



The Honourable Minister Anton Bredell
C/o Local Government Environment Affairs and Development Planning
Rudolf.VanJaarsveldt@westerncape.gov.za

Dr Ernst Baard
Executive Director Cape Nature
ebaard@capenature.co.za

24th August 2021

Dear Minister Bredell and Dr Ernst Baard,

**WAPFSA MEMBERS REQUEST INCLUSION IN THE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF BABOONS
NEW POLICY DRAFTING PROCESSES FOR THE CAPE PENINSULA**

The Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa (WAPFSA) is an alliance of diverse South African based organisations that share certain values, knowledge and objectives and that collectively comprise of a body of expertise from scientific, conservation, legal, welfare, rights, social and climate justice, indigenous paradigm and public advocacy sectors.

The Minister of Forestry Fishery and the Environment Barbara Creecy has consulted WAPFSA on complex issues at National level. WAPFSA and other Welfare and Protection Organisations' written and oral submissions were included and taken into account in the drafting of the proposed Policy Position for the Management of Elephant, Rhino, Lion and Leopard and during the 2019-2021 High Level Panel Reporting and Implementation Process. During a meeting with representatives from WAPFSA and other organisations representing the Wildlife Welfare and Protection Sector on the 17th of June 2021, she stated:

"I request that this will go forward into the future. We should have an organized relationship with yourselves as a sector. It has been brought to my attention in the past, that it would be important, just as we have a wildlife forum, to go forward with a welfare forum as well. These organizations might see this as an appropriate place to raise specific issues and ongoing welfare issues which might arise".

The members of WAPFSA would, once again, like to formally express their insistence with regard to being involved and consulted with, as a wildlife welfare and protection sector, during the planning process of the new proposed Baboon Management Plan for the Cape Peninsula.

We have been led to believe [from media reports](#) that such guidelines are being reviewed under the guidance of Cape Nature and the Cape of Good Hope SPCA and other stakeholders.

WAPFSA has, on multiple occasions, formally indicated that citizens in the Cape Peninsula need new legislation and by-laws rather than guidelines.

WAPFSA is hereby requesting to be kept informed on the exact processes and timeline of consultation of our - and other – sectors. In addition, this consultation with our sector should occur prior to any proposed amendments to the management policy are considered and not after.

WAPFSA members believe that the suggestion of attending workshops to review the new guidelines and protocols once these are formulated is not acceptable.

WAPFSA has a historic interest in the management and protection of Chacma Baboons in the Cape Peninsula:

On the 23rd of February 2021 Members of the Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa requested a formal report-back on the proposed revised protocols with regard to the protection and management of baboons in the Western Cape. To date we have not received any response to this request.

This formal request followed the participation of WAPFSA members at a meeting organised by Cape Nature at the request of Minister Bredell which was held on the 13th November 2020. Herewith a [copy of the letter](#):

Prior to our forementioned report-back request and to our attendance at the meeting held on the 13th November 2020, members of WAPFSA have engaged with all the authorities who are currently involved with the current management of baboons in the Western Cape since WAPFSA's inception in 2019:

1. WAPFSA [exchanged letters](#) with the Baboon Technical Team in July 2019, highlighting the untenable, ineffective management of baboons which included the killing of individual baboons as a form of the management protocol.
Despite Professor [Justin O'Riain's article](#) published on the 21st July 2021 about the successful coexistence between baboons and humans on the Cape Peninsula, at least 77 baboons have been euthanized since 2012 in terms of this management protocol.
Cape Nature issued permits, in October 2018 that were valid until October 2019, to two farms in Constantia to kill "problematic baboons" [according](#) to official reports from Cape Nature total of seven baboons were killed.
2. [WAPFSA requested a moratorium](#), in July 2019, on the killing of baboons until improved management protocols could be unilaterally agreed upon.
Despite [experts warning](#) that the lethal removal of male baboons may doom the entire baboon population and WAPFSA'S aforementioned request in 2019, a number of baboons have been killed. The recent negative publicity includes the unfortunate death of a baboon called [Philemon](#) the alpha male of the Smitswinkel Troop and [Bolo](#) the alpha male of the Waterfall Troop.
Without focusing on specific named baboons, the killing of males skews a natural sex ratio leading to social distress in the troop. There also does not seem to be any evidence that these killings have prevented baboons from entering urban spaces.
[Kataza](#), the alpha male from the Slangkop troop, was removed and relocated, this was unsuccessful and now he is destined to live in permanent captivity in a "rehabilitation facility" in Limpopo. Despite the claims that Kataza seems to be doing well, *with ample food and no predators*, the truth of the matter is that he lives in an enclosure having undergone a vasectomy. According to numerous media reports his initial removal from his troop was politically motivated and then due to immense public

pressure, without which he would have been killed, the authorities, in an attempt to *be seen to be doing the right thing* saved him by moving him into captivity.

In summation, there is no specific policy in place in the Western Cape, nor is there land planning, for the safe relocation of baboons into the wild, away from urban areas, where they can play an important role for their species and the environment.

3. After a request from WAPFSA, [in a letter](#) dated the 25th August 2020, Mr Bredell [confirmed](#) his intention to host a workshop to discuss Baboon Management and Protection in the Western Cape with WAPFSA members.
4. As a result of COVID_19, on the 16th of September, the City of Cape Town organised an open-door virtual preliminary meeting via ZOOM. The preliminary meeting was limited to a 100 participants on a first come first served basis. Interested members of the general public, representatives of various wildlife conservation organisations including representatives from WAPFSA attended. To our knowledge, there was never any formal feedback from this zoom meeting.
5. On the 12th of November 2020, WAPFSA [delivered a Draft Document](#) to Cape Nature with regard to the welfare, protection and management of Chacma Baboons in the Western Cape.
6. [Representatives of WAPFSA](#) attended a [face-to-face meeting](#) arranged by Cape Nature on the 13th of November 2020. Due to a highly contentious issue involving the mismanagement of the baboon known as SK11or Kataza, the meeting was not attended by the representative of UCT Baboon Research Unit, namely Justin O’Riain, whilst the representatives of the City of Cape Town attended but were advised to not comment. SANParks was also absent from the meeting. In other words half of the expected BTT representatives were not present at the meeting.

Throughout WAPFSA’s aforementioned historic role and open dialogue with Cape Nature since 2019 we have insisted that [transparency and accountability](#) are crucial in the management of environmental issues. We were promised a final copy of the official minutes of the meeting held on the 12th November 2020, we have yet to receive the same.

7. On the 23rd of February 2021 WAPFSA members sent a letter to the following authorities who are involved with the management of baboons on the Cape Peninsula:
The office of the Minister of Local Government Environmental Affairs and Development Planning; Office of the Premier of the Western Cape; Mayor of Cape Town; CEO of Cape Nature; The Overstrand Municipality, Director of Infrastructure and Planning; University of Cape Town, Baboon Research Unit; The City of Cape Town; Chairman of the Baboon Task Team; Cape of Good Hope SPCA; SANParks and NCC Environmental Services. WAPFSA members received a response only from Professor Justin O’Riain who had not attended the meeting on the 13th November 2020.

In this letter, WAPFSA requested that the results from the survey conducted by the City of Cape Town in mid-December 2020, titled “*Baboon Management Questionnaire*” were published. As far as we are aware of, such results have yet to be published.

IN CONCLUSION

WAPFSA hereby recommends that the Wildlife Welfare and Protection Sector is included in the drafting of new baboon protection protocols and legislation.

To exclude WAPFSA members and their expertise and representation together with other stakeholders, from the participation process and the drafting of new protection and management protocols and legislation for the baboons on the Cape Peninsula is questionable in terms of legislation – since animal welfare should be included.

Without such inclusion and a transparent process, we believe that community divisiveness might continue, which could lead to a feeling of resentment towards the political figures and others involved in baboon management and protection related decision making.

WAPFSA members, with their vast and varied experience in wildlife conservation, wildlife welfare and constitutional and environmental law have been included in decision making processes at national level, as a sector to be consulted.

For the record we noted our combined concern with the disregard of our expertise in our recent submission relative to the Western Cape Biodiversity Bill 2021.

In regard to the management of baboons in the Cape Peninsula, we would like to be informed about the timeline for the preliminary consultations with the various sectors prior the drafting of amendments and then for the stakeholder consultations and finalization of the process.

We look forward to a detailed and urgent response to all our ongoing concerns.

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ON BEHALF OF WAPFSA
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This correspondence will be open, for media diffusion

Signing Members of WAPFSA

African Climate Alliance	Climate Dep	Sairusha Govindsamy
Animal Talk Africa	Founder	Wynter Worsthorne
Baboon Matters	Founder	Jenni Trethowan
Baboons of the South	Director	Lorraine Holloway
Ban Animal Trading	Director	Smaragda Louw
Beauty Without Cruelty (South Africa)	Chairperson	Toni Brockhoven

Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group	Co- Founders	Renee Bish and Peter Oxford
Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education	Director	Samantha Dewhirst
EMS Foundation	Director	Michele Pickover
Four Paws (SA)	Director	Fiona Miles
Future 4 Wildlife	Co-Founder	Anna Centura
Gifted for Good	Env. Education	Jabu Myeni
Global White Lion Protection Trust	CEO Founder	Linda Tucker
Institute for Critical Animal Studies (Africa)	Director	Les Mitchell
Monkey Helpline	Co-Founder	Steve Smit
OSCAP-Outraged SAfrican Citizens Against Poaching-	Director	Kim Da Ribeira
Parliament for the People	Reg Farming	Vivien Law
Rhinos in Africa	Founder	Megan Carr
South Peninsula Khoi Council	Senior Chief	Stephen Fritz
Southern African Fight for Rhinos	Director	Lex Abnett
Vervet Monkey Foundation	Founder	Dave Du Toit
WildAid Southern Africa	Director	Guy Jenning
Youth Climate Group	Climate Justice	Sera Farista

