



Cornell University

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In collaboration with Cornell University

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To Whom It May Concern,

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I fully support the Government's Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Bill 2017 to ban the trade of ivory in Hong Kong.

Ivory trade, even when strictly controlled, contributes significantly to the problem of elephant poaching. Whilst this has a negative effect on wild elephant populations, it also encourages illegal trade of other animal species, which are possibly endangered. It encourages criminal activity and affects the members of the local communities involved in anti-poaching efforts. It is thus a real need for the Government to implement legislative measures to impose a total ban on the import and export/re-export of all forms of ivory, as well as taking steps to ensure that the local ivory trade is totally phased out.

Providing a compensation to ivory traders should not be considered as this encourages the trade. People involved in this business should not be given any kind of incentive. Traders have been aware for more than 12 months of the proposed changes to the legislation.

Penalties for smuggling and trading in ivory (and other endangered species) must be increased and be punitive enough to deter this practice.

Yours sincerely

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(Veterinary Surgeon in Hong Kong)