions as closing domestic markets with a narrow range of exceptions. While these proposals were rejected, it was unanimously agreed that countries with domestic markets were required to report on their measures taken to ensure that their markets were not contributing to poaching or illegal trade, and it was decided that all countries with domestic markets would submit a report at the 73rd and 74th Standing Committee meetings.²⁶
- With Tokyo 2020 Games serving as a trigger, the government of Tokyo as the host city received opinions from overseas, including the opinion that the ivory trade should be banned in Japan (Tokyo) because foreigners visiting Japan for the Olympics may take ivory overseas. On the other hand, some said the ivory trade in Japan should be maintained.

Letters received by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (or Governor) from overseas (May 2019 - October 2021)

◆ Opinions that the regulation of ivory trade should be tightened (from 23 entities)

The mayor of New York City, the African Elephant Coalition consisting of countries where elephants live, the first Secretary-General of the CITES Secretariat, four African countries including Burkina Faso, U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton and former Secretary of State James Baker (in joint names), environmental groups in Europe, Africa and Japan, etc.

[Main opinions]

- The ivory trade in Tokyo should be banned to prevent foreigners visiting Japan for the Tokyo 2020 Games from taking ivory overseas, not knowing that it is illegal to do so.
- The current regulations in Japan are not enough to control illegal export of ivory, providing cover to illegal ivory.
- While many countries are closing their domestic markets, the Japanese market stimulates demand for ivory, which ruins other countries' efforts to protect elephants.
- The more international travelers return to Tokyo, the higher the risk of these travelers illegally transporting ivory from Japan. The ivory market in Tokyo should be closed as soon as possible.

◆ Opinions that the ivory trade should be maintained (from 6 entities)

3 former Secretary-General of the CITES Secretariat (in joint names), etc.

[Main opinions]

- Closing the market will encourage poaching and ivory trade in black markets. 80% of the countries where elephants live hope to trade ivory with Japan. Recovering trade is the only way to make elephant conservation self-supporting and to weaken black markets.

²⁶Same as footnote 8.

(2) Discussions at the National Diet

- During the deliberation on the proposed revision of the Endangered Species Conservation Act in the 193rd Session of the National Diet in 2017, the issues included that products, etc. other than whole tusks were not subject to the registration system, resulting in a loss of traceability, that the examination for registration of whole tusks was not strict enough and should require objective evidence, and that the mere possession of ivory is not subject to registration, resulting in the domestic stock of ivory being unknown.²⁷
- In the course of subsequent discussions, the then Minister of the Environment stated, during the deliberations at the 198th Session of the National Diet in 2019 (at the House of Representatives Committee on Environment), that the domestic market would virtually get closer to closure by shutting out ivory of unknown origin through the introduction of age measurement of whole tusks at the time of registration. In response to this statement, there was a comment to the effect that a roadmap should be presented that clarifies steps that would be appreciated by the international community regarding the ivory issue.²⁸
- * On the other hand, there was also a comment at the 196th Session of the National Diet (House of Representatives Committee on Environment) to the effect that Japan should maintain its stance of “sustainable use,” which means that ivory should be used to the extent that it can be reproduced by the elephant ecosystem, so that profits from the use can be used for protection.²⁹
- In addition, in the national government’s answers to certain memoranda on questions (Questions Nos. 204 and 254) submitted at the 198th Session of the National Diet, the national government mentioned, in the context of the illegal export of ivory from Japan, the fact that a total of approx. 131 kg of ivory in 757 pieces were seized immediately before being exported (i.e., interdiction at the border) during the period from 2011 to June 2019, and expressed its view stating: “As has been shown by these actual seizures, Japan’s border control is working well, which means Japan’s domestic ivory market is under strict control, so our understanding is that our domestic ivory market is not a ‘legal domestic ivory market contributing to illegal trade.’”³⁰

(3) Comments at the Advisory Council

- One problem with the whole tusk registration system is that it won’t be able to keep track of the stock held by individuals; once ivory has been cut into pieces, the pieces are no longer subject to registration.
- The mark is required to be affixed to products on a voluntary basis only, and many business operators do not use it. We must improve the reliability of the mark system and further spread the system.
- It is a problem that consumers cannot tell whether ivory products they are purchasing were made from legal materials or illegal materials.
- Maintaining the ivory market in Japan (Tokyo) as it is poses a significant international reputation

²⁷The 193rd Session of the National Diet, House of Representatives, Committee on Environment, Meeting Minutes No. 14, April 25, 2017 (Japanese only) <https://www.shugiin.go.jp/internet/itdb_kaigiroku.nsf/html/kaigiroku/001719320170425014.htm>

The 193rd Session of the National Diet, House of Councillors, Committee on Environment, Meeting Minutes No. 15, May 25, 2017 (Japanese only) <<https://kokkai.ndl.go.jp/txt/119314006X01520170525>>

²⁸The 198th Session of the National Diet, House of Representatives, Committee on Environment, Meeting Minutes No. 5, May 10, 2019 (Japanese only) <https://www.shugiin.go.jp/internet/itdb_kaigiroku.nsf/html/kaigiroku/001719820190510005.htm>

²⁹The 196th Session of the National Diet, House of Representatives, Committee on Environment, Meeting Minutes No. 2, March 6, 2018 (Japanese only) <https://www.shugiin.go.jp/internet/itdb_kaigiroku.nsf/html/kaigiroku/001719620180306002.htm>

³⁰“*Shugiin Giin Waseda Yuki Kun Tesishutsu Zouge no Ihou Yushutsu ni kansuru Sai Shitsumon ni taisuru Toubensho* (Answer to Additional Question on Illegal Export of Ivory Submitted by House of Representatives Member Yuki Waseda),” June 28, 2019 <https://www.shugiin.go.jp/internet/itdb_shitsumon.nsf/html/shitsumon/b198254.htm>

risk.

- We should also note the fact that Human-Elephant Conflict has been a problem in southern African regions where stable populations of elephants are found, and we need to make direct contributions to the coexistence of people and elephants and to the prevention of poaching.

2. Illegal Overseas Export of Ivory from Japan

(1) Status of illegal overseas export

- Taking ivory or ivory products overseas is prohibited in principle, with very limited exceptions allowed by the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, etc. The Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) received from regulatory authorities both in Japan and elsewhere reports of illegal export of ivory from Japan amounting to a total weight of approx. 2.4 tons during 2011-2016.³¹ Additional reports of seizures from illegal export involving Japan were received during 2018-2020³². Most of the seized illegal ivory (i.e., 95% of the ivory seized during 2011-2016) was destined to China³³, with limited volume seized at Japanese customs (i.e., 131 kg during 2011-June 2019).³⁴
- * The investigation by the ETIS reported at CoP18 points out that Japan is in a mid-range group in terms of the number of seizures and seized weight of illegal ivory in Japan or in which Japan was involved during 2015-2017, and that, in that group, Japan has a significantly lower than average rate of seizure within the country.³⁵
- An awareness survey conducted in mainland China by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in 2019 revealed the existence of travelers who were considering purchasing ivory in Japan. (11% of travelers who traveled to any of the 7 Asian countries/regions, and especially 19% of those who traveled to Japan during the past 3 years considered purchasing ivory while traveling)³⁶

(2) Awareness of illegal overseas export in business operators handling ivory and consumers

- A questionnaire survey of business operators handling ivory conducted by the TMG revealed that while many business operators have taken appropriate measures to prevent overseas transportation of ivory, a small number of business operators answered that they had no intention to take any special measures when selling ivory to foreign customers.
 - In the questionnaire survey conducted during February to March 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the “February 2020 Survey”), 14% of the responding business operators answered that they sold ivory to foreigners, 30% of whom answered that they did not specifically check anything.
 - In the questionnaire survey conducted in September 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the “September 2021 Survey”), 13% of the responding business operators answered that they sold or intended to sell ivory to foreigners, 5% of whom answered that they sold or intended to sell ivory without taking any specific measures (while 92% answered that they sold or intended to sell ivory only if they were sure that the purchasers were unlikely to take ivory overseas, by using the TMG’s form of checklist, etc.).
 - In response to another question, 13% of the businesses operators answered that they became aware of the prohibition of overseas export of ivory only due to the recent request from the TMG.

³¹“IVORY TOWERS: An Assessment of Japan’s Ivory Trade and Domestic Market,” Tomomi Kitade and Ryoko Nishino, December 2017, in TRAFFIC <https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/1715/traffic_report_ivory_towers_web.pdf>

³² *Counter Wildlife Trafficking Digest: Southeast Asia and China, Issue IV* (2021.5) (USAID Wildlife Asia) <<https://www.usaidwildlifeasia.org/resources/reports/inbox/cwt-digest-2020/view>>

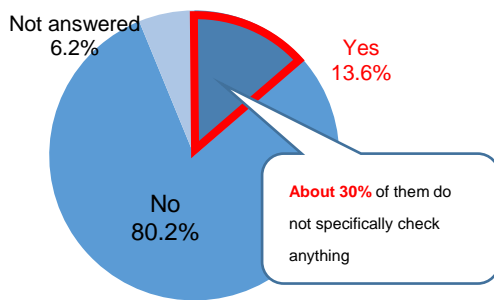
³³Same as footnote 31.

³⁴Same as footnote 30.

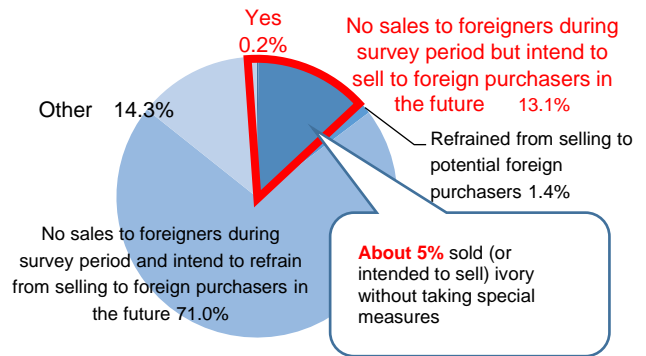
³⁵ Same as footnote 9.

³⁶ *Beyond the Ivory Ban* (2020.11.6) (WWF) <<https://www.worldwildlife.org/publications/beyond-the-ivory-ban-summary>>

**[Sales to foreigners] (n=889)
(February 2020 Survey)**

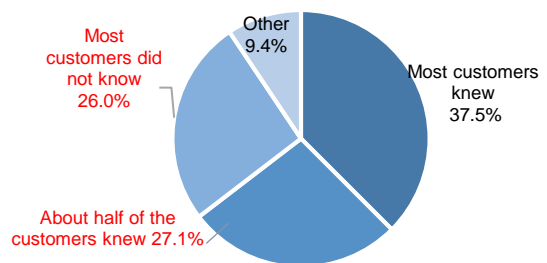


**[Sales to foreigners after request from the TMG (in late June 2021) until September 5, 2021)
(n=628) (September 2021 Survey)**



- The surveys revealed that a certain proportion of potential purchasers did not know that taking ivory overseas is prohibited.
 - In the September 2021 Survey, 26% of the business operators which have served potential ivory purchasers answered that most customers did not know that taking ivory overseas was prohibited, and 27% answered that about half of the customers knew the prohibition.

[Customers' awareness] (n=96)



(3) Comments at the Advisory Council

- Cases have been continuously found where ivory illegally exported from Japan was detected overseas. There is also concern over the existence of foreign tourists who intend to purchase ivory in Japan. For these reasons, the challenge is to strengthen the measures with respect to foreign tourists, and it is important to take these measures before reopening Japan to foreign tourists.
- We should not overlook the current situation where the illegal export of ivory from Japan poses the risk of inducing poaching by stimulating overseas black markets.
- While it is important to take measures to prevent illegal export at customs, this has limits and we need additional measures. For this reason, the TMG needs to request further efforts from the national government and to take its own measures as an international city.
- While there is a view that the domestic ivory market should be maintained in order to support the programs for the sustainable use of African elephants in southern Africa, it is difficult under the current circumstances to obtain approval from CITES for another one-off sale (i.e., a one-off sale conducted under the CITES control). Resuming ivory trade requires improvement in Japan's reliability, such as by tightening the regulations on domestic ivory trade.

[Opinions of persons who sell and/or use ivory]

Opinion of the Tokyo Ivory Arts and Crafts Association (from Document 2 for the 3rd Advisory Council meeting, documents from the same association)

- › Ivory is an ecological natural resource that cannot be replaced with anything else. The traditional ivory craft skills have been carefully handed down since the Edo period. What is wrong is not the trade in ivory or demand for ivory but poaching and illegal trade caused by excessive demand. Legal compliance and the dissemination of correct information are necessary.
- › Ivory products handled by law-abiding business operators are not made of ivory from poaching and will not lead to the current poaching of African elephants. We consistently oppose illegal overseas export of ivory and any other form of illegal trade.

Opinion of an artist who uses ivory (a *netsuke* maker) (from Mr. Kuroiwa's statements at the 3rd Advisory Council meeting)

- › We produce our works using all kinds of natural materials, including ivory. Although it is not that we can't do without ivory, ivory is a wonderful material that is more friendly to the environment than plastic.
- › We hope to continue to use ivory carefully, regarding it as a precious gift from elephants that they leave upon their death.

Opinions from business operators handling ivory (from the February 2020 Survey and the September 2021 Survey)

- › While the conservation of species is important, I think it's unfortunate that our ivory culture will be lost. I wish we could inherit our ivory culture by carefully managing the distribution process.
- › I understand that trading new ivory should be banned, but prohibiting everything, including antiques only partly made of ivory, will make it impossible to disseminate the beauty of Japanese culture.
- › It is questionable to bundle everything together, including accessories of works (such as shaft tips or tea container lids) and old things.
- › I think the original purpose of regulating the ivory trade is to eradicate illegal hunting, so it's better to issue certificates for legally handled ivory products in order to prevent illegal products from being marketed.
- › I want the government to emphasize that it is not wrong to purchase ivory; you only need to purchase from properly controlled registered business operators.
- › Rather than lukewarm regulations, I want the government to prohibit all trade except by art museums or museums.

(There were various other opinions.)

IV. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government's Measures to Ensure Proper Ivory Trade

1. Necessity and Direction of New Measures

- International trade in ivory is prohibited by CITES in principle due to the significant decrease in the number of elephants caused by ivory hunting in the past. However, poaching of elephants still continues today. Therefore, at CITES CoP17 in 2016 a resolution was adopted recommending the closure of domestic ivory markets contributing to poaching or illegal trade. Subsequently, the Japanese government revised the Endangered Species Conservation Act, stating that stricter measures were necessary to continue the proper control of the domestic market.
- However, recent years have still seen reports of illegal export of ivory from Japan. In addition, the existing act permits registered business operators to sell ivory products, etc. of any kind, resulting in a system in which consumers are unable to tell whether or not products are made of legal ivory. For these reasons, concerns have been raised both in Japan and abroad over ivory being transported overseas from Japan and over the Japanese market providing cover to illegal ivory.

Amid the movements of major countries toward prohibition of ivory trade, Japan, which maintains a sizable inventory and market, does have a responsibility to respond to these concerns. However, we must say the current situation presents a major problem in that we cannot prove that illegal ivory is effectively and strictly eliminated, because, among others, there are cases where the regulations can be circumvented by trading unregistered whole tusks after cutting them, since it is not necessary to prove the legality of cut pieces of certain size or smaller.

- To solve these issues, it is necessary to thoroughly prevent export of ivory from Japan by such means as keeping the domestic demand for ivory at an appropriate level and improving the traceability of ivory products, etc., and to demonstrate to the world community that there is no room for illegal ivory to enter the Japanese market. Specific measures would include, among other things: preventing purchasers from transporting ivory from Japan by obligating them to submit notification when purchasing ivory; and limiting products that registered business operators are allowed to handle to exceptions that are necessary to protect ivory art and culture. It is also effective to build a strict trade control system that can eliminate illegal ivory, by such means as mandatory introduction of certification and labeling.

On the other hand, the protection of elephants requires approaches additional to the tightening of trade control, and it is also important to actively consider ways to directly contribute to the prevention of poaching and to the coexistence of people and elephants in the relevant African regions.

2. Tokyo Metropolitan Government's Efforts after Establishment of the Advisory Council

◆ Request to the national government (October 2020)

- Due to, among other things, the existing concern over the possibility that foreigners visiting Japan for the Tokyo 2020 Games might transport ivory products from Japan, the government of host city Tokyo made a request to the national government (i.e., the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of Finance) in October 2020, prior to the Tokyo 2020 Games, for strengthening measures to ensure proper regulation of ivory trade, and for cooperation in the TMG's efforts to prevent overseas export of ivory and in discussions

taking place at the Advisory Council meetings.

- * The request to the Ministry of the Environment was made directly to the then Minister of the Environment Koizumi by Tokyo Governor Koike.
- * In response to the request, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry attended as observers the 2nd and subsequent meetings of the Advisory Council. In addition, the TMG and the national government cooperated with each other in implementing an awareness program to prevent overseas export of ivory, with the Tokyo 2020 Games serving as a trigger.

◆ Efforts to prevent illegal overseas export of ivory with the Tokyo 2020 Games serving as a trigger (June 2021 onwards)

- Based on, among other things, opinions submitted at the Advisory Council meetings, efforts were made in cooperation with the national government and others to prevent illegal overseas export of ivory products, etc.

[Details of efforts]

Effort (1): A direct request was made to approx. 1200 business operators (which are “special international species business operators” as defined in the Endangered Species Conservation Act) handling ivory products in Tokyo that when they sell ivory products, etc., they sell only after confirming the potential purchasers’ intention “not to illegally transport ivory overseas,” by such means as utilizing the confirmation form prepared by the TMG, and that they voluntarily refrain from selling ivory products, etc. if the sale is likely to lead to illegal overseas export.

Effort (2): In order to disseminate the prohibition of illegal transport of ivory products, etc. overseas from Japan, the TMG decided to promote awareness among entities in Japan and abroad in cooperation with the national government (i.e., the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of the Environment, customs, etc.), and promoted awareness among athletes and persons involved visiting Japan, and disseminated information in Japan and abroad through multilingual content, such as posters and leaflets.



[Example of TMG's confirmation form]



[Awareness poster, leaflets and desktop sign]

[Conducting a questionnaire survey of business operators handling ivory products]

(monitoring of the actual status of trade)]

- A questionnaire survey was conducted regarding, among other things, measures taken in response to the TMG's request. The survey was conducted of special international species business operators (approx. 1200 facilities) to which the request was made in Effort 1. Many business operators cooperated in the survey, with a response rate of 59%.³⁷
 - Most business operators took appropriate measures. 73% of the business operators which served potential purchasers confirmed at the time of sale the purchasers' intention not to transport ivory overseas. 71% intended to refrain from selling to foreigners in the future.
 - The request resulted in a very small proportion (0.6%) of business operators responding that they did not take any special measures when selling ivory products to foreign customers. The request also raised awareness of the prevention of overseas export among the business operators. 13% responded that they became aware of the prohibition of overseas export as a result of the request from the TMG (i.e., 87% knew from before the request).³⁸
- ⇒ The efforts must be continued after reopening Japan to foreign tourists, since foreigners' visit to Japan was restricted due to COVID-19 at the time of Tokyo 2020 Games.

³⁷Same as footnote 25.

³⁸Same as footnote 25.

3 Measures to Ensure Proper Ivory Trade (Recommendations to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government from the Advisory Council)

Even after the international trade in ivory was prohibited in principle by the Washington Convention (CITES), poaching and illegal trade of elephants has continued, and there have been protests internationally. Meanwhile, in Japan, traditional ivory craft techniques have been handed down since the Edo period, and ivory products are in circulation even today. Concern has been expressed by the Mayor of New York City and others to host city Tokyo on the occasion of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 with regard to illegal ivory being taken overseas via the Japanese ivory market, where anyone can purchase ivory. Japan is not currently recognized as an illegal ivory destination or transit country at the Conference of the Parties to the CITES. Japan, which maintains a sizable ivory inventory and market, however, does have a responsibility to clearly demonstrate to the international community that its market is not contributing to poaching or illegal trade.

Moreover, Tokyo, one of the world's leading international cities and two-time host of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, has numerous registered businesses that handle ivory. Given this, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government is expected to promote efforts to ensure ivory trade is conducted appropriately, including the precise regulation and transparency of trade.

The Advisory Council on Regulation of Ivory Trade has held a total of seven meetings over the past two years to clarify the current situation and issues surrounding the ivory trade, and to compile the following recommendations for actions that should be taken by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

It is our hope that the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, based on the Advisory Council's recommendations, will take appropriate action.

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1. In order to prevent illegal ivory from being transported overseas and to clearly demonstrate to the international community that the Japanese market is not contributing to the poaching or illegal trade of ivory, it is necessary to further tighten ivory trade control. To this end, a nationwide effort based on laws enacted by the national government is necessary, and as such, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government should strongly urge the national government to undertake the following:
 - Thoroughly implement border measures, such as strengthening the system to improve the effectiveness of control of illegal taking out and bringing into Japan.
 - Implement measures to ensure the intent of the law is achieved, such as expanding and reviewing of the transaction oversight and guidance system in accordance with the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, with the aim of preventing illegal transactions by unregistered businesses and to ensure that transaction records by registered businesses are verified.
 - Implement new measures to improve domestic transaction traceability, such as making the affixing of certification mandatory and fortifying the control of cut pieces and products.
 - Further strengthen public relations and awareness-raising both In Japan and abroad to promote understanding among businesses that handle ivory and consumers of the ivory trade system in Japan as well as the problems surrounding illegal ivory trade, such as ivory being illegally transported overseas.
2. The initiatives implemented by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in cooperation with ivory handling businesses at the time of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 has provided an opportunity to raise awareness on a broad scale of the proper handling of ivory. It will also contribute to the improvement of traceability that the national government should implement. Mandating sellers to confirm the intent of purchasers, in particular, is a measure that contributes to preventing the illegal

export of ivory. As a recovery in inbound tourism demand is forecast, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government should continue these efforts and work further with businesses that handle ivory to prevent the illegal export of ivory products overseas.

3. The issue must also be viewed from the important perspectives of keeping Japan's ivory market at an appropriate level and protecting ivory-related culture and art. Ivory trade is regulated by legal frameworks in major countries around the world as well, and it is permitted with the limited exception of art and such items. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government should consider legal or other effective means to ensure that the ivory trade does not contribute to elephant poaching or illegal trade, while appreciating the cultural and artistic aspects of Japanese ivory products.

[Information helpful in formulating measures]

◆ Issue of coexistence with wildlife

<Document from Member Matsuda Hiroyuki for the 2nd Advisory Council meeting>

The issue of coexistence of wildlife and people applies also to animals other than elephants. There are instances in many countries where wild animals whose number increased too much were successfully controlled by being killed and utilized. The coexistence with wildlife, including elephants, requires giving consideration to the local actual situation and respecting the diversity of values in the use of wildlife.

◆ Efforts to develop alternative materials to ivory

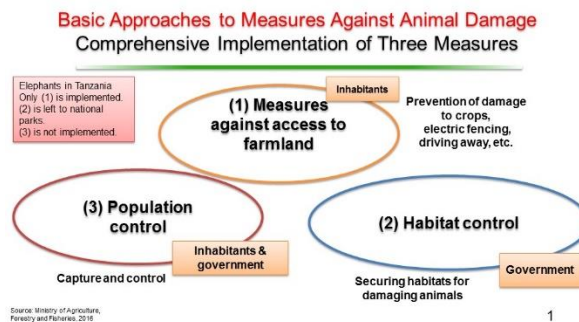
<Document from Members Nishino Ryoko and Mima Junkichi for the 6th Advisory Council meeting>

Some products conventionally made of ivory are now increasingly made of other (alternative) materials. Bridges of *koto* and those of *shamisen* are among products for which materials alternative to ivory are being developed.

◆ Issues in relevant African regions

<Presentation at the 2nd Advisory Council meeting: Associate Professor Iwai Yukino, The Hirayama Ikuo Volunteer Center, Waseda University>

In regions where the number of elephants is increasing due to protective measures, damage caused by elephants has been an evident issue. When adjustment of population size is necessary, it is inevitable for local inhabitants to effectively use the resulting ivory.

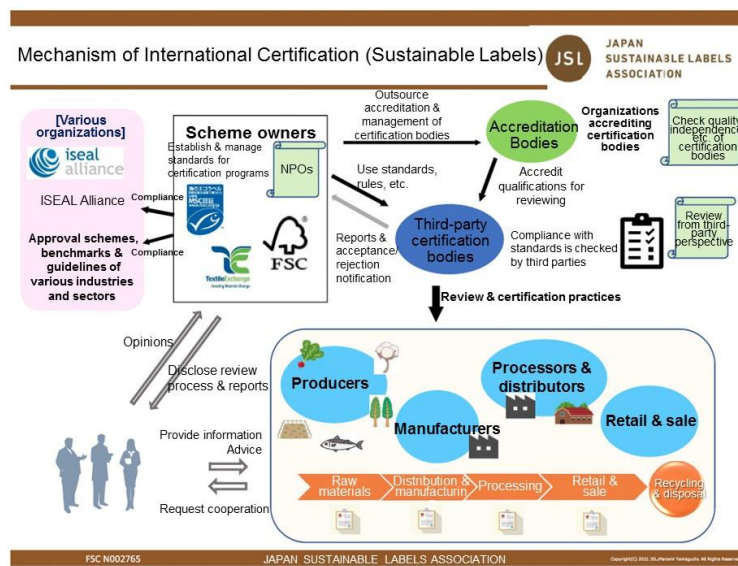


(from documents for the 2nd Advisory Council meeting)

◆ Introduction of a certification system

<Presentation at the 4th Advisory Council meeting: Yamaguchi Manami, Representative Director, Japan Sustainable Labels Association>

Certification systems are used worldwide to ensure reliability and transparency through third-party review. Factors that need to be considered when introducing a certification system for ivory trade include: commitment to trade regulation; development of standards and checklists; methods of labeling, etc.; establishment of certification bodies; and cost allocation.



(from documents for the 4th Advisory Council meeting)

V. Conclusion

Discussions at this Advisory Council took place while collecting opinions from a wide range of positions, including business operators handling ivory, artists using ivory, and experts in issues in relevant African regions or in certification and labeling, who gave presentations. Regarding the controversial issue of ivory trade regulation, council members gave opinions and recommendations based on their expert knowledge. Based on those opinions and recommendations, members actively exchanged opinions and vigorously deepened discussions.

When the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 were held last summer, the Advisory Council also discussed ways to prevent illegal overseas export of ivory from Japan. Of the opinions expressed there, those that were practicable at that time were used to form a basis for the TMG's efforts to prevent overseas export of ivory from Japan on the occasion of the Olympics.

This produced certain effects, such as increased awareness of the prevention of overseas export of ivory among business operators handling ivory. The Advisory Council continued discussions on measures to further promote proper regulation of ivory trade, and has recently compiled a report that organizes the discussions that have taken place thus far.

In November this year, the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP19) will be held, at which proper ivory trade will be one of the agenda items. In addition, the national government plans to review the status of enforcement of the Endangered Species Conservation Act, which provides for domestic regulation of ivory trade, and to take measures as necessary.

We hope that the Tokyo Metropolitan Government will keep an eye on these future movements while making active efforts as a local government based on the results of discussions that took place at the Advisory Council, and that, by doing so, the TMG will respond to the concerns raised in Japan and abroad, and will also contribute to the prevention of illegal international trade in ivory and to global sustainability.

March 2022

Sakaguchi Isao, Chairman, Advisory Council on Regulation of Ivory Trade

VI. Attachments

List of Council Members

Name (Last Name Followed by First Name)	Title
Ida Tetsuji	Senior Staff Writer and Editorial Writer, Kyodo News
Kisa Ayako	Freelance announcer
Kitamura Yoshinobu	Professor, Sophia University Faculty of Law and Sophia Law School
Sakaguchi Isao	Professor, Faculty of Law, Gakushuin University
Nakaizumi Takuya	Professor, College of Economics, Kanto Gakuin University
Nishino Ryoko	Program Officer, TRAFFIC
Matsuda Hiroyuki	Professor, Division of Natural Environment and Information Research, Graduate School of Environmental and Information Sciences, Yokohama National University
Mima Junkichi	Forest and Wildlife Project Advisor, WWW Japan

<Observers>

Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

(in Japanese alphabetical order with titles omitted)

Advisory Council Proceedings

Date		Details
1st	Jan. 28, 2020	(i) Election of the chairperson (ii) Matters to be reported from the Secretariat Current situation surrounding regulation of ivory trade (iii) Exchange of opinions
2nd	Dec. 10, 2020	(i) Report from the Secretariat (1) Changes in the situation surrounding ivory trade (2) Results of a questionnaire survey of ivory business operators in Tokyo (ii) Introduction to the Ministry of the Environment's "Zouge Q&A (Ivory Q&A)" (iii) A guest's presentation: Impact of Elephant Damage Issue on Local Communities (Iwai Yukino, Associate Professor, Waseda University) (4) Members' presentations: (1) Latest Trend in the Japanese Ivory Market (Member Nishino Ryoko) (2) Coexistence with Elephants, Bears or Other Dangerous Wildlife (Member Matsuda Hiroyuki) (v) Exchange of opinions
3rd	Dec. 23, 2020	(i) Hearing of opinion of the Tokyo Ivory Arts and Crafts Association (ii) Hearing of opinion of an artist who uses ivory (Mr. Kuroiwa Akira, <i>netsuke</i> maker) (4) Members' presentations: (1) Demand Restraint Rather Than Market Closure: Market Structure of Ivory Trade and Measures to Be Taken (Member Nakaizumi Takuya) (2) Proper Domestic Ivory Market in Japan (Member Mima Junkichi) (iv) Exchange of opinions
4th	Mar. 29, 2021	(i) Report from the Secretariat (ii) A guest's presentation: Possibility of Introduction Certification and Labeling in Ivory Trade (Yamaguchi Manami, Representative Director, Japan Sustainable Labels Association) (4) Members' presentations: What Can Tokyo Do as International City? -- Collaborative Legal Policy Based on Appropriate Division of Roles Between National Government and Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Member Kitamura Yoshinobu) (iv) Exchange of opinions: (1) Direction of TMG's efforts against illegal trade and other issues (2) Efforts to prevent overseas transport of ivory in preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Games
5th	Oct. 28, 2021	(i) Report from the Secretariat: (1) Efforts to prevent overseas transport of ivory on the occasion of the Tokyo 2020 Games (2) Results of a questionnaire survey of business operators handling ivory in Tokyo (3) Changes associated with revision of the Endangered Species Conservation Act (ii) Exchange of opinions: Efforts to prevent international illegal trade
6th	Jan. 27, 2022	(i) Report from the Secretariat: (1) Verification of "efforts to prevent overseas export of ivory products" on the occasion of Tokyo 2020 Games (2) Supplementary information from council members (ii) Exchange of opinions: (Draft) compilation of discussions thus far (outline of report)
7th	Mar. 29, 2022	(i) Compilation of discussions