



Please support a full ivory ban
Mercedes Hutton to: bc_06_16

06/09/2017 09:05

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to the Bills Committee to express my support for a full ivory ban, without compensation for the traders, in Hong Kong.

Last night, I attended a screening of *The Last Animals*, directed by Kate Brooks, at Hong Kong University, a harrowing documentary that recounts the devastating impact of the ivory trade on both the elephant populations in Africa and the humans that endeavour to protect them.

Highlighted in the film is the link between the wildlife trade and criminal cartels, who use the money earned from ivory sales to fund international and domestic terrorism and human and drug trafficking. Much of this is known to international authorities and governments but is allowed to continue nonetheless, and, where there is a market for such items (such as ivory in Hong Kong), the trade will continue. Thus, I urge Legco to implement a full and complete ban on ivory, forthwith.

With regards to the issue of compensation for traders, I do not believe it should be granted. If traders were to be compensated, it vindicates the actions of the poachers - in effect, it surmises that elephants are equal to money - and will lead to a spike in elephant deaths, which directly opposes the effectiveness of the ban. Furthermore, if anyone is to receive compensation for their losses suffered at the hands of this cruel trade, it should be the children and widows of the rangers who lost their lives so heroically trying to protect the elephants from better armed and better trained adversaries.

Many thanks for your time and I hope you take these points into consideration when discussing the ivory ban.

Yours sincerely,
Mercedes Hutton

