



**Discussion of Ivory Ban on the 6th of June**

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Dear Legco Panel,

tomorrow you will discuss the ban on ivory sales in Hong Kong (one of the world's main illegal ports for ivory trade) and I am writing to tell you that to be on the right side of history you are morally bound to support this ban, to ensure it's rapid placement and to ensure that the traders (who have had 25 years to profit from the death of Elephants and to ready themselves for the time when this ban came into effect) do not receive any compensation.

If you need look only to one place for guidance then it should be to the mainland. Why would you let China embarrass the people of Hong Kong by implementing a stronger ban than the one you are considering?

China is going to lead the region in this respect and to not follow, and follow as quickly as you can, would be an embarrassment to us all.

Would you do this just to allow a few people to continue to profit from the deaths of these wonderful and sentient creatures?

The trade in all animals and plants like this for ornaments or medicine (with no proven benefit) is wrong and destructive of the ecosystems that support life on this planet. We are seeing Shark, Rhino, Tiger, Tortoise, Vaquita, Tuna, Pangolin and many many more animals being hunted and fished to extinction because China has become rich and greedy without understanding that it is now so big that these choices will remove these animals from our planet within a decade if nothing is done to stop it. The only place where prevention from extinction can come from is Government control of the trade of these endangered animals.

You have to start with Elephant and move quickly on to Rhino, Shark, Tiger, Tortoise and Pangolin before these creatures disappear. Your children will blame you for not doing enough to prevent this and nobody else can work to protect these creatures whilst you allow their wholesale slaughter for the profit of the few.

I beg you to ensure a strong ban tomorrow and to use the momentum of this ban to work on the other creatures mentioned above.

with best regards

Darren Catterall