



Legislative proposal to phase out the local trade in ivory - Submission

Karina O' Carroll

to:

panel_ea

26/05/2017 11:00

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From: "Karina O' Carroll" <[REDACTED]>

To: panel_ea@legco.gov.hk

Dear Panel on Environmental Affairs,

- 1. I support the ban on the ivory trade**
- 2. I support higher penalties for wildlife crime**
- 3. I support prosecution and strong deterrent penalties for those engaging in wildlife crime**
- 4. I do not support any form of compensation for ivory traders.**

Offering compensation to ivory traders sets a dangerous precedent worldwide and could potentially encourage more poaching and stockpiling of ivory.

It would also send the message that if Hong Kong offers compensation for stockpiles of ivory to the traders, there is a monetary value on ivory (with no idea how much is actually out there) and send the message there is money still to be made on ivory.

Please do not delay the implementation of the ban and destruction of the ivory stockpiles.

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Regards,

Karina O'Carroll



Legislative proposal to phase out the local trade in ivory - Submission from Animals

Asia Foundation

Karina O' Carroll

to:

panel_ea

26/05/2017 11:19

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From: "Karina O' Carroll" <[REDACTED]>

To: panel_ea@legco.gov.hk

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Dear Panel on Environmental Affairs,

Hong Kong is globally recognized as a wildlife trade hub that is increasingly used by organized criminal syndicates to traffic a range of wildlife products including elephant ivory.

Although the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) banned the international trade in ivory in 1989, Hong Kong has until now allowed the continued trade of Pre-Convention ivory. This 'legal' trade has been administered through a licensing system run by the Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), whereby stockpiles of Pre-Convention ivory are registered with AFCD and licensed for commercial purposes.

It is impossible to distinguish 'legal' Pre-Convention ivory from 'illegal' ivory, taken from recently and illegally-killed elephants, without scientific analysis. In the face of increasing consumer demand, this has allowed unscrupulous traders to launder freshly poached illegal ivory into the market as the legally licensed product. There is clear evidence of this practice, through undercover investigations of Hong Kong's Pre-Convention ivory stocks.

It is also clear that over the 27 years since the international trade ban, Hong Kong's 'legal' pre-ban ivory stocks have not diminished as would be expected, given rising demand from tourists from the Mainland who are the main market for ivory purchased in Hong Kong (and who then smuggle it into China). Traders themselves have explained the practice of replenishing old stocks with newly poached ivory because the licensing system can be easily flouted.

Given current elephant populations, it is clear that if nothing is done, these animals will become extinct in our lifetime. The illegal ivory trade is not just destroying African elephant populations, but it is also denying developing economies that depend on wildlife for tourism, not to mention the

innumerable deaths annually of rangers engaged in their protection.

The Hong Kong government has stated its commitment to the protection of endangered species and recognizes the devastating impact of poaching elephants for their ivory and indeed the role that Hong Kong's trade is playing. Importantly, Hong Kong's first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) launched in 2016 clearly commits to phasing out the ivory trade as currently proposed. The proposals are, therefore, in line with accepted government policy.

Animals Asia Foundation strongly supports

- **The ban on the ivory trade**
- **Higher penalties for wildlife crime under the Protection of Endangered Species Ordinance Cap 586**
- **Prosecution and strong deterrent penalties for those engaging in wildlife crime**

Animals Asia Foundation...

- **Does not support any form of compensation for ivory traders.**

Offering compensation to ivory traders sets a dangerous precedent worldwide and could potentially encourages more poaching and stockpiling of ivory.

It would also send the message that if Hong Kong offers compensation for stockpiles of ivory to the traders, there is a monetary value on ivory (with no idea how much is actually out there) and send the message there is money still to be made on ivory.

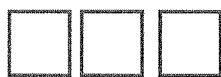
Please do not delay the implementation of the ban and destruction of the stockpiles.

Karina O'Carroll

Animal Welfare Education Manager

Animals Asia Head Office: Room 1501, Tung Hip Commercial Building, 244 - 252 Des Voeux Road Central, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

D: (852) 2152 7817 | F: (852) 2791 2320 | M: [REDACTED] | O: (852) 2623 6114 | www.animalsasia.org



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