

27 February 2019

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF:  
HIS EXCELLENCY, MOKGWEETSI MASISI,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

Via email: [gpitso@gov.bw](mailto:gpitso@gov.bw)  
cc. [envirobotswana@gov.bw](mailto:envirobotswana@gov.bw) and [dwnp@gov.bw](mailto:dwnp@gov.bw)

**Response from Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa to Sub-Committee on Hunting Ban Social Dialogue Report and Recommendation**

**Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa** is a coalition of twenty-six South African wildlife NGOs. We implore the government of Botswana not to implement the recommendations handed to the President on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019 in relation to:

- Opening up the largely condemned hunting of elephants and all wildlife again;
- The culling of elephants;
- The setting up of canning factories for those dead elephants to convert them into pet food;
- More fences; and
- The active cutting off of wildlife corridors.

Furthermore, our Forum would like to bring to your attention that:

1. Global wildlife populations have fallen by 58% since 1970, decline of vertebrates heading for 66% by 2020.
2. Given that we are in the midst of the Sixth Extinction and that elephant numbers are rapidly decreasing, the plights of elephants is of concern to all, and the efforts to ensure their future should be shared by all.
3. Elephants are extremely complex beings with physical, social and psychological interests who have intrinsic value and deserve respect.
4. Elephants are important to maintaining the ecological integrity of the region and thus we have *locus standi* in the matter.
5. The maintenance of regional ecological integrity is a pillar of our societal survival, ecologically, economically and socially.
6. Elephant migration routes are key in supporting ecological integrity and corridors for wildlife are vitally important for natural systems to exist and enable the movement of elephant populations out of Botswana.
7. South Africa had to abandon its elephant culling model because it was discredited from a scientific and a biodiversity management perspective
8. Botswana's support for the ivory trade, via its proposal to the CITES Cop 18, fly in the face of the global momentum to reduce consumer demand for ivory and run counter to the recommendation in Resolution Conf.10.10. (Rev. CoP17) which calls for closure of domestic ivory markets contributing to poaching or illegal trade.

*Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa* believes that Botswana is one of the last places on earth where wildlife, especially elephants, exist in large numbers, and

we believe that Botswana should be preserved as a non-trophy hunting area. The world needs to find ways to make sure that communities living alongside this precious, and iconic world heritage, are benefitting from photographic tourism and other successful non-consumptive schemes, which link the conservation of wildlife and the natural ecosystems with sustainable improvements in their livelihoods.

We are concerned, particularly given that peer-reviewed data by experts points to a rise in the poaching and killing of elephants for the trade in ivory, that the government of Botswana has been using an inflated figure (up to 237,000 elephants) to justify the need to consider unbanning trophy hunting and culling.

IUCN/PACO research shows that photographic safaris or eco-tourism creates 39 times more jobs than the trophy hunting for the equivalent surface area. Photographic conservation tourism industry is the second largest revenue-generating industry to Botswana's fiscus. If implemented these recommendations will do untold harm to the lucrative non-consumptive, eco-tourism sector in Botswana. They pose a direct threat to sustainable livelihoods in Botswana as well as to the country's international reputation.

There is no compelling empirical evidence of the economic significance of trophy hunting or that it is imperative to the future of conservation and to generate local community benefits. Moreover trophy hunting and culling are an added threat to wildlife. Trophy hunting and culling are not solutions to, nor will they mitigate, human-animal-conflict and will in fact result in increased conflict and added dangers to communities. Disrupting elephant social structures and hierarchies through trophy hunting and culling will further exacerbate human-elephant-conflict and also destroy social and ecological knowledge and experience in the elephant societies. The extent of human-elephant-conflict needs to be accurately ascertained and humane, innovative and collaborative solutions implemented in ways that benefit, and are a win-win for, communities and elephants (and other animals).

A number of our members are elephant specialists. In addition, our Forum has access to world-renowned elephant ecologists and experts. We would be more than willing to put them at Botswana's disposal to assist in finding solutions.

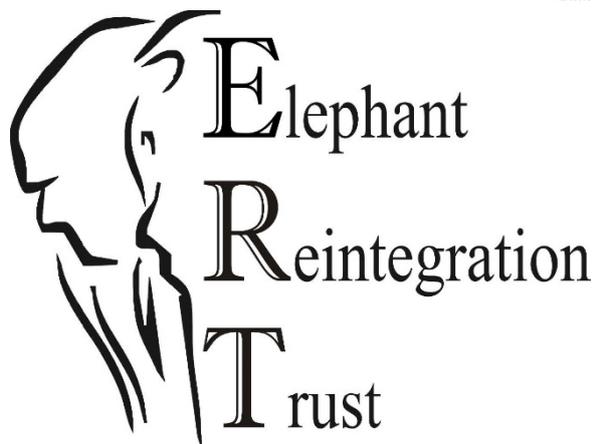
We look forward to your urgent reply.

We can be contacted by email: [michele@emsfoundation.org.za](mailto:michele@emsfoundation.org.za) or +27 82 253 2124.

Yours Sincerely,

Animal Law Reform South Africa  
Ban Animal Trading  
Beauty Without Cruelty (South Africa)  
Captured in Africa Foundation  
Elephant Reintegration Trust  
EMS Foundation  
Four Paws (SA)  
Future 4 Wildlife

Global March for Elephants and Rhinos  
 Global White Lion Trust  
 Green Girls in Africa  
 Humane Society International (Africa)  
 Institute for Critical Animal Studies (Africa)  
 Landmark Foundation  
 OSCAP  
 Pit-Track K9 Anti-Poaching  
 SAFCEI (Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute)  
 Southern African Fight for Rhinos  
 Vervet Monkey Foundation  
 Voice4Lions





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AFRICA



*Lions, Land, People.*



**Green Girls  
in Africa**

**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**

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