

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Singapore announces ban on domestic trade in elephant ivory

- *Ban will come into effect on 1 September 2021*
- *99% of feedback received through public consultation were supportive of the blanket ban*
- *Highlights Singapore's resolve in the fight against illegal trade in CITES-listed species*

Singapore, 12 August 2019 – Singapore announced today a ban on the domestic trade in elephant ivory, which will come into effect on 1 September 2021. The ban will mean that the sale of elephant ivory and ivory products, and public display of elephant ivory and ivory products for the purpose of sale will be prohibited in Singapore. This nationwide ban highlights Singapore's resolve in the fight against illegal trade in species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Under CITES, to which Singapore is a signatory, international trade in elephant ivory has been banned since 1990.

The ban comes into effect on 1 September 2021. After this date, traders can donate their stock to institutions for educational purposes or keep them. NParks will continue to work with them to ensure a smooth transition. Public display of elephant ivory or ivory products for educational or religious purposes will continue to be permitted. Similarly, those who own musical instruments and personal effects like bird cages that contain ivory may continue to use them in public.

For more information, please visit the website www.nparks.gov.sg/biodiversity/cites/domestic-trade-ban-in-ivory, or write to NParks at cites@nparks.gov.sg. Those who require assistance to dispose of their stock may also contact NParks at cites@nparks.gov.sg.

Public consultations and stakeholder engagements

Since 2017, the Government has conducted extensive stakeholder engagements with the public, including non-government organisations and ivory retailers for their views and comments with regard to the proposed blanket ban.

A public consultation was also conducted on the REACH portal from November to December 2018. Results from the public consultation showed that 99 per cent of feedback received through REACH were supportive of the blanket ban.

Dr Leong Chee Chiew, Director-General, Wildlife Trade Control, said: “It is timely that we are announcing the domestic ban of trade in ivory on World Elephant Day. NParks, as the national authority that enforces CITES in Singapore, is committed to stopping the trade of elephant ivory and its products for the conservation and protection of the world’s elephants. This is aligned with the views shared by the community who are similarly concerned about the impact that trade in elephant ivory has on the animal’s population numbers. Thus, local retailers will need to observe the ban in ivory trade when it comes into effect on 1 September 2021.”

Once the ban comes into effect, those found to have offered ivory or ivory products for sale, or for public display for the purpose of sale, may be charged under the Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act, which carries a penalty of up to \$10,000 in fine per specimen, not exceeding \$100,000 in total and/or up to 12 months’ imprisonment upon conviction.



The National Parks Board (NParks) is responsible for enhancing and managing the urban ecosystems of our biophilic City in a Garden. We are the lead agency for greenery, biodiversity conservation, and wildlife and animal health, welfare and management. We are also actively engaging the community to enhance the quality of our living environment.

NParks manages more than 350 parks, 3,347 hectares of nature reserves, the Singapore Botanic Gardens, Pulau Ubin and the Sisters' Islands Marine Park. Adding to this is the extensive roadside greenery, and the over 300 km Park Connector Network that links major parks, nature areas and residential estates island-wide. Every year, we run over 3,500 educational and outreach programmes across our various green spaces.

NParks has developed an urban biodiversity conservation model, which aims to conserve representative eco-systems in land-scarce Singapore. NParks also monitors and coordinates measures to enhance the presence of biodiversity in our urban landscape.

NParks is working closely with partners in the landscape, horticulture, veterinary and animal sectors to increase productivity, and provide training for all levels of the workforce. Enhancing competencies of the industry will support Singapore's vision of being a biophilic City in a Garden.

For more information, visit www.nparks.gov.sg and www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz.