



Please ensure a complete ban on ivory in HK

Anneleise Smillie to: bc_06_16

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Dear Hon Kenneth Leung,

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

My name is Anneleise Smillie and I am originally from Scotland but have been living in HK since 1978. I am writing to express my support for the Hong Kong Government's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill because this is a critical issue that affects an endangered CITES Appendix 1 listed species, as well as the lives of rangers in Africa who are working to protect them from poachers. If we do not take serious measures to close every loophole in this trade, elephant populations will be damaged irrevocably and the illegal trade will continue to fund criminal activities and civil war in the Central African region.

I am in full of 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.

Please ensure that the HK Government takes every measure possible to end all trade in ivory regardless of its origin or history, and takes a strong stand against compensating the traders.

Respectfully Yours,
Anneleise Smillie