



Public Hearing on September 6th 2017: Cap 586 Amendment Bill Dear Hon Kenneth Leung, Public Hearing on September 6th 2017: Cap 586 Amendment Bill I am Caroline de Bruijne and I've been living in HK for 7 years. I am writing to express my support for the Hong Kong Government 's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill because today , ivory poaching has reached unprecedented levels driven by demand in Asia . If nothing is done, the African elephant populations in the wild will become extinct in our lifetime. 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

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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.

Sincerely Yours,
Caroline de Bruijne