



Ivory Ban
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Dear Legislative Council (of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region),

I strongly believe in the Hong Kong Government's decision to ban ivory is right and will be for the greater good. The main reason that elephants have been hunted in the wild is for their ivory. This is worth a ton of money and so huge numbers of elephants were slaughtered in order to be able to cash in on such a business.

I support the HK Government's decision to ban ivory. If we keep on hunting elephants, it could disrupt and even destroy ecosystems. Many animals have been hunted throughout history as a source of food and other reasons, but that isn't the case with the elephants. In fact, most of the early information about them indicates that they were highly regarded as amazing animals. They weren't killed for ivory or for any other purpose.

Thanks to the development of many synthetic materials, ivory is no longer used to make many forms of art or even piano keys. However, there is still a huge greed for it out there on the black market. What ivory is now taken from the elephants draws a huge price due to the limited supply of it out there. This means that illegal poaching of these elephants continues to take place.

I support and agree with the HK Government's proposed increase of penalty for wildlife crime.

Illegal wildlife trade has exploded to meet increasing demand for elephant ivory, rhino horns, and tiger fur and meat, especially in Asia. Today, wildlife crime is the fifth most profitable trade in the world, estimated at up to \$10 billion annually. Wildlife crime is also, in many respects, seems like a victim-less crime.

There are many indicators, and considerable evidence, demonstrating the involvement of organized criminal networks in the harvesting, processing, smuggling and trade of wildlife and wildlife products through sophisticated techniques spanning across national boundaries and continents. Fraud, counterfeiting, money-laundering, violence and corruption are often found in combination with various forms of wildlife crime. Please increase punishment and fines, I will leave the numbers to you.

I oppose the HK Government paying compensation to the Hong Kong ivory traders for their ivory stocks.

Instead of rewarding those who invested and speculated in extinction

and whose abuse of regulations halved elephant populations, surely it is the families of the many rangers killed by poachers, or the child victims of civil wars financed by ivory – or the African nations that have lost millions in tourism revenue – who should be compensated by the traders whose activities caused the problem?

They won't be, of course, and that's why it's morally offensive that the perpetrators of the elephant slaughter should even suggest that they be compensated.

News reports that ivory prices have more than halved in China over the past 18 months. Twenty-six years ago, the world called time on the international trade in elephant ivory, as it had halved African elephant populations in 15 years. Now governments are finally closing the remaining loophole that allowed domestic trade to continue and facilitated a second ivory crisis which has recently been claiming 33,000 elephants a year. You can do this too!

Ban ivory trades!

A supporter of your ban