



Ivory Trade a Shame for Hong Kong , bad for business
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Dear LegCo,

I am an engineer working in Hong Kong, a city I love. I grew up in a tropical country at the other side of the world where wildlife conservation is embraced and regarded highly. Many ships from China illegally slaughter sharks for their fins in the waters near my hometown. As a coastal and environmentally friendly country many people have connections to the ocean and nature. Therefore thousands of people have protested in the streets of this remote nation during recent years asking the government to ban and punish shark fin practice without any power to make a significant change. The frustration sentiment is even larger when it comes to Ivory trading but no protests are held since there is nothing our local government can do. However here in Hong Kong the power to make a global change is critical.

It was an absolute cultural shock to watch shark fins being dried and sold on the streets of Sheung Wan, where I happened to rent a flat. Ivory trade is beyond shocking; it is repulsive and devastating. Not only does ivory trade creates a negative image of China overseas but even more a evil image of Hong Kong since it is the trading hub.

Hong Kong is not a tax heaven any more, as US regulation have forced more transparent accounting practices, and does not need to keep inflexible absolute free market policies to sustain business. In addition, as the world becomes more environmentally conscious, large companies and affluent business people from China and overseas that would like setup their businesses here would feel repulsed by the lack of integrity in Hong Kong authorities. Ivory trade ban is not only good for African elephants and their ecosystem, but also a necessary measure to ensure the sustainable economic development of this city.

Best Regards,
Manrique