



WILDLIFE INDUSTRY DEMANDS QUOTA

WRSA URGES MINISTER TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION IN DETERMINING ANNUAL CITES EXPORT QUOTAS FOR AFRICAN ELEPHANT, BLACK RHINO & LEOPARD



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WRSA has submitted written demands via our counsel, urging Minister Creecy to take immediate action in lawfully determining and publishing the annual CITES quotas for African Elephants, Black Rhinoceroses, and Leopards.

Members dedicated to conserving these iconic species are encouraged to reach out to WRSA for further information on how to engage and support our cause.

For the full press release

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27 May 2024



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27 May 2024

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Pretoria, South Africa – [27 May 2024] – Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) has submitted written demands via their counsel, urging Minister Creecy of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) to take immediate action in lawfully determining and publishing the annual quota for trophy hunting of African Elephant, Black Rhinoceros, and Leopard for the 2024 calendar year.

Background:

Following the failed consultation and implementation of the 2021 hunting quota, which was deferred to 2022 and subsequently challenged, WRSA has repeatedly engaged with members of the DFFE across various platforms. On December 19, 2022, WRSA formally requested the Minister to fulfil her statutory duties under CITES Regulations to determine and publish the annual quota for trophy hunting in South Africa for 2023. Despite multiple follow-ups, vague promises, and commitments, no substantial response was received from the DFFE. Further complicating matters, was the Ministers failure to appoint a Scientific Authority. The term for members of the Scientific Authority expired at the end of March 2023, with new appointments delayed until 2024.

Current Situation:

WRSA has once again called on the Minister to determine and publish the annual quota for trophy hunting for 2024, encompassing African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), Black Rhinoceros (including relevant subspecies: *Diceros bicornis michaeli*, *Diceros bicornis minor*, and *Diceros bicornis bicornis*), and Leopard (*Panthera pardus*). Furthermore, WRSA seeks assurance that the quota for 2025 will be established and published by the end of September 2024.

CEO/HUB: R York

Chairperson/Voorsitter: C Engelbrecht **Vice-chairperson/Visevoorsitter:** M Davey
Direkteure/Directors: C du Toit; K Maphai; N Lerm; P. Ernst Jr; Dr T. Lesoli; G Heyneke;
N. Mayathula; T Mogashoa; Dr P. Oberem; R Nel

Impact:

The failure to publish these quotas in a timely manner has resulted in significant and ongoing harm to species conservation, habitat preservation, WRSA and its members. This includes financial losses, disruption to conservation efforts, and damage to the reputation of South Africa as a prime hunting destination. The legislative framework underpinning these demands, including the CITES Regulations, the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA), and the Threatened and Protected Species Regulations (TOPS), clearly outline the obligations of the Minister and the Scientific Authority.

WRSA's Position:

WRSA emphasizes a preference for constructive collaboration with the government to resolve this issue amicably, lawfully and effectively. The organization is prepared to provide any necessary assistance to government in order to ensure that quotas are lawfully determined and published promptly, ensuring compliance with both national and international obligations.

Conclusion:

WRSA calls upon the Minister to address this urgent matter and fulfil her statutory duties without further delay. WRSA has granted the state 15 court days from the receipt of this communication (27 May 2024) to provide a written 'timeframe outlining the actions to be undertaken' concerning the determination of the quotas for both the 2024 and 2025 calendar years. Should the Minister fail to comply with the request WRSA will be forced to take the necessary legal action. WRSA remains committed to protecting the rights of its members and ensuring the sustainable management of South Africa's wildlife resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Contact:

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