



Support the Ivory Ban
Samantha Klein to: panel_ea

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To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Samantha Klein and I am a wildlife biologist living in Hong Kong. I am writing this letter to you today to urge you to support the ban on the import re-export and possession of pre-convention ivory for commercial purposes and act to increase penalties for wildlife crime.

Traders have been found to replenish ivory stocks with newly poached ivory and in the 1990s 85% of the stock was from illegal sources. This demand has led to increasing illegal poaching of african elephants and caused their population to decline dramatically. The existence of wild populations of african elephants is crucial to maintain healthy ecosystems and for eco tourism. If Hong Kong continues the ivory trade we will be complicit in the extinction of the largest land animal on earth, this is not a position we want to be in.

I also urge you to oppose any suggestion of compensation for ivory traders. The traders have been forewarned for 27 years to prepare for this ban on ivory. Compensation can motivate dishonest traders in Hong Kong to increase their ivory stock in the short term from illegal sources, before the ban becomes effective.

Thus increasing future compensation payments and having a perverse impact by increasing poaching.

We must immediately send a signal to the the illegal ivory trade that there is a finite period between the legislation passing and coming in to force, where they can poach ivory to supply the Hong Kong trade - thus again fueling poaching.

Public funds, should not be made available to any industries or trades which are adversely affected by changes in economic or commercial circumstances when they have been warned for decades.

Please support the ban of the ivory trade in Hong Kong. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Samantha Klein