Captive Lion Breeding & Canned Lion Hunting: Damaging Brand South Africa?

A review of international media coverage and governmental, NGO, airline & tourist industry responses to increasing international awareness of South Africa’s captive lion breeding and canned hunting industry.

CACH UK, July 2016
www.cannedlion.org
info@cannedlion.org
Introduction

Tourism is a key contributor to South Africa’s economy (2.9% of GDP), and a major source of job creation. In 2013, 14.3 million overseas tourists visited South Africa and spent R94.2billion (43% of the total tourist spend). The tourist industry employed 655,609 people – 4.4% of all South African employment. (Official figures from Statistics South Africa http://www.statssa.gov.za/?p=4362)

A positive external image is important for attracting overseas tourists. For many years foreign visitors have associated South Africa with stunning wildlife in natural habitats. But over the last two years, revelations about the truth and scale of the canned lion hunting and captive lion breeding industry in South Africa have tarnished this image.

Not only are most people we speak to horrified by this industry – they are also astonished it is allowed in a country associated by many with wildlife conservation. We know the South African government is aware of international criticism. But, we suspect, it is unaware of the sheer scale of overseas media coverage, campaigns and actions and, in consequence, the extent of the damage to Brand South Africa.

To highlight this to the South African government, CACH UK has prepared this review. We have not found any mainstream media support for canned lion hunting and/or captive lion breeding. What we have found, and documented, is overwhelming negative international coverage and actions - the scale of which has surprised even us.

But this negative worldwide image can easily be turned round to a PR win - by banning captive lion breeding and phasing out captive bred lion hunting in a managed way. This will show the world that the South African can lead the way on animal welfare and ethical wildlife tourism.

Campaign Against Canned Hunting (CACH), July 2016
www.cannedlion.org

CACH is a South African NGO dedicated to stopping canned lion hunting and captive lion breeding established 10 years ago by Chris Mercer & Bev Pervan. Our international members raise worldwide awareness by alerting potential visitors to the grim realities behind cub petting & lion walking, and the links with canned hunting and the lion bone trade.
1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

• **Campaigns:** 9 international charities and campaigns who either focus exclusively on stopping canned lion hunting and captive breeding, or include it in their wider campaigns & activities. (2.1)
• **Global Marches:** 62 cities in 2014 (2.2)
• **Petitions:** 11 online petitions targeting canned lion hunting – the largest of which has so far attracted over 1.8m signatures (2.3)
• **Trophy Import Bans** in 4 countries including the US (the biggest market for the South African canned hunting industry) (3.2 & 3.3)
• **IUCN motion to prohibit the hunting of captive bred lions in SA** (3.4)
• **EU & UK parliamentary & government** reactions (3.5 & 3.6)
• **42 airlines worldwide who banned lion trophies** as at August 2015 (3.7)
• **Major reports** on trophy hunting from the IFAW and US Democrats (Section 4)
• The position of **UK** (5.1) & **Netherlands** (5.2) **tourism bodies** (describing trophy hunting as “unacceptable”) and volunteer tourism operators (5.4)
• **Media coverage:** 44 articles in newspapers, magazines and websites across the world – critical of canned lion hunting and/or captive breeding (6)
• **TV, Film & Video:** 1 feature film (Blood Lions, seen in 175 countries), 28 TV programmes and videos critical of canned lion hunting and/or captive breeding (7)
• **Social Media:** Simply too much coverage to review. Instead we have included a case study of the very recent expose of neglected captive bred lions in Limpopo (8)
2 CAMPAIGNS, GLOBAL MARCHES & PETITIONS

2.1 NGOs Campaigning Against Captive Lion Breeding & Canned Hunting

Campaign Against Canned Hunting (CACH)

http://www.cannedlion.org

CACH is a South African NGO dedicated to stopping canned lion hunting and captive lion breeding, established 10 years ago. CACH’s international members focus on raising worldwide awareness by alerting potential visitors to the grim realities behind cub petting & lion walking, and to the links with canned hunting and the lion bone trade. For example, in the UK, CACH awareness raising work includes –

- engagement with -
  - ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents)
  - Individual tour operators
  - Universities
- significant social media presence
- support for Global Marches
- attendance at fairs

Gold Award winners at the World Travel Market’s World Responsible Tourism Awards 2015: “They campaign armed with statistics and data rather than just emotional or angry messages, using facts and figures to disprove the theory that hunting is a form of conservation, and inform all people, tourists and tourism industry practitioners alike, about all the negative impacts of canned hunting. Not just the animal welfare implications. They also urge companies not to include, for example, activities like lion cub petting and walking with lions in their trips…. “

Captive Lion Breeding & Canned Lion Hunting: Damaging Brand South Africa?
Captive Lion Breeding & Canned Lion Hunting: Damaging Brand South Africa?

**Blood Lions (partnered in Germany with Global Nature Fund, GNF)**
http://www.bloodlions.org

Blood Lions is a South African NGO campaigning against canned hunting and captive lion breeding, having at its core the acclaimed documentary “Blood Lions” – seen by international audiences on television and at feature length screenings. (See also 7.1).

GNF’s sister campaign is "Lions for Sale – Bred for the Bullet".

**Stichting SPOTS**
http://www.stichtingspots.nl

SPOTS is a Netherlands based NGO, focusing on protection of wild cats such as lions. One major focus for SPOTS has been raising awareness about cub petting places in Southern Africa. This has led to the Dutch Association of Travel Agents (ANVR) updating its guidelines for animal welfare in tourism to specifically classify lion encounters and cub petting as “unacceptable”. This means most tour operators in the Netherlands (more than 250 of whom are ANVR members including the largest, TUI), will not use or promote facilities in South Africa offering these activities.

“Be critical as a tourist or volunteer
It is good to be suspicious of a cuddle farm as a volunteer or tourist. Questions you might ask include:

- Where do the cubs come from? Where’s the mother?
- What happens to the cubs when they are bigger?
- When it is said that they are released and at which location?
- Are these animals not accustomed to humans too?
- How often have such farms new cubs?”

**Cannes Lions**
https://youtu.be/nHm-ibXGkrl

The Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity is a global event for those working in creative communications, advertising and related fields. It is considered the largest
gathering of advertising professionals, designers, digital innovators and marketers.

To stay in line with the theme of the festival, Doing.com has created, in cooperation with CACH, a new trophy: the Canned Lions. Everybody who buys a designer trophy can, helps the lions in South-Africa - all proceeds go to CACH. The campaign will be submitted for the Cannes Lions Festival in 2017, so worldwide millions of people will be made aware of the plight of the South African Lion.

**Born Free Foundation**
[www.bornfree.org](http://www.bornfree.org)
The Born Free Foundation is a dynamic international wildlife charity, founded in 1984 by the actors Bill Travers MBE and Virginia McKenna OBE, stars of the iconic film Born Free, their son, Will Travers OBE, the charity’s President. Born Free takes action worldwide to save lives, stop suffering and protect species in the wild.

“The animals involved are habituated to human contact, often hand-reared and bottle fed, so are no longer naturally fearful of people. Such animals will approach people expecting to get fed— but instead receive a bullet, or even an arrow from a hunting bow. This makes it easier for clients to be guaranteed a trophy and thus the industry is lucrative and popular.”

**Lion Aid**
[www.lionaid.org](http://www.lionaid.org)
LionAid is a UK charity working globally to save lions and end the decline of wild lion populations. They highlight the true plight of lion populations, canned/captive hunting and the trophy hunting trade.

**Claws Out**
[http://claws-out.com](http://claws-out.com)
“I began my campaign after returning from Ukutula in February 2015. I booked my trip under the impression that my volunteering would contribute towards the conservation of lions however I was not made aware that lion farming in South Africa is often used to raise cubs for canned hunting. The aim of my campaign was to raise awareness and in the 16 months I have run Claws Out, I continue to receive messages of support every week from people all over the world for speaking out. I circulated the blog around my family, friends and colleagues and everyone that I have spoken to were not even aware that canned hunting is legal in South Africa, and show complete disgust and outrage when they find out it is the case; even more so after discovering that young volunteers like myself are being misled into raising the lions that will eventually be killed. Most people consider South Africa a country that cares about their wildlife however all of my supporters now agree that this simply cannot be the case if the government are allowing one of their most precious species to be killed under such barbaric conditions.” Beth Jennings
Four Paws (Vier Pfoten)

“This barbaric practice (canned lion hunting in South Africa) guarantees a kill as the habituated lion has no where to go inside the ‘can’ or enclosure where it is shot. The animals can’t escape from the cages. Occasionally they are attracted with bait, sometimes they are even sedated with medicine.”

“First pet …
Unwitting tourists visit these farms and pay money to look at or touch young lion cubs. That they are thereby supporting a horrific industry, an industry that even many hunting associations reject as being unethical, is something that most of the tourists don’t know. The farms often advertise as wildlife sanctuaries to lure in foreign volunteers under the pretence of helping save the species.”

Big Cat Rescue
http://bigcatrescue.org

“Petting Cubs in Africa Supports the Canned Hunting Industry
In this episode we investigate the so-called “green con”, where volunteers are paying exorbitant amounts to come to South Africa to hand raise lion cubs under the impression that they are doing it for conservation. Activists allege that most of these cubs end up in a “canned” hunt or as breeding robots for farms.”

“We also focus on the alleged abuse of the permit system for the breeding and hunting of lion and ask whether the country needs to have standardised regulations across all provinces.”
2.2 Global Marches for Lions

The Global March for Lions, protesting against canned hunting, was first held in 2014 in 62 cities worldwide (see map below) and subsequently in 2015 and 2016. (See Section 7.4 for YouTube video links.)

2.3 Petitions


“Show us your #REALTROPHY pics and urge the South African government to ban Canned Lion Hunting. Bred for hunting: South Africa’s Lion Industry The hunting of the bred lions is not the only reason for complete rejection of this industry as being unethical from the point of view of animal protection. The road to suffering for the lions on the South African breeding farms begins shortly after their birth.”
AVAAZ
1 million to ban the lion trade -- Big win in court!
(Signed by over 1,829,935 so far.)

Care 2
5 Reasons We Marched to Ban the Import of Lion Hunting Trophies (signed by over 76,500 so far).
Ban Lions bred to be shot in South Africa’s ‘canned hunting’ industry. (Signed by over 14,500 so far.)

PETA UK
http://www.peta.org.uk
“Let Cecil Be the Last – Ask South Africa and Zimbabwe to Ban Canned Hunting Canned hunts are nothing more than pre-packaged slaughters for people with too much money and not enough heart. Call for them to be banned!”

World Animal Protection
Petition against Trip Advisor allowing unethical places to be reviewed and with that they highlighted The World’s Cruelest Attractions (which includes cub petting and Lion Walking in South Africa). http://www.worldanimalprotection.org.uk/wildlife-not-entertainers/focus-cruel-industry

Change.org
(https://www.change.org/p/stop-canned-hunting-in-south-africa) (signed by over 6456 so far)

The Animal Rescue Site (USA)
http://theanimalrescuesite.greatergood.com/clickToGive/ars/home
“Sign the petition asking the head of the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, Peter Thabethe, to put a stop to these cruel canned hunts for good.” (Signed by over 58,945 so far.)
Focus on Wildlife

MoveOn.org petitions
Stop Canned Hunting Murder. (Signed by over 7,900 so far.) http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/stop-canned-hunting-murder

Go Petition
Stop Trophy/Canned Hunting. (Signed by over 8,698 so far.) https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stop-trophycanned-hunting.html

Causes.com petition –
Save Our Lions from Canned Hunting. (Signed by over 54,000 so far.) https://www.causes.com/actions/1671426-save-our-lions-from-canned-hunting
3 TROPHY IMPORT BANS etc.

3.1 Overview

This section covers –

- The countries who have introduced bans on importing lion trophies (all within the last 15 months) (3.2)
- More detail on the US ban introduced in December 2015 (3.3)
- The motion being put to IUCN World Conservation Conference in September calling for an end to captive breeding and canned hunting (3.4)
- The position in the EU (3.5)
- The position in the UK (3.6)
- The 42 airlines who have banned the carriage of lion trophies (3.7)

In addition, Several African states have committed to calling for Africa’s lions to be promoted to the highest level of protection (CITES Appendix 1) at the upcoming CITES COP17 meeting to be held in Johannesburg in September 2016.
3.2  Current import bans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Nature of Ban</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Ban on all lion trophy imports</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Ban on all lion trophy imports</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Ban on importing Appendix I species and six Appendix II species including Lion (Panthera leo).</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| United States | Lions in Southern Africa classified as “threatened.” Import permits will not be issued unless importer can demonstrate that “your activities will enhance or benefit wild populations of the species involved.”  
No permits are currently being issued.                                                                                                                                 | December 2015 |
| US (New Jersey State) | New Jersey bans the import, transport, export, procession, sale, offer for sale, or shipment of parts of all Big Five species                                                                                     | May 26, 2016  |

3.3  United States

The US is the biggest market for lion trophies, and in particular captive bred lion trophies, from South Africa.

In December 2015, the US Fish and Wildlife listed African lions under the ESA (with South African lions (leo melanochaita) listed as threatened). The listing requires strict scrutiny of applications for permits for the import of sport-hunted lion trophies, which can only be issued if permitting that import would “enhance the propagation or survival of the affected species.”, and after USFWS evaluate whether the lions originated from a country with a scientifically sound management plan for the species. **No such permits are currently being issued.** Unless and until they are this will have a serious impact on the canned hunting industry given that the US is its biggest market.
3.4 IUCN World Conservation Congress

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawaii, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016 https://portals.iucn.org/congress/motion/009 -

“REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN Commissions to encourage specifically the South African Government, as well as all other southern African Governments, to support this initiative by drafting and enacting legislation by 2020 and giving reasonable time frames to:

- terminate the practice of breeding lions in captivity for the purpose of 'canned [hunting][shooting]' through a structured, time-bound process;

- restrict captive breeding of lions to registered zoos or registered facilities whose documented mandate is as a recognised, registered conservation project;

- develop norms and standards for the management of captive-bred lions in South Africa that address welfare, biodiversity and utilisation aspects, taking into account Threatened or Protected Species (ToPS) regulations, legislation and IUCN guidelines governing this activity, and

- legally prohibit the hunting of captive-bred lions under any conditions.

Explanatory Memorandum:

Over 200 lion farms exist in South Africa, of which about 5 per cent are registered with the South African Predator Breeders Association. Conditions of breeding and captivity are known to vary considerably but few, if any, comply with standards set by the Pan African Association of Zoos and Aquaria (PAAZA) or the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA). Since the capture of wild lions for keeping or breeding in captivity has been prohibited for several years, a genetic paucity exists in the captive population, which is humanised and disinclined to escape when 'released' to be shot in enclosed areas. Professional hunting associations are on record as distancing themselves from a practice described as unethical. The motion seeks to establish a time-bound process to terminate breeding of lions in captivity for non-conservation, commercial purposes; and congruently to terminate the hunting of such captive-bred lions.”
3.5 European Union

EU initiatives to limit or ban trade in trophies have included –

- Suspending lion trophy imports from Benin, Burkina Faso and Cameroon in early 2015.
- MEP Neena Gill tabled a Written Declaration in the European Parliament calling for a prohibition on imports of hunting trophies to the EU on trophy hunting imports into the European Union, The Declaration received 134 votes from Members of the European Parliament.

Earlier in this year, a number of MEPs attended a special screening of Blood Lions followed by a question and answer session. This received significant publicity, particularly on social media.

3.6 United Kingdom

The UK Government responded to the killing of Cecil the Lion by stating: “The government will ban the importation of [lion] trophies into Britain, unless we see very significant improvements in the performance of what’s happening in Africa... We will be looking very closely at key indicators and those indicators include: age of lions, the latest scientific research is pushing that it should be over six. In the interim measure we will be looking very closely at quotas, we will also be looking closely at international verification”.

Further evidence of the UK political profile of canned lion hunting is 4 “Early Day Motion” condemning canned lion hunting in South Africa that have been presented to the UK Parliament since 2008 –

http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2008-09/2023, signed by 61 MPs
http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2009-10/127, signed by 52 MPs
http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/1280, signed by 29 MPs
http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/282, signed by 42 MPs
### 3.7 Airlines Bans on Lion Trophies

As at August 2015 (Source: Humane Society)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Airlines</th>
<th>International Airlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Etihad Airways</td>
<td>Vueling Airlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KLM</td>
<td>Aeroméxico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Europa</td>
<td>FastJet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgin Atlantic</td>
<td>Airberlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgin Australia</td>
<td>Air Tahiti Nui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgin America</td>
<td>Royal Jordanian Air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brussels Airlines</td>
<td>Air Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emirates</td>
<td>WestJet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar Airways</td>
<td>CargoJet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air France</td>
<td>American Airlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Airways</td>
<td>United</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAG Cargo</td>
<td>Delta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qantas</td>
<td>Air New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore Airways</td>
<td>Condor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austrian Airlines,</td>
<td>Lufthansa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binter Canarias</td>
<td>Swiss International Airlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JetBlue</td>
<td>Turkish Airlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comair</td>
<td>Ethiopian Airlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiian Airlines</td>
<td>Iberia Airlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CityJet</td>
<td>Aer Lingus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOT Polish Airlines</td>
<td>Finnair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 RECENT CRITICAL REPORTS

4.1 International Fund for Animal Welfare: Killing for Trophies; An Analysis, of Global Trophy Hunting Trade, June 2016


This report covers trophy hunting generally and includes breakdowns of, inter alia, lion exports from South Africa, drawn from a detailed study of CITES records from 2004 – 2014.

“South Africa has seen an increase in canned hunt demand. South Africa, where canned hunting is most prevalent, has approximately 200 ranches with between 6,000 and 8,000 lions and “[h]unters pay as much as $20,000 to bag a big male,” which is still significantly cheaper than hunting a lion in the wild. The US is the biggest importer of lion trophies. According to data from CITES, 1,113 trophies from captive lions were imported to the US from 2004 to 2014, a 570 percent increase as compared to the next most imported captive animal to the US, the lechwe. The number one exporter of threatened captive taxa from 2004-2014 is South Africa, exporting 2,234 percent more than the US, the second highest country exporting captive threatened taxa.”

“Other factors also differentiate eco-tourism and wildlife watching from the trophy hunting industry. The photographic sector operates year-round versus predominantly during the hunting season, can host a larger number of guests, employs more people, generates higher
average revenues, and offers higher staff wages than trophy hunting outfitters.”
“Lions are the most traded captive hunting trophy species, with more than 5,000 captive lion hunting trophies exported from 2004 to 2014.”

4.2 US NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS:
“Missing the Mark: African trophy hunting fails to show consistent benefits.”

13 June 2016.

Recommendations
Ensure that trophy hunts benefit conservation through -
• Closing regulatory loopholes that harm protected species.
• Tightening trophy import permitting requirements.
• Increasing fees for trophy imports to fund science and conservation.
• Allowing only imports taken using fair chase hunting methods

“Fair chase”
“Fair chase” hunting is generally defined as the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit of free-ranging wild game in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper advantage. Most hunters and hunting organizations in North America support fair chase hunting as part of a general code of conduct. Unfortunately, many of the practices commonplace on African trophy hunts do not qualify as fair chase. Baiting, drugging, and fencing of target animals, or hunting from vehicles or in or around protected areas, each occur (either legally or illegally) in some or all of the countries profiled in this report. Such tactics do not benefit species conservation, and they contribute to the poor reputation and negative media attention trophy hunters have acquired.”

“As a first step, FWS should develop a fair chase standard and require trophy import permit applicants to certify that the hunt was conducted using fair chase methods. FWS should also seek adoption of a resolution at this year’s CITES Conference of the Parties laying out best management practices and standards for fair chase hunting that must be met in order for countries to receive quotas for CITES listed species. FWS should consider, in its enhancement and non-detriment findings, whether host country laws or guide licensure organizations set their own fair chase standards.”
5 THE RESPONSE OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY

5.1 ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents)

One of ABTA’s roles is promoting ethical wildlife tourism through the publication of the publicly available Global Welfare Guidance for Animals (the “Global Guidance”) and the 5 associated “Specific Guidance Manuals” available to ABTA members.

ABTA has expressly stated in the Global Guidance that “canned hunting” is an “unacceptable” practice (Section 6, Paragraph 1).

Canned hunting includes canned lion hunting in South Africa by trophy hunters. Trophy Hunting is itself classed as “unacceptable” in the Global Guidance, and the “Unacceptable and Discouraged Practices” manual states:

“The ethical, social and biological problems associated with trophy hunting would seem to far outweigh any positive economic contribution claimed by the hunting industry. Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.”

5.2 ANVR (Netherlands)

ANVR have very similar guidelines to ABTA (with whom they liaise).

ANVR have recently supplemented and strengthened these guidelines by specifically
classifying as unacceptable activities involving captive bred lions such as walking with lions and using cubs as photo props.

5.3 **Volunteer Tourism Operators**

Volunteer tourism is now a huge worldwide business. CACH estimates that in 2015 the **largest** breeding facility in South Africa was earning 3-4m ZAR from paying volunteers from outside South Africa.

The majority of volunteers book through specialist volunteer tourism operators based in Europe, North America & Australia. CACH is working with a number of operators who are now ceasing or reviewing volunteering projects involving lions as they become aware of their true nature and in response to so much social media criticism.

This year CACH has also started working with universities in the UK to warn their students about these lion projects.

Specific volunteering agency responses -

- **Wegweiser Friewilligenarbeit**
  November 2015: German volunteering directory wegweiserfreiwilligenarbeit.com, the first volunteering directory in German speaking Europe, banned all lion cub activities from its project database. The offering of such projects will also play a bigger part in its selection process of volunteering organisations that can showcase their projects in the directory.

- **Responsible Travel**
  "CUDDLING LIONS MAKES THEM AN EASY CANNED HUNTING TROPHY
  More pertinent than the shameless greed though is the outright abuse of human trust"
these farms are happy to employ to fill their coffers further. Advertising themselves as ethical ‘conservation reserves’ and ‘sanctuaries’, some private farms advertise for animal-loving volunteers to come and help look after their baby cubs. Volunteers – having paid upwards of £1,500 for the apparent privilege – are asked to bottle feed lions, hug them, walk them and play with them as if they were kittens – this isn’t because they’re cute and they like to play, it’s so that they become habituated. The inherent fear that a wild lion would have of a hunter is effectively cuddled out of them, making them easy pickings for rich hunters on the prowl for a distasteful picture to prove their abject manliness; how tragically ironic.

- **Jagd & Hund, Germany**
  Europe’s largest hunting fair, Germany’s “Jagd & Hund”, and the Austrian “Hohe Jagd & Fischerei” fair have undertaken to oppose canned hunting products and packages

- **Activity International**
  A volunteer agency in the Netherlands offering working holidays to Ukutula, has stopped offering these. In the Netherlands no volunteer agency is now offering working excursions like this. According to Activity International the negative publicity around places like this, makes it no longer responsible for companies to offer them.
6 MEDIA COVERAGE

Traveller 24: 30 June 2016
Cecil the Lion: One year on, taking stock of trophy hunting in Africa

Digital Arts: 27 June 2016
Canned Lions: How a Brilliant Spoof Charity Project Could Help You Win an Actual Cannes Lions Award.
http://www.digitalartsonline.co.uk/features/illustration/canned-lions-charity-project-win-actual-cannes-lion/

Adventure Travel News: 14 June 2016
Blood Lions: A Call to Stop Canned Lion Hunting
I thought I knew what “canned hunting” was — animals kept in enclosures and shot by people who want to say they went “lion hunting.” I knew it was despicable. However, upon watching the film Blood Lions, it was clear the layers of wrong go much, much deeper.
http://www.adventuretravelnews.com/blood-lions-a-call-to-stop-canned-lion-hunting

Africa Geographic; 26 May 2016
The truth about volunteering with lions
A volunteer exposes the behind-the-scenes reality of working in one of South Africa’s lion parks. (20,000+ Shares on Facebook)
http://africageographic.com/blog/truth-volunteering-lions/
Captive Lion Breeding &
Canned Lion Hunting:
Damaging Brand South Africa?

_The Dodo:_ 25 May 2016 (92,366 views)
Baby Lion Was Bred To Be Hunted — But One Woman Protected Her "So many
people didn’t know about canned hunting. They were like me."

_World Animal News:_ 12 March 2016
Thanks To “Blood Lions” Film, The End of Canned Lion Hunting Could Be Near
http://www.worldanimalnews.com/content.php?content_ID=677

_The Scottish Mail on Sunday._ 8 May 2016.
Born to be shot, lion cubs in row sparked by Sir David TV cover.
http://www.pressreader.com/uk/the-scottish-mail-on-sunday/20160508/282480003004108

_National Geographic:_ 11 March 2016
The End of ‘Canned’ Lion Hunting May Be in Sight
How a film-based campaign is trying to stop a cruel industry.

_The Huffington Post (US):_ 31 March 2016
Walking With Lions and Canned Hunting in South Africa
The highly profitable commercialization of lions is plain to see - cub petting, volunteer recruitment, lion walking, canned hunting, trading and the new lion bone trade are on the increase.

_Inhabit._ 8 January 2016.
Captive lions bred to be prey are a dream come true for American hunters.
http://inhabitat.com/captive-lions-bred-to-be-prey-are-a-dream-come-true-for-american-hunters/
**TakePart: 3 Jan 2016**

**New U.S. Protections Could Crush ‘Canned’ Lion Hunting**

New data obtained by the Humane Society shows that nearly nine out of 10 lions hunted in the controversial practice are killed at the hands of Americans.

In new data obtained from the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species database, the Humane Society found that 719 African lions were imported to the U.S. in 2014, 620 of which came from South Africa—the epicenter of captive lion hunts.

In total, **429 lions were killed in South Africa’s canned hunts in 2014, and 363 of those lions were hunted by Americans—about 85 percent.**

[http://www.takepart.com/article/2016/01/03/canned-lion-hunt-america](http://www.takepart.com/article/2016/01/03/canned-lion-hunt-america)

---

**CNBC: 12 Jan 2016**

**’Canned’ African lion hunts might get wiped out**

Importing lion trophies to the United States just became a lot tougher, and activists are saying the new rules are likely to kill the growing business of shooting captive animals.


---

**The Washington Post: 5 January 2016**

**Lions are actually raised to be killed in South Africa. And American hunters love it.**

But the Obama administration’s federal protection of lions could end the practice when a new rule goes into effect in about three weeks. President Obama’s mid-December move to protect African lions as endangered species will effectively end “canned” hunts for the king of the forest since nearly **nine of every 10 killed is taken by an American**, according to new data released by the Humane Society of the United States.


---

**Daily Express: 23 November 2015**

**Hard hitting documentary to expose gruesome realities of ‘canned hunting’ industry**

A HARD-hitting documentary lifting the lid on "canned hunting" will get a London premiere this week.


---

**Africa Geographic 19 November 2015**

**The end of canned lion hunting looks imminent**

Captive Lion Breeding & Canned Lion Hunting: Damaging Brand South Africa?

The Mirror. 27 November 2015.
Horror of 6000 lions bred to be SHOT each year and the unsuspecting Brits conned into helping. http://www.mirror.co.uk/tv/tv-news/horror-6000-lions-bred-shot-6911049

Mirror (UK): 22 November 2015
Hunter threatened to KILL Michaela Strachan’s partner for exposing sick trade in lions shot for sport
Nick Chevalier faced terrifying death threats while investigating the cruel trophy hunting of lions in South Africa for new documentary

Bowdoin Globalist 17 November 2015
Canned Lion Hunting: The Brutal Truth

Daily Express (UK). 26 October 2015.
Scandal of the lion cubs bred for slaughter.
http://www.pressreader.com/uk/daily-express/20151026/281964606577063

Observer (USA) 22 October 2015
The Dark World of Canned Lion Trophy Hunting
‘Blood Lions’ documentary exposes breeding farms stocking legal hunting safaris

The Sun (UK). 9 October 2015
20,000 lion cubs bred to be new Cecils..

Pegasus Foundation: 7 October 2015
MSNBC Documentary Pulls Lid Off Sordid Practice of Canned Lion Hunting

The Telegraph. 24 September 2015.
South Africa tourists ‘duped’ into collusion with lion hunting industry.
Captive Lion Breeding &
Canned Lion Hunting:
Damaging Brand South Africa?

The Telegraph. 24 September 2015.
South Africa tourists ‘duped’ into collusion with lion hunting industry.

BBC 1 September 2015
Viewpoint: Uncomfortable realities of big game hunting
Largely based in South Africa, the welfare issues involved in canned hunting, which include severe over-crowding and inadequate access to food and water, have recently been exposed by environmental film maker Ian Michler in his film Blood Lions.

The Times (UK). 15 August 2015.
Caged Lions Slaughtered in trophy hunts.
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/africa/article4527842.ece

Mirror (UK) 13 August 2015
South African lion sanctuary boss says every other breeding facility in nation linked to 'canned hunting'
Paul Hart said those who claim they are seeking to conserve the species are directly or indirectly providing animals to be slaughtered by wildlife trophy hunters

The Metro. 10 August 2015
12 facts about lions that will make your blood boil.
http://metro.co.uk/2015/08/10/12-facts-about-lions-that-will-make-your-blood-boil-5335581/

International Business Times: 15 August 2015
Thousands of lions bred in captivity for South Africa’s canned hunting industry
Tourists select the lion which they want to kill by picking it out of a brochure, then travel to South Africa where they kill the animal with a bow and arrow or a rifle after it is released from a pen. The lions are usually tame, because they have been raised by humans.
http://www.ibtimess.co.uk/thousands-of-lions-bred-captivity-south-africas-canned-hunting-industry-1515623

Live Science: 4 August 2015
Lion 'Factory Farms,' and the Dark Side of Wildlife Tourism
Captive Lion Breeding & Canned Lion Hunting: Damaging Brand South Africa?

The Mail (UK) 4 July 2015
The horror of 'canned lions': Undercover investigation reveals how majestic beasts are being bred like 'farmyard chickens' just so hunters can choose which animal they want to kill for £31,000 from a CATALOGUE

The Dodo. 30 July 2015.
Lions are raised so People can shoot them in cages.

Humane Society International: 3 August 2015
Time for Major Airlines to Stop Shipping Africa Big Five Trophies

Tourism Concern: 2 July 2015
Volunteering with Lions in South Africa – Things I wish I had known

Conservation Travel Africa: 16 June 2015
Responsible Volunteering - 8 Ways to Choose an Ethical Volunteer Programme
But there are many others with a deceptive tagline, promoting themselves under the banner of conservation, science or education in an attempt to acquire legitimacy for their activities.
http://www.conservationtravelafrica.org/articles/7/responsible-volunteering-8-ways-to-choose-an-ethical-volunteer-programme

Projects Abroad: 28 April 2015
Cuddling Cubs – Discover The Darker Side Of Big Cat “Conservation”
http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/blog/?content=2015/the-darker-side-of-big-cat-conservation/

Working Abroad: 28 April 2015
The Awful Business of Canned Hunting
http://www.workingabroad.com/blog/post/smart-choices-when-volunteering-blog
Captive Lion Breeding & Canned Lion Hunting: Damaging Brand South Africa?

Nikela 28 April 2015
Canned Lion Hunting – Mass Commercialization of Trophy Hunting in Africa Canned Lion Hunting is growing to be big business in Africa. **Farms mass breed lions in pens, to be slaughtered in captivity with no chance to run.**

IFAW: 12 April 2015
**Blood Lions, the must-see documentary on canned hunting, debuts in the UK**
http://www.ifaw.org/united-states/news/blood-lions-must-see-documentary-canned-hunting-debuts-uk

Earth Island Journal (Canada) 20 January 2015
**South African government must regulate this growing industry** to protect lions from trophy hunters and over-eager tourists
http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/elist/eListRead/canned_hunting_and_cub-petting_are_big_business_in_south_africa/

Podvolunteer: 19 June 2014
**WHY DOES POD VOLUNTEER NOT OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER WITH LION CUBS?**

New Zealand Herald: 14 March 2014
Canned lion hunting: **South Africa’s dirty little secret**

Guardian Newspaper: 3 June 2013
**‘Canned hunting’: the lions bred for slaughter**
Canned hunting is a fast-growing business in South Africa, where thousands of lions are being bred on farms to be shot by wealthy foreign trophy-hunters
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/jun/03/canned-hunting-lions-bred-slaughter

The Express. 20 April 2013
**Tourists lured to South Africa to take part in shameful trophy hunts.**
Blood Lions blows the lid off claims made by the predator breeding and canned lion-hunting industries. Premiered to critical acclaim at the 2015 Durban International Film Festival it has since been screened at 75 venues around the world including London’s Royal Society and the European Parliament. A shortened TV version has been screened in 175 countries. The film is available in South Africa on Takealot.com, in the USA on Amazon and through PBS, and in the UK on iTunes. It is now also available on VOD worldwide.

“The long awaited release of the film Blood Lions doesn’t just blow the lid off claims made by the predator breeding and canned lion-hunting industries - it convincingly torpedoes them and debunks the myths one step at a time. So revealing and honest is this film, I can guarantee it’s already rattling cages and opening closets full of skeletons, as far away as Dallas and Reno, Shanghai and Little Saigon. The premiere screening at the Durban International Film Festival last night more than lived up to the hype, where it played to a packed house, and received a standing ovation. A factual and brutally hard-hitting documentary filmed in HD, Blood Lions exposes South Africa’s “dirty little secret”, to a wider global audience via the big screen...

The pre-publicity and social media campaign around the movie has made Blood Lions the most talked about conversation on Facebook and twitter – a much larger public now being aware of the con in conservation, and the trade in skin, bones, blood and money.” Simon Bloch
7.2 Carte Blanche

http://carteblanche.dstv.com/player/1067054/

Last month Carte Blanche ran a strong expose on the sordid industry that is captive lion breeding and canned hunting. CACH comments -

- The hunt that was shown was a nine day one in which ten lions were slain. This was organised by Bob Vitro (True Life Taxidermy) who is a New York based agent.
- Eight CAPTIVE BRED lionesses were released onto the farm "Wilzenau" which is owned by De Klerk Safaris. "Wilzenau" is situated in North West Province – a province that is commonly known as the Wild West due to the corruption and skulduggery that envelopes it like a blanket. Here anything goes. These 8 lionesses were all hunted over a period of four days.
- Two CAPTIVE BRED male lions were released on the fourth day of the hunt and slain on days five and nine. This is totally illegal in terms of the province's legislation governing release periods for captive bred hunts.
- Stormberg Elangeni Safaris, a South African hunting outfitter, arranged for five professional hunters (PHs) to attend the slaughter. These PHs – James Quin, Harry Sparks, John Sparks, Paul Inman and David Birch – all knew that they were "hunting" captive bred lions.
- Further adding to the unethical, immoral and illegal scenario, the American hunters were led to believe that they were hunting wild lion who roamed free in their own territory which they knew very well and thus were able to defend themselves and evade the hunters.
- The truth? All the lions were CAPTIVE BRED and habituated to humans. They were drugged, completely confused and terrified. They climbed trees, hid in warthog burrows and under thick bush – trying whatever they could to hide from the bullets. Their terror is unimaginable. They were mown down wherever they hid. They stood absolutely no chance of survival.

7.3 Other TV & Video


The award winning “Cook Report” brought the hideous canned lion hunting industry in South Africa to the world’s attention for the first time with Roger Cook posing as a tourist hunter, to be taken on a hunt for lions and specially imported tigers.

News 24 – Canned lion hunting is ‘damaging brand South Africa’
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bjCKYa69l4

Bob Vitro – The Kalahari Job - Published on Jun 29, 2016

This is the original hunting footage in the Carte Blanche feature and is from a 10 LION / 9 DAY hunt organised by Bob Vitro, a New York based agent.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oa6TG8xPbW4
Captive Lion Breeding & Canned Lion Hunting: Damaging Brand South Africa?

Four Corners: Safari Tourism – Paying to Kill
March 2016 44 Minutes
“A disgusting industry. How can they call themselves "Hunters"?”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfYfqyQ4p4

SABC The Con in Conservation 5 August 2013.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hav-1GuVcWQ

SPOTS on petting farms
In Africa hundreds of lions cubs are bred for one thing only: to be petted by tourists and volunteers. This is their story.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRxORbW4xbI

Carte Blanche
http://carteblanche.dstv.com/player/897214/

CBS 60 Minutes
Exposé on Johannesburg Lion Park

50/50 TV expose of the canned hunting industry
Described as king of the beasts, the African lion is one of the most appropriate symbols of Africa: the proud and majestic warrior. However, in recent years, humans have once again desecrated this magnificent symbol, and the canned lion hunting industry in South Africa is not only continuing, but flourishing.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tK9Y9JGr27Q

Follow the Spoor
But what most tourists never get to see or understand is that many of these 'nature destinations' are in some way or other caught up in the new and growing trend in South Africa -- breeding wild animals for the gun!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eDDm_XKL2Y

Prince Buthelezi, leader of IFP, talks about canned lion hunting
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jumvAW4ki9A

Vier Pfoten International.
Dead Lion Walking: Canned Hunting in South Africa. (just under 64,000 views so far)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azS2nlS92ik
Captive Lion Breeding & Canned Lion Hunting: Damaging Brand South Africa?

Canned Lion Hunting – the Inside Story. (over 13,000 views).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_W1KxLCfY

Stopmadnessable. Canned Lion Hunt footage 2012. (over 70,000 views).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFxAqeGXRZU

SBS Dateline. Dateline reveals the controversial world of ‘canned hunting’, where lions are bred and tamed in captivity ready to be killed by trophy hunters. (over 26,500 views).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TARThKHRtnI

Zembla (reports news items) about canned hunting on Dutch national television,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKDCDo-dG_w

RTL news, about the new tourist guidelines which includes a no go for cub petting,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_DJZUIj5E0
(item starts at 8.42)

SPOTS in tv show Burgers’ ZOO, about cub petting
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0XbAdb2eaM&index=1&list=PLaqXBTIdUCvf6CF_CHB-60T-ePA2LcYQ

SPOTS on ‘1 vandaag’ a programme on Dutch national tv about cub petting,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Qs_wWUhVBo&index=2&list=PLaqXBTIdUCvf6CF_CHB-60T-ePA2LcYQ

SPOTS on RTL news,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iRmYvV0gNQ&list=PLaqXBTIdUCvf5BcZ_ZgmT4PtsIZmE80-&index=15
October 2015

Movie made by SPOTS about cub petting business, shown on the Holiday fair in Utrecht,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRxORbW4xbl&index=12&list=PLaqXBTIdUCvf5BcZ_ZgmT4PtsIZmE80-

Videos 9148. Lions bred to be shot in South Africa Canned Hunting. (over 695,500 views).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOUFdMKTLG4
Stichting Spots. This is Leo: the connection between lion breeding, cub petting and canned hunting. (over 2,900 views).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkIm5sHZxmk

CBS5. Investigates Canned Hunting (over 1,000 views).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1dR4QO6Th0

Environment The Guardian. Lions bred to be shot in South Africa’s ‘canned hunting industry’ video (over 1,700 views).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVgr9aCWOdM

Born Free. Canned Hunting Footage (over 48,800 views).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RrK7tC4JvY

Africa Adventures. Lion hunting in South Africa. (over 2,300 views).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNwENaa1MRY

Rohan Marley. entrepreneur and former football player, son of the late Bob Marley, calls to end canned hunting and save all lions now. (over 900 views).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Bu8gRvMQi8

ITV Daybreak. Jerome Flynn talks to Daybreak. (over 4,500 views).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCx51j-LvfM

7.4 Global Marches for Lions: YouTube Links

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOsBP9uKzgA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlvAqQ2MdlV4
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxtTWYNm98I
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di-ZRmtgSEw
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDbgy4eydSk
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FY_qiz4_gzo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYBLVBNQnG4
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhvFB_FpyYg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kG3eFvt44Mg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rE0OH3rRk4
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFoB9z4p_Wc
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMsVfMVZHw
7.5  Books

With the Heart of a Lioness by Ron Thompson

Janus Publishing Dec 2015  https://www.amazon.co.uk/Heart-Lioness-Ron-Thompson/dp/1857568443

The author has been a cat lover since early childhood and is passionate about wildlife conservation, especially in regard to the big cats, which are under severe threat. The volunteering experience has only reinforced this and Ron is keen on raising awareness about the plight of the African lion.

“The author gives an emotional and troubling account of the dark side of an animal refuge centre in South Africa who exploits the good intentions of volunteers and the general public for personal gain and the ‘sport’ of big game hunting.”

“a true eye opener to the goings on behind glossy websites”
Dying to be Free by Gareth Patterson

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dying-be-Free-Gareth-Patterson-ebook/dp/B008XJFCCG

This is Gareth Patterson’s account of his investigation into the ‘canned’ lion industry in Southern Africa, where lions are bred in captivity for the sole purpose of being hunted and killed by high-paying trophy hunters. He unveils the ugly parallels that exist between the oppression of humans in the ‘old’ South Africa and the continuing cruel exploitation of wild animals in the ‘new’ South Africa. He exposes the myths of South Africa’s conservation image and how, even at present, these myths are largely believed and unquestioned. Even now, hunting is still openly ‘sold’ to the public as an integral part of ‘conservation’ rather than for the use and profit of humans.

Making a Killing by Gareth Patterson

http://www.garethpatterson.com/#!Making%20a%20killing/zoom/c1t44/image135s

In this, his seventh book, Gareth targets the ugly world of trophy hunting in Southern Africa and in particular the growing "Canned lion hunting" industry. "Canned lions" are captive bred animals, sometimes hand reared, which are confined in fenced areas for wealthy clients to shoot. The lions may even be drugged to make the killing even easier.

Canned Lion Hunting - A national Disgrace by Bev Pervan & Chris Mercer
https://www.amazon.co.uk/Canned-Lion-Hunting-National-Disgrace/dp/0620337249
Published February 2005.
Social Media

Social media (Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, Google+, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Tumblr etc etc) is one of the fastest ways for information to spread around the world these days. In one day information can hit the entire world! It can be a blessing or a curse depending on which way you look at it. As of January 2016 there were 2.307 billion active social media users and 1.968 active mobile social media users (Smart Insights Global social media research summary 2016).

The captive lion breeding and canned lion hunting industry in South Africa is being exposed and posted all over social media and spreading like wildfire.

Take for example the most recent exposure of Jan Walter Slippers from Limpopo. He made the news this month when Captured in Africa Foundation broke a story and posted photographs and information showing the neglected state of the lions he breeds on his farm. “These Lions belong to a man called Walter Slippers who runs 3 operations, a breeding farm, a hunting farm & a coffee shop in Alldays called Toeka Plaas Kombuis, where the cubs go to be petted...& then shipped back to the farm. The breeding & hunting operations are called Ingogo Safaris - www.ingogosafaris.co.za”
This post was published and in one day it had been shared around the world and has also now been turned into online news articles (therefore spreading dramatically the story) by organisations such as:-


Africa Geographic - http://africageographic.com/blog/photos-emerge-of-malnourished-lions-on-breeding-farm/


The Times UK - http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/250-starving-lions-found-in-raid-on-trophy-hunting-farm-bcqdn2d0c


There will be much more on this story and many others to come. With social media nothing ever really disappears, it can come back to haunt you time after time. Each time a new person shares the information, even years later, the information is still out there!
This review is dedicated to Bev Pervan, CACH Director, who died earlier this year.