



Ban ivory trade! No compensation!

Jamie CHAN to: undisclosed-recipients;

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Dear Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a Form 5 student in strong support for the ivory trade ban. I support the government's proposal to ban the import, re-export and possession of pre-Convention ivory for commercial purposes and increase penalties for wildlife crime

Hong Kong's 'legal' trade in pre-Convention ivory has been administered through a licensing system that has provided a front for laundering illegal ivory. Traders have been found to replenish old ivory stocks with newly poached ivory, which is impossible to check.

Today, ivory poaching has reached unprecedented levels driven by demand in Asia. If nothing is done, the African elephant populations in the wild will become extinct in our lifetime. The illegal ivory trade impacts wildlife tourism economically, not to mention the tragic deaths of park rangers annually. The global support for closing ivory markets is clear, 183 countries/territories of CITES are unified in closing domestic markets that contribute to poaching or illegal trade in ivory.

However, I do not support proposals for any compensation to ivory traders.

The ivory traders have been forewarned for 27 years to prepare and sell their ivory and they have an additional 5 year grace period once the legislation comes into force. No other country has provided compensation and China will not do so when their ban comes into force at the end of this year.

Compensation can motivate dishonest traders in Hong Kong to increase their ivory stock in the short term from illegal sources, before the ban becomes effective. Thus increasing future compensation payments and having a perverse impact i.e. fueling poaching.

This will also immediately send a signal to the the illegal ivory trade that there is a finite period between the legislation passing and coming in to force, where they can poach ivory to supply the Hong Kong trade - thus again fueling poaching.

Public funds should not be made available to any industries or trades which are adversely affected by changes in economic or commercial circumstances when they have been repeatedly forewarned over decades.

I hope you take this into consideration when voting on the bill in the coming days, and that you think about protecting the wildlife.

Best,
Jamie

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