



Ivory Ban WITHOUT COMPENSATION
Donald Greig to: bc_06_16
Cc: Donald Greig

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4th September 2017

Hon Kenneth Leung
Room 918, Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Hon Kenneth Leung,

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

I am Dr. Donald Greig, a General Surgeon from Scotland. I have been a resident of Hong Kong SAR for almost 20 years and I am a holder of a permanent residency HKID.

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for the Hong Kong Government's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill because I am concerned about elephants and the unjustifiable butchery incurred by these sentient animals at the hands of poachers and fuelled by the unscrupulous ivory traders who act without compassion, conscience or remorse at the slaughter of these magnificent giants to make a quick buck and sustain an illegal business.

I have recently returned from Botswana and Zambia where I spent 9 days on safari with my wife. Botswana has 40% of Africa's elephants and while they used to migrate northwards through Namibia and Angola, they now stop at the border as they have developed learned behaviour where they know that to venture into these lawless lands, they understand they will be at risk of being shot and de-tusked.

I would like to share but one of my personal recent experiences of these mammals with you. In Botswana, we had just had our mid game drive morning coffee and were in the stationary landrover under one of the trees which bears ground fruit as a staple for a number of animals including baboons, antelopes and elephants while discussing comfort zones for animals and their relationship to people. Out of the bush came a matriarch and her calf walking towards our vehicle. They kept on walking towards us. We asked the tracker, "What about the mother's comfort zones especially with a calf in tow?" "Let's wait and see as she will determine how comfortable she is with us", he replied. Both elephants continued to walk towards and passed the vehicle about 8 feet away. It was known that they were probably more interested in how they could get to the fruit on the ground rather than the landrover occupying their feeding zone. They walked passed the vehicle for about 50 yards and stopped. The matriarch turned around, looked at us in the vehicle, left the calf at a safe distance and walked back to the vehicle's left side but this time, she was only 1-2 feet away and paused as she slowly walked down the side of the vehicle looking at each and everyone one of its occupants, so close that had we

been able to, we would have been able to brush her skin. She sensed and had absolute confidence that we were not a threat to her or her calf. Based on dozens of years of experience, the ongoing thought processes and intelligence of this magnificent creature were so perceptible. Once she had reached the end of the vehicle, she waved her trunk which we thought at one point was coming inside the vehicle.....but it did not. She turned around again and walked back to her calf. This is a wild animal. We were not in a zoo. It is cogent to appreciate the intimate and momentary experience we had with this intelligent creature which could easily have tipped over our vehicle had it in the slightest felt threatened. While it unimaginable that humans would want to butcher these animals for their ivory, it is a sad reality that they do to create jewellery or sculptures. Thus in turn, it perpetuates the highly profitable business of the poachers and ivory traders. If market forces prevail, if there is no product to sell, there is no profit to be made and the business will collapse but this requires the willingness of governments to forcefully act with absolute resolution.

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 do not support 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.

Yours Sincerely

Dr. JD Greig
Specialist in Surgery
Managing Partner HKSS