



support Ivory Ban Hong Kong

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05/06/2017 23:34

Dear Sirs,

As concerned citizen of the world I kindly ask you to stop the Ivory trade in Hong Kong and SUPPORT the Hong Kong government's proposed increase in penalties for wildlife crime. Hong Kong's 'legal' ivory stock was largely derived from elephants poached in the 1970s and 1980s before the international trade ban. Stocks have not been physically inspected and provide a perfect cover for the laundering of new illegal Ivory.

Hong Kong's legal ivory trade masks a parallel trade in illegal ivory. This is aggravating Africa's efforts to stem wildlife poaching, harming China's international reputation and must be banned immediately.

In 2014, 20,000 African elephants were killed by poachers. Between 2009 and 2015, Tanzania and Mozambique lost over half their elephant populations, with similar figures reported across east and central Africa.

The death rate is such that every 15 minutes, an elephant somewhere is killed by poachers. Experts say that traumatised elephant populations in Africa are increasingly becoming nocturnal and migrating in mega-herds of up to 550 in a bid to avoid contact with poachers. Not only is the trade in Ivory a threat to elephants but also to the rangers that protect them. Every year several rangers lose their lives because of poaching.

Also the mass poaching of elephants poses a threat to tourism hence the income of people depending on it.

Thank you

Kind regards

Christina Witvrouwen