

漁農自然護理署
九龍長沙灣道三零三號
長沙灣政府合署六樓



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21 December 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586)
Plan for Phasing out the Local Trade in Elephant Ivory

This circular aims to notify ivory traders about the Government's plan for phasing out the local trade in elephant ivory as detailed in circular letter no. ES04/16 dated 28 July 2016.

Background

The Chief Executive (CE) committed in 2016 Policy Address that the Government would kick start legislative procedures as soon as possible to ban the import and export of elephant hunting trophies and actively explore other appropriate measures, such as enacting legislation to further ban the import and export of ivory and phase out the local ivory trade. The Government has reviewed the strategy and proposed a three-step plan (the Plan) to take forward the initiatives set out in the Policy Address.

Policy Announcement

Today, the Government announced that the CE in Council has approved the Plan which would target to phase out the local ivory trade by the end of 2021. The details of the Plan are as follows:

Step 1 of the plan is to ban the import and re-export of all elephant hunting trophies and those remaining post-Convention ivory items¹, the import, export and re-export of which are currently permissible under the Convention on International Trade in

¹ They refer to individually marked and certified ekipa incorporated in finished jewellery of the population of Namibia, and ivory carvings of the population of Zimbabwe, when being imported, exported or re-exported for non-commercial purposes.

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Please address all replies to Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on the commencement date of the amendment legislation.

Step 2 is to ban the import and re-export of pre-Convention ivory² (save for antique ivory) and subject the commercial possession of pre-Convention ivory (save for antique ivory) in the local market to licensing control similar to the existing control on post-Convention ivory³ three months after the ban in Step 1.

Step 3 is to ban the possession for commercial purposes of all ivory (save for antique ivory) including pre-Convention ivory and post-Convention ivory from 31 December 2021.

Transitional Arrangements

To prepare for the total ban of local ivory trade in Step 3, all Licences to Possess to be issued, extended, renewed or varied from now on will expire on or before on 30 December 2021.

To implement the Plan, the Government will amend the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, Cap. 586 and the amendment bill would be submitted to the Legislative Council in the first half of 2017. Details and other arrangements will be announced later.

Yours faithfully,



(Azaria K. Y. WONG)

for Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

² The ivory that was acquired before the CITES provisions started to apply to elephants (in 1975 for Asian elephant and in 1976 for African elephant) is referred to as “pre-Convention ivory”.

³ The ivory that was acquired after the CITES provisions started to apply to elephants (in 1975 for Asian elephant and in 1976 for African elephant) is referred to as “post-Convention ivory”.

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