



## WILDLIFE ANIMAL PROTECTION FORUM SOUTH AFRICA

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WildChoices  
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### WILDCHOICES LISTING OF FACILITIES

The Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa (WAPFSA), is a network of thirty-one diverse South African NGOs that share certain values, knowledge and objectives, and that collectively comprise a body of expertise in various fields in South Africa, from scientific, conservation, and welfare, rights, tourism, social justice, indigenous rights, public advocacy sectors and the law.

The [South African Tourism Services Association](#) (SATSA) is a member-driven, non-profit association representing the private sector. In 2018 SATSA established a Board Committee on Captive Wildlife Interactions and commissioned BDO South Africa, an independent consulting firm, to:

1. Define the types of entities that fall within the ambit of captive wildlife interactions including standardising definitions and terminology;
2. Develop an ethical framework to evaluate operations that involve captive wildlife interactions to underpin the debate and establish the principles upon which the ethicalness of animal interaction operations may objectively be evaluated; and,
3. Develop a set of guidelines for the self-regulation of captive wildlife interaction tourism experiences.



In November 2019 SATSA published their Captive Wildlife Attractions and Activities Guidelines and Decision [Tool](#) which is [endorsed](#) by a number of organisations.

Apparently, in 2021, two members of the 2018 SATSA Board Committee, Brett Mitchell and Gavin Reynolds founded WildChoices which is owned by Wildly Adventures (Pty) Ltd (reg No: 2020/635217/07), to identify and assess all the captive wildlife interaction facilities in South Africa using the SATSA Guidelines and Decision Tool.

According to the information on the website: *'WildChoices assists local and international tour operators, agents, and individual travellers to make informed, ethical choices about captive wildlife tourism facilities in South Africa'*. WildChoices employs the SATSA Decision Tree to make its assessments.

After receiving complaints about various listings on the WildChoices website, WAPFSA conducted internal research and discovered numerous potentially problematic listings, for example, *WildChoices* has listed zoos, petting zoos and facilities that have traded wild animals as places to *"support with caution"*.

WAPFSA organisations do not support the captive wildlife industry, especially where animals are utilised for entertainment and/or breeding for trade.

It is an additional concern that animal welfare issues and trophy hunting are not considered in the SATSA Decision Tree.

As testimony to the fact that this Tool is faulty and inaccurately applied, a Member of WAPFSA has been wrongly listed on the WildChoices' website. To be more specific, the Global White Lion Protection Trust ("GWLPT") has been listed as a facility *"to avoid"*. GWLPT is a non-profit, non-commercial organisation, and not a tourist facility - and therefore does not qualify for listing in the first place. Some of our members have objected to this inaccuracy to WildChoices and have asked specific questions of relevance, which have not been answered by WildChoices.



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Until such time as these errors are corrected and the Tool is vetted by WAPFSA as a valid measure of unethical establishments, we as a forum cannot support or be associated with this initiative. We therefore formally distance ourselves from the WildChoices list.

Regards,

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### SIGNED BY THE FOLLOWING 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	Founder	Lorraine Holloway
Ban Animal Trading	Director	Smaragda Louw
Beauty Without Cruelty (South Africa)	Chairperson	Toni Brockhoven



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Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group	Co- Founders	Renee Bish and Peter Oxford
Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education	Director	Stephen Munro
EMS Foundation	Director	Michele Pickover
Four Paws (SA)	Director	Fiona Miles
Future 4 Wildlife	Co-Founder	Stefania Falcon
Gifted for Good	Env. Education	Jabu Myeni
Global White Lion Protection Trust	CEO Founder	Linda Tucker
Hands Off Fernkloof – South Africa	Founder	Peter Hodgskin
Institute for Critical Animal Studies (Africa)	Director	Les Mitchell
Monkey Helpline	Co-Founder	Steve Smit
Panthera Africa Big Cat Sanctuary	Co-Founders	Lizaene Cornwall and Cath Nyquist
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
Vogelgat Private Nature Reserve – South Africa	Warden	Giorgio Lombardi
WildAid Southern Africa	Director	Guy Jenning
Youth Climate Group	Climate Justice	Sera Farista