



**Ivory Trade in Hong Kong**  
Soula Christos to: panel\_ea

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Attn: Hon Tanya Chan

As an African resident, photographer and admirer of wildlife, I have come to learn much about elephants. Due to demand of ivory, there is an ever-increasing growth in poaching, with populations in Africa and Asia plummeting at an alarming rate in the past 20 years. At this rate, it won't be long before elephants face extinction.

What a terrible place the earth will be without these gentle giants, who have strong family bonds and love for their herd.

Killing just 1 elephant in a herd leads to a period of mourning and stress for the whole herd.

As the bigger tuskers are poached more for the size of their tusks, the whole gene pool is getting weaker because those elephants are mostly still at a breeding age. The ones left behind have smaller tusks and therefore breed with their genes being passed on.

I hereby write to tell you that I wholeheartedly SUPPORT the Hong Kong government's ivory ban. I also believe that wildlife crimes should be dealt with harshly. It would leave a terrible stigma on the far east if both elephants and rhinos are critically endangered for reasons that are unacceptable. Please let Hong Kong lead the way to demonstrate that other countries deserve to appreciate their heritage and that wildlife plays a big role in our enjoyment of life. Trinkets, ornaments and carvings are not worth the death of these.

Thank you,  
Mrs V Christos

Sent from my Samsung device