

Protection of elephants and sustainable use of ivory in Thailand

APINYA CHAITAE, IAIN J. GORDON, JANE ADDISON and HELENE MARSH




SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE 1 National legislations with direct provisions in relevant to elephants and ivory in Thailand.

Legislation	Summary of purposes and related provisions	Authorities
1. Wild Elephant Protection Act B.E. 2464 (1921)	The first version of this law was issued in 1900. The act specifically granted protection to wild elephants as under ancient royal tradition and laws. As wild elephants are deemed government property, capturing them requires government permission. The provisions are mainly related to regulation for capturing and protecting elephants from harm or slaughter, and set out the characteristics of and procedures related to auspicious elephants (Pravorapakpibul, 1962; Wild Elephant Protection Act B.E. 2464, 1921).	Department of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Interior
2. Draught Animals Act (<i>Beasts of Burden Act</i>) B.E. 2472 (1939)	<p>This act was issued to protect the ownership rights of draught animals (working livestock) such as elephants, horses, cattle, buffaloes, mules and donkeys, which are considered as an asset. Registered animals have identification documentations consisting of owner and animal information. Changes in any physical characteristics and death of the animals need to be reported for inspection, correction and revocation (in case of a dead animal) of the documentation (Draught Animals Act B.E. 2482, 1939).</p> <p>Elephants have been defined as draught animals since the first Draught Animals Act R.E. 110 (1891). However, the use of identification documents for elephant dates back to 1877 under the Buffalo and Cattle Act, replaced by the Draught Animals Act (Pravorapakpibul, 1961; 1962). The Draught Animals Act B.E. 2482 (1939) requires every captive elephant to be registered when it is 8 years old, to obtain an identification document describing its physical characteristics and details about the owner. Elephant owners have to report changes in any physical characteristics of a captive elephant, including tusk trimming, changes to tusk size, and the death of an elephant (which may result in obtaining whole tusks). The registrar of the law administratively issues a certificate of origin for elephant ivory as evidence of legal ivory acquisition (Department of National Parks, 2017).</p>	

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE 1 continued

Legislation	Summary of purposes and related provisions	Authorities
3. Elephant Ivory Act B.E. 2558 (2015)	<p>This law governs the uses of elephant ivory sourced from captive elephants registered under the Draught Animal Act B.E. 2472 (1939) and their offspring (Elephant Ivory Act B.E. 2558, 2015). Provisions cover possession, registration, trade control, and import and export control of ivory from captive elephants. Registration of ivory possession requires presentation of the ivory's certificate of origin. For ivory trade, in particular, ivory traders have record-keeping obligations under this law (i.e. ivory acquisition, manufacturing, trade), and are required to provide buyers with the ivory sales certificate as evidence for possession of the relevant registrations (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, 2015).</p>	<p>Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment</p>
4. Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562 (2019) - WARPA	<p>This act (WARPA) is the main law for wildlife conservation in Thailand. It covers the protection of animal species and wildlife habitats from various means of exploitation. It regulates hunting, breeding, possession, trade, and the import and export of live and dead specimens of species under its remit (e.g. reserved animal, protected animal) (Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562, 2019). The wild Asian elephant receives full protection in protected areas since enactment of the first WARPA in 1960 (Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2503, 1960). It was first listed as a protected animal under WARPA 1960 since 1975 (Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, 1975) with exploitation partly permitted (e.g. live capture, with a limit of possession of two elephants) (Announcement of the National Executive Council No. 228, 1972; Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, 1976). Complete protection from commercial use was granted to the wild Asian elephant by the updated WARPA 1992 (Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2535, 1992; Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, 1994). The African elephant was included in the category of protected animals in 2015 (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, 2015b). Both wild Asian and African elephants are recognized under WARPA as protected animals, and commercial use of live or dead specimens, including their ivory and other parts, is banned (Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562, 2019).</p>	

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE 1 continued

Legislation	Summary of purposes and related provisions	Authorities
5. Commercial Registration Act B.E. 2499 (1956)	The Commercial Registration Act (1956) was designed to compile statistical information on specific businesses to enable appropriate monitoring and control measures. Ivory-related businesses (manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers) are required to register their business with the Department of Business Development (Ministry of Commerce, 2004) 	Department of Business Development, Ministry of Commerce
6. Accounting Act B.E. 2547 (2000)	This law generally applies to companies, other legal entities and certain types of businesses that are required to keep accounts in relation to trade and finance. Entrepreneurs in ivory-related activities are required to record their ivory trade activities and keep the records (Department of Business Development, 200) 	
7. Animal Epidemics Act B.E. 2558 (2015)	Control mechanisms are designed to prevent and control animal epidemics, including permits required for trade, movement, export and import of various animals, both alive and dead. Elephants are animals under control of this law. The import and export, domestic trade and inter-provincial movement of raw elephant ivory requires formal permission (Animal Epidemics Act B.E. 2558, 2015; Department of Livestock Development, 2015).	Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
8. Export and Import of Goods Act B.E. 2522 (1979)	This act aims to control the international trade of particular goods for different purposes, e.g. economic stability, public health and national security. Asian elephants, their parts and products are prescribed as goods requiring permission to export under this law (Ministry of Commerce, 201) 	Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce
9. Customs Act B.E. 2560 (2017)	The act applies to import and export of goods into/out of Thailand, or transit through the country. Both African and Asian elephants, including their parts and products, are protected under relevant laws, e.g. valid import/export permits are required. The Customs Act is applicable to the export, import and transit of all elephant specimens as restricted goods (Customs Act B.E. 2560, 2017).	Royal Thai Customs, Ministry of Finance