



**trading of Ivory Ban**  
**Catherine Leonard** to: bc\_06\_16

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Dear Sir/Madam

The plight of the African elephant is extremely serious and the trade in ivory can only make this situation more dire.

It is a terrible thought that within my life time the African elephant could become extinct.

The Hong Kong government and the population need to be more informed about the issues surrounding the Ivory trade and take more responsibility . The trade in Ivory is immoral and outdated and needs to stop. The traders are well aware of their role in destroying the African elephant .

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 plans to compensate traders or buy out their stocks.

This is because:

- 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.
- 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.
- Hong Kong should be a world leader in the ban of the ivory trade and should take a lead from the Mainland which has been far more proactive in banning the trade

Yours Faithfully

Catherine (Leonard)  
HK Permanent Resident