



Urgent Plea for Total Ban of Ivory Trade - Hong Kong
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Dear Sir/ Madam,

Herewith my personal testimony with some links as reference. For so many reasons, Hong Kong needs to respectfully, BAN the trade of ivory - legal and illegal - most urgently!

The Great Elephant Census that was undertaken by Paul G. Allen's Vulcan Inc indicated that in a 7 year period, the Savannah elephant (in 15 countries out of 18 surveyed in Africa) dropped by 30% in numbers, an equivalent of 144k elephants lost.

Link to Study: <http://www.greatelephantcensus.com/final-report/>

The 7 year period ranges from 2007 to 2014 and includes 2008 when the ivory stockpile was allowed to be sold to the East.

Such a drop in elephant numbers could thus be directly accredited to the rise in poaching due to the fueling of demand for ivory - the flow of ivory from legal markets to illegal is very difficult to control. Far more stock of ivory was sold or traded than the original stock pile sold. So any form of legal trade or sale of ivory fuels illegal markets and demand, resulting in the demise of the elephant populations, and hence the species. And since numbers of elephants left in the wild - less than 400k - are far less than envisioned, there is a huge concern amongst conservationists that a prolonged trade in ivory will result in the extinction of the species at a much earlier date than anticipated, possibly less than a decade at this rate.

When a matriarch or mother is poached, the entire family suffers. And it affects the longevity of the herd / family - not just the poached elephants. Every 15 minutes an elephant is killed for its tusks. As per Dr Paula Kahumbu of Wildlife Direct in Kenya, in fact "every 15 minutes an entire family of elephants is destroyed" so the detrimental repercussions to entire elephant populations in the area are tremendous.

Further more, elephants are known to be the earth's gardeners and natural architects. They spread the seeds across the savannah's and clear the grounds to enable the natural eco-system in any area to function well and progress.

Without elephants, natural flora will cease to grow and exist and the planet will suffer. These gentle giants have left such an impact in our world, emotionally and physically! They help us BREATHE! Without them, what we leave behind for our children and our children's children will be a barren planet with no means of survival.

It is vital the buying stops, to end the demand. Banning the ivory trade immediately will help ensure that the elephant species survives and lives! We as humans need them alive for our planet to survive!

As per The Jungle Book 2016 Movie: "Bow your head to the elephants, show them respect!"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKRr_f85shA

They deserve our RESPECT and Protection! We urge you to kill the trade and instate a total ban on both legal and illegal ivory trade.

Thank you most kindly

Mariana Fernandes

Core Strategist

GMFER

<http://march4elephantsandrhinosaurs.org/>

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