



I support the ivory trade ban
Victoria Stanley to: bc_06_16

30/08/2017 18:13

Dear Hon Kenneth Leung,

Public Hearing on September 6th 2017: Cap 586 Amendment Bill

I am Victoria Stanley and I am a media communications officer at Bristol Zoo who was raised in Hong Kong. I am writing to express my support for the Hong Kong Government's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill because I am concerned about the welfare and future of elephant species on this planet. It is imperative that Hong Kong take a stance against the ivory trade if we are to ensure the stronghold of these incredible animals.

I fully support the government's three-step plan to ban the Hong Kong ivory trade; and its proposals to increase maximum penalties under the Protection of Endangered Species Ordinance (Cap 586). However, I do not support any proposition to compensate traders or buy out their stocks. My reasons are as stated: -

- Providing any form of compensation will signal that Hong Kong is 'buying' ivory, likely triggering a surge of poaching in Africa.
- Compensation would establish a dangerous global precedent for other countries working to ban the trade. This is a highly unethical and environmentally-damaging act. We should have a hard-nosed policy to prevent any other incidences from occurring.
- The Hong Kong Government is not depriving ivory owners of all use of property.
- Traders and others who have speculated on ivory have done so, knowing the risks of a shrinking legal market
- The heritage value and traditional skills of carvers are not a reason to continue the trade.
- Carvers and traders have had over two decades since the international ban, to diversify and/or switch trades. Most have done so.

Sincerely Yours,
Victoria Stanley