



**Support for the Proposed Amendments to Cap 586 Protection of
Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Bill 2017**

Dr. Jane Gray to: bc_06_16

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Cc: "Jane Gray"

Hon Kenneth Leung
Chairperson
Bills Committee
Legislative Council
Hong Kong

Dear Hon. Kenneth Leung

I would like to add my voice, to strongly urge the government to pass the amendments to Cap 586. As both a veterinary surgeon, welfare advocate and someone who has travelled in Africa and seen the devastation this cruel and unnecessary trade has caused, I believe any civilized society should not allow this trafficking to continue.

The trade in ivory through Hong Kong does, and if continued will pose a severe threat to elephant survival.

The method of killing by poachers is also a severe welfare issue both to the individual animal involved, but also to those in the family group (elephants are highly intelligent animals who nurture very strong family bonds, it has been proven they suffer grief similar to humans when a family member dies).

The majority of ivory traded in Hong Kong is for consumption outside Hong Kong, mainly mainland China. The majority of Hong Kong people do not own or support the trade.

There are vast profits to be made from the trade in illegal ivory, and as such the penalties must be increased to act as a deterrent. This is vital.

Compensating the traders is not appropriate, and could likely have the effect of increasing the number of elephants poached to "cash-in" while compensation is paid by the government.

I truly hope the Hong Kong Government can by enacting all the proposed amendments send a message to the world that it is committed to protecting the environment, conservation and animal welfare.

Thank you for taking time to read my submission.

Your sincerely

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