



Society for the Prevention  
of Cruelty to Animals (HK)  
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Dr Hon Tanya Chan  
Chair  
Panel on Environmental Affairs  
Legislative Council  
Hong Kong

25<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear Hon. Tanya Chan,

**"Abolition of Hong Kong's Ivory Trade and increased penalties for wildlife crime"**

The SPCA strongly supports the Hong Kong Government's intent to ban the domestic ivory trade in Hong Kong and further restrict / regulate any ivory import / re-export and possession. We equally support the increasing of maximum penalties for wildlife related crimes such as smuggling and illegally trading in endangered species. We ask that Legislators support and help to introduce these measures in a timely manner - banning the ivory trade sooner – helping to better protect wild animals and prevent their suffering.

Domestic ivory markets have been recognised to drive elephant poaching - decimating some populations with the illegal ivory then being trafficked globally. Much of this ivory is destined for markets in Asia. Some ends up being laundered through Hong Kong's domestic ivory trade as has been shown by the recent case investigated by AFCD where radiocarbon dating identified illegal post-convention ivory being held by a trader.

Often the ivory sold in Hong Kong is not truly for domestic consumption with much being smuggled over borders. Recently, China committed to ending the legal ivory trade by the end of 2017. There is a concern that with such a ban in China in place whilst Hong Kong still allows its so-called domestic trade will result in increased smuggling from Hong Kong.

At the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) it was recommended as a matter of urgency that domestic ivory markets be closed where they are linked to wildlife crime (poaching, smuggling and illegal trade). We recommend that in light of the above problems that the proposed timeline should be amended to phase out Hong Kong's domestic trade sooner.

Should you have any enquiries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact us on 2232563 or by email c/o: [fiona.woodhouse@sPCA.org.hk](mailto:fiona.woodhouse@sPCA.org.hk).

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