



Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants
Jeffrey Chow to: bc_06_16

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To the Committee on Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants,
My name is Jeffrey Chow and I am a resident of Hong Kong, in Ho Man Tin. I hold a PhD in Environmental Studies from Yale University as well as two Masters Degrees in Environmental Management from Duke University, specializing in environmental economics and policy. I have worked in this sector for years, producing numerous peer reviewed scientific studies published in well-respected academic journals.

It is from that foundation of experience and expertise that I request that the Hong Kong legislative council pass the currently debated ivory ban WITHOUT compensation for ivory carvers and traders. From an economic point of view, compensation will create greater incentives for poachers and smugglers to obtain and ship illegal ivory into Hong Kong, causing further harm to fragile elephant populations. Only by increasing the punishments for ivory poaching, smuggling, and trading can elephant populations be protected. In contrast, offering compensation increases the rewards for these activities, and would have the opposite, negative effect on populations. For good reason, no other country which has banned the trade of endangered species offers such compensation, and Hong Kong would set a poor precedent if it became the first.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Chow, PhD