



**ivory trade**

TERESA LEE to: panel\_ea@legco.gov.hk  
Please respond to TERESA LEE

03/06/2017 14:47

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you today to express my complete and unequivocal support for an immediate ban on Hong Kong's ivory trade.

Given that Hong Kong is a major hub in the global ivory trade, it cannot escape responsibility for the decimation of elephants over the last several decades. These majestic and incredibly intelligent animals that peacefully co-exist with us on this earth are on the verge of extinction due to humanity's greed and vanity, all for a product that has absolutely no benefit to humankind whatsoever. If drastic measures are not taken by countries across the world to stop the senseless slaughter of African elephants, there is no doubt that these creatures will soon cease to exist in the wild.

Thus, I support an immediate ban on Hong Kong's ivory trade, rather than a phased in ban that will take 5 years, by which time there may be no elephants left to protect. I believe that there are two other measures which are critical in order to make the ban a success:

1.) Vastly increased penalties for the illicit wildlife trade as the current penalties amount to no more than a slap on the wrist and would hardly be a deterrent to anyone, much less the criminals who are profiting from the multi-billion dollar worldwide illegal wildlife trade. Often the criminal syndicates that are responsible for human and drug trafficking are also the same ones profiteering from wildlife trafficking, and the severity of the crime needs to be reflected in the penalties inflicted. Moreover, the same level of law enforcement resources that are being allocated to the investigation of crimes such as drug and human trafficking should also be allocated to crimes involving the wildlife trade as they all go hand in hand.

2.) There should be no compensation with regards to the ivory trade. Other countries that have instituted the ivory ban have not done it and there is no valid reason why the Hong Kong government needs to or should provide compensation.

Thank you for your consideration and I sincerely hope that you do the right thing on behalf of humanity, the elephants and other creatures that are an essential part of our ecosystem, and all of posterity.

Kind regards,  
Teresa Lee