



Support Government's Proposal for HK Ivory Trade Ban

info@tanyachan.hk,
laura garcía díaz to: panel_ea@legco.gov.hk,

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Dear Chair of the Panel on Environmental Affairs,
Dear Legislative Council Members

Today I am writing to you to urge you to strongly support your government's proposal to not only ban the ivory trade as soon as ever possible, but also to increase the penalties for illegal wildlife trade as much as possible. As elephants in Africa are poached for their ivory at a catastrophic rate and only around 350,000 elephants are left in the wild, banning all trade in ivory in every place and country of the world is absolutely necessary. As Hong Kong and mainland China are having the biggest local ivory markets in the world, it is of utmost importance to close these markets quickly. Mainland China has already announced to close their ivory market until the end of this year. Therefore it is most important that Hong Kong will follow suit, as not supporting a Hong Kong ivory ban would undermine the efforts of the mainland to tackle the illegal ivory trade. Hong Kong already showed that it cares for the survival of elephants by destroying their stockpiles of seized ivory recently. This was a great step. But more measures are needed. Shutting down the local ivory trade is necessary. As elephant numbers are plunging with breathtaking speed, a five-years-plan as proposed by Hong Kong, would risk the lives of more hundred thousands of elephants. Therefore I urge you to not only vote for the local ivory ban but to strongly press for a much quicker timeline to close the HK market within one year.

Thanking you in advance!
Yours sincerely,
Laura García Díaz
Spain