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The Legislative Council of the Hong Kong SAR:  
Panel on Environmental Affairs

**Re: Support for Immediate Ban on Ivory Trade in Hong Kong**

Honourable members of the Legislative Council,

As a registered Hong Kong charity, Conservation International Hong Kong would like to add our voice to the vast majority of Hong Kong and global civil society in support of an immediate ban on ivory trade and sales in Hong Kong. The recent announcement by the mainland Chinese government to phase out the domestic ivory market by the end of 2017 was met with resounding cheers and celebration by the global community. Hong Kong can be the next society to be celebrated for doing the right thing, before it is too late to matter.

By partnering with governments, nonprofits, businesses and civil society, Conservation International promotes a comprehensive approach to addressing the threats posed by wildlife trafficking. For example, seven international conservation organizations including CI have come together to work with the Duke of Cambridge and the Royal Foundation through an effort called United for Wildlife. The purpose: to promote better protection of endangered wildlife, reduced demand for illegal wildlife products, improved law enforcement, engagement of the private sector and involvement of young people in conservation. CI is the co-secretariat of the Elephant Protection Initiative, an organization that has been endorsed by 23 conservation groups, with a membership of 15 countries where African elephants range. CI is also a member of the U.S. Wildlife Trafficking Alliance, a public-private initiative.

We recognize that the government faces pressure from ivory traders to maintain their livelihoods, which is an important consideration. But, we need our leaders to demonstrate that humanity cannot cross the line in livelihood options that drive other species to extinction. Instead, our leaders and societies can work to support the outdated and unsustainable ivory trade industry to transition to new economic opportunities. Your administration could be the one that our grandchildren celebrate for achieving this difficult but deeply impressive and righteous accomplishment. Or, our grandchildren can be left to wonder why we allowed elephants to exist only in photos, films, and their imagination.

Thank you for making a decision and embracing the hard work behind an immediate ivory ban that will make our future generations proud. We look forward to supporting your noble efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jude Wu".

Jude Wu  
Managing Director  
Conservation International Hong Kong