

BLOOD LIONS



Delivered by email to: knaicker@environment.gov.za and bcreecy@environment.gov.za

13th October 2021

Dear Honourable Minister Creecy and Dr Naicker,

NEW DEAL FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

As global citizens concerned about the fate of South Africa's biodiversity and iconic wildlife, in particular elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros, we write in support of your transformational draft Policy Position on the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros and call on you to set ambitious and urgent time frames:

- To immediately halt the domestication and exploitation of lion, and the closure of captive lion facilities.
- To reverse the domestication and intensification of management of rhino.
- To prohibit ivory and rhino horn trade under current conditions.
- To restrict ex situ live export of the iconic species.
- To implement an increased wildness, naturalness and wellbeing of fauna focus.
- To adopt the One Welfare approach.
- To embrace a transformative African approach to conservation and ecologically sustainable use, consistent with Ubuntu.

These progressive and ambitious goals are supported not only by Humane Society International, World Animal Protection, Born Free Foundation, Blood Lions, and FOUR PAWS, but also by **XX,XXX** global citizens, who recognise that these goals are required to ensure a vibrant, inclusive transformation of the wildlife sector, rural socio-economic development and the safeguarding of our iconic species.

Together, these shifts in policy will signify a **New Deal for people and wildlife**, and position South Africa as a global leader and destination of choice for nature-based tourism, a key future driver of our economy and rural socio-economic development.

The subsequent development of a pioneering White Paper on Biodiversity Conservation and Ecologically Sustainable Use will instigate the most significant environmental legislation since the dawn of democracy in South Africa and will set precedent for conservation and development globally by incorporating the principles of One Welfare and wellbeing. This includes the key policy directions announced by the Minister, to ensure the reversal of intensive breeding and domestication of lion and rhino, and to initiate comprehensive transformation of the wildlife sector in order for it to become a people's economy.

The White Paper will build on the world’s most advanced definition of ecological sustainable use, as contained within the draft Policy Position and based on the High-Level Panel’s report. It will encapsulate an African approach to wild animals and nature, framed within Ubuntu, that highlights their welfare, wellbeing and sentience, and provides for people living in harmony with nature. This will resurrect the cultures and traditions, and sacred values of iconic wildlife and nature for African people.

We encourage you to finalise this transformational shift by urgently completing the draft Policy Position document and rapidly put the necessary processes in place to formulate a draft White Paper on Biodiversity Conservation and Ecologically Sustainable Use, in order to achieve this new vision and goals in the interest of South Africa, all of her people and its wildlife.

With warm regards,

Dr Louise de Waal	Dr Audrey Delsink	Fiona Miles	Gilbert Sape	Dr Mark Jones
Director & Campaign Manager	Wildlife Director	Director	Global Head of Campaign Wildlife, Not Medicine	Head of Policy
Blood Lions	HSI - Africa	FOUR PAWS South Africa	World Animal Protection	Born Free Foundation

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