



Supporting the Hong Kong Government's Ivory Trade Ban
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31/05/2017 14:19

To Whom it May Concern,

Public Hearing on June 6th 2017: Supporting the Hong Kong Government's Ivory Trade Ban

I am writing to show my wholehearted support for the Hong Kong Government's legislative proposal to ban the ivory trade in Hong Kong. This includes to its proposals to increase maximum penalties under the Protection of Endangered Species Ordinance Cap 586.

My support does not however, extend to a proposition to compensate traders or to buy out their stocks.

Reasons in support of the Ivory Trade Ban and Raised Penalties

I am incredibly proud to have been born and raised in Hong Kong. But every so often, when we are confronted with an opportunity to embody progressive, compassionate and contemporary values – that pride can wane. Too often are we weighed down by outdated ideologies.

Whereas ignorance was once a valid excuse for turning a blind eye, ivory poaching has reached unprecedented levels. We have all seen the images, heard the stories and understand the economics of the problem. We cannot claim ignorance of this cruelty, any longer.

As a city with biodiversity that continues to inspire world-renowned scientists and researchers, we should be more attuned than ever to the importance of preserving species and protecting at-risk wildlife. Our position in the barbaric ivory supply chain, is one that directly impacts the future of elephants – creatures that have been proven to be intelligent and compassionate.

We are far too advanced a society to turn a blind eye and I applaud the

Government for contributing to the end of the ivory trade.

Reasons I do not support compensation for Traders or Government Buying of Ivory Stocks

Placing any value on this industry, regardless of whether it is temporary compensation or a way to remove stock from circulation, is completely counter-intuitive. It validates the value of the industry, and that does not leave Hong Kong on the right side of this cruel process.

People have an infinite capacity to adapt. It is what defines us. We can all appreciate that there are jobs, that, like the elephants, are going extinct, in today's modern world. And we can all appreciate that that will cause a degree of hardship and a period of adjustment. But that is just the way the world is. Human beings are enterprising and resilient. Traders will find new applications for their skills that do not support a chain of cruelty. Just as fossil fuel industries are being replaced with renewable energies, there are new waves of career journeys that will feed healthier, happier industries that preserve our planet, its resources and its creatures.

While I do not support compensation to traders, I do support investment in non-financial assistance programmes such as retraining for industry workers.

Yours sincerely,

Cruzanne Macalligan

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