October 30, 2018

The Honorable Li Keqiang Prime Minister of China People's Republic of China Beijing, CHINA ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF THE HISTORIC, PRACTICAL, AND CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF IVORY



Ivory Education Institute Political Action Network/ International Ivory Society

Dear Premier Li:

The Ivory Education Institute strongly applauds the People's Republic of China's decision to permit its hospitals to trade in domestically-raised tiger bones and rhino horn.

While many Western animal rights groups will react automatically and negatively to this initiative because it will confuse their one-size-fits-all approach to wildlife conservation, students of governance will recognize the carefully-crafted policy that China has forged.

From our perspective, you have done it exactly right. Now it is up to the farmers and their support groups in Southern Africa to put pressure on their individual governments to join China in seeking a change in CITES regulations to reflect this new policy.

As an organization fully committed to achieving a similar, carefully calibrated and properly controlled market for ivory, I hope you will be able to turn your attention to saving elephants suffering in overpopulated herds in Southern Africa.

I look forward to working with your delegates to the CITES Conference of the Parties in May 2019 on this and other questions.

/Sincerely,

Godfrey Harris

Managing Director