Ban Ivory Trade
Julia Leung to: bc_06_16 05/09/2017 23:28
Cc: Julia Leung

Dear Hon Kenneth Leung,

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

I am writing to express my support for the Hong Kong Government's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill because there is no way such a violent trade has any reason to continue. Not only is the trade itself inhumane, it can cause extinction or great population of a majestic animal. Not protecting animal with CITES status would reflect poorly on any countries or cities that take even the slight part in the trade. My request is simple: Ban ivory trade asap, and no compensation (tax payer's money) to anyone involved in the trade.

I fully 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 am strongly against any proposition to compensate 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.

Regards,
Julia Leung