



Ivory trade to be banned in the UK

The sale and of nearly all ivory items may be banned in the UK under plans set out by the government.

It's thought that 20,000 elephants are killed each year for their ivory tusks, which are used to make ornaments. Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, has announced a consultation to end the trade of all ivory.

The government says there will be some exclusions, for things like instruments and items that are special to a country.

Many people are pleased with the government's new stand although there are concerns over the size and scale of exemptions to the ban. Mr Gove says there should be four categories of ivory items allowed for sale. These include:



A man protesting to ban ivory trade in the UK.

musical instruments; items with only a small proportion of ivory; items of significant historic, artistic or cultural value, or sales between museums.

If the consultation is successful, the ban could come into force from next year.

Australian Solar challenge race begins

Teams from around the world are competing in solar cars in a huge race across Australia.

Solar-powered cars from 30 countries around the world have begun a 1,865-mile race from the north to south (Darwin to Adelaide) of Australia.

Teams in the World Solar Challenge are made up of students who have built their vehicles themselves. The participating teams compete in three categories: the challenger class, the cruiser class and the non-competitive adventure class.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the competition.



The solar cars at the start of the event.



Faroe Islands' self-translations



The Faroe Islands.

The Faroe Islands have started their own online translation service to try to have their native language, Faroese, included on Google Translate.

Google Translate is a free service that instantly translates words, phrases, and web pages between English and over 100 other languages.

The Faroe Islands Translate service has been set up by the Visit Faroes tourism organisation, which - instead of providing instant machine translation - passes your request onto a volunteer, who then provides a live or pre-recorded video translation.

The language, which comes from Old Norse, is spoken by some 66,000 people, approximately two thirds of whom reside on the Faroe Islands.

Levi Hanssen, who is the Faroe Islands Translate Project Manager, says that the service fills a gap left by Google Translate and preserves local language and culture.

"We're taking matters into our own hands and enlisting a whole host of local Faroese people to allow us to help those who want to learn a little Faroese. In doing so, we also build up a video database that visually and audibly logs the Faroese language, something that's never been done before."

It's not the first time that the Faroes have had issues with Google, feeling ignored by their services.

The islands had been left out of Google's Street View mapping service. 'Visit Faroes' set up Sheep View last year to create sheep's eye tour of the islands! Within weeks, Google sent vehicles to map the island officially.



Tourists reading literature in the Faroe Islands.

/ think...



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