



**Support for Hong Kong's proposed ivory trade ban & increase in penalties,
and opposition to compensation**

Rosalind Reeve to: panel_ea

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Hon Ms Tanya Chan

Chair, Environmental Affairs Panel

Hong Kong Legislative Council

Dear Ms Chan,

My name is Rosalind Reeve. I'm an environment lawyer and expert on CITES, and author of the legal textbook "Policing International Trade in Endangered Species: The CITES Treaty and Compliance", published by Earthscan and Chatham House. I have been working to end the ivory trade since 1988 when I first travelled to Kenya and Tanzania to investigate ivory trafficking for a London-based NGO. I subsequently coordinated and participated in a 3-year investigation into ivory trade in Southern Africa, and have been a legal and policy adviser on CITES and ivory trade to a number of NGOs, as well as providing support to African governments. I am currently CITES Project Director with the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation and Senior Adviser to the Fondation Franz Weber.

I am writing to you now in advance of the public hearing on 6th June to voice my strong support for Hong Kong's proposed legislation to ban the ivory trade and increase penalties for wildlife crime. The ivory trade is wiping out elephants across Africa. Hong Kong has a critically important role to play in ending the trade, and stopping this tragic slaughter. I therefore applaud the Government's bold initiative, and firmly believe that the proposed legislation, following on from China's decisive action in closing their market by the end of 2017, will have a major impact in our fight to save elephants.

I understand, however, that ivory traders in Hong Kong are calling for compensation for their ivory stocks. In my view it would be a grave mistake for the Government to pay any compensation. The signal this would send could be disastrous for elephants and would risk triggering renewed poaching. I therefore would like to add my voice to others who are strongly opposed to the payment of compensation.

Thank you for considering my views on this vitally important subject.

Yours sincerely

Rosalind Reeve, LLM, PhD