



**Ban Ivory Trade**

**Martijn** to: bc\_06\_16@legco.gov.hk

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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

My name is Martijn Hoogerwerf and I first moved to Hong Kong in 2005. I am originally from The Netherlands and I have been very fortunate to have lived in a number of different countries. I cannot think of any other place I would want to live - Hong Kong is truly my home now and I have family who are born and raised here, including my wife and daughter.

I am writing to express my support for the Hong Kong Government's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill because I am terribly concerned about the planet that our generation is going to leave behind for the future generation. The environmental damage we are causing justified by economic growth and social impact is not acceptable. While there are many environmental issues that need to be addressed, ivory trade and the way we treat elephants is an issue that appeals to the broader public. Hong Kong, in its position as a gateway to China, has a unique opportunity to make a statement against ivory trade and take a leading position in this matter.

Therefore, 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,  
Martijn Hoogerwerf