



WILDLIFE ANIMAL PROTECTION FORUM SOUTH AFRICA

The Extended High Level Panel on the Management, Breeding, Hunting, Trade and Handling of Elephant, Lion, Leopard and Rhinoceros

omashiyane@environment.gov.za

lesello@environment.gov.za

Honourable Minister Barbara Creecy
Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

minister@environment.gov.za

fshaik@environment.gov.za

NLeontsinis@environment.gov.za

Director -General: Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Attention: Ms Thumeka Ntloko

Private Bag X477

PRETORIA

TNtloko@environment.gov.za

01 June 2021

Dear Ofentse,

URGENT RE EXTENDED HIGH LEVEL PANEL AND REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF EHLP/DFFE WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR 04 - 05 JUNE 2021

The Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa (WAPFSA) is an alliance of 26 South African based organisations focussed on wildlife conservation and protection, the welfare, social rights, social and climate justice, indigenous rights and public advocacy sectors.

WAPFSA member organisations submitted individual comments and submissions to the HLP. In addition, the work of at least two of our member organisations was officially recognised in the HLP report.

It is incredulous that despite this level of commitment and involvement with the process set out by the Minister, the majority of WAPFSA members have been excluded from further engagement, we refer in particular to the workshop scheduled for the 4th-5th of June 2021. Some of our members have even presented in Parliament, on the 5/6 of February 2019, specifically on the topics which are going to be covered at the workshop.

In addition, the members of WAPFSA who were invited to attend the workshop at short notice, were not given the opportunity of presenting at the workshop.

Despite the attempts to provide clarification on this process, all written and telephonic communications from WAPFSA members have been ignored.

We request the Minister and the HLP to formally and urgently respond to the following questions:

1. Who are the Members of the Extended High Level Panel?

2. How were they selected and on what basis?
3. What was the process to extend the HLP and appoint members to the EHLP and where and when was this gazetted?
4. What is the Mandate and Programme of the EHLP?
5. How were the presenters for this workshop selected and on what basis?

The process that the Minister set out must remain inclusive and transparent. All relevant stakeholders should continue to be involved and engaged in all the phases of the process.

Certain WAPFSA member organisations specifically focussed their submissions on the topics included in this workshop. They can offer impactful and positive contributions in particular towards:

“Ensuring access and benefit sharing in a fair and equitable manner by local communities living with and adjacent to the Big Five areas” and towards “Identifying and implementing key mechanisms to promote access and unlock benefit streams from big 5 and other protected areas to adjacent communities, prioritising and broadening ecotourism access over current state monopoly within protected areas, with localised community-based wildlife economic value chains”.

The members of WAPFSA hereby formally request that the Minister and the HLP postpone the workshop in order to facilitate an inclusive and transparent process.

Yours sincerely,



stefania falcon
stefania@emsfoundation.org.za
Mobile: +27 (0)73 3012107
ON BEHALF OF WAPFSA
<http://wapfsa.org/>



WAPFSA Members Requesting the above:

Animal Talk Africa	Founder	Wynter Worsthorne
African Climate Alliance	Climate Dep	Sairusha Govindsamy
Baboon Matters	Founder	Jenni Trethowan

Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group	Co- Founders	Renee Bish and Peter Oxford
Baboons of the South	Director	Lorraine Holloway
Ban Animal Trading	Director	Smaragda Louw
Beauty Without Cruelty (South Africa)	Chairperson	Toni Brockhoven
Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education	Director	Samantha Dewhirst
EMS Foundation	Director	Michele Pickover
South Peninsula Khoi Council	Senior Chief	Stephen Fritz
Four Paws (SA)	Director	Fiona Miles
Future 4 Wildlife	Co-Founder	Stefania Falcon
Gifted for Good	Env. Education	Jabu Myeni
Monkey Helpline	Co-Founder	Steve Smit
Rhinos in Africa	Founder	Megan Carr
Global White Lion Protection Trust	CEO Founder	Linda Tucker
Institute for Critical Animal Studies (Africa)	Director	Les Mitchell
OSCAP-Outraged SAfrican Citizens Against Poaching	Director	Kim Da Ribeira
Parliament for the People	Reg Farming	Vivien Law
Southern African Fight for Rhinos	Director	Lex Abnett
Vervet Monkey Foundation	Founder	Dave Du Toit
Youth Climate Group	Climate Justice	Sera Farista
WildAid Southern Africa	Director	Guy Jennings