
From: Richard Kahn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2014 2:54 PM
To: Jeffrey Epstein
Subject: Fwd: Yao Ming Asks China Government to Ban Ivory

should i forward this to =hristina for an article?
please advise

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Begin forwarded message:

From: John Baker <[REDACTED]>
Subject: =/b>Yao Ming Asks China Government to Ban =vory
Date: March 4, 2014 10:09:08 PM EST
To: <[REDACTED]>

Dear Richard,

Last week, China's 36 top business leaders released a pledge =o never purchase, possess, or give ivory as a gift. WildAid China Board =hairman, Huang Nubo spearheaded pledge recruitment including Cao =uowei, CEO of Sina Corp., China's largest internet portal, as well as =0 individuals from the Forbes 2013 China Rich List including Jack Ma, =ounder of the Alibaba Group.

WildAid =alutes their efforts and we continue to expand our communications =ctivities to broaden awareness and encourage more positive attitudes =or wildlife conservation because "when the buying stops, the killing =an too."

More details on Yao Ming's petition and =r Huang Nubo's ivory pledge:

Estimates show that at least 20,000 elephants are being =illed each year for their ivory. Elephant populations have been reduced =2% in the last 10 years. Rampant poaching is damaging the economies, =ourism industries, and stability of many African nations, while some =errorist organizations are receiving funding from the trade in illegal =vory.

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 to 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.

Ivory pledge

In recent years, poaching as a result of the trade in illegal ivory is posing enormous threats to the survival of elephants. I'm aware of the following:

1. Each year around 25,000 African elephants are killed for their ivory
2. The population of elephants has declined 62% in the last 10 years
3. Rampant elephant poaching is having negative impacts on the economy, tourism, and national security of many African nations
4. Terrorist groups in Africa are being supported in part through the illegal ivory trade
5. According to official reports and statistics, China is the largest importer of illegal ivory, and Chinese nationals are increasingly involved in the illegal ivory trade
6. Illegal ivory trade is damaging China's international reputation.

Because of this, I pledge the following:

1. I will not purchase, possess, or give ivory as a gift
2. I will encourage friends, family, and employees to not purchase ivory products

Signatories

Ding Liguang – Founder, Liguang Corp.
 Feng Lun – Chairman, Vantone Holdings
 Huang Nubo – Chairman, Zhongkun Group
 Jiang Xipei – Chairman, Yuandong Holdings
 Li Hongsheng – Chairman, TCL Group
 Li Shufu – Chairman, Geely Group
 Li Shenfu – China Regional President, Novartis Pharmaceuticals
 Liu Huanzhi – Chairman, Lenovo
 Liu Donghua – Founder, Zhenghedao Group
 Liu Jiren – Chairman, Dongruan Group

Ma Yun (Jack Ma) – Founder, Alibaba Group
 Niu Gensheng – Founder, Lao Niu Foundation
 Shen Guojun – CEO and Chairman, Yintai Holdings Corp.
 Tang Yue – Founding Partner, Blue Mountain China Capital
 Wang Chaoyong – Founder and President, Xinzhongli International Holdings

Xie Jian – Art and culture critic
 Xu Shaochun – Founder, Jindie Software Group
 Xu Hihong – Scholar, China Academy of Science
 Yang Shaopeng – Chairman, Haifeng International Shipping Corp.
 Yu Hihong – Founder, New Oriental Group
 Yuan Yue – Chairman, Lingdian Consulting
 Zhang Weiying – Renowned Economist
 Zhang Xingsheng (Jim Zhang) – Managing Director, The Nature Conservancy Greater China Region
 Zhou Qiren – Dean, Peking University National Development Academy
 Zhou Qifeng – Renowned Chemist
 Zhu Xinli – Chairman, Beijing Huiyuan Beverage Company

AID

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