



WILDLIFE ANIMAL PROTECTION FORUM SOUTH AFRICA

Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
Honourable Minister Barbara Creecy
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08 May 2024

URGENT

Honourable Minister Barbara Creecy,

WAPFSA REQUESTS MINISTER CREECY'S URGENT INTERVENTION IN THE PLANNED KILLING OF 20 BABOONS IN THE BLYDE RIVER BOTANICAL RESERVE

The [Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa](#) (WAPFSA) has a specific interest in protecting indigenous wildlife and biodiversity. Numerous WAPFSA members are part of the Wildlife Well-being Forum, a forum whose development your department initiated, to advise you on matters of animal well-being. Recently, WAPFSA requested, for your consideration, the inclusion of the six species of indigenous non-human primates in the TOPS listing as "protected species."

On the 6th of May 2024, WAPFSA was forced to send a [cease and desist letter](#) to LEDET with regard to the issuing of a permit to kill twenty baboons at the Blyde River Botanical Reserve, because they were apparently "inconveniencing" *some* of the residents living on this reserve.

On the 7th of May 2024 it was confirmed that a thirty-day permit had, indeed, been issued, commencing 8th May 2024, and that a hunter has been commissioned to shoot the baboons using a silencer.

Transparency and accountability are paramount in extreme situations like these. Without clear evidence of the baboons causing significant damage, the decision to kill them appears arbitrary and ethically questionable. Stakeholders, including conservationists, local communities and primate experts, should be involved in the decision-making process to ensure that all perspectives are considered and that the chosen course of action is both justified and humane, with respect to both human and animal well-being. A holistic, transparent approach is necessary to find long-term solutions.

According to our information, the residents have not been furnished with a long-term ecological assessment for this ecologically sensitive area should twenty baboons be permanently removed. Nor have residents received a report from a primatologist regarding the behaviour of these targeted baboons. Baboons are crucial in the ecosystem and if removed other wildlife and the environment



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will also be affected. Removing a troop will also affect the dynamic of neighbouring troops, creating conflicts and possibly further mortalities.

The content of these expert reports would inform and influence long-term decisions about how to holistically manage the behaviour of residents living in a natural range of Chacma baboons.

WAPFSA therefore believes that the provincial authorities may have issued the permit erroneously and without sufficient due diligence, and for this reason, we appeal for your urgent intervention.

In terms of NEM:BA sections 1 and 2 refer to animal well-being and importantly, section 9A of NEM:BA refers to your power to prohibit any activity where there is reasonable evidence of a *potential* negative impact on animal well-being, using the wording “*that may have a negative impact*” which means that it is not required to have absolute proof of a negative impact to prohibit any activity. It implies that a precautionary approach, in line with the NEMA principles, must prevail.

Please be aware that the method of killing these baboons will not be humane. Primates, as you are aware, are highly sentient creatures with profound family connections. They will be acutely conscious of the situation, experiencing the distress of being hunted and systematically targeted, including the vulnerable babies, until none are left.

The members of WAPFSA kindly request that you urgently intervene and implement an immediate moratorium in order to prevent yet another example of the cruel and ecologically questionable management of primates in South Africa.

Yours sincerely,

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ON BEHALF OF WAPFSA

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SIGNING MEMBERS OF WAPFSA

AllRise

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Wynter Worsthorne



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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	Stephen Munro
Community Led Animal Welfare	Founder	Cora Bailey
Co-Operative and Policy Alternative Center	Co-Founder and Board Chair	Prof Vishwas Satgar
Dzomo La Mupo	Founder – Director	Mphatheleni Makaulule
EMS Foundation	Executive Director	Michele Pickover
Future 4 Wildlife	Co – Founder	Stefania Falcon
Gifted for Good	Env. Education	Jabu Myeni
Global White Lion Protection Trust	CEO Founder	Linda Tucker
Green Group Simonstown	Founder	Laura Pasanisi
Institute for Critical Animal Studies (Africa)	Director	Les Mitchell
Kogelberg Villages Environmental Trustees	Chairperson	Liezl Smith
Monkey Helpline	Co-Founder	Steve Smit
Ocean Not Oil	Founder	Janet Solomon
Panthera Africa Big Cat Sanctuary	Co-Founders	Liz and Cathrine Cornwall-Nyquist
Parliament for the People	Founder	Vivien Law
Rhinos in Africa	Founder	Megan Carr
Southern African Faith Communities' Env. Institute	Executive Director	Francesca De Gasparis
South Peninsula Khoi Council	Senior Chief	Stephen Fritz
Southern African Fight for Rhinos	Director	Lex Abnett
Vervet Monkey Foundation	Founder	Dave Du Toit
Wild Africa Fund	Director	Guy Jennings
Wild Law Institute	Director	Cormac Cullinan