

The Asian Reporter

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Myanmar burns ivory, skins to fight illegal wildlife trade



IVORY INCINERATION. Smoke and flames billow from burning wildlife parts during a destruction ceremony of confiscated elephant ivory and other wildlife parts in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. Myanmar's Natural Resources Ministry said the items destroyed at the burning in the capital of Naypyitaw included 277 pieces of ivory, 227 bones of elephants and other animals, 1,544 different horns, and 25 wildlife skins. It said the parts were destroyed to raise public awareness about the illegal wildlife trade, to try to deter such activities, and to promote international cooperation in suppressing the crime. China, the world's largest ivory consumer, banned its domestic trade starting this year in what conservationists hope will relieve pressure on Africa's besieged elephant populations. Another conservation organization, however, has said that rising Chinese demand for products made from elephant skin is also driving poaching, especially in Myanmar. See story on page 5. (AP Photo/Aung Shine Oo)



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