



Ivory Ban

Chris Botsford to: bc_06_16@legco.gov.hk

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30th August 2017

Hon Kenneth Leung
Room 918, Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Hon Kenneth Leung,

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

I am Chris Botsford and have lived in HK for 25 years. I am CEO and founder of a local financial company employing over 30 people locally directly and many indirectly.

I am writing to express my support for the Hong Kong Government's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill because I believe my children and grand children and indeed all the children and future generations of HK people have a right to see elephants in the wild. They are wonderful animals but at this rate will be extinct

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.
- 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,

Chris Botsford