



Support Hong Kong Ivory Ban Proposal (Written Testimony)
lsb515 to: panel_ea

01/06/2017 01:32

Dear Honourable Tanya Chan (LegCo Environmental Affairs Panel),
I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Hong Kong SAR Government's Ivory Ban Proposal.

Attached is a PDF of my written testimony. I appreciate your time in reading my detailed testimony. Your support is crucial in saving elephants from cruelty, poaching and the imminent threat of extinction.

Sincerely,
Lisa Brisley (Global March for Elephants and Rhinos, Organizer - Portland, Oregon, USA)



Hong Kong's Ivory Ban Testimony.pdf

May 29, 2017

To: The Honourable Tanya Chan, Chair of the Panel on Environmental Affairs,
Legislative Council Members

From: Lisa Brisley

(Global March for Elephants and Rhinos - Organizer, Portland, Oregon, USA)

Re: (1) Support Hong Kong SAR Government's Ivory Ban Proposal

(2) Support for 10 year (minimum) prison sentence for wildlife crime offenders

(3) Oppose any financial compensation for ivory traders

Dear Honourable Tanya Chan, Chair of the Panel on Environmental Affairs, and
Legislative Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Hong Kong SAR Government's Ivory Ban Proposal, which includes a ban on import, re-export and possession of Pre-Convention ivory for commercial purposes. I respectfully urge you to consider a new 2017 timeline to coincide with mainland China's total ivory trade ban which will take effect at the end of 2017. Your support to increase Hong Kong's penalty for smuggling and illegal trading of endangered animal species to unlimited fines and 10 years (minimum) imprisonment, and opposing any financial compensation for ivory traders is greatly appreciated and desperately needed to save elephants from cruelty, poaching and the imminent threat of extinction.

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous, positive action" (Martin Luther King, Jr.).

It is a sad, but harsh reality that wild elephants are literally less than 10 years away from extinction due to a mass poaching crisis, often referred to as "wildlife genocide," that is driven by an insatiable demand for ivory products that are made from dead elephants' ivory tusks. It is estimated that one elephant is brutally killed every 15 minutes and approximately 30,000 elephants are killed every year - leaving less than 350,000 elephants in the wild. It is an understatement to say that elephants need our immediate protection, attention and action by putting an

immediate end to the ivory trade worldwide. The time to act swiftly is now, before it is too late.

As grateful as I am to hear of Hong Kong's Ivory Ban Proposal, the truth is that elephants cannot wait for Hong Kong's proposed date of December 31, 2021 to ban its ivory trade. Due to the alarming poaching rate, time is running out and therefore, I respectfully urge you to speed-up the timeline to completely ban Hong Kong's ivory trade within the 2017 year to coincide with mainland China. "Hong Kong's ivory trade is intrinsically linked with mainland China, which has decisively moved to phase-out ivory trade by the end of the year (2017) – Hong Kong must not fall behind. Parity in policy with mainland China is crucial if the full impact of curbing ivory trafficking is to be realized" (Dr. Yannick Kuehl, TRAFFIC's Regional Director of East and South Asia.)

"Hong Kong's local ivory trade ban must be accompanied by an amplified suite of monitoring and law enforcement activities if the full impact of the proposed ivory ban is to be realized. Experience teaches us that bans with commensurate investment and dedication to their effective implementation would deliver the best outcome" (Tom Milliken, TRAFFIC's Elephant and Rhino Programme Leader).

Thank you for your consideration in supporting Hong Kong SAR Government's Ivory Ban Proposal with the above mentioned modifications. Your support is crucial to saving elephants from cruelty, poaching and the imminent threat of extinction.

Sincerely,

Lisa Brisley

(Global March for Elephants and Rhinos – Organizer, Portland, Oregon, USA)