



**Support government's ban on ivory trade**  
Bongrain, Karen to: panel\_ea@legco.gov.hk

29/05/2017 17:30

Dear Tanya Chan,

It has been brought to my attention that the decreasing rate of elephant population is becoming alarming and if no actions are carried out, then elephant populations in the wild can become extinct in our lifetime. This is largely due to illegal poaching feeding the illegal market demand and the need to replenish old ivory stocks. This never ending war has also knock on effects on countries economy by driving down their wildlife tourism and poses park rangers at terrible risk of death. It is evident that there is strong global support for closing ivory markets and so should Hong Kong. As wildlife crime is severing, Hong Kong lacks deterrent sentencing and strict penalties. I hence fully support the government to increase penalties for wildlife crime, and to ban the import, re-export and possession of pre-Convention ivory for commercial purposes.

I also strongly oppose any proposals for any compensation to ivory traders. I believe compensation can create encouragement for dishonest traders in Hong Kong to increase their ivory stock in the short term from illegal sources, before the ban becomes effective. This can in return fuel poaching by increasing future compensation payments and be counter-intuitive for the goal of the ban.

Finally, public funds should not be made available to industries or trades that have such adverse effects on the economy, environment and society. Hong Kong should be made an exemplary guide of sustainability and strive for long-term goals that benefit local and global economy, environment and society.

I hope you can understand the need to ban the ivory trade, as the benefits have a global impact. I truly believe Hong Kong can become a leading example of true sustainability. The situation of what the trade has caused for the elephant population calls for urgent actions. The ban will be a great step forward in limiting the demand and hence the killing.

Kind regards,

Karen

Karen Bongrain

MSc Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Student

Imperial College London | [www.imperial.ac.uk](http://www.imperial.ac.uk)

Mobile: +44 (0) [REDACTED] | Skype: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]