

Written Submission to the HKSAR Government in response to the Legislative Proposal to Phase Out the Local Trade in Ivory.

From the Environmental Life Science Society, SS, HKUSU

The Environmental Life Science Society, SS, HKUSU was founded in 2005 to serve the students studying Ecology & Biodiversity in the University of Hong Kong. The society also focuses on promoting environmental conservation as well as the high biodiversity of Hong Kong to the public with the identity of a student body as well.

Elephants are important members of their communities ecologically, often considered as a keystone species that fills the niche of dispersing plants with large seeds. Yet, population of elephants were declining due to illegal poaching. More than often, the females that take care of the young are also targeted by the poachers for their tusks, leading the young infants to die as they are unable to survive without parental care. As a result, elephant populations are reduced to alarming numbers, threatening ecological imbalance once they become extinct.

Ivory is the greatest incentive behind the poaching of elephants and we therefore believe that to conserve the elephant populations, ivory should no longer be portrayed or promoted as a commodity. Any trading of ivory only further re-enforces the concept that ivory is a desirable good, and should be banned for that reason.

Thus, the Society supports the advancements of the government in phasing out the local ivory trade, from the ecological standpoint, and appreciates the government's determination in combating the trade of endangered species in the effort of nature conservation.

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Chairman

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