



**Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Bill 2017**

Letty Wong to: bc\_06\_16

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Sent by: Letty Wong <letty.wong@spca.hk>

Dear members of the Legislative Council,

Regarding the bill on captioned topic, I am writing to express my view.

I am greatly concerned by the killing of elephants which was caused by ivory trade and brings a rapid decline in the number of elephants in the world. Many African elephants were killed for their tusks to create tasteless ornaments or decors. Some African elephant populations remain endangered over the years. I urge the Hong Kong government to take effect of an immediate total ban on the ivory trade.

Hong Kong is among top 3 of the world's key transit point for illicit trade in ivory. It is a shame for us, as a cosmopolis, to risk the lives of elephants and their protectors for a trade based on killing. Annually, more than 20,000 elephants are being ruthlessly slaughtered for their tusks – leaving abandoned babies behind mourning their parents. About 8 percent of Africa's savanna elephants are lost each year, primarily because of poaching. A shocking discovery found in 2016 was made in northern Cameroon, where survey teams could count no more than 148 elephants, along with many carcasses, revealing a tiny regional population in immediate danger of extinction. Poaching is so serious that many rangers risk their lives protecting the elephants, some even got injured or killed.

Elephants are highly intelligent creatures, they are also keystone species, playing an important role in maintaining the biodiversity of the ecosystems in which they live. Now these beautiful creatures may become extinct because of human greed and stupidity. We all have a responsibility to protect and make sure the elephants survive. I urge the HK government not to wait but to take immediate action to pass the bill banning the ivory trade.



The bodies of elephants killed by poachers are left behind in Bouba Ndjidah National Park, in Cameroon.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY BRENT STIRTON, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE

Regards

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