



**A letter of support for the complete banning of the trade and sale of ivory in Hong Kong**

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Dear Chairperson and Members of the Bills Committee on Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Bill 2017.

I write again in support of the legislative changes for the banning of the sale and trade of ivory in Hong Kong.

Further to my previous submission on 26th May 2017, I must re-iterate the importance of following through with this complete ban. The survival of the Elephant species world wide is being threatened by this continued trade, and HK is a key trading post that allows for this to continue.

As a signatory to CITIES, the Hong Kong SAR Government has the legal, ethical and moral obligation to implement this ban as soon as possible, and to close all existing loopholes that still exist for this trade to continue legally or otherwise.

There has been ample time already for the trade to dispose of stocks, so any grace period or any compensation offered for existing stocks, risks increasing the illicit trade in ivory in Hong Kong, and thus further endangers the protection of the species during this time.

The ban on the sale and trade of ivory in Hong Kong needs to be stopped immediately with no further incentive in the form of compensation of tax payers money offered by the government.

It is also vital that the legislative penalties for illicit trade in ivory and other CITIES protected wildlife be strengthened and that the fine and custodial sentence be sufficient deterrent in a trade that is valued in tens of billions of US dollars worldwide annually.

I would appreciate the committees consideration for my personal views with regards to this issue.

Sincerely

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