



Help HK Government Ban the Hong Kong Ivory Trade
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Hon Kenneth Leung
Room 918, Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Kenneth Leung,

Public Hearing on September 6th 2017: Cap 586 Amendment Bill

My name is Daniel Toole and I have been a resident of Hong Kong since May 2010.

I am writing to you to express my support for the Hong Kong Government's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill. The threat to global elephant populations, especially the African elephant is profound and our generation will have to take responsibility for the near extinction of the elephant if the global ivory trade is not curtailed. We risk setting a terrible precedent by allowing earth's largest land mammal to become extinct. We are in effect signaling our indifference to the plight of earth wild animals and further species will soon follow the elephants fate! This will be the legacy we leave our children and grandchildren!

I support the government's three-step plan to ban the Hong Kong ivory trade; and its proposals to increase maximum penalties under the Protection of Endangered Species Ordinance (Cap 586).

However, I do not support any proposal to compensate ivory traders or buy out their stocks. My reasons are as stated:

- Providing any form of compensation will signal that Hong Kong is 'buying' ivory, likely triggering a surge of poaching in Africa.
- Compensation would establish a dangerous global precedent for other countries working to ban the trade.
- The Hong Kong Government is not depriving ivory owners of all use of property.
- Traders and others who have speculated on ivory have done so, knowing the risks of a shrinking legal market.
- The heritage value and traditional skills of carvers are not a reason to continue the trade.
- Carvers and traders have had over two decades since the international ban, to diversify and/or switch trades. Most have done so.

In conclusion if Hong Kong wishes to consider itself a progressive and informed society then our legislators have an obligation to demonstrate those values and uphold the will of the people and not be bound to the will of a self-serving functional constituency.

Sincerely Yours,
Daniel Toole