



**Public Hearing on September 6th, 2017:CAP 586 Amendment Bill, LC
paper No. CB(1)1397/16-17(77)**
Adriaan Doets to: BC_06_16

11/09/2017 21:04

Dear Hon Kenneth Leung,

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

We are Helga and Adriaan and have been living in Hong Kong for the last 6 years. We are writing to express our 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 life time.

We fully support the government's 3-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 we don't support any proposition to compensate traders or buy out their stocks. Our reasoning is as follows:

- Providing any form of compensation will give a 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;
- Hong Kong government is not depriving ivory owners of all use of property;
- Traders and other who have speculated on ivory have done so, knowing the risks of a shrinking legal market;
- The heritage value and traditional skill of carvers are not a reason to continue the trade;
- Carvers and traders have had over 20 years since the international ban to diversify and/or switch trades. Most have done so.

Sincerely yours,

Helga DANKAART & Adriaan DOETS