



June 5, 2017

Hon Ms Tanya Chan
Chair, Environmental Affairs Panel, Hong Kong Legislative Council

Dear Ms Chan

On behalf of our organization, the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, and our members and supporters worldwide, we are writing in advance of the public hearing on 6th June to voice our strong support for Hong Kong's proposed legislation to ban the ivory trade and increase penalties for wildlife crime.

Hong Kong has a critically important role to play in ending the trade that is destroying elephant populations across Africa and stopping this tragic slaughter. We applaud the Government's bold initiative, and firmly believe that the proposed legislation, following on from China's decisive action in closing their market by the end of 2017, will have a major impact in our fight to save elephants.

We understand, however, that ivory traders in Hong Kong are calling for compensation for their ivory stocks. In our view it would be a grave mistake for the Government to pay any compensation. The signal this would send could be disastrous for elephants and would risk triggering renewed poaching. We would therefore like to add our voice to others who are strongly opposed to the payment of compensation.

Thank you for considering the views of our organization and our many supporters on this vitally important subject.

Yours sincerely

Sally Case
Acting CEO, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation

Saving endangered wildlife

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