

Legislative Council
Of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
OF the People's Republic of China



RE: Legislative proposal to phase out the local trade in ivory
Special meeting on 6 June 2017

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Most respected council members:

As a long-standing advocate to save African elephants, as a filmmaker devoted to bringing the elephant crisis to the public, and as an ardent member of the international NGO, Global March for Elephants and Rhinos, I congratulate you on your decision to consider the phasing out of local trade in ivory.

1. In China, reverence for the majestic elephants has been a respected tradition for many hundreds of years. Further, Chinese culture holds dear the idea of balance, of kindness, of compassion - great spiritual gifts that have been embraced the world over. Thus, as a moral and noble act, I would urge the council to phase out the local trade in ivory. The killing of elephants for their tusks alone, must end. Their ancestors were great, ancient beings whose decedents today bare proof of the extraordinary life that flourishes on our planet.

2. The demand for ivory, especially in China, continues to perpetuate a vast international criminal cartel whose furtherance of the black market in ivory has led to harsh, cruel, and deadly killing of elephants in Africa, as well as trapping local communities who live near elephants with the prospects of being forced to enter into the poaching of elephants by the criminals, by non-state armed actors who roam the African continent. These activities are destroying the social fabric of local communities and of their respective nations whose otherwise stable lives would best suit China's interest in the great resources and business opportunities available in so many African countries.

3. Hong Kong enjoys a robust, vibrant culture, businesses thrive, the city is a world center, a success story that serves as an example in so many ways. The world looks to Hong Kong as an important locus for leadership. Ending local trade in ivory would truly function as a very strong measure to end the killing of elephants in Africa, and signal an important shift in the paradigm toward a more just and compassionate world for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hale Anderson
Core member: Global March for Elephants and Rhinos, Inc.
Mountainridge.east@gmail.com