

### **Tallahassee, FL Auctioneer Sentenced For Lacey Act Violations in North Florida**

TALLAHASSEE, Florida – A Tallahassee, FL auctioneer was sentenced January 23, 2018 in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida, pursuant to a guilty plea that he committed six violations of the Lacey Act by illegally trafficking elephant ivory.

As a result of his guilty plea, Malcolm Mason was sentenced on January 23, 2018 for six counts of violating the Lacey Act and was ordered to pay a \$12,000 fine.

The Lacey Act states that it is unlawful for any person to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire or purchase any fish or wildlife or plant taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of any law, treaty, or regulation of the United States or in violation of any Indian tribal law.

Between June 18, 2012 and November 06, 2013 in the Northern District of Florida, Malcolm Mason (doing business as MANOR AUCTIONS, LLC) did knowingly export/attempt to export wildlife, on six separate dates, specifically African elephant ivory knowing that said wildlife was sold in violation of and in a manner unlawful under the laws and regulations of the United States.

Mason's activities were discovered in June 2012, when German customs authorities seized 14 carved African elephant ivory figurines, which were exported from Manor Auctions in Tallahassee, Florida to Frankfurt, Germany. The ivory figurines were seized due to the lack of required Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) documents. U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) special agents discovered that on five additional dates, Mason exported elephant ivory to customers in Canada, Thailand, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Additionally, an ivory shipment was seized, prior to export to China, at a warehouse in Dania Beach, Florida.

USFWS special agents also discovered that Mason did not possess an import/export license, did not file export declaration forms as required, and did not export the wildlife products through a designated port as required.

The court ordered that payment of fines would be deposited into the Lacey Act Reward Account.