

Wednesday 22nd April, 2015

**Summary: CICASP Seminar 02  
Mini-debate (2 of 2)**

The question under debate was: Should the ban on elephant killing be lifted, in order to allow the legal sale of ivory? Yes or no?

Students each wrote their name down on a piece of paper and the side of the debate they were to defend was decided, randomly, by pulling the names out of a paper bag. First, each team had the chance to talk together to decide their best arguments. Then the two sides sat, facing each other, and took turns to state their arguments. Afterwards, each side got the chance to counter the other team's arguments. The discussion was lively and interesting, and everyone contributed, with many important points raised.

Of course, there was no right or wrong answer to our debate. When students were asked what their own opinion on this question was, some admitted that they felt more undecided *after* reading the information, and taking part in the debate, than they had before. Fred explained that he had chosen this issue for debate precisely because it is one of the most complex and difficult questions facing conservation today.

**Note:** There will a gap of four weeks before our next CICASP Seminar, because the following two Wednesdays are both public holidays and the Wednesday after that is the Faculty Meeting and Director's Meeting.

Wednesday 20th May, 2015

**Outline: CICASP Seminar 03  
Elevator Talk**

An "Elevator Talk" is a short, usually less than a couple of minutes, self-introduction and promotion. The concept is to succinctly let somebody know who you are and what you are interested in. In this seminar we will practice "elevator talks", which is one of the essential skills useful in a career.

Arguments 'for' and 'against' lifting the ban on elephant hunting, given by attendees of the most recent CICASP Seminar.

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*Yes: Lift the Ban*

*No: Don't Lift the Ban*

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For demographic population control

Because we do not know whether it is legal

Decrease human-animal conflict

Elephants are a flagship species

Income for local community

Ivory is replaceable with synthetics

It attracts hunting income

Important for the whole community ecosystem

Complete use of the animal (not just tusks)

Socio-political impact (change tradition)

A long-term solution to the community

Ivory is a luxury product – unnecessary

It provides opportunities

Slow reproductive rate

It will decrease the illegal trade

Even if the ban is lifted, poaching will still happen

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