



For People. For Wildlife. For Ever.

Ivonne Higuero

Secretary-General. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora, Geneva

August 2019

Re: Trophy Hunting, Endangered Species and CoP18

Dear Secretary-General:

We are writing to you to ask that you call on CITES signatories at the forthcoming CoP18 to support reform in the areas referred to below as a matter of priority.

The fundamental principles of CITES state: "Appendix I shall include all species threatened with extinction which are or may be affected by trade. Trade in specimens of these species must be subject to particularly strict regulation in order not to endanger further their survival and must only be authorized in exceptional circumstances."

These fundamental principles are not, however, currently applied to hunting trophies on the grounds that that these are considered to represent 'non-commercial' trade.

As a consequence, a considerable number of Appendix I species trophies are traded each year. They include trophies of species listed as extinct in the wild, critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or near threatened on the IUCN Red List.

Populations of many of these species are in decline. There is also evidence that illegal trade of endangered species has been conducted using CITES permits that were issued for trophy hunting.

We therefore call on CITES to treat the trade in hunting trophies in the same manner as it treats all other trade in wildlife.

We also call on CITES signatories to implement an immediate moratorium on the import of all Appendix I species.

Furthermore, the practice of captive farming of lions for hunting trophies and the bone trade has been linked to illegal wildlife trafficking groups, is believed to be fuelling poaching, and has been widely condemned including by major hunting industry groups.

We therefore also call for an immediate end to the quotas of skeleton exports from captive-bred lions.

We look forward to supporting the process to reform CITES in these areas.

Yours sincerely,

Signatories from European Parliament:

Catherine Bearder MEP; Phil Bennion MEP; Jane Brophy MEP; Judith Bunting MEP; Martin Buschmann MEP; Molly Scott Cato MEP; Anna Cavazzini MEP; Ellie Chowns MEP; Richard Corbett MEP; Clare Daly MEP; Chris Davies MEP; Dinesh Dhamija MEP; Gina Dowding MEP; Jill Evans MEP; Daniel Freund MEP; Alexis Georgoulis MEP; Barbara Gibson MEP; Neena Gill MEP; Theresa Griffin MEP; Christophe Grudler MEP; Heidi Hautala MEP; Martin Hojsík MEP; Anthony Hook MEP; Martin Horwood MEP; Jackie Jones MEP; Naomi Long MEP; Erik Marquardt MEP; Anthea McIntyre; Aileen McLeod MEP; Karen Melchior MEP; Shaffaq Mohammed MEP; Lucy Nethsingha MEP; Caroline Nagtegaal MEP; Bill Newton Dunn MEP; Younous Omarjee MEP; Rory Palmer MEP; Kira Peter-Hansen MEP; Alexandra Phillips MEP; Samira Rafaela MEP; Alyn Smith MEP; Luisa Porritt MEP; Sheila Ritchie MEP; Catherine Rowett MEP; Sophie in 't Veld MEP; Richard Tice MEP; István Ujhelyi MEP; Caroline Voaden MEP; Mick Wallace MEP; Julie Ward MEP; Ann Widdecombe MEP; Irina Von Wiese MEP

NGO signatories:

Maria Mossman – Founder, Action for Elephants; Isobel Hutchinson – Director, Animal Aid; Smaragda Louw – Director, Ban Animal Trading; Pippa Hankinson – Director, Blood Lions; Eduardo Goncalves - Founder & President, Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting; Drew Adamson – Founder & Director, Captured in Africa Foundation; Tessa Vanderkop - Director of Advocacy, Elephanatics; Helmut Dangler - Founder & CEO, Four Paws International; Fiona Miles, Country Director – Four Paws, South Africa; Stefania Falcon – Director, Future 4 Wildlife; Heather Craig - Co-founder and President, Global March for Elephants & Rhinos-Toronto; Dr Louise de Waal – Founder, Green Girls in Africa; Janine Cavin - Board Member, Ivory Free Canada Coalition; Victoria Foote - Director, Communications & Marketing, Jane Goodall Institute of Canada; Pieter Kat and Chris Macsween – Directors, Lion Aid; Steve Smit – Founder, Monkey Helpline; Martina Saltalamacchia - International Relations Officer, OIPA (International Organisation for Animal Protection); Lizaene Cornwall and Cathrine Nyquist – Founders, Panthera Africa; Drew Adamson – Founder, Pit Track; Steve Travis - President, Protecting African Lions; Frank Molteno - Chair, SAFCEI (South African Faith Communities' Environment Institute); Alexia Abnett - Founder/Director, Southern Africa Fight for Rhinos; Pete Matthews, Louise Ravula, Susie Laan, Jane Alexandra – Founders, Two Million Tusks; Linda Park and Sarah Dyer – Directors, Voice4Lions; Patricia Sims - Co-founder and President, World Elephant Day