

# Demand Under the Ban

## China Ivory Consumption Research 2020

Report presentation by GlobeScan and WWF

22 April 2021



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Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
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## Our Panellists and Presenters today



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# Agenda



1. Introduction (by WWF) – 10 minutes

2. Research Presentation (by GlobeScan) – 30 minutes

- Research description and methodology
- Consumer segments and purchase patterns
- Awareness of and Attitudes toward the Ivory Ban (on Ivory Purchase behavior)
- Campaign recall, recognition and effectiveness
- Recommendations

3. Q&A and panel discussion– 20 minutes



# Research description and methodology

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# Methodology Overview – General Survey

## Methodology and Sample

- Conducted online; respondents invited via email
- Questionnaire median length 17 minutes
- Fieldwork from October 2020 to January 2021
- Sample size  $n=2,200$  over 16 cities
- Margin of error of 2.1 percent (for the total sample)
- NEW: deep dive amongst **Diehard Buyers** ( $n=487$ )

## Comparison with other surveys

- Key metrics cannot be compared 1-on-1 with other surveys.
- This **2020 Survey** follows the **2017 Pre-ban Survey** conducted in Sept - Oct 2017, the **2018 Post-ban survey** conducted in May – July 2018 and the **2019 survey** (conducted June – July 2019) with the same methodology and the same sampling plan, making these three surveys comparable.
- While the data/key metrics are specific for the 16 cities, the underlying patterns on segmentation, purchase behavior and communications are relevant for the ivory buyers, and the results are crucial input for campaigns.

# Geographic Scope

## Definition: City layers

Cities were divided into layers 1, 2, and 3 per WWF\_TRAFFIC's definition to reflect the ivory trade and consumption in major cities in China. Grouping cities by layers allows for comparisons on the dynamics of ivory trade to be made between types of markets (cities).

WWF nominated these cities as being strategic and active centers of the ivory trade in China, **rather than being representative of China as a whole.**

**Hangzhou** was added to the survey with  $n = 200$  respondents. To keep the results comparable to previous years Hangzhou data were analyzed separately.



## Coverage by city

- $n=920$  in **Layer 1** cities
- $n=460$  in **Layer 2** cities
- $n=620$  in **Layer 3** cities
- $n=200$  in 2019 and 2020 in Hangzhou

# We are starting to build up multi-year longitudinal knowledge

**Demand under the Ban - China Ivory Consumption Research 2019**  
Report Presentation  
December, 2017

**Demand Under the Ban - China Ivory Consumption Research 2019**  
Report Presentation  
October 2018

**Demand Under the Ban - China Ivory Consumption Research 2019**  
Report presentation by GlobeScan and WWF

24 October 2019

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Funded by BMZ through GIZ



# Consumer segments and Purchase patterns

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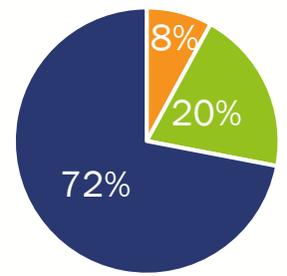
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# Market Segmentation



- Market segmentation identifies similarities in the **behaviors, intentions, attitudes and motives of consumers**, and divides the population into natural groups based on these similarities.
- Market segmentation allows organizations to identify groups for strategic communications and to track the segments over time to see how public perception shifts between years.
- For the 2017 Pre-ban survey, we developed a customized segmentation that we have continued to employ in our surveys since, in 2018, in 2019 and in 2020 again.
- We identified segments of the population that share similar patterns of responses to the questions on **past purchase, intention to purchase, barriers to purchase, attitudes towards the ivory ban, and advocacy for ivory consumption.**
- We used this modeling to separate the population into three distinct groups:

## Diehard Buyers



## Ban Influenced Citizens



## Rejectors

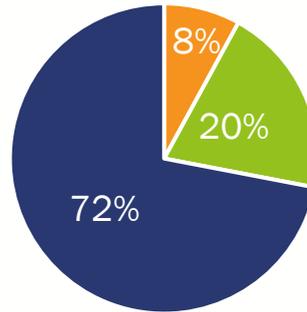


# Segmenting the Market

## Diehard Buyers



- Diehard Buyers are those who are least likely to be swayed from purchasing ivory in 2020
- More likely to be female, have a middle-higher income and education, and travel more regularly
- Intention to purchase ivory in the future is high, despite the ivory ban
- Strong opinions about ivory relate to its artistic value & cultural heritage and they are less concerned with price.



## Ban Influenced Citizens



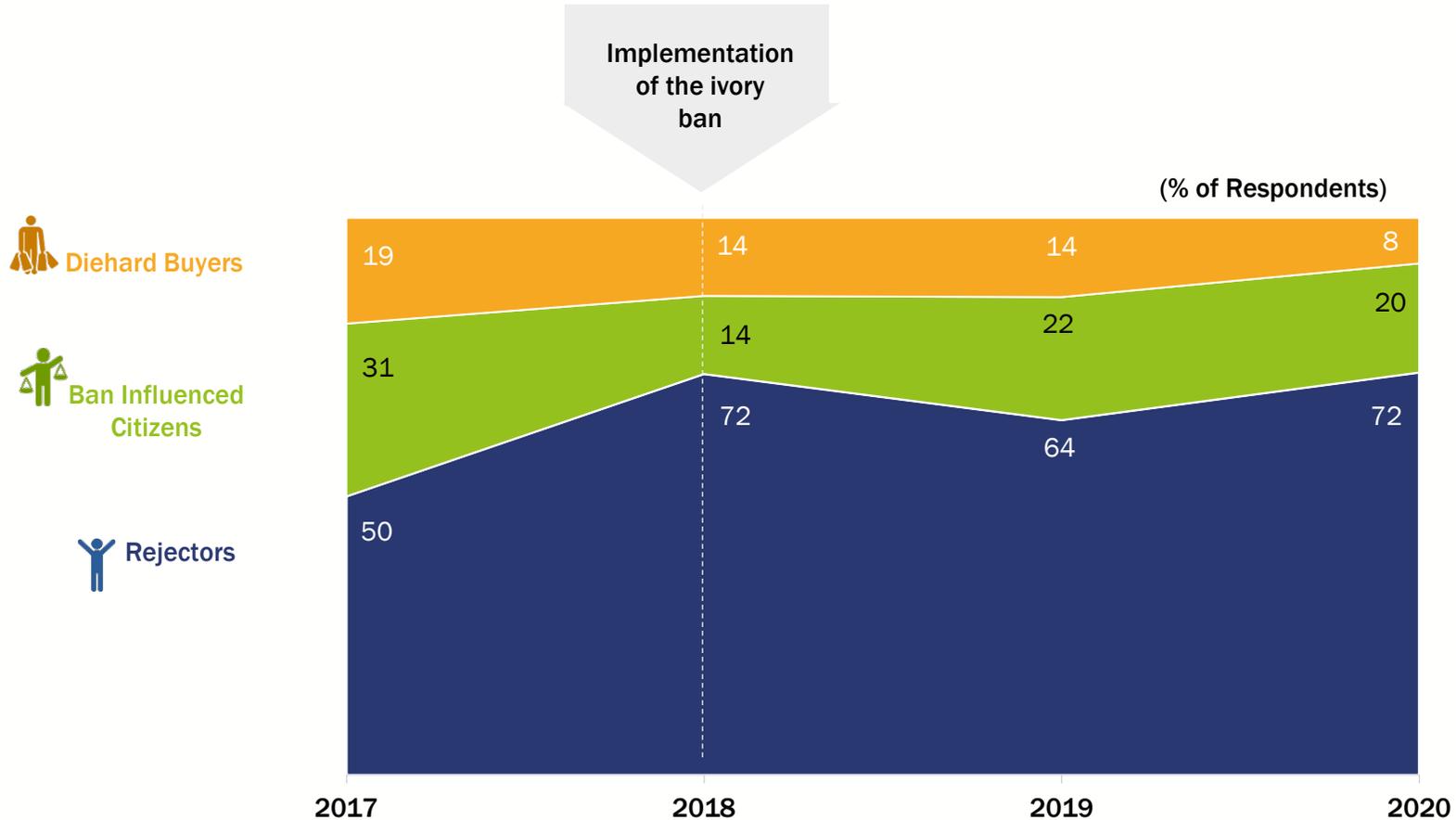
- **The ban on ivory trade is the main deterrent for Ban Influenced Citizens**
- They tend to be female, have a middle-higher education, and have a medium income
- Before being prompted about the ivory ban, 40 percent (60 last year) of this segment said they were likely to purchase ivory in the future. After being prompted about the ban, this percentage dropped to 0

## Rejectors

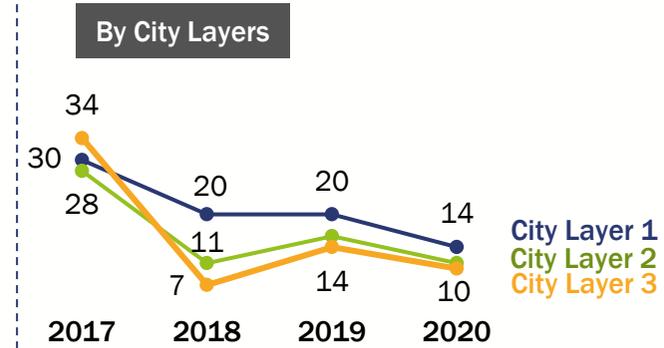
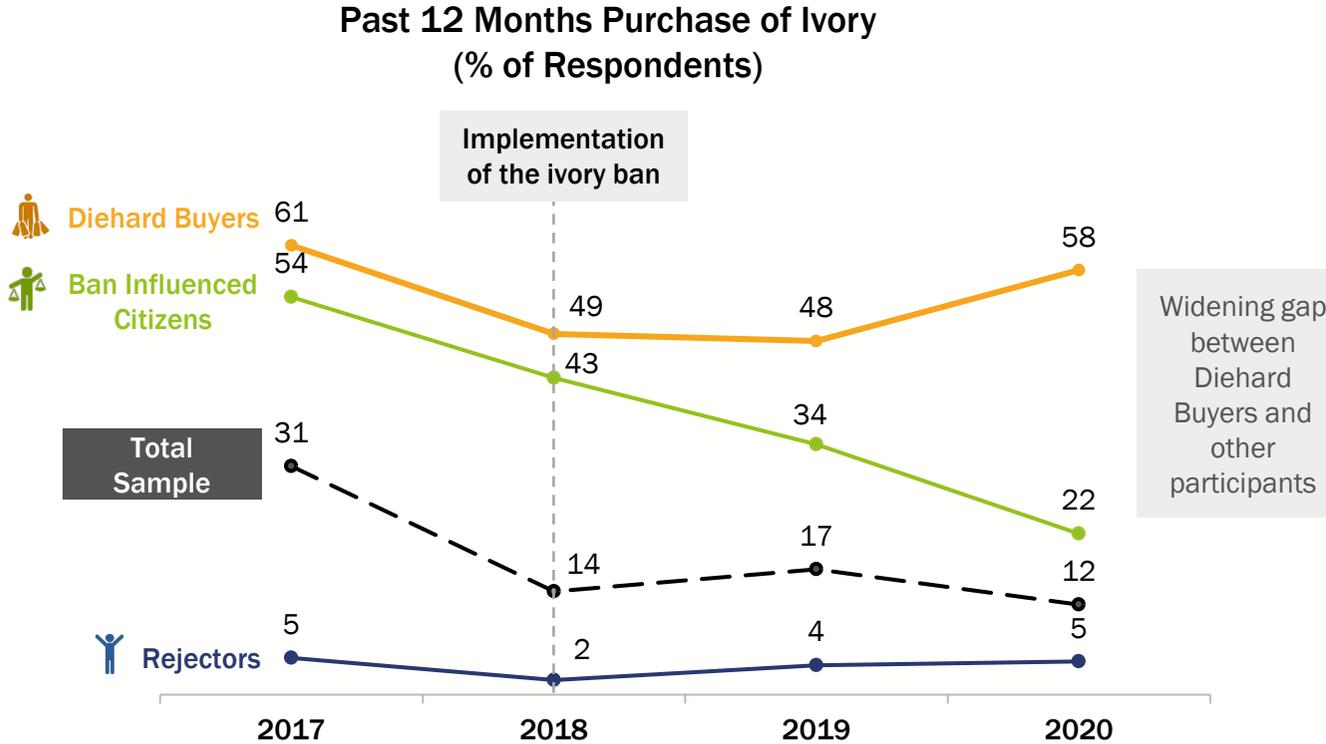


- Rejectors are those who are least likely to purchase ivory
- They tend to have a mid-level of education, a lower income, and tend not to travel
- Rejectors are strongly concerned about the extinction of elephants and animal cruelty
- Rejectors have a lower rate of campaign awareness but a more positive response to the campaigns

# Buyer Segments Distribution – Four-year Comparison



# Purchase of Ivory *in Past 12 Months* - Four-year Comparison (Total and Segments)



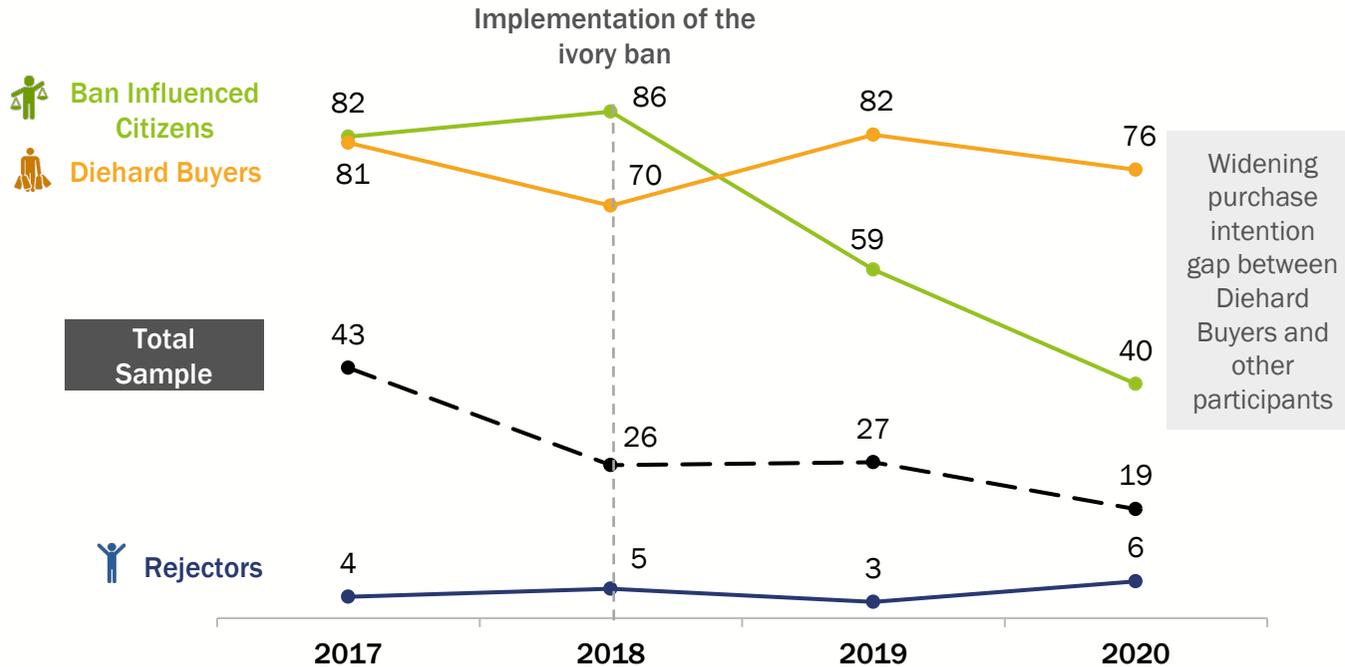
## Ivory Purchase Frequency (%) - 2020



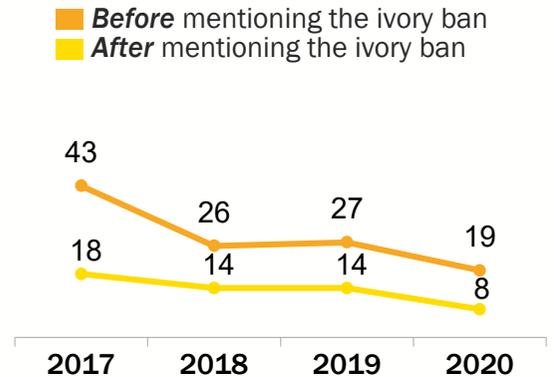
# Intention to Purchase Ivory Ever in the Future

Asked *before* Mentioning the Ivory Ban, with 2017-2020 Comparison

“Very likely” + “Likely” to Purchase Ivory (**BEFORE** Mentioning the Ivory Ban)  
(% of Respondents)

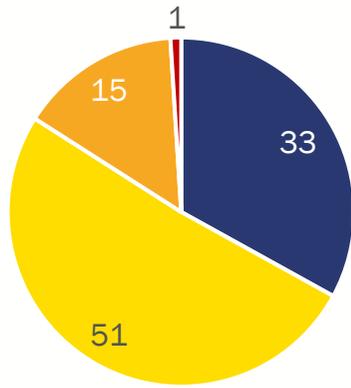


## Future Purchase Intention (Total %)



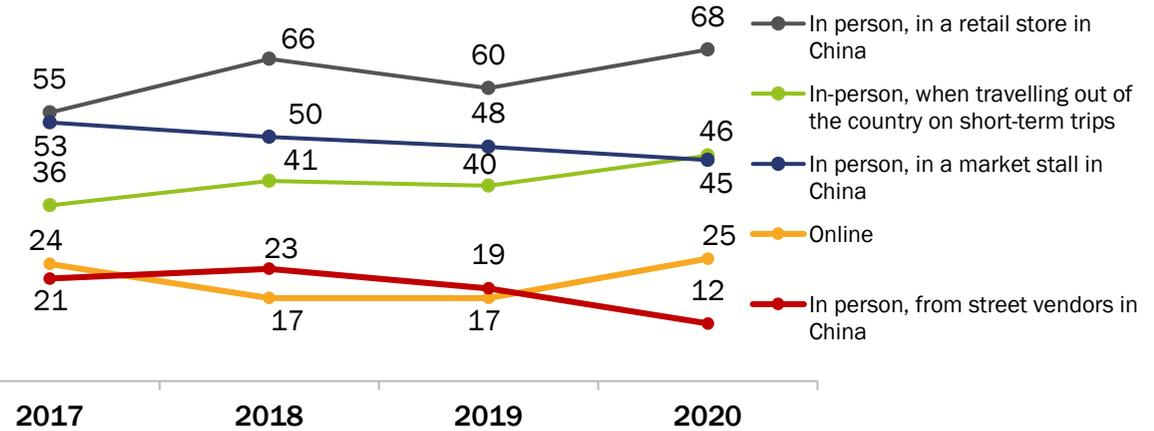
# Purpose of Last Ivory Purchase *in Past 12 Months*

**Purpose of Last Ivory Purchase in Past 12 Months - 2020**  
(% of Past 12 Months Ivory Buyers)



- For myself to keep / use
- As a gift for a friend / family member
- As a gift for a business contact
- For reselling

**Top 5 Ivory Purchase Channels - Among ivory purchasers (%)**

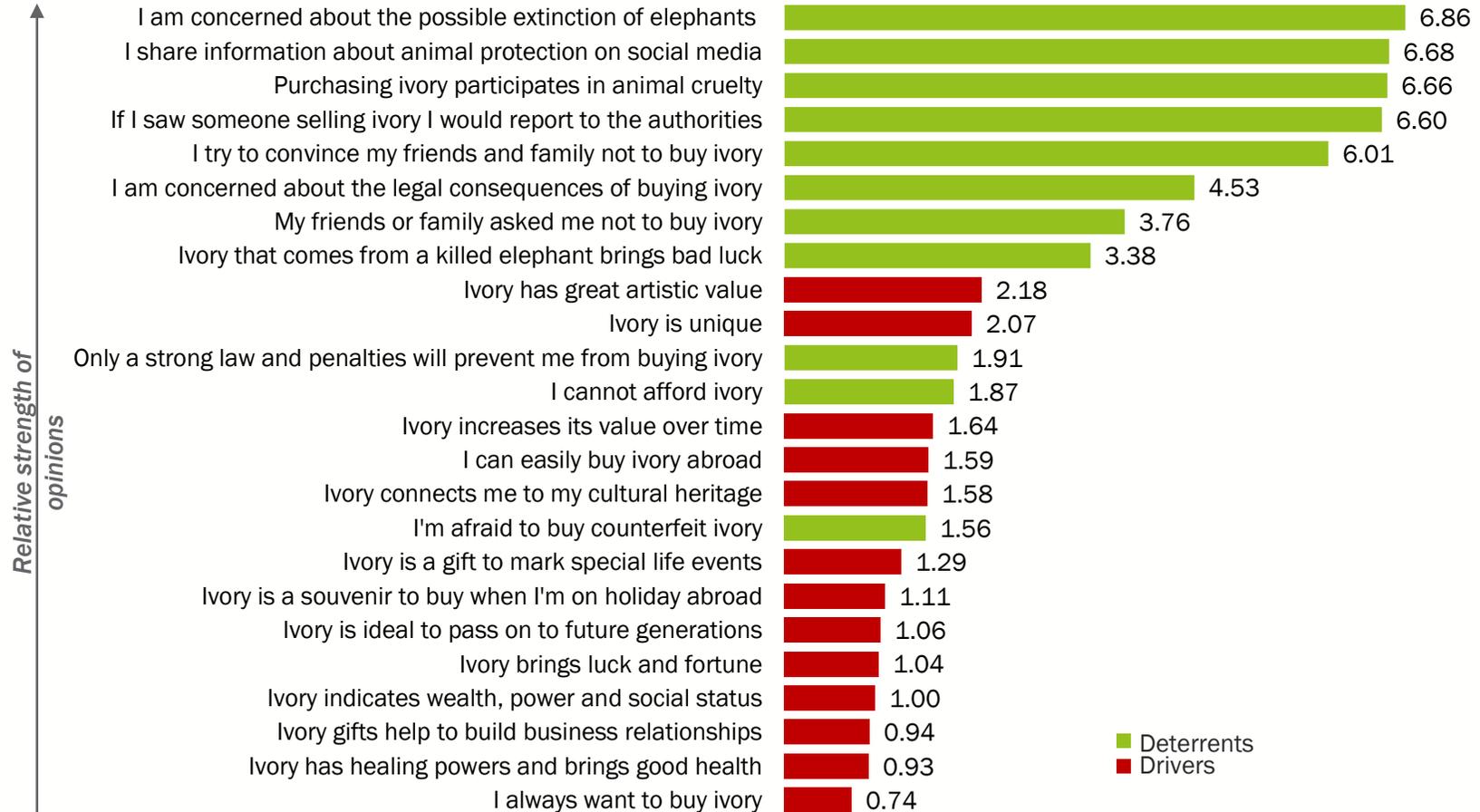


**Online Channels for Ivory purchase**  
Among online buyers (%)



E-commerce	75%	▼
Artifact collection website	73%	▲
Second-hand trade apps	36%	▲
Social media	21%	▼

# Deterrents and Drivers of Ivory Purchase



# Deterrents and Drivers of Ivory Purchase – Top Influencing Factors Diehards

In green: Deterrents

In red: Drivers

## Top 3 Beliefs About Ivory (among sub-groups)

### Among All Diehard Buyers

- 1 Ivory has great artistic value
- 2 I share information about animal protection on social media
- 3 I am concerned about the possible extinction of elephants

Among Diehard Buyers who Have **High Education** (University Graduate or above) or Have **High Income** (Monthly RMB >20K)

- 1 Ivory has great artistic value
- 2 Ivory is unique
- 3 I share information about animal protection on social media

### Why Core Diehard Buyers want ivory?

Top drivers Among Diehard Buyers who Live in  
Layer 1 Cities / Age 31-40 / Regular Travelers



1 Ivory has great artistic value



2 Ivory connects me to my cultural heritage



3 Ivory is unique / is a gift to mark special life events



# Awareness of and Attitudes toward the Ivory Ban (on Ivory Purchase behavior)

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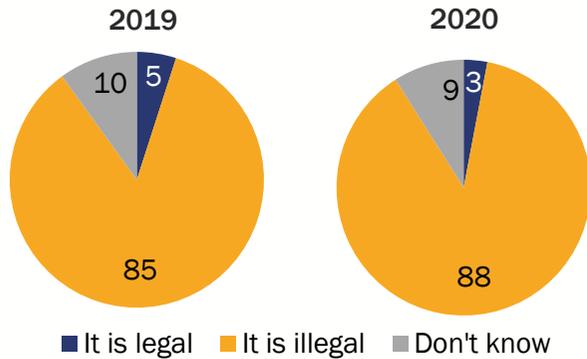


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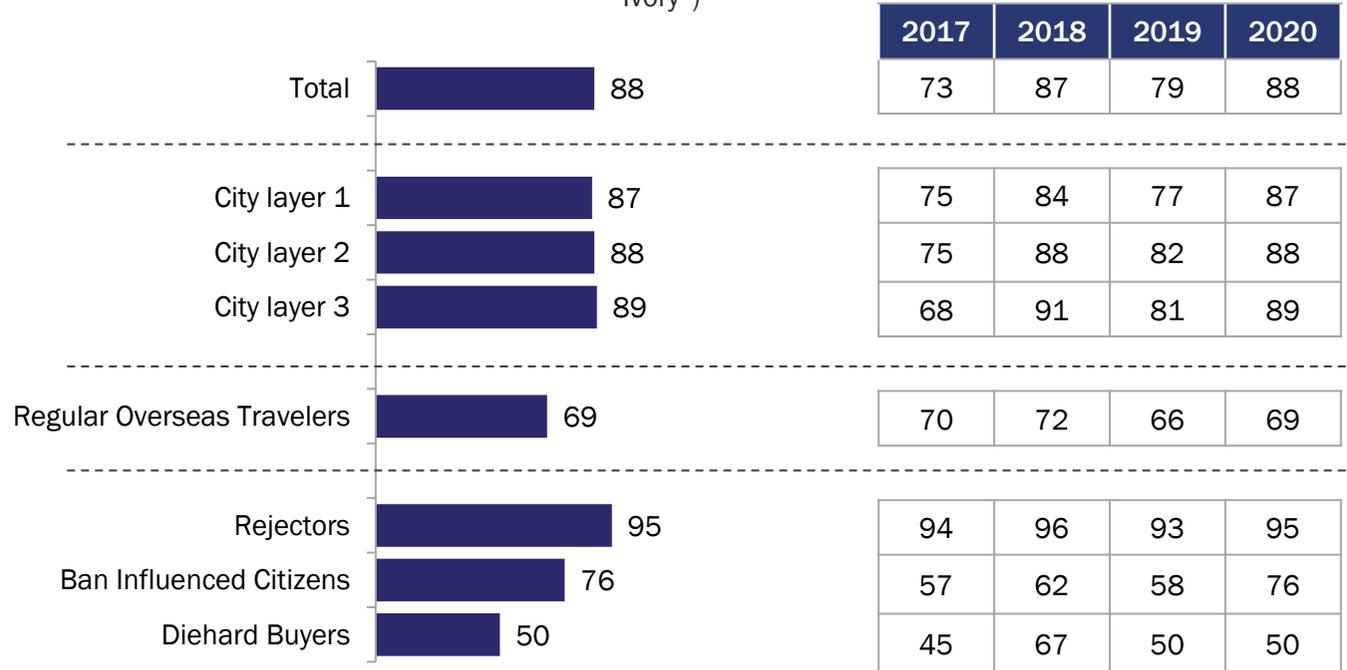
# [Necessity of] Legal Control over the Trade of Ivory

## Do You Know Whether Buying/Trading Ivory within China Is Legal or Not?



## Agree on Legal Control over the Trade of Ivory – 2020\*

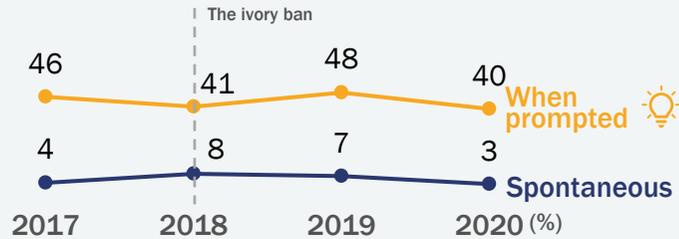
(% Top-2-Box, 4+5: “I Would Support a Total Ban on All Buying, Selling, Importing, and Exporting of Ivory”)



\*Note: These results reflect the opinion of consumers before they were asked to read the ivory ban notice

# Awareness of and Attitude toward the Ivory Ban

## Awareness of the Ban



## Top Sources of Awareness

- Offline channel
- Online channel



## Impact of the Ivory Ban



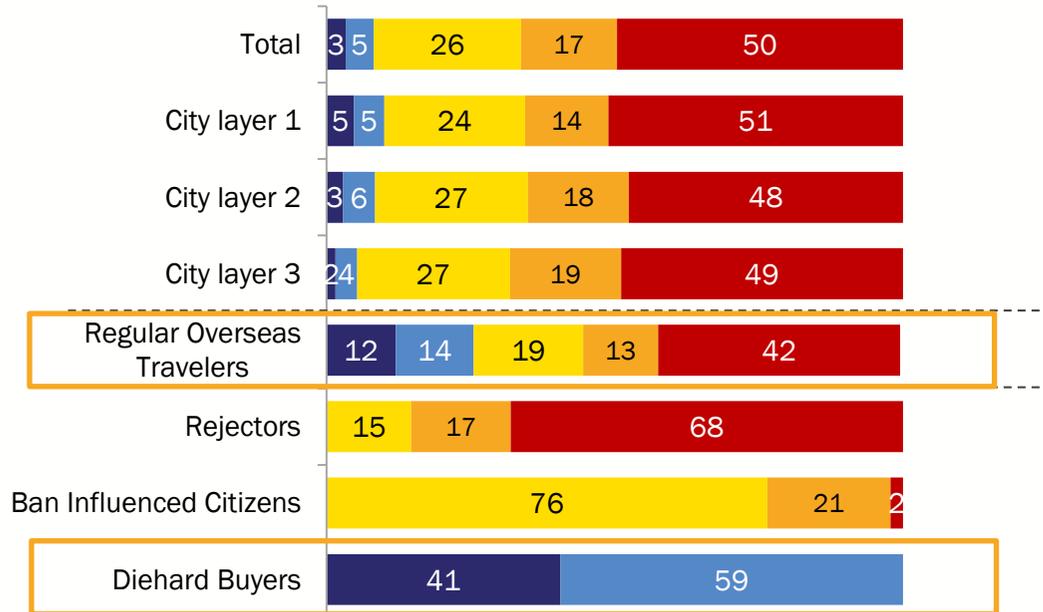
Top alternatives to ivory:  
Gold (39%) and silver (33%)

# Intention to Purchase Ivory after Mentioning the Ivory Ban

Top-2-Box Comparison of Past Four Years

Intention to Purchase Ivory (After Mentioning the Ivory Ban) – 2019 (%)

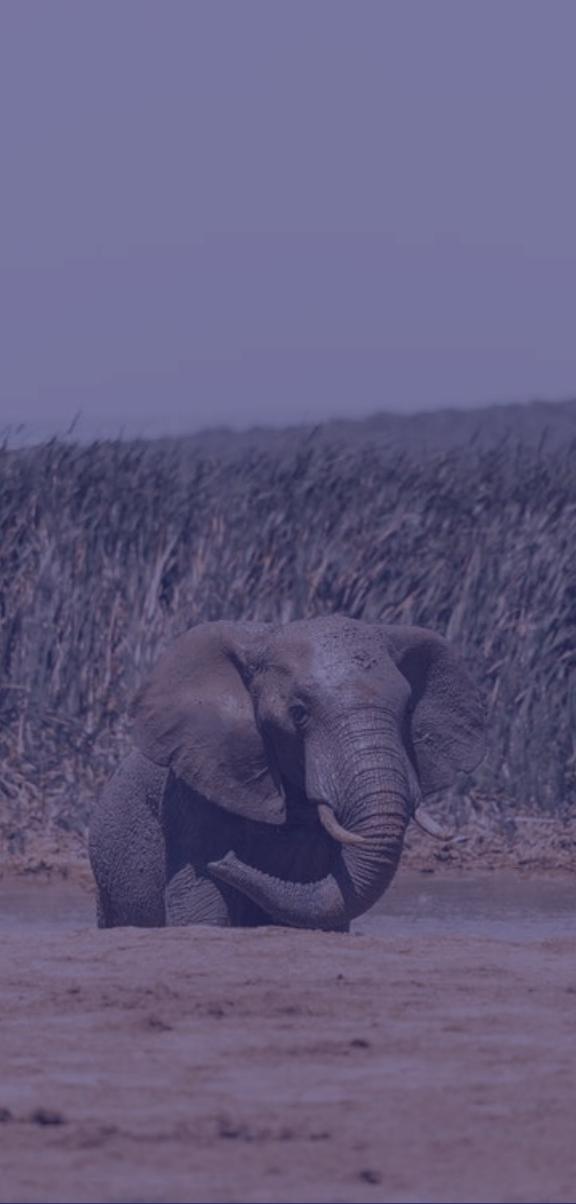
5 Very likely 4 Likely 3 Neither likely/unlikely 2 Unlikely 1 Very unlikely



“Very likely” + “Likely” to Purchase Ivory after Mentioning the Ivory Ban – Four-year Comparison (%)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	18	14	14	8
City layer 1	18	14	15	10
City layer 2	15	19	14	8
City layer 3	20	10	13	5
Regular Overseas Travelers	25	37	27	26
Rejectors	As per segments definition, there are no Rejectors and no Ban Influenced Citizens likely to purchase in the future.			
Diehard Buyers	98	100	100	100

Note: Green indicates the lowest point at which a “preferable” result is observed



# Campaign Recall, Recognition and Effectiveness



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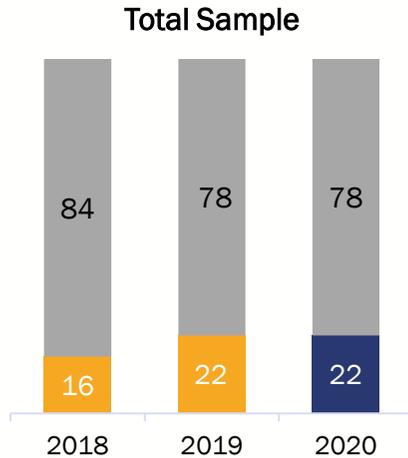


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# Awareness of any Ivory Campaigns (Spontaneous)

Have You Ever Seen and/or Heard Any Campaigns or Advertisements Against Ivory Trade and/or About Elephant Protection?



% Yes (2020)



	Layer 1	Layer 2	Layer 3	Regular Overseas Travelers	Rejectors	Ban Influenced Citizens	Diehard Buyers
	<i>n=920</i>	<i>n=460</i>	<i>n=620</i>	<i>n=181</i>	<i>n=1446</i>	<i>n=391</i>	<i>n=164</i>
	23	20	23	38	23	20	21

# Awareness of and Attitude toward Campaigns

## Spontaneous Campaign Awareness of Elephant Protection General Public



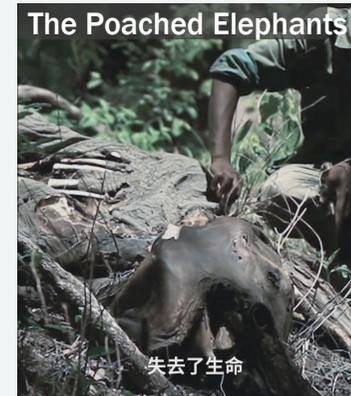
**11%** Recall of seeing the **Ma Weidu Campaign** video



**82%** Think that it is **memorable / persuasive**

**81%** Liked the video

## Most Impressive Element Of The Video



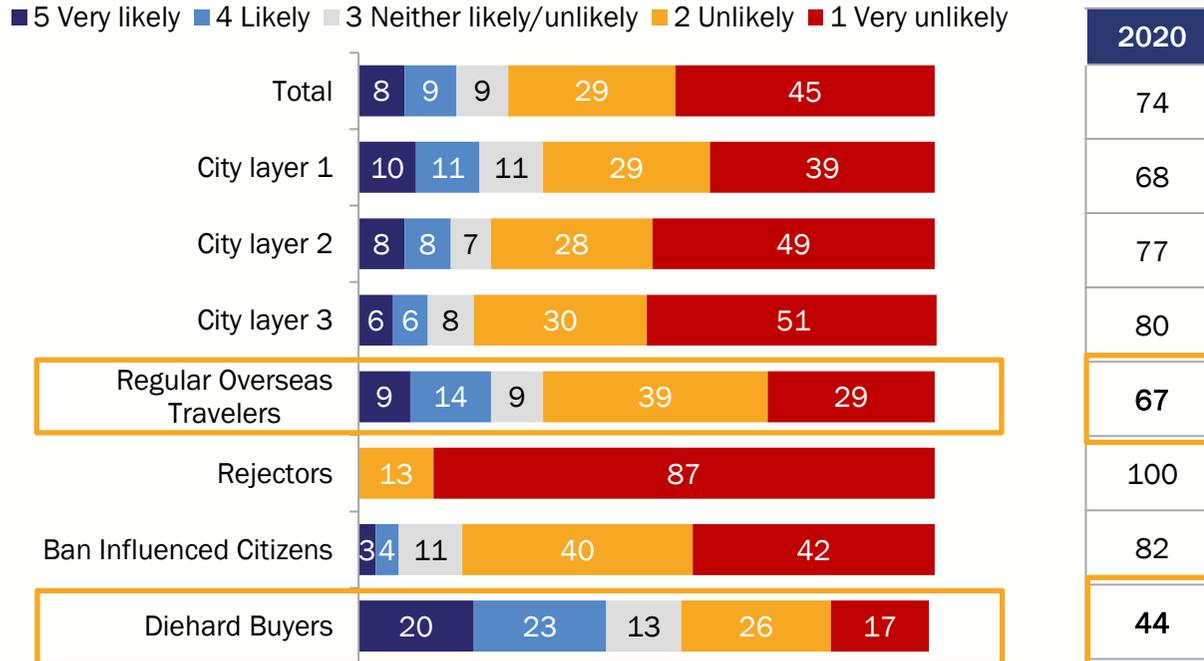
### Top 3 reactions to the Ma Weidu campaign:

- I will share information about animal protection (44%)
- I made a commitment to protect elephants and avoid ivory purchase (42%)
- I will convince others not to buy ivory (41%)

# Intention Change After Seeing the Video – Among Future Ivory Purchase Intenders

**Intention to Purchase Ivory (After Seeing the Video)**  
 (Base: % of those “Likely” or “Very likely” to purchase ivory in the future)

**“Very unlikely” + “Unlikely” to Purchase Ivory after Seeing the Video (%)**





# Recommendations



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# Recommendations (1)



Trends are mostly continuing from previous years

⇒ Many of the recommendations remain similar to 2019

⇒ Continue with campaigns as we are seeing declines in ivory purchase and purchase intention as well as increases in positive attitudes and this will continue to have benefits

## Population segment

- Regular overseas travelers: Watch for a re-emergence
- Target layer 1, 2 and 3 cities with online campaigns
- Diehard Buyers: Keep focus on this group
- Ban Influenced Citizens: Continue to target this group
- Rejectors: Continue to aim for their participation in ivory campaigns

# Recommendations (2)



## Communication

- Focus on luxury goods as alternatives
- Combine knowledge of the ban with campaign videos to create intention change
- Continue to broadcast the message that it's illegal to bring ivory back to China

## Purchase channels

- Continue to put pressure on online trade
- Tailor campaigns for online sharing and TV/ Screen
- Most purchases are 'in person' – to further curb this, more law enforcement required



Thank You



Q & A