

To: Hong Kong Chief Executive, Leung Chun-ying
via Hong Kong Post & e-mail

14 May 2014

URGENT: Hong Kong Government Please Legislate a Permanent Ivory Sales Ban

We are writing to you on behalf of a global coalition of international and local wildlife conservation and animal welfare groups, with regards to the continued sales of ivory and ivory products within the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. We are calling on the Hong Kong government to enact an urgent, comprehensive and permanent ban on ivory sales.

We applaud the government for taking a brave step in January 2014 to commit to the destruction by incineration of 29.6 tonnes of confiscated elephant ivory seized in Hong Kong since 1976. *However, we believe that this does not go far enough, and that more needs to be done to curb demand for ivory and effectively diminish illegal trade and elephant poaching.*

Hong Kong plays a key role in the global ivory trade. The city has been recognized as a major market and transit point for smuggled ivory by CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), which considers Hong Kong one of nine countries / regions of priority concern. (1)

The current catastrophic poaching crisis, the worst since the 1980s, is causing the killing of tens of thousands of elephants every year for the illegal ivory trade. Much of this ivory passes through Hong Kong illegally on the way to mainland China, where demand is surging. This demand is driven in large part by a new class of wealthy individuals, many of whom travel to Hong Kong as tourists to buy tax free luxury goods – including ivory and ivory products.

Some Hong Kong ivory retailers have been exposed by the media to be actively undermining the conservation efforts of the Hong Kong government, international and local NGO communities, and a large segment of the Hong Kong public. Since this exposure, three ivory traders Chinese Arts & Crafts (Hong Kong) Ltd, Wing On Department Store and Yue Hwa Chinese Products Emporium have shown leadership in the industry and have all publicly renounced selling elephant ivory. Numerous reports have shown that the existing legal market for elephant and mammoth ivory is being used to launder ivory from poached elephants. Indeed, people around the world, who hold elephants dear to their hearts, depend on the Hong Kong government to take a responsible stand.

In order to put a large dent in Chinese demand for ivory and ivory products and to effectively combat the illegal trade in elephant ivory, we believe that there is no better time than now to enact an urgent, comprehensive and permanent ban on all ivory sales in Hong Kong.

Countries around the world are taking action to support a ban on trade in ivory. For example, in March 2014 Chinese basketball superstar Yao Ming delivered a petition to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) asking China's government to ban the sale of ivory. The United States government also recently announced prohibitions on international and domestic trade in ivory. It is now time for the Hong Kong government to follow China's example in starting the process to salvage its international reputation, and then go a step further than the American government's recent effort to restrict ivory sales - *by enacting an outright ivory sales ban on all forms of ivory.*

The killing of elephants must be stopped and Hong Kong has a central role to play. Local extinctions of elephants are already underway and scientists estimate that if current poaching rates continue unabated, key African elephant populations could be wiped out within the next few years. No one needs ivory products, but we do need to save elephants, one of the planet's most iconic and ecologically important animals, from wanton slaughter and extinction.

To stigmatize ivory consumption, reduce demand and improve enforcement efforts, our coalition is now calling on the Hong Kong government to outlaw all ivory sales in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Sincerely yours,



Alex Hofford
Executive Director
WildLifeRisk / Hong Kong for Elephants
Hong Kong
T: +852 9635 7214
E: alexhofford@gmail.com

Sincerely yours,



Sharon Kwok
Executive Director
ACE Foundation / Hong Kong for Elephants
Hong Kong
T: +852 9029 2008
E: silkoschker@hotmail.com

(1) See CoP16 Doc. 53.2.2 (Rev. 1) 'ETIS Report of TRAFFIC' at <http://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/16/doc/E-CoP16-53-02-02.pdf>; and SC64 Doc.2 'National Ivory Action Plans' at: <http://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/64/E-SC64-02.pdf>

For and on behalf of:-

Hong Kong school children Christina Seigrist, Lucy Skrine & Nellie Shute (*et al*)
Jane Goodall, Ph.D, DBE
Alan Seigrist, Chairman
Dr Patrick Bergin, CEO
Iain Douglas-Hamilton, Founder
Peter Knights, Executive Director
Dr Joyce Poole, Co-Director
Grace Gabriel, Regional Director, Asia
Angela Sheldrick, Executive Director
Sandy Macalister, Executive Director
Wang Xue, Program Officer
Lisa Genasci, CEO
Louis Ng, Founder & Chief Executive
Daniela Freyer, Director Wildlife Trade Program
Philip Mansbridge, CEO
Maria Mossman
Rosalind Reeve, Adviser,
Lisa Rolls, Head of Communications
Vera Weber, Vice President
Steve Itela, Director
Cynthia Moss, Director,
Annabella Francescon, Executive Chairman
Christian Pilard, Founder
Andrea Crosta, Executive Director & co-Founder
Andrea Crosta, Founder & Project Leader
Sally Case, Chief Executive
Luc Mathot, Founder & Director
Wu Hung, Chief Executive Director
Ashley Fruno, Senior Asia Pacific Campaigner
Rob Faber, Chairman
Belinda Wright, OBE, Executive Director
Ian Redmond, Chairman
Richard Bonham, Director of Operations
Allan Thornton, President
Rishja Cota-Larson, Executive Director
Jill Robinson MBE, Founder & CEO
Adam Roberts, Chief Executive Officer
Will Travers, President
Jan Lai, President
Alexandra Kennaugh, Policy Communications Director
Will Travers, President
Borys Kaia, CITES Working Group Chair
Dr Hedia Bacchar, Wildlife Consultant
Thomas Töpfer, CEO
Pauline Caspellan, Legal and Policy Specialist
Tamas Papp, President
Jan Creamer, Chief Executive
Georgy Stoianov, Chairman
Andriy-Taras Bashta, President
Charlotte Nithart, Director
Joe Walston, Executive Director
Alan Knight BSc OBE, CEO
Teresa Telecky Ph.D, Director of Wildlife Department
Nita Hontiveros-Lichauco, President
Kim Bartlett, President
Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Chairman
Ric O Barry, Star of 'The Cove' Oscar-winning documentary and Director
Mark Watts, President
Cathy Liss, President
Edward Davey
Victoria Chin, Co-Founder

Elephant Angels
Founder, Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace
Jane Goodall Institute (Hong Kong)
African Wildlife Foundation
Save The Elephants
WildAid
ElephantVoices
International Fund for Animal Welfare
The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,
Nature University
ADM Capital Foundation
ACRES
Pro Wildlife
Care for the Wild International
Action for Elephants
David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation
Stop Ivory
Fondation Franz Weber
Youth for Conservation
Amboseli Trust for Elephants
Maniago Safaris Ltd
Eco-Sys Action Foundation
Elephant Action League
WildLeaks
David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation
Conservation Justice
Environment & Society of Taiwan (EAST)
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)
Friends of the Elephant
Wildlife Protection Society of India
Ape Alliance
Big Life Foundation
Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)
Annamiticus
Animals Asia Foundation
Born Free USA
Born Free Foundation
Green Sense
Natural Resources Defense Council
Species Survival Network
CEEweb for Biodiversity
Fondation Franz Weber
Rettet die Elefanten Afikas e.V.
Ateneo School of Government
Milvus Group
Animal Defenders International
Birds of Prey Protection Society
Fauna
Robin des Bois
Wildlife Conservation Society, Asia Program
International Animal Rescue
Humane Society International
Philippines Animal Welfare Society
Animal People
Blue Cross of India
Dolphin Project, Earth Island Institute
World Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Animal Welfare Institute
Conservationist
Hong Kong for Elephants

Hong Kong
United States
Hong Kong
Kenya
United States / Norway / Kenya
United States
USA / Norway / Kenya
China
Kenya
Hong Kong
China
Hong Kong
Singapore
Germany
United Kingdom
United Kingdom
United Kingdom
United Kingdom / Kenya
Switzerland
Kenya
Kenya
Kenya
Hong Kong
USA / The Netherlands
USA / The Netherlands
United Kingdom
Belgium / Gabon
Taiwan
United States
Netherlands / Belgium
India
United Kingdom
Kenya / Tanzania
United States
United States
Hong Kong
USA
United Kingdom
Hong Kong
United States
United States
Hungary
Tunisia
Germany
Philippines
Romania
United Kingdom
Bulgaria
Ukraine
France
United States
United States
United States
Philippines
United States
India
United States
United Kingdom
United States
United Kingdom
Hong Kong