

Domestic Ivory Ban

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have inherited some elephant ivory/ivory products. Am I required to destroy them? What options do I have?

You can choose to keep your ivory stock, dispose of it or donate it to a museum for public education purposes. You can contact NParks at cites@nparks.gov.sg should you require assistance with the disposal of your ivory stock. If you wish to donate your ivory stock to a museum, you may contact the museum directly.

2. Can I bring my personal ivory effect overseas when I travel?

You may enter or exit Singapore with personal ivory effects so long as you obtain a CITES permit from your destination country and country of departure each time. Personal ivory effects brought overseas from Singapore must not be sold outside of Singapore. Those found without a CITES permit may be charged under the Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act, which carries a penalty of up to \$50,000 in fine per specimen, not exceeding \$500,000 in total and/or two years' imprisonment upon conviction.

3. Can I buy ivory from my travels overseas and bring it back to Singapore?

You may buy ivory in countries where domestic trade is still allowed and bring it back to Singapore so long as you obtain a CITES permit from NParks (as Singapore is the destination country) and the country of departure. Those found without the relevant CITES permits may be charged under the Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act, which carries a penalty of up to \$50,000 in fine per specimen, not exceeding \$500,000 in total and/or two years' imprisonment upon conviction.

That said, we encourage individuals to play their part to help support the conservation of elephants by not buying ivory or ivory products.

4. Can I donate elephant ivory or receive ivory products as a gift in Singapore?

Yes. You may donate your elephant ivory or ivory products as a gift and receive them. However, you are recommended to maintain any records or documents to demonstrate the origin and chain of ownership of the item.

5. I am a musician and I have an instrument that contains ivory. Must I apply for a CITES permit every time I leave and re-enter the country for work?

Yes. There will be no change to the current practice. Musicians who travel with musical instruments that contain ivory will need to apply for a CITES permit each time they exit or enter Singapore. The instrument must accompany the musician on travel out of and back into the country and may not be sold outside of Singapore.

6. I have a musical instrument/antique that contains ivory. It is damaged. Will I be able to send it overseas for repair?

Yes. You may send your ivory products overseas for repair with an accompanying CITES permit issued by NParks. However, NParks will require you to prove that your ivory product was imported prior to 1990. You must also bring the item back into Singapore and it must not be sold outside of Singapore. Those found without a CITES permit may be charged under the Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act, which carries a penalty

of up to \$50,000 in fine per specimen, not exceeding \$500,000 in total and/or two years' imprisonment upon conviction.

7. Why is the domestic ban a blanket one? Are there no exemptions for special circumstances?

Singapore is a signatory to CITES. International trade in elephant ivory has been prohibited since 1990. The blanket domestic ban signals Singapore's strong resolve to combat illegal wildlife trade, and the trade in elephant ivory and products. However, if there are very special circumstances, an appeal can be made to NParks.

8. Why is public display of ivory for sale not allowed?

The sale of elephant ivory or ivory products is not permitted from 1 September 2021. In this regard, the display of elephant ivory or ivory products for the purpose of sale is also not permitted. Public display of elephant ivory or ivory products for educational or religious purposes is permitted.

9. Can I wear elephant ivory accessories?

Yes. The ban only covers the public display of ivory for the purpose of sale. That said, we encourage individuals to play their part to help support the conservation of elephants by not using or buying ivory products.