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1<sup>st</sup> June 2013  
2013年6月1日

Dear Mr. Yu  
尊敬的于署长：

We are writing on behalf of the undersigned international animal welfare organizations with extensive knowledge of animal welfare and conservation issues, to extend our sincere thanks to the General Administration of China Customs for its interception in 2011 massive quantities of ivory that resulted in the recent conviction of three men involved in illegal ivory trafficking from Africa. Their jail sentence will serve to deter future wildlife crimes and related criminal activities that violate relevant international conventions that seek to protect endangered species. We take special note that one of the criminals is a government-accredited ivory trader whose conviction underscores China's pledge to combat illicit ivory trade. The court verdict demonstrates that China is an indispensable partner and an important stakeholder of the worldwide conservation efforts.

我们在动物福利专业知识上有一定建树的国际动物保护组织，今天给您致函以表达我们对中国海关总署的真挚谢意。2011年中国海关总署成功截获了大量的象牙，最近涉案的三名罪犯已经因从非洲非法走私象牙而被判刑。他们的获刑足以对今后各种违反相关保护濒危物种的国际法的犯罪行为构成威慑。我们特别注意到其中一名罪犯还是政府许可的象牙贸易商，他的判刑更加突显出中国打击非法象牙贸易的决心。法院的判决证明了中国是世界动物保护力量中不可或缺的一员，也是极为重要的利益相关方。

The international community is facing a daunting task to protect the remaining elephant populations in Africa and Asia. In addition to threats such as habitat loss and fragmentation and human elephant conflict, illegal killing of elephants for ivory has become a major threat to the long-term survival of elephants on both continents. In 2011, the amount of seized ivory reached a staggering 46.5 tonnes, exceeding the previous worst record of 32.7 tonnes in 2009. Behind this magnitude of illegal ivory trafficking is unprecedented slaughter of African elephants more than 30,000 of which were believed to be killed in 2012. China has made notable efforts to protect the small group of Asiatic elephants roaming the wilderness in the country's southwestern Xishuanbbanna Autonomous Region. We also commend China's wildlife protection law enforcement efforts that led to the seizure of 14,277 kg of ivory in 2009, 6,247 kg in 2010, and 8,324 kg in 2011 (ETIS data, 17 April 2012). The conviction by the Chinese court of the three men involved in the 2011 trafficking of 7.7 tonnes of ivory from 819

elephants is an affirmation of the Chinese authorities' ability to contribute to global fight against wildlife crimes.

当今的国际社会面临一个不容乐观的任务，那就是要保护在非洲和亚洲剩余的象群。除了栖息地的消失和分化，以及人类与大象之间的冲突之外，为了谋取象牙而非法猎杀大象以及成为大象在这两个大陆上能否长期生存的一个主要威胁。2011年，全世界查获的象牙多达46.5吨，而2009年的最高纪录还只是32.7吨。这一数字实在是令人震惊。而隐藏在这数量巨大的非法象牙贸易背后的是对非洲大象史无前例的残杀，其中有3万头都是在2012年被害的。中国为保护生活在西南部西双版纳自治州的那一小群野生的亚洲象而做的努力举世瞩目。我们还要为中国在野生动物保护法方面的执法力度表示敬意。中国在2009年截获了14277公斤象牙，2010年是6247公斤，2011年8324公斤（2012年4月17日的ETIS数据）。中国法院对这三名涉及在2011年走私从819头大象身上猎取的7.7吨象牙的罪犯的定罪，证明了中国当局愿意也能够为全世界打击野生动物犯罪的行动作出贡献。

While we recognize China's special role, we would like to make the following recommendations for your consideration:

在认可中国的特殊地位的同时，我们也提出以下几点建议，希望您能予以考虑：

- launch an independent audit of China's legal ivory trade system to ensure that no legal businesses are used as a cover for illegal acts;  
对中国的合法象牙贸易制度进行一次独立的审核，以确保没有合法经营单位利用其合法身份进行非法的交易；
- encourage Chinese customs to strengthen inspection of imports from Africa, particularly from elephant range countries, and to penalize businesses knowingly mislabeling banned imports;  
鼓励中国的海关加强对从非洲进口的货物的检查，特别是从那些有大象生活的国家的进口，以及对那些故意虚报或瞒报禁止进口的货物的企业做出处罚；
- increase coordination with custom offices of African elephant range countries, such as by promptly sharing shipping and customs information of illicit shipments so that the African counterparts can investigate and prosecute collaborators on their end;  
与非洲大象栖息地国家的海关加强合作，如及时共享非法货运的运输和海关信息等，以便非洲合作方可以在他们国家开展调查，追究同案犯的法律責任；
- encourage the remaining ivory carving businesses to move to productions that utilize synthetic materials; and  
鼓励中国现有的象牙雕刻企业转型，利用合成材料进行生产；
- increase the manpower of and resource allocation to the forestry police and the General Administration of Customs so that both agencies can better enforce the nation's wildlife protection laws and policies.  
增加林业警察和海关总署的人力和资源投入，以便这两家单位能够更好的执行国家的野生动物保护法规和政策。

Elephant protection is a global endeavor that calls for concerted efforts from every member of the international community. As a range country of the Asian elephant and a significant ivory consumer country, China is vital to this transnational effort and plays an integral role in it. The undersigned international animal protection groups applaud your government's continued efforts to protect elephants and other endangered wildlife species and are available to provide support and expertise should you require any.

大象的保护是一项全球事业，需要国际社会每一位成员的协同努力。作为一个拥有亚洲象的国家和象牙产品的主要消费国，中国在这一跨国项目中至关重要，而且占据着不可或缺的地位。以下署名的各个动物保护团体一致赞许中国政府为保护大象和其他濒危野生动物种所作出的不懈努力，并且愿意随时为贵国提供相应的支持和专业知识。此致

敬礼！

Sent on behalf of the following organisations:

谨代表以下组织致信：

- Animals Asia Foundation 亚洲动物基金
- ACRES 动物关注研究和教育社团
- Blue Cross of India 印度蓝十字会
- Earth Island Institute 地球岛屿协会
- Humane Society International 美国国际人道对待动物协会
- Philippine Animal Welfare Society 菲律宾动物福利协会
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals 英国防止虐待动物协会
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Hong Kong 香港爱护动物协会

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