

1<sup>st</sup> June 2017

Hon Tanya Chan  
Room 814, Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Hon Tanya Chan,

**Re: Supporting the Hong Kong Government's Ivory Trade Ban**

I am writing to express my full support of the upcoming legislative proposal to ban the ivory trade in Hong Kong, as well as the proposed increases to maximum penalties under the Protection of Endangered Species Ordinance Cap 586. In addition, I would like to strongly oppose any proposition to compensate ivory traders.

The ivory trade threatens not only the survival of majestic and endangered elephants, it also supports criminal activity and networks. The ban will clarify and streamline the legislation and enforcement of the ivory trade (by making all ivory trade illegal). This is in comparison with current confusion and difficulty in differentiating “legal pre-convention” and illegal ivory.

In addition, the ban and increased penalties will act as a deterrent to poachers and traders. It is my hope that the sooner the ban is passed, the sooner the demand for ivory and the poaching for ivory can be curbed. Hopefully elephant populations will then stop falling.

Whilst a ban on ivory will dissuade poachers, compensation for ivory may motivate dishonest traders, and sends a contradictory message. The global support for closing ivory markets has been very clear. Traders have been forewarned repeatedly, and have had years to prepare for the inevitable closing of ivory markets. Therefore, they do not need to be compensated. Funds would be much better utilised for more sustainable solutions such as retraining for industry workers or educating consumers.

Illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade is a well recognised problem with deep roots in Hong Kong. I hope that the ivory ban is just the beginning, and encourages further acknowledgement and action against wildlife crime.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Shing