



Ivory trade ban
Shashwati Kala to: panel_ea

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To, the members of LegCo Environment Affairs Panel,

I am a resident of Hong Kong, and someone who is generally concerned about the welfare of wildlife.

I am writing to you to express my opinion on this matter, which is that I think anything short of a permanent and total ban on trading ivory would be a fatally flawed attempt at stopping the poaching of elephants for their tusks. The creation of "semi-legitimate" class of goods, in my opinion, is a slippery slope to deception and fraud, making the incentive for convincing fakes (either the documents of proof, or masking the age/origin of the item itself) very high. Considering that such poaching is already illegal in most applicable places, it is not much of a stretch to imagine that faking the trappings of legitimacy is too far from the grasp of such people.

I respect the views of ivory carvers and those who think that the tradition is important, but I think that given how the times have change and how imminent the permanent extinction of elephants is, it is reasonable to adapt our behaviour to new circumstances, and not allow "tradition" to become a cover for bad behavior.

Thank you for inviting opinion, and I hope mine will be taken into consideration.

Best regards,

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Shashwati Kala