



New Zealand
Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

23 March 2017

Ms Tanya Chan
Environmental Affairs Panel Chair
Hong Kong Legislative Council

Submission: Supporting the Hong Kong Government's Ivory Trade Ban

Dear Ms Chan

We refer to the Hong Kong Government's proposed legislation to ban the Hong Kong ivory trade and increase maximum penalties. We support this move.

The recent case of a captive (and as such, deemed protected) rhinoceros killed in a French zoological park and alleged theft of its horn cut away by chainsaw exemplifies the need for swift and strong action to be taken by jurisdictions around the world to make the trade in ivory and other endangered species illegal and subject to stringent penalty. Given the nature of the trade, severe penalties seem appropriate so as to act as a deterrent and to create an environment whereby the trade in such items is uneconomic.

The issue is not Hong Kong's alone and we are aware that the issue is topical in other jurisdictions, including New Zealand. It is a global issue and we acknowledge such.

However, Hong Kong has immediate opportunity to stand up and further show it is serious in its commitment to CITES and to making the trade in endangered species a higher level criminal offence. When there is no longer retail demand for ivory products, the trade in such products will be curtailed – and animals will cease to be unnecessarily slaughtered.

A mature and responsible society will acknowledge the need for legislative amendment. Hong Kong should display a positive attitude and enact the legislative amendments. We would further support legislative amendments coming into force with urgency rather than the currently proposed 2021 date.

Thank you for your attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Pearse'.

DR MERRIN PEARSE
SPOKESPERSON ON THE ENVIRONMENT
NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HONG KONG