



**ban the ivory trade**  
robert ferguson to: panel\_ea

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to Hon Tanya Chan,

I support the government's proposal to:

- ban the import, re-export and possession of pre-Convention ivory for commercial purposes
- and also increase penalties for wildlife crime

It is simply not acceptable that 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. Now, 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.

AND HONG KONG HAS A KEY PART TO PLAY IN THIS DEVELOPMENT. Do we really want Hong Kong known as the place where we let this happen? and to what benefit?

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. So why is "Asia's World City" left behind?

Hong Kong needs a real deterrent and strong sentencing with respect to wildlife crime.

i also do not support proposals for any compensation to ivory traders who 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. People who have speculated and stored ivory, can sell this ivory now, they do not need to be compensated (the proposed ban was announced 15 months ago and is not envisaged to be fully in place until December 2021). Most importantly perhaps No other country has provided compensation and China will not do so when their ban comes into force at the end of this year. 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.

So one has to ask, what are the real motivations about being so different from the worldwide moral, legal, and business standards? What lobby or payments or inducements can such an appalling trade have? We have done well to reduce sharks fin. Now its an obvious next step to stop ivory trading.

Signed  
-- J. R.

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