



**Support for the Hong Kong ivory ban**

Maria Mossman to: panel\_ea@legco.gov.hk

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**Please respond to Maria Mossman**

Dear Council,

I am writing on behalf of the last remaining elephants on earth, for the last several years since I first became aware of the massacre of elephants, I have been campaigning every day for the ivory trade to be closed down globally!

As you are fully aware from the figures counted on the Great elephant census, Africa has lost a 3rd of it's elephants. A study in 2013 found that between 2002 and 2013, 65% of central Africa's forest elephants were killed for their ivory. Due to slow breeding rates in comparison to other species, it is estimated that it would take approximately 100 years for populations for forest elephants to recover even if all poaching ended tomorrow.

These magnificent animals have been studied and show compassion for their family, mourn the deaths of members killed in their herd, and are one of the most intelligent species on this planet. They are the gardeners of the forests, as well as dispersing seeds, elephants create paths and clearing through the forest, trampling down the undergrowth and letting in the light. This makes space for new saplings to break through and creates habitats for other creatures. There is so much we do not understand about them, and so much more we have to learn from them.

These majestic creatures are being gunned down with AK47's, they are being speared and poisoned! their faces are hacked off whilst they are still alive, their families left orphans, more commonly whole herds are wiped out, even the small babies with no tusks.

Over 1000 rangers have lost their lives trying to protect these creatures, trying to preserve humanity in a world that is killing these gentle giants, the largest mammal that walks this earth!

Humanity have destroyed elephants, now it's up to humanity to save them!

The announcement of China's ban comes with great applause from the rest of the world, they show courage, compassion and great world leadership in saving elephants, they will be remembered for their great vision for making the ban on ivory, but this ban can only make a difference if Hong Kong show the same willingness. Trade will simply move from China to Hong Kong with the possibility of poaching even accelerating in the 5 year period Hong Kong have given on their ivory ban.

A recent study showed that 100,000 elephants were killed between 2010 to 2012 this number is staggering and shows we have no time to waste in implementing bans across the world. I please urge you to bring in a ban as soon as possible and not wait until 2021.

I also urge you not to consider compensation to the ivory dealers, these traders have known for many years that ivory would be phased out, why should the government give them compensation? Their request is immoral, and is some what making a mockery of the government who have already given them 5 years. These traders have already made profit from the deaths of thousands of elephants, of the lives of rangers lost, and the instability that poaching causes across Africa. No person or organisation should be compensated who's trade has brought so much suffering!

I write to you today in hope that Hong Kong will also show great world leadership, bring in an ivory ban in a shorter period of time and give no compensation to ivory traders, and help bring an end to the suffering of so many.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely

Maria Mossman  
Action for Elephants UK.