

Q & A

About STOP IVORY

1. What is STOP IVORY?

STOP IVORY is an independent not-for-profit initiative, formed to respond to the African Range States' calls for a new approach to address the Ivory Trade. It is a three-year project, which aims to stop all trade in Ivory by 2016.

2. Who is behind STOP IVORY?

STOP IVORY is an African initiative run through an English registered charity in order to minimize any possible perceived ownership by any individual African country. It is governed by an international board of highly regarded professionals, managed by a dedicated executive team and is privately funded.

3. How is STOP IVORY different?

STOP IVORY is unique for five reasons:

- i) It has one key objective: to stop the Ivory Trade;
- ii) It is a catalyst for collaboration between the Range States based on achieving reconciliation and agreement between the pro and anti trade lobbies within Africa;
- iii) It advances the only new and fresh long-term approach to address the illegal Ivory Trade;
- iv) It is independent of any government or NGO; and
- v) It is a globally coordinated approach, engaging NGOs, Range States and non-range countries.

4. How does it work?

- i) Paying Range States through a combination of cash and debt swap for their national Ivory stockpiles together with their annual production for an initial 10 year trial period;
- ii) Placing the purchased Ivory beyond any commercial use through destruction;
- iii) Institute and enforce a complete ban on all Ivory Trade;
- iv) Ensure that the funds generated through purchase are applied to conservation and law enforcement efforts within Range States; and
- v) In partnership with other organizations deliver a coordinated worldwide publicity campaign that buying Ivory is illegal whilst educating consumers against the use of Ivory, particularly targeting China.

5. Is there a risk that the money raised from donors or sovereign wealth funds to purchase Ivory stockpiles will take money from other important conservation projects?

It is intended that the funding for STOP IVORY will be raised from sources that currently do not fund conservation work. Anticipated sources of funding are sovereign wealth funds and debt relief mechanisms whose objective of financially supporting STOP IVORY will be geopolitical as much as environmental. The money raised for STOP IVORY is to be spent by Range States on strengthening existing conservation, enforcement and governance programs. In other words, STOP IVORY will not divert funding from existing conservation programs and will realize a net injection of several tens of million dollars of new money into conservation.

Collaboration

6. What are the African countries that you will work with in order for this to be successful?

STOP IVORY is a collaborative initiative to bring together all the Range States into a common position on elephant conservation and the Ivory Trade.

7. Is it realistic to bring the Range States together?

Yes. Given that scientific reports to the CITES secretariat show that poaching in all four regions of Africa, including Southern Africa, is unsustainable. The Range States are already unanimous on:

- i) The fact that the demand for Ivory is too high to be supplied by their elephant populations; and
- ii) The need for a new approach to address the Ivory Crisis.

In 2010 all Range States signed "The African Elephant Action Plan" which set out a series of prioritized objectives, with clear strategies and activities associated with each one. Objective 1 (the top priority) is to "reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products".

STOP IVORY builds on existing agreed positions and mechanisms to deliver the most viable new approach – a complete ban. STOP IVORY will address the concerns of the pro-trade lobby and obtain their buy-in to the fact that in today's circumstances a complete ban is the most viable and effective long-term approach.

8. Most Africans believe that Elephants are a threat to their livelihoods. How will you get them to be supportive of this effort?

Human/elephant conflict is a serious issue for communities that live in and around protected areas where elephants live. However, those communities also suffer from insecurity, criminality and corruption caused by the illegal Ivory Trade. STOP IVORY aims to end the illegal Ivory Trade and make available large sums of new money to assist in the conservation and management of Elephants, of which human/elephant conflict is an essential part. Therefore communities that live with elephants will benefit from STOP IVORY: directly from increased funding to elephant/human conflict amelioration programs and from the cessation of the illegal Ivory Trade and its associated destabilizing activities.

9. What is CITES role in this?

The 1989 ban on the international trade in Ivory is governed by the CITES convention, which is also the convening body for its Member States. As the relevant international treaty, CITES, and its secretariat, will play a central role in instituting a new regime.

10. How will the process be audited?

The Range States agreed in 2011 to the African Elephant Action Plan, which sets out a detailed mechanism for the raising, management and disbursement of funds for African elephant conservation. STOP IVORY recognizes that any mechanism must be transparent and independently audited by a recognized international body. STOP IVORY is working with leading international accountants to develop the most appropriate mechanism. This process is using the African Elephant Action Plan as a starting point.

11. What is the role of the NGOs?

Recognizing the Continental increase in the illegal killing of Elephants, NGOs, governments and civil society will continue to act together to end the Ivory

Trade. STOP IVORY is working closely across the spectrum with NGOs and aims to act as a convener and centre of collaboration.

Technicalities

12. How much Ivory is in storerooms and what is the approximate or estimated purchase price for the existing stockpiles of Ivory in those countries identified in #6?

There is currently no accurate record or audit of Ivory stockpiles in existence. STOP IVORY is working with Range States and leading scientists to, in the first instance, model best estimate numbers, obtain the best available information from the individual countries and to develop an international audit program. From modeling and information gathered to date, it appears that international stockpiles may total [700-1000 tones.]

13. How much will it cost?

STOP IVORY aims to provide each Range State with a fair and reasonable sum of money for its Ivory. The exact sum will depend on negotiations and an assessment of Ivory prices and trends over the past ten years. STOP IVORY is committed to absolute transparency, and so the numbers will be made public.

14. Where will the money come from?

It is anticipated that the funding will come from a combination of sovereign, private and governmental sources. Debt swap will also be used to support the cash payments.

15. What will you do with the stocks?

The Ivory will be destroyed. The destruction mechanism must meet the twin

objectives of 1) being timely and cost effective, whilst 2) maximizing the public message to enforce a worldwide ban. The options are currently being considered.

16. If the supply of Ivory is dramatically reduced through the purchase, why will the price not go up?

The international trade in Ivory is illegal. National stockpiles are not part of that trade and so – in terms of economics – the illegal market should not be affected. The destruction of stockpiles will take place simultaneously with a consumer campaign to decrease demand. The aim is to repeat the success of the 1989 Ivory Trade ban, which was accompanied by the collapse of demand for the commodity and a dramatic reduction in Ivory price and, consequently, poaching. STOP IVORY recognizes that it is complex to be able to predict precisely the economic impact of a new strongly enforced ban and hence is working with leading economists to model the likely effect on the illegal trade, Ivory prices and demand.

17. If the black market price does go up, won't this increase poaching?

Poaching is driven purely by the price of Ivory. STOP IVORY aims to decrease that price, thereby decreasing the incentive for cartels to trade in Ivory and for poachers to kill Elephants.

18. Isn't a large percentage of the supply coming from black market or illegal sources and not government stockpiles? Seems like this will continue even if you buy stockpiles.

STOP IVORY aims to implement a complete ban on all trade in Ivory, at the same time as reducing consumer demand. The purchase and destruction of existing Ivory stockpiles and accumulated Ivory for the next ten years will

encourage and enable Range States to agree and implement a complete ban whilst removing the impetus for the historical national lobbying for trade and no trade.

19. Why not invest more heavily in reducing the demand in Asia and enforcing existing laws? Wouldn't that be cheaper than eliminating the supply, especially since much of the supply is illegal or black market now and not part of the Ivory to be purchased?

Analysis has shown that unless a new international approach is adopted, as requested by the Range States in the African Elephant Action Plan, the Ivory Crisis will worsen. The existing international framework incentivizes stockpiling and lobbying for a future trade. This has led to a policy divide between Range States, which has prevented a unified effective response to the Ivory Crisis. A sustainable solution is not possible under the existing framework because it tries to run a legal trade next to an illegal one – this confuses consumers as to the legality of Ivory and permits domestic trade which undermines an international ban. STOP IVORY proposes a holistic approach addressing both supply and demand ends of the market.

The Long Term

20. How will you reduce Chinese demand for Ivory?

The nations of the world need to agree that demand exceeds supply, and a policy of reducing demand should be adopted by the parties of CITES and put into effect by united world action involving concerned individuals, scientists, NGOS, institutions and governments.

STOP IVORY is partnering with other organizations which are expert and well placed to work on the demand side. STOP IVORY seeks to engage key public figures in China through such partnerships (both in politics and popular culture) to help show the Chinese public how Ivory is obtained, explain the consequence of current demand, and remind them that its trade is illegal. Statistics show that many consumers are unaware that Ivory is harvested from elephants that have been killed, and there was a steep decline in demand after the widely publicized 1989 ban.

21. How will the removal of stockpiles in Africa affect the prices and value of stockpiles held illegally in SE Asia?

STOP IVORY envisages a political initiative emanating from the Range States, which will pressure non-range states to destroy legally held stockpiles held in Asia and elsewhere. STOP IVORY aims to address consumer demand in parallel with the destruction of Ivory stockpiles and increased funding to Range States. A reduction in demand should lead to a reduction in the value of all stockpiles – legal and illegal. STOP IVORY is commissioning a leading economist to model probable market effects of implementation, including on Asian Stockpiles. The simplification of Ivory's legal status (i.e. that all Ivory is illegal) should make global enforcement against contraband more effective and less costly.

22. How much Ivory will be produced annually (natural mortality and other sources) from those countries in #6 and what is the estimated annual purchase price of that Ivory over ten years?

The African Elephant Specialist Group intends to publish the latest elephant population numbers in early 2013. Naturally occurring Ivory accrual from elephant populations has been modeled scientifically and will be used to

underpin STOP IVORY's commitment to purchase. The overall price for existing stockpiles and future accrual will be negotiated with Range States based on fair market values and within a framework that recognizes that the success of STOP IVORY will suppress Ivory values in the longer term whilst conservation and enforcement costs should decrease with simplification of the international legal status of Ivory.

23. How will the accumulation of Ivory into stockpiles (and subsequent removal from the market) be monitored in relation to the natural mortality of elephants and appearance of found Ivory which is not recovered by wildlife agencies in Africa?

Quantities of Ivory against natural mortality and or the management of Elephants will be monitored annually as part of a detailed Audit process which is being designed for STOP IVORY by a professional team.

24. What happens after ten years?

Based on the impact of STOP IVORY on the illegal killing of Elephants, after a ten-year period decisions will be made through and by the appropriate bodies to adapt or change the approach in the best interests of Elephants and their conservation. STOP IVORY will adopt an adaptive approach based on the success of the concept.

25. What is the feasibility of raising funds to purchase the stockpiles plus 10 years of subsequent purchases?

In the global context where the illegal Ivory Trade threatens not only one of the worlds most charismatic species but also fuels international crime, instability and threatens the rule of law, the sums of money required to implement a new and lasting framework are achievable. It is anticipated that STOP IVORY will also

realize considerable savings in national and international protection and enforcement budgets as has been seen elsewhere where legal systems are simplified.