

# *Hong Kong votes to ban ivory sales, in major animal rights victory*

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Hong Kong, March 1 (RHC)-- In Hong Kong, lawmakers have voted to ban the sale of ivory -- a move hailed by animal rights campaigners as a major step toward protecting elephants.

Michael Lau with the World Wildlife Fund in Hong Kong told reporters: "This will show the commitment by Hong Kong government towards conserving the African elephants. What is needed next is to step up the enforcement to make sure that there will no longer be any illegal trade into Hong Kong or through Hong Kong."

Hong Kong is the world's largest market for ivory sales. Its ban came one month after authorities in mainland China adopted a similar prohibition.

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