In December 2013, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed March 3 as World Wildlife Day. 

http://wildlifeday.org/

** Theme of the third World Wildlife Day, March 3, 2016 **
“The future of wildlife is in our hands.”

** Theme mainly focused on African and Asian elephants **
“The future of elephants is in our hands.”

To protect the future of wildlife, efforts of each region, company and individual are important. We would like to ask for your cooperation.
To protect wildlife from excessive international trade

What is CITES?
CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement for protecting certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade.

How does CITES work?
The species covered by CITES are listed in its three Appendices (Appendices I, II, and III) depending on the risk of their extinction and their international trade is regulated accordingly.

Species threatened with extinction (Species listed in Appendix I)
International trade is prohibited in principle

Species that are not necessarily threatened with extinction, but could be over-exploited (Species listed in Appendices II and III)
International trade is restricted
For sustainable use of wild fauna and flora

Wild fauna and flora around the world are endangered because of various factors.

For the sustainable use of these wild fauna and flora, rules to prevent their over-exploitation and excessive use are required.

(note)

-Compilation of the number of threatened species by the threat types. The number of species subject to this assessment is as follows:

Fauna [Mammals, Birds, Fishes, Reptiles, Amphibians, Invertebrates] 50,459 species; and


Source: TRAFFIC, based on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, version 2015-4

-When there are several threats for one species, respective threats are counted (double-counting may occur).

-There are some species whose threats are not identified.
Some products we often see are made from wild animals.
The **Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act** and the **Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora** apply in Japan.

(Domestic trade controls)

1. Species listed in CITES Appendix I
   (internationally endangered species of wild fauna and flora specified by the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

   - **Example:** Elephant, sea turtle, tiger, crocodile, Asian arowana etc.
   - **Import and export:** **Prohibited** (with certain exceptions for academic research, breeding etc.)
   - **Domestic trade:** **Prohibited** (with certain exceptions for academic research, breeding etc.)
   
   Display/advertisement, transfer etc. for sales purposes require prior registration. (There are requirements for registration.)

2. Species listed in CITES Appendices II and III

   - **Example:** Crocodile (except for species listed in Appendix I), polar bear, *mauremys japonica* etc.
   - **Import and export:** Requires a CITES permit issued by the government of the exporting country
   - **Domestic trade:** Exempt from regulations

*Above 1. and 2. include both live animals and processed goods.*
Import of ivory products is strictly regulated

International trade in ivory products acquired after the provisions of CITES were applied to is prohibited.

Ivory products acquired before the provisions of CITES were applied to (Pre-convention) *

Pre-convention ** certificate issued by the exporting country

Ivory products acquired after the provisions of CITES were applied to **

Import is prohibited (Export is also prohibited)

Import permission from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry is required for import. (Such as antique pianos, artworks etc.)

* Ivory products that were acquired before the following dates:
  - Asian elephants (Elephas maximus), June 30, 1975 or before; and
  - African elephants (Loxodonta africana), February 25, 1976 or before.

** Ivory products that were acquired after the following dates:
  - Asian elephants (Elephas maximus), July 1, 1975 or after; and
  - African elephants (Loxodonta africana), February 26, 1976 or after
Illegal ivory products are destroyed

Ivory products without a certificate will be destroyed after the abandonment of ownership.

An ivory product without a certificate is seized by customs. (Left: Figurine made of ivory)

Ownership is abandoned. *The product may be returned to the country which has exported it.

(1) Transported by truck
(2) Gathered in one place
(3) Crushed by heavy machinery (for about 20 minutes)
(4) Debris is swept into the treatment plant by the cleaning staff.
(5) Inside the treatment plant
(6) Treated ivory is transferred from the treatment plant to the incineration plant, which is operated by the control room staff.

Incineration

Many goods other than ivory seized by customs exist due to a lack of certificates.
Not only international trade but also domestic trade is subject to regulation.

**International Trade**
- CITES: Species included in Appendix I
- Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act

**Domestic Trade**
- Endangered Species Act*
- Domestic trade is prohibited in principle. (Exceptions: academic research, breeding etc.)
- Registration of individual organism etc. is required for display or advertisement for the purpose of sale or distribution. (Requirements need to be met for registration.)

**Example of violation:**
Three persons were arrested for auctioning non-registered leopard fur in an internet auction. They said, “We just didn’t know.”

*Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Registration System

Requirements for Registration

- Lawfully imported individual organisms etc.
  - Acquired before CITES provisions were applied to
  - Bred in CITES-registered breeding facilities
- Individual organisms etc. bred in Japan

Application

Registration body: Japan Wildlife Research Center

Registration card

Radiated tortoise (Astrochelys radiata)

Individual organisms must be accompanied by a registration card from this point onward for transfers etc.
Registration or notification is required to buy or sell ivory products in Japan.

(1) Domestic trade in ivory (whole tusks)

- Individuals and companies need to register each whole tusk with the Japan Wildlife Research Center.
- Registration is accepted only for whole tusks of Asian elephant imported before November 4, 1980 (i.e. before entry into force of CITES for Japan), or those of African elephant imported before January 18, 1990 (i.e. before African elephant was listed in Appendix I). (All tusks that were imported in 1999 and 2009 in compliance with the rules set out at the Conference of the Parties of CITES are registered.)

(2) Domestic trade in ivory products (including cut pieces)

- Any person who transfers or delivers ivory as a business must notify the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.
- The notifying companies must compile the information on their traded ivory products and periodically report to the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Wildlife Research Center

Registration (only for those described in (1) above is allowed)

Minister of the Environment and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

Business notification

Manufacturers

Wholesalers

Retailers

Consumers

Registration is canceled if the tusk is cut.
Notification is required also to sell ivory or ivory products on the internet.

Examples:
(1) In-person and internet sales both conducted at a brick-and-mortar shop ⇒ Notify the brick-and-mortar shop.

(2) Sales only on the internet ⇒ Notify the company or the person’s home where the sales are conducted.
Export of ivory products is also strictly regulated.

The import and export of ivory and ivory products acquired after the provisions of CITES were applied to are prohibited in principle. *

- Pre-convention certificates used at time of import
- Reference that scientifically or historically proves the ivory had been acquired before the provisions of CITES were applied to
- In case one cannot prove that the ivory had been acquired before the provisions of CITES were applied to

These cannot be exported without export permission of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry. (Such as antique pianos, artworks etc.) These cannot be exported only with the registration card issued under the Endangered Species Act.

* The date when the provisions of CITES were applied to with regard to elephants.
  - Asian elephants (Elephas maximus) - July 1, 1975
  - African Elephants (Loxodonta africana) - February 26, 1976
What you can do for
the protection of wild
fauna and flora

1. Correctly understand the rules including those of CITES and the Endangered Species Act

2. Carefully check the legality when buying wildlife species specimens and derived products
   Was it harvested and sold in an appropriate manner?

Your understanding will lead to the protection of wild fauna and flora

Image source: TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network
Inquiries on procedures concerning trade in wildlife products

Import and export:
Application to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) (Inquiries: Office of Trade Licensing for Wild Animal and Plants, Tel: 03-3501-1723)

Domestic trade:

- Ivory (whole tusks), turtle shells (whole shells), tiger fur etc. → Register with the Japan Wildlife Research Center (Tel: 03-6659-6018)

- Ivory (products, materials for seals, and tips) and turtle shells (tips) → Notify METI as a business operator dealing with designated internationally endangered species (Inquiries: Lifestyle Industries Division, Tel: 03-3501-0969)

* Application prior to import and export, and registration or notification prior to domestic trade are required.

Special attention to online transactions is also needed!
Efforts made by the telecommunications industry

In order to contribute to appropriate and quick responses to illegal and harmful material online, the Liaison Council for Responses to Illegal Material etc., composed of 4 telecommunications associations (*), has compiled the following materials.

- **Guidelines related to responses to illegal material online**
- **Model clauses for contract agreements related to responses to illegal and harmful material etc.**

The Council is widely making efforts including publicity activities and raising awareness of business operators such as internet service providers and other entities, promoting such efforts for safety and security of the online community.

(*) Four associations related to telecommunications:

- Telecommunications Carriers Association (TCA)
- Telecom Services Association (TELESA)
- Japan Internet Providers Association (JAIPA)
- Japan Cable and Telecommunications Association (JCTA)

As advertisements of products derived from endangered species of wild fauna and flora prohibited under the Endangered Species Act is still seen on online markets, these advertisements have been added to the list of **prohibited items** in the model clauses for contract agreements since April, 2016.