



"Embracing Innovation to Conserve the World's Animal Kingdom."

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cc: Rory Stewart MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Environment and Rural Affairs
Catherine Bearder MEP, MEPs4Wildlife
Dr Pieter Kat and Christine MacSween, LionAid

2 March 2016

Dear Mr Woodhouse,

Wildlife Trafficking and Trophy Hunting

Correspondence Reference:

A: Defra Ref: DWO391540, dated 21 January 2016

First of all, thank you for your letter of 21 January 2016 (Reference A). I found the letter extremely informative. I was reassured that the UK Government is committed to the long term survival of the African lion (and many other so threatened species I trust). If the 'science' does not support the sustainability of a given species'/sub-population's trophy import(s), then I trust swift and decisive, applicable trophy import restriction will ensue and endure.

Of course, European Parliament decisions and actions are also crucial, particularly with regard to this year's 17th Conference of the parties (CoP17) to CITES. Plus a cohesive, European wide stance on hunting trophy imports and a commitment to adhere to European Union Wildlife Trade Regulations, as highlighted in the recent 'Written Declaration on Trophy Hunting'⁽²⁾ of 18 January 2016.

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However, the main point of this letter was to express gratitude for Defra's decision to continue to support the UK's National Wildlife Crime Unit, with four years' funding announced⁽¹⁾ by Rory Stewart MP, 1 March 2016. This again reassures that protection of the UK's wildlife and the burgeoning arena of on-line wildlife trafficking abuses will face recourse in the United Kingdom. With the European Commission also launching⁽³⁾ a commitment to a *"Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking,"* 26 February 2016, there is a hope that the scourge of animal abuse will not be allowed to fester, proliferate and profit unchallenged.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Alan Wiggins

Founder of International Wildlife Bond (IWB)

References:

1. *"FUTURE FUNDING OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE CRIME UNIT,"* Written statement - HCWS561, 1 March 2016 - <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-03-01/HCWS561/>
2. *"Written Declaration on Trophy Hunting,"* Neena Gill (S&D), Catherine Bearder (ALDE), Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D), Eva Kaili (S&D), Stefan Eck (GUE/NGL), Miriam Dalli (S&D), Seb Dance (S&D) Jonás Fernández (S&D), Victor Negrescu (S&D), Bart Staes (Verts/ALE), Igor Šoltes (Verts/ALE), 18 January 2016 - <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=WDECL&reference=P8-DCL-2016-0003&format=PDF&language=EN>
3. *EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking, in Brussels,"* European Commission, 26 February 2016 - http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/vella/announcements/eu-action-plan-against-wildlife-trafficking-brussels_enw

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