



Compensating the Ivory Trade using HK Taxpayers ' money

Josh Mostyn to: bc\_06\_16

06/09/2017 17:32

Dear Sir/Madam,

Having recently attended the Royal Geographical Society's screening of 'The Ivory Game' I feel compelled to write to you given the regrettably central role Hong Kong has played in the illegal and sadistic slaughter of thousands of highly intelligent wild animals in the pursuit of ivory. As a Hong Kong resident I feel embarrassed that this great city has been linked with something so heinous and I am glad that the government is taking steps to enact a complete ban of the ivory trade, however I vehemently oppose any notion that ivory traders should be compensated for their stock.

Mainland China is banning ivory sales by the end of this year and whilst I wish Hong Kong could have done the same it won't be until the end of 2021 that a complete ban on the possession of ivory for commercial purposes comes into effect. During the coming 4 years it is hard to see anything other than Hong Kong becoming an even bigger hotbed for the sale of ivory which will simply be illegally smuggled across the border into the mainland. Traders are likely to experience a boom in business during this period (which in itself infuriates me as to why Hong Kong has given such a long run way for these traders whilst Mainland China is able to give just a 1 year warning, however that is a topic for another day). Nevertheless on top of this excessively generous 5 year period of trade I understand that the ivory industry has the nerve to ask for Hong Kong taxpayers to compensate them for their 'stock'. For Hong Kong's global reputation the government must not yield to these demands. It would set a dangerous precedent around the world encouraging poachers to increase their killing just before a ban in order to maximize their income and thereby completely defeating the purpose of an ivory ban in the first place. I implore the council to whole heartedly support the ivory ban bill and please make the only logical decision to reject ivory traders' calls to reward them for participating in this nefarious and evil industry and provide them with further ill-gotten gains.

Yours sincerely,

Josh Mostyn

HKID: [REDACTED]

Josh Mostyn

Analyst - EISAL (Environmental Investment Services Asia Limited)

[REDACTED]