

Ministerial Task Team to Identify and Recommend Voluntary Exit Options and Pathways for the Captive Lion Industry

March 2023

Call for Stakeholder Engagement Regarding Voluntary Exit Options and Pathways for the Captive Lion Industry

The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Ms Barbara Dallas Creecy, established a Ministerial Task Team to identify and recommend voluntary exit options and pathways for the captive lion industry (Ministerial Task Team). On 7 December 2022, the Minister appointed members of the Ministerial Task Team and also published the Terms of Reference (ToRs) in Government Notice No. 2846, Government Gazette No. 47666 ([National Environmental Management Act \(NEMA\), 1998 \(Act No. 107 of 1998\): Ministerial Task Team to identify and recommend voluntary exit options and pathways for the captive lion industry \[G 47666 – GoN 2846\]](#)). A copy of the above Government Notice can also be emailed to anyone upon request from the Department at the contact details below. An intergovernmental support group is being set up to support the work of the Ministerial Task Team.

A key component of the Ministerial Task Team's work is to engage with all stakeholders who are directly or indirectly involved in the captive lion industry, in order to reach mutually agreed upon voluntary exit conditions for those who choose to voluntarily exit from the captive lion industry. Through these engagements, the Ministerial Task Team aims to listen to viable exit options from stakeholders and explore alternatives as well as the terms under which voluntary exit could be considered.

The engagements will be undertaken with as wide as possible range of stakeholders, including those who are actively and directly involved with captive lions as well as wider interested and affected parties. The stakeholders who are actively and directly involved in the captive lion industry include for example owners and managers of captive lion facilities, employees at all levels, wildlife associations, captive lion hunting operations, lion sanctuaries, traders, taxidermists and transporters of captive lions, and any person owning or in possession of captive lions. Interested and/or affected parties are also welcome, including but not limited to animal welfare and conservation Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), scientific and academic institutions, veterinarians, members of the public, and other interested parties who are directly or indirectly involved in the captive lion industry or who are interested in the current voluntary exit process.

The details of relevant stakeholder engagement sessions, including dates and venues, will be communicated to the public in due course. If you would like to be involved in these broader engagements, please communicate with us in writing by providing your name, organisation and contact details to the addresses provided below.

Participants in these processes will be given the opportunity to state their positions and make suggestions in terms of potential approaches towards a voluntary exit from the captive lion industry. Through these engagements, the Ministerial Task Team will also provide clarity on any matters of concern from stakeholders.

The Ministerial Task Team hereby also invites all members of the public who are involved or have an interest in the captive lion industry, to contribute to the voluntary exit processes being considered. The Ministerial Task Team will review all contributions from stakeholders and affected parties and, where appropriate, will use such contributions to guide the recommendations that will be presented to the Minister at the conclusion of the Ministerial Task Team's work.

Your contributions to this process and co-operation with the Ministerial Task Team will be highly appreciated. All details regarding participation and contributions must be submitted in writing to the Ministerial Task Team within 30 days of publication of this communique. Written submissions may be made by using the email or at least one of the addresses below.

Submissions, queries, or suggestions may be sent to:

The Chair of the Ministerial Task Team

c/o Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Private Bag X 447, Pretoria 0001

FAO: Ms Ntakadzeni Tshidada

Tel: 076 940 6321 / 012 399 9572

E-mail: liontaskteam@dffe.gov.za

Or delivered by hand to: Reception, Ground Floor, EnvironmentalHouse, 473 Steve Biko Street, Pretoria, 0001

FAO: The Chair of the Ministerial Task Team

All contributions must fall within the framework of the focus areas of the Ministerial Task Team. Participation details and contributions received after the closing date may not be considered.



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