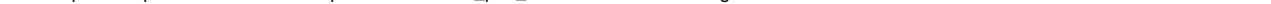


Intelligence from our Investigative Affairs team leads to successful ivory prosecution

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Our global goal to protect animals from illegal wildlife trade results in the very first prosecution of an auctioneer in the UK for illegally selling ivory
This landmark case saw Chiswick Auctions plead guilty for selling an ivory tusk that was carved as a train of elephants. The auction house was fined £3,205. As part of our partnership with the

Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit, we shared intelligence about the carved elephant tusk which was for sale in Portobello Road, London.
During police investigations it transpired that Chiswick Auctions had sold this item with another to a stallholder for £290, claiming it dated back to the Edwardian period. However, our suspicions were confirmed when forensic testing revealed the ivory came from an elephant that had been killed during the 1960s. Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), it is illegal to trade ivory which has been harvested or modified after 1947.
An Investigative Affairs spokesperson said, "This successful prosecution is a reflection of our wider engagement work with the law enforcement sector internationally. An example of how quality intelligence obtained by Investigative Affairs can result in direct enforcement action in support of a key UK campaign. Campaigns manager, Alyx Elliott, said of the case, "We welcome the news of this successful prosecution and we are glad to have been able to assist in the case."
This case illustrates that wildlife crimes will not be tolerated and we are hopeful that the fine will deter other auction houses from selling items without the proper certification.
Learn more about our work with animals in the wild.
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Our vision: a world where animal welfare matters and animal cruelty has ended. The World Society for the Protection of Animals exists to tackle animal cruelty across the globe. We work directly with animals and with the people and organisations that can ensure animals are treated with respect and compassion. With your support, we campaign effectively to combat the world's most intense and large-scale animal welfare issues. We bring about lasting change by: helping people understand the critical importance of good animal welfare; encouraging nations to commit to animal-friendly practices; building the scientific case for the better treatment of animals. We are local. We improve animals' lives and prevent animal cruelty by working directly with communities and owners. Working on the ground with local partners for greatest effect, we are active in more than 50 countries. We are global. We have consultative status at the Council of Europe and collaborate with national governments, the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health – influencers with the power to improve the lives of millions of animals. We are uniquely placed to bring animals into the heart of the most pressing global debates and prove the links between good animal welfare and successful sustainable development. We are there in emergencies. When disaster strikes, we make sure that animals – so vital for community recovery – are not forgotten. Working with partner organisations, governments, humanitarian groups and international agencies, WSPA is the world leader in animal-focused disaster response and risk reduction. With 30 years of experience, sometimes we are the only animal organisation able to access disaster-struck regions and make a very real, immediate difference to suffering animals.