



ElephantVoices supports an ivory trade ban, increases in penalties, and opposes compensation

Joyce Poole to: panel_ea
Cc: Petter Granli

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Ms Tanya Chan
Chair, Environmental Affairs Panel
Hong Kong Legislative Council

Dear Ms Chan,

My name is Joyce Poole. I am Co-Founder and Co-Director of ElephantVoices and I have studied elephants and worked for their conservation and welfare for 45 years. I have visited Hong Kong twice to rally support for a close of ivory trading - once in 1989, when I met with government officials and a delegation of ivory traders, and again in 2010 when I gave a lecture at the Geographic Society about the issue and spoke to the press about the threat to African elephants.

I am writing today to add our voice in support of Hong Kong's proposed ivory ban and increases in penalties for wildlife crime. ElephantVoices also wishes to voice its opposition to the Hong Kong Government paying any compensation to the Hong Kong traders for their ivory stocks. Any compensation would send a wrong signal to society and a strong signal to poachers in Africa that the Hong Kong government has started paying out money for ivory, and it could trigger a new round of poaching of African elephants.

I am writing to you from Gorongosa, Mozambique where poaching is on the rise, once more. Just two days ago we found a 25 year old male incapacitated in the river as he fought for his life. He passed away the following day - his front leg was swollen to more than double its normal size due to wounds inflicted in March by AK47 bullets. His suffering was finally brought to an end, but this tragedy continues to play out across the continent due to human greed for luxury goods in far away places.

The future of African elephants is hanging in the balance and Hong Kong has a responsibility to join world society in bringing an end to the tragic slaughter of one of the planet's most iconic species.

Thank you for considering our views on this important issue.

Joyce H. Poole, PhD

Gorongosa male elephant #112 lies dying in the Rio Urema due to a poacher's bullets. He was targeted for his tusks and suffered in agony for over 2 months.



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