

What Ivory Crush Supporters are Saying

“Rising demand for ivory is fueling a renewed and horrific slaughter of elephants in Africa, threatening remaining populations across the continent. We will continue to work aggressively with the Department of Justice and law enforcement agencies around the world to investigate, arrest and prosecute criminals who traffic in ivory. We encourage other nations to join us both in destroying confiscated ivory stockpiles and taking other actions to combat wildlife crime.”

Sally Jewell, U.S. Secretary of the Interior

“The United States is part of the problem, because much of the world’s trade in wild animal and plant species – both legal and illegal – is driven by U.S. consumers or passes through our ports on the way to other nations. We have to be part of the solution. The species and habitats of our planet support billions of people and drive the world’s economy. We all have a stake in ensuring their survival.

Similar demand for elephant ivory in the past led to devastating declines in the number of these giant animals, particularly in the 1970s and 1980s. Though many populations showed signs of recovery due to increased protections in the 1990s, rising global demand for ivory is erasing those hard-fought gains.”

Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

“Our special agents and wildlife inspectors are on the frontlines in the fight to combat ivory trafficking here in the U.S. They took the ivory destroyed today out of the hands of criminals and out of the global marketplace.”

William C. Woody, Assistant Director for Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

"I hope the media and everyone who attends or hears about this “Ivory Crush” will spread the message far and wide: Elephants across their range are suffering horribly, and we are losing them at a terrifying rate. They could become extinct.

Do not buy ivory products. Support conservation efforts. We must all do what we can.

I commend the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for organizing this event and wish I could be there in person."

Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder, the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace

America is showing great leadership, and crushing the national ivory stockpile is of huge symbolic importance. By removing that ivory from the market for ever, it will send a strong message to the world that ivory cannot be a commodity if elephants are to survive.

Ian Douglas-Hamilton, OBE, Founder and CEO, Save the Elephants

“By destroying our domestic stocks of ivory, we send a very clear signal that these illegally-traded products should not be perceived as items of value. The terrible and criminal trade in these products is destroying wildlife species that are invaluable to us and to future generations; it is also undermining global security. The Justice Department views wildlife trafficking as a serious crime, and is committed to using every tool it has, under the Lacey Act, the Endangered Species Act, and other applicable laws, to stop this international criminal activity.”

Robert G. Dreher Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division

“Wildlife trafficking is not just a conservation problem. It is an economic problem, a health problem, and a security problem. The State Department applauds the Department of Interior’s ivory crush for sending a strong signal to the world of the U.S. commitment to ending this pernicious trade. We will continue lead international efforts to this end.”

Dr. Kerri-Ann Jones, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

“By crushing its contraband ivory tusks and trinkets, the U.S. government sends a signal that it will not tolerate the senseless killing of elephants,” “Other countries need to join the United States, Gabon, Kenya and the Philippines to take a stand against the crime syndicates behind this slaughter.”

Carter Roberts, President and CEO, World Wildlife Fund

“The destruction of the U.S. ivory stockpile speaks loud and clear to those who value ivory more than saving the elephant species from extinction. IFAW commends the government’s action that underscores the critical role the U.S. can play in ending the illegal ivory trade.”

Azzedine Downes, CEO, International Fund for Animal Welfare

“In 1989 awareness around the international ivory ban cut demand and poaching fell immediately. Destroying seized ivory is one method of drawing attention to the current crisis. Laws and enforcement can only do so much. It is vital to reach consumers. Simply put, when the buying stops, the killing can too.”

Peter Knights, WildAid Executive Director