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DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 6663 **22 September 2025**

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004 (ACT NO. 10 OF 2004)

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SET A ZERO EXPORT QUOTA FOR TRADE IN LION BONES SOURCED FROM CAPTIVE BREEDING OPERATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR IN TERMS OF REGULATION 3(2)(K) AND (F) OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA REGULATIONS, 2010 (CITES REGULATIONS) AND SECTIONS 99 AND 100 OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004 (ACT NO. 10 OF 2004)

I, Dion Travers George, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby, in terms of regulation 3(2)(k) and (f) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Regulations, 2010 (CITES Regulations), published under Government Notice No. R173 in Government *Gazette* No. 33002 on 5 March 2010, read together with sections 99 and 100 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), give notice of my intention to set a zero export quota for trade in lion (*panthera leo*) bones sourced from captive breeding operations in South Africa for the 2025 calendar year.

The intended zero export quota for trade in lion (*panthera leo*) bones sourced from captive breeding operations in South Africa takes into account, amongst others, the recommendations of the Portfolio Colloquium adopted by the National Assembly in 2018, recommendations of the High Level Panel on the captive lion industry, 2021, and the recommendations of the Ministerial Task Team report on voluntary exit from the captive lion industry, 2024, all of which called for an end to the captive lion breeding industry. The intended zero export quota is informed by Government Policy on captive lion breeding as set out in the White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity, 2023 and the Policy Position on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Elephant, Lion, Leopard and Rhinoceros, 2024. In particular, the Policy Position provides for the immediate halt of domestication and exploitation of lions, and closure of captive lion facilities.

Members of the public are invited to submit, within 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice in the Government *Gazette* or publication of the newspaper notice, whichever is the last date of publication, written representations on my intention to set a zero export quota for trade in lion (*panthera leo*) bones sourced from captive breeding operations in South Africa for the 2025 calendar year, to any of the following addresses:

By post: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
The Director-General
Attention: Ms Olga Kumalo
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

By hand: Reception, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria.
By email: cites@dffe.gov.za.
Enquiries must be directed to Ms Malepo Phoshoko at Tel: 012 399 9779 or Cell: 066 420 0215 or Email: MSPhoshoko@dffe.gov.za or cites@dffe.gov.za

Representations received after the closing date may be disregarded.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013). Comments received and responses thereto are collated into a comments and responses report which will be made available to the public as part of the consultation process. If a commenting party has any objection to his or her name, or the name of the represented company/ organisation, being made publicly available in the comments and responses report, such objection should be highlighted in bold as part of the comments submitted in response to this Government Notice.



DR DION TRAVERS GEORGE
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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