

**Panel on Environmental Affairs  
Protection of Endangered Species**



Animals Asia Foundation  
Room 1501, Tung Hip Commercial Building,  
244 - 252 Des Voeux Road Central, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

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To: Hon. Tanya Chan  
Chairperson  
Panel on Environmental Affairs  
Legislative Council  
Hong Kong

Animals Asia Foundation would like to thank the administration for their efforts thus far to combat issues related to the protection of endangered species and strongly supports continued endeavors to strengthen the protection available to all endangered species, particularly reviewing of relevant provisions under Cap. 586.

The time to act is now, considering the numerous issues facing local and internationally endangered species, with Hong Kong positioned as a major hub for the consumption and trade in endangered species.

Animals Asia Foundation would like to ask that a pro-active and cohesive stance by the Government be taken on all Appendix I and II CITES species, in support of numerous NGO's, working hard to protect so many species on the ground across Asia.

To elaborate further and to offer our support for other NGO's and echo their submissions, we would like to see the following actions taken by the Hong Kong Government...

- To include relevant provisions of Cap. 586 under the Organised and serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 455), to enhance the police force's role in investigating of wildlife crimes.
- Offences against Cap.586 should be subject to higher penalties and should also be included in Schedule 1 of the Import and Export Ordinance, Cap.60.
- Recognition that the illegal trade in endangered species should be classified as a form of organised and serious crime.
- Strict protection and enforcement actions in regards to all CITES Appendix I and II species.
- To implement reporting mechanisms whereby (particularly) shark fin traders are required to annual report on their imports and stockpiles, including but not limited to data on the species imported, exporters, total volume imported.
- To ensure that, for traders importing and selling CITES Appendix II-listed species, a copy of CITES export licenses (as issued by exporting countries) are visible in store, with export permit numbers clearly visible.
- To designate 'Wildlife Port(s)' to consolidate and centralise the resources of C&ED, AFCD, HKPF and other relevant agencies at a single or limited number of locations expressly for the

monitoring and inspection of all wildlife cargoes landing in or being shipped through Hong Kong, and to aid in detection of illegal wildlife when improperly imported via alternative channels.

- Recognition of the severe threat to local native species from poaching and trapping activities.
- Provide funding for and conduct scientific research into the value and preservation of green spaces as key habitats for many native species of flora and fauna and ACT to protect these ecologically sensitive spaces, as well as current and relevant research into local native animal populations and in particular high risk species.
- Recognise and rectify the fact that habitat destruction is a major threat to Hong Kong's native wildlife and ACT to stop destruction of key habitats.
- Immediately act to stop the destruction of key habitats within Hong Kong both on land (e.g. Pui O wetlands) and at sea (more marine reserves to offer greater sanctuary to marine mammals / protection of key turtle nesting habitats).
- Recognise and rectify the fact that current legislation offers little protection to many endangered species and their habitats in Hong Kong.
- Recognition that more species of animals may need to be specifically included under Cap.170, affording them better protection than they currently have, and reviewing the definitions of 'wild' animals, considering the increase in the exotic pet trade and the legalities involved with endangered species, particularly turtles, reptiles and small mammals.
- Regulate and control all use of animal traps (regardless of stated intended use).
- Implement and ban the possession, import, export and sale of certain types of hunting appliances.

In addition, but by no means unrelated - the Hong Kong Government needs to urgently act in regards to recycling / waste management initiatives to combat much of the land and marine pollution, often negatively impacting upon not only the environments generally, but also species such as turtles, the Chinese White Dolphin and the Finless Porpoise, the latter 2 listed as 'vulnerable' on the ICUN Red List. There needs to be urgent comprehensive and cohesive reform of how Hong Kong manages its waste.

We look forward to the Administration taking advantage of its strategic positioning to disrupt criminal operations and illegality in the context of the wildlife trade.

Should you have any enquiries on this submission, you may contact us on [REDACTED] or by email c/o [REDACTED];

Sincerely

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