



Honourable Barbara Creecy  
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02 August 2023

Dear Honourable Minister Barbara Creecy,

### **GRAVE CONCERNS RE LACK OF MEETINGS OF THE WILDLIFE WELL-BEING FORUM (WWBF)**

The Honourable Minister launched the WWBF on a live-streamed meeting on the 5th of May 2023, with the promise that there would be meaningful, ongoing consultation between the members of the Wildlife Well-Being Forum and the Department with the recommendation of organised monthly meetings.

A draft work plan was shared within the WWBF for comments in mid-May and a preliminary meeting was held on the 30th of May 2023. The agenda included the election of a Chair and the planning of **monthly meetings** to be discussed and diarised.

At the time, the DFFE expressed concerns about not having the capacity to fulfil this role, especially on a monthly basis. Some attendees took the view that DFFE should chair WWBF meetings while others suggested various solutions such as electing an alternative Chair. In closing, the Department made a commitment to organise and chair all future engagements stating that the next meeting would take place at the end of June 2023.

Despite this commitment by DFFE, no meetings were scheduled in June, July or August. Representatives of the various organisations have now been informed, after several follow-ups by some WAPFSA members, that the next WWBF engagement will only be scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2023.

Members of WAPFSA find this unacceptable, particularly given the pressing issues that need to be discussed.

The undersigning members of WAPFSA are concerned that the Department may not have the capacity for important engagement and consultation with our sector, which was a recommendation of the High-Level Panel in 2021 fully supported by the Minister.

If the Department does not have the capacity to chair these meetings with the frequency that is required, and as recommended by the Minister, the Department should allow alternative Chairs.

The Wildlife Animal Forum of South Africa was constituted with the objective of engaging with the Government on specific issues relevant to wildlife protection and well-being. WAPFSA is able to nominate a Chair from within its member ranks, who will have the necessary capacity to fulfil this role.

In addition, and related to the above, on the 19th May 2023, The *Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa* ([WAPFSA](http://wapfsa.org/)) sent the Honourable Minister [a letter](#) regarding the consultation processes. An urgent response to this letter is requested.

WAPFSA members look forward to receiving your urgent feedback on this important issue.

Kind regards,



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### SIGNED BY THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF WAPFSA

AllRise	Director	Attorney Kirsten Youens
Animal Talk Africa	Founder	Wynter Worsthorne
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

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Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education	Director	Stephen Munro
CLAW	Founder	Cora Bailey
Dzomo La Mupo	Founder – Director	Mphatheleni Makaulule
EMS Foundation	Executive Director	Michele Pickover
Four Paws (SA)	Director	Fiona Miles
Future 4 Wildlife	Director	Stefania Falcon
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
Panthera Africa Big Cat Sanctuary	Co-Founders	Liz Cornwall and Catherine 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
WildAid Southern Africa	Director	Guy Jennings