



RE: Legislative Proposal to Phase Out Hong Kong 's ivory trade

Carol LAM to: bc_06_16

03/09/2017 22:54

3rd September 2017

Dear Members of the Legislative Council,

Ahead of the upcoming public hearing on September 6th on the proposal to phase out Hong Kong's ivory trade, I am writing to respectfully request your support for the Hong Kong Government's proposal to ban the ivory trade with no compensation to those who already have ivory and to impose a suitable penalty on offenders.

Here are some hard-hitting statistics in support of banning the ivory trade:

Between 2002 and 2011, it is estimated that the world's forest elephant population was reduced by 62%.

Over 20,000 elephants are killed for their tusks every year to satisfy the demand of customers, primarily in Asia.

It is estimated that 1000 rangers have been killed in the line of duty to protect elephants and other wildlife in the past 10 years.

At the same time, in 2014, ivory was worth \$2100/kg. This price has very likely gone up in the 3 years since.

Hong Kong is a major transit and retail hub for ivory.

As you can see from the above statistics, the ivory trade is both lucrative to poachers and those who deal in this business, and at the same time destroying the elephant population around the world. Without proper intervention by the Hong Kong government, elephants could become extinct in the very near future. Imagine these majestic creatures going the way of the dodo, reduced to descriptions and photos in history books.

Re: Banning the ivory trade in Hong Kong

The current regulations in Hong Kong regarding the ivory trade are not working. Even ivory traders themselves admit that it is extremely easy to use loopholes in the law to smuggle illegal ivory from freshly killed elephants from Africa to Hong Kong and then sell these illegal goods using a legal ivory selling licence. This is a practise that will continue to happen until the ivory trade is banned completely. In addition, the governments of many countries including the United States, Singapore and China have concluded that the best solution is the closure and banning of all ivory markets.

Re: Not providing compensation

I strongly believe that ivory sellers should NOT be provided ANY compensation at all for their remaining stock of ivory for the following reasons:

They have already had 32 years in total to sell their remaining stock

No other countries are providing compensation for their ivory bans. Hong Kong providing such a compensation would send the wrong message to those in the ivory trade, implying that they can still operate with impunity.

In conclusion, due to the above stated reasons, the ivory trade must be banned in Hong Kong. I hope the Hong Kong government makes the right decision on September 6th in regards to this matter, for the preservation of elephants both for their own good and for our future generations.

Yours sincerely,
Carol Lam

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