



BAN IVORY TRADE WITHOUT COMPENSATION

Vega Hall-Martin to: panel_ea

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I wholeheartedly implore you to

- 1) support the proposed ban on ivory trade in Hong Kong, and importantly;
- 2) oppose any suggestion of compensation

It is a grotesque trade which not only supports the slaughter of a majestic animal but also the murder of rangers on the ground. Not to mention the money that is made by the sale of ivory to support arms and drug trafficking. The Hong Kong government should be embarrassed that this still goes on.

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. Traders have been found to replenish old ivory stocks with newly poached ivory. Without expensive scientific analysis, it's impossible to distinguish 'legal' Pre-Convention ivory from 'illegal' ivory from poaching with the majority of stock registered with the government in the 1990s (85%) from illegal sources. 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.

I trust you will put an end to this.

Vega Hall-Martin

Hong Kong Citizen