

Submission from Kira FONTAINE

In this proposal, I will be discussing why the ivory trade ban should come into effect immediately. This is on the basis that over the course of the three year leeway many elephants will lose their lives in order to sustain the elephant ivory trade in Hong Kong. During these three years, it encourages ivory traders to increase the export of ivory in order to sustain themselves in a black market situation. For example, in 1989 after the international ivory trade was banned, a system was created in which licenses were given to existing legally acquired commercial ivory stocks held by private traders. At this time, it totaled 665 metric tons. According to studies, the amount should have been exhausted by 2004. However, today roughly 370 licensed ivory traders collectively hold roughly 77 tons of ivory. If Hong Kong would like to lose its title as the largest trader of ivory, the ivory trade ban must come into effect immediately. This would not only be detrimental to the world's perception of Hong Kong, but also largely impacts the environment surrounding where the ivory is extracted from. Purely because of the ivory trade, an estimate of 60% of elephant deaths are as a result of the ivory trade. In conclusion, I believe that the ivory trade ban should commence immediately.