

Per Electronic Communication

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Thursday 6th March 2025

Dear Minister George,

CONCERNS IN RELATION TO EXPORTS OF WILD ANIMALS TO INDIA

The [Wildlife Animal Protection Forum of South Africa](#) (WAPFSA) is a national network of thirty South African organizations established in 2017. WAPFSA is explicitly designed as a vehicle to engage with governments on the issue of the conservation and protection of wild animals and the natural environment in which they live.

WAPFSA places the issues related to the conservation and protection of wild animals and the natural environment firmly onto the political agenda, our arguments are based on robust science, ethical and compassionate conservation practices and harmonious co-existence within nature.

The Wildlife Animal Protection Forum of South Africa (WAPFSA) is aware that legitimate concerns have been raised within CITES regarding the large amount of different live species of wild animals that are being imported to the Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (GZZRC), also known as Vantara, in India.

A case for India's potential non-compliance was raised as early as 77th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC77) in November 2023. The Secretariat has received information related to live animal imports into India, including specimens of critically endangered species included in CITES Appendix I.

On 28 July 2023, the GZZRC visited the CITES Secretariat. Their representatives explained that, in recent years, GZZRC has rescued animals in difficult conditions outside India and imported them to India from various countries. Despite this explanation concerns have been expressed about the legality of those transactions and the methods used to obtain CITES documents.

The attached document highlights the concerning high number of leopard, cheetah, tigers and lions exported to GZZRC from South Africa.

Furthermore, we are of the opinion that a significant number of captive-bred specimens in facilities in South Africa could have been and are being traded for commercial purposes.

WAPFSA requests that the Minister urgently investigates this matter.

We look forward to your urgent response.

Yours faithfully,



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