

Dear Hong Kong Government Official:

I am a former zookeeper who lives in the United States writing to express my concern about the legislative proposal to wait five more years in Hong Kong before a total ban in ivory sales goes into effect. While I can understand the traders' desire to sell off their stockpiled ivory wares, my understanding is that this will NOT be in the best interests of the future survival of the African Elephant species, as any legal trade will continue to fuel the illegal trade in ivory.

I have a background in science and have spent my career working with endangered species and studying the conservation issues surrounding them. So my opinion is based on a great deal of research that I have done both on the job and on my own time.

I personally feel a great deal of grief that we are at a point in history where the future survival of this magnificent elephant species is looking so unlikely. A world without these creatures will be a far more impoverished place and the idea of being among the living humans who let this tragedy unfold on our watch, so to speak, is appalling to me. I do not believe our great grandchildren will judge us kindly, if we allow this take place.

Please please, I am requesting an immediate ban on trade in ivory in Hong Kong, for the sake of the elephants' future. Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sara Martel

Dallas, Oregon, USA