

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2201, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2318.)

§ 4222. Moratoria

(a) Ivory producing countries

(1) In general

The Secretary shall establish a moratorium on the importation of raw and worked ivory from an ivory producing country immediately upon making a determination that the country does not meet all the criteria set forth in section 4221(b)(1) of this title.

(2) Later establishment

With regard to any ivory producing country for which the Secretary has insufficient information to make a determination pursuant to section 4221(b) of this title, the Secretary shall establish a moratorium on the importation of raw and worked ivory from such country not later than January 1, 1990, unless, based on new information, the Secretary concludes before that date that the country meets all of the criteria set forth in section 4221(b)(1) of this title.

(b) Intermediary countries

The Secretary shall establish a moratorium on the importation of raw and worked ivory from an intermediary country immediately upon making a determination that the country—

- (1) is not a party to CITES;
- (2) does not adhere to the CITES Ivory Control System;
- (3) imports raw ivory from a country that is not an ivory producing country;
- (4) imports raw or worked ivory from a country that is not a party to CITES;
- (5) imports raw or worked ivory that originates in an ivory producing country in violation of the laws of that ivory producing country;
- (6) substantially increases its imports of raw or worked ivory from a country that is subject to a moratorium under this chapter during the first three months of that moratorium; or
- (7) imports raw or worked ivory from a country that is subject to a moratorium under this chapter after the first three months of that moratorium, unless the ivory is imported by vessel during the first six months of that moratorium and is accompanied by shipping documents which show that it was exported before the establishment of the moratorium.

(c) Suspension of moratorium

The Secretary shall suspend a moratorium established under this section if, after notice and public comment, the Secretary determines that the reasons for establishing the moratorium no longer exist.

(d) Petition

(1) In general

Any person may at any time submit a petition in writing requesting that the Secretary establish or suspend a moratorium under this section. Such a petition shall include such substantial information as may be necessary to demonstrate the need for the action requested by the petition.

(2) Consideration and ruling

The Secretary shall publish a notice of receipt of a petition under this subsection in the Federal Register and shall provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the petition. The Secretary shall rule on such petition not later than 90 days after the close of the public comment period.

(e) Sport-hunted trophies

Individuals may import sport-hunted elephant trophies that they have legally taken in an ivory producing country that has submitted an ivory quota. The Secretary shall not establish any moratorium under this section, pursuant to a petition or otherwise, which prohibits the importation into the United States of sport-hunted trophies from elephants that are legally taken by the importer or the importer's principal in an ivory producing country that has submitted an ivory quota.

(f) Confiscated ivory

Trade in raw or worked ivory that is confiscated by an ivory producing country or an intermediary country and is disposed of pursuant to the CITES Ivory Control System shall not be the sole cause for the establishment of a moratorium under this subchapter if all proceeds from the disposal of the confiscated ivory are used solely to enhance wildlife conservation programs or conservation purposes of CITES. With respect to any country that was not a party to CITES at the time of such confiscation, this subsection shall not apply until such country develops appropriate measures to assure that persons with a history of illegal dealings in ivory shall not benefit from the disposal of confiscated ivory.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2202, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2318.)

§ 4223. Prohibited acts

Except as provided in section 4222(e) of this title, it is unlawful for any person—

- (1) to import raw ivory from any country other than an ivory producing country;
- (2) to export raw ivory from the United States;
- (3) to import raw or worked ivory that was exported from an ivory producing country in violation of that country's laws or of the CITES Ivory Control System;
- (4) to import worked ivory, other than personal effects, from any country unless that country has certified that such ivory was derived from legal sources; or
- (5) to import raw or worked ivory from a country for which a moratorium is in effect under section 4222 of this title.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2203, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2320.)

§ 4224. Penalties and enforcement

(a) Criminal violations

Whoever knowingly violates section 4223 of this title shall, upon conviction, be fined under title 18 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.