

16 June 2019
Youth Day

OPEN LETTER TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT RE YOUTH AGAINST COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION AND CAPTIVE BREEDING OF PREDATORS

Dear President Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa; Honourable Barbara Creecy, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries; Honourable Matsie Angelina Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education; Honourable Bonginkosi Emmanuel “Blade” Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology; Ms Nomxolisi Mashiyi, Director of Youth Community Outreach, Department of Environmental Affairs

We, the undersigned youth of South Africa, represented by Blood Lions ‘YouthForLions’, hereby call on you to **take a stand** against the captive breeding and commercial exploitation of predators and other wild animals across South Africa.

South Africa currently has approximately three times more lions in captivity than in the wild. These animals are exploited at every phase of their life cycle and, despite the claims being made by the breeders, this industry has nothing to do with conservation.

Although South Africa is considered to offer ethical and responsible tourism products, cute and cuddly cubs are exploited to attract thousands of tourists and volunteers to pay to interact with them. Young people from around the world travel to our country to visit these facilities believing that they are contributing to conservation when, in fact, their money is contributing to the unethical breeding and fraudulent use of the animals.

In March of 2019, the Department of Environmental Affairs proposed that the captive lion breeding industry should continue with regulations in place, despite the recommendations made by the Portfolio Committee of Environmental Affairs (PCEA) in 2018 to put an end to the practice as they confirmed that it is a blemish on the South African conservation image. Trying to regulate an industry that has been thriving for over a decade under ineffective governance is unfortunately not the answer. Leading global conservation and scientific authorities have stated time and time again that the captive predator breeding industry has no conservation value and, in fact, goes against internationally accepted ethical and welfare protocols. The PCEA reported that “there was an overwhelming consensus for the need to bring an end to the controversial aspects of the captive lion breeding industry in South Africa.”

We, the undersigned youth of South Africa, demand that the captive breeding and commercial exploitation of wildlife be **ended** across South Africa. We strongly believe that Africa should remain an authentic and wild tourism destination.

Sincerely,



The Youth of South Africa hereby signed below

Herewith 324 names of youth who have signed this letter:

Cath Jakins	Lazar Cavor	Emelia Hopkins
Tara Franken	Louise Larsson	Tyla van der Klis
Kathleen Klarmann	Pieter Myburgh	Cerys Williams
Stephanie Ferguson	Bradden Bruce Stevens	Nicola Ferry
Janelle Barnard	Mika Harmse	Florine Vanbesien
Riccilea Storm Haine	Jurgen Zwecker	Shanie Singh
Franny Page	Shae Jugthaw	Sophie Muza
Helen Byrnes	Mara Zanin	Trisha Camera
Kyra Foster	Wendy Trent	Dean Langham
Santhani Rungan	Alberto Germani	J Boudreau
Makaira Kerkhoff	Colleen Cradock-Williams	Taylor H
Clare Morris	Charmaine Drury	Christopher Muck
Siboniso Mthiyane	Sibusiso Mazibuko	Cee Roodt
Nicola Gerrard	Aidan Vogler	Judy Larkin
Alex Craig	Estelle Wainwright	Tristan Potts
Zune Waters	Anna McCoombe	Skyler Baez
Jade Frankel	Rita Simon	Skyrah Wilmer
Christie Love	Stephanie Klarmann	Verushka Gatti
Martine Scheuren	Monette Jansen	Patrick Fennemore
Maria vd Pas	Jordyn Edwards	Angela Schock
Jean Swinley	Sasha Andreucci	Meital Shouldenrain
Tish Scholtz	Lyn Du Plessis	Megan Brett
Wendy Matias	Sarah Abdulla	Odette Roussouw
Maria Ianc	James Hagemann	Krisztina Csonka
Marianne Mc Donald	Refentse Masia	Michelle Wealands
Smaragda Louw	Ncebinathi Sithole	Lisa Graham
Candace Du Bruyn	Virginia Strong	Mayra Martínez
Faunce Doreen Burd	Frederick Stefanus Alberts	Asunción Hatch
Justa Kruger	Tyron Dolloway	Jenni Harberg
Samantha Brown	Savannah Nicole Edwards	Jasmina Georgovska
Liz Penprase	Froucke Feddema	Morgan Henderson
Belinda Horn	Menard Aurélie	Hannah Lazenby
Marina Bialer	Aidan King	Amy McLean-Banks
Linda Du Plessis	Chandan Rana	Grace Ross
Sanette Vilonel	Pavithra Karthikeyan	Mia Scales
Nomzamo Phungula	Hayley Mackay	Emma Pennington
Norma Wilson	Elena Signoris	Siobhan Forbes-Wilkinson
Louise Giess	Ben Wallace	Caelan McKenzie
Elena Goncearuc	Erin Harrop	Kate Burnett
Genevieve Andrews	Megan Bellamy	Emily Megan Bennett
Chiara Ojageer	Lynn Curtis	Georgia Irving
Sophia Louw	Sophie Kieschnick	Jennifer Connolly



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Mihai Bozian
Yolandi Koekemoer
Tshegofasto Motaung
Ariana Martinez
Prasad Jadhav
Cheryl Weaver
Cassandra Grobbelaar
Bianca Barnard
Tom Rooze
Hannah van der Klis
Tamin van der Klis
Sarah Desousa
Ciaran Hornby
Hayden Ryan Hollow
Tara Gadney
Annette Teikje Stevens
Jahan Ely
Cara-Lee Hutton
Charlene Beukes
Alan Stuart
Katelyn Basson
Nothando Khoza
Thubelihle Ntuli
Nomfundo Gumede
Samkele Dlamini
Lwandile Zwane
Phiwokuhle Kubheka
Akhona Zulu
Mhlobiso Zuma
Xon Xander
Lindokuhle L.K
Mhlonishwa Mhlondo
Lungelo Mthethwa
Wandile Gumbi
Anathi Biyela
Sphelele Mkhize
Asanda Mlambo
Lindo Mthembu
Lulama Ngubane
Sazi Ngcobo
Simphiwe
Khaya

Olwethu Tikana
Ntokozo M
Londeka M
Langelihle Hlabisa
Setha M
Amukelani M
Nhlalenhle M
Awande N
Uyanda M
Andile Mkhize
Tamanni Stevenson
Zongoba Fakazi
Thembeke Zungu
Snakho Nxumalo
Lungelwa Biyela
Siyathokoza Modwe
Koffi Gumede
Xolelwa Ntuli
Zanokule
Kamohelo M
Luyanda Msimango
Nomfundo N
Sfundo Ngcobo
Okuhle Mathenjwa
Junior Simelane
Thato Dlamini
Sakhile Dlamini
Thobani Ngema
Amohle Mgtmo
Olwethu Dube
Amanda Xulu
Bakang Koonyad
Siyanda Nkwangeri
Kethiwe Kalum
Mkateko M
Luyanda Dlamini
Lusanda Mgwaba
Amahle Mhlongo
Nomvelo Hlabisa
Nosipho Mdladla
Asithande Ngema
Lifikil'elihle Zulu
Siviwe Ximba

Amanda Mkhize
Bandile Mthimkhulu
Simphiwe Ntuli
Asanda Mgwaba
Bongiwe Ndlamlene
Fanele Sibiya
Nkosiyezwa Xulu
Someleze Khweza
Mpalleng Sinelane
Thanduxolo Mdlekhe
Bandile Khuzwayo
Zevile Mthimthi
Yandiswa Qwade
Osiphoyo Mkhize
Siphosami Mnyadi
Skhanyisele Gazu
Thatente Gumede
Nofundo Gumsi
Nhlonipho Cele
Sithandiwe Mngondo
Londiwe Ngema
Lathitha Ntombona
Scelo Zungo
Ayenziwe Mchunu
Anele Dlamini
Nolwethu Ntuli
Nokwanda Msweli
Aka Cebekhulu
Phumla Ndyane
Sphelele Ntuli
Lindokuhle Nhlew
Tinuoko Mkombo
Lethokuhle Mthembu
Mbulelo Ntombela
Andile Ntshangase
Asanda Mhlongo
Amy-Lee Wiid
Chelsy Haines
Liza Havemann
Farren West
Kholeka Gumede
Ayabonga Shabalala
Amahle Soko



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Gabriel Gray
 Keri Byrne
 Andiswa Ntshongase
 Dené Ferreira
 Lulama Mpili
 Ziyanda Dlamini
 Nombuso Jali
 Alayna Hassim
 Minenhle Sibiyi
 Heath Woodburne
 Lindokuhle Ndlovu
 Asande Shange
 Zigu
 Samukelo
 Dimitri G
 Sethu
 Priyanka
 Jesha Naidoo
 Thomas Maccullam
 Anikwe M
 Nosipho
 Sinenjabulo
 Andisiwe Ngema
 Michael J
 Ruan
 Nondumiso Hadebe
 Solwazi Mtshali
 Mawande Buthelezi
 Michael V
 Luyanda
 Andile
 Lusanda
 Siya
 Bathathu M
 Kwando
 Zenande
 Lusanele
 Matthew
 Ryan
 Samkelo

Enrique
 Dani Bougie
 Koot van der Merwe
 Natalie S
 Angelique Sebban
 Xander Juhl-Jürgens
 Louis Koekemoer
 Kayla Marie Walsh
 Ande Antoniades
 Elvira Scheller
 Shannon Nel
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