

# NATIONAL PRINCIPLES, NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR LION (*Panthera Leo*) HOLDING/BREEDING CENTRES IN ZIMBABWE



**ZIMBABWE PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

## FOREWORD

Captive breeding of lions, *Panthera leo* is a controversial issue with respect to large carnivore management and conservation. In Zimbabwe, the National Management Lion Conservation Strategy allows captive breeding of lions. The target for the Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for the lion in Zimbabwe is to develop and implement a national lion captive breeding management policy. The issues for captive breeding of lions in Zimbabwe include:

- a) Identification of the conservation benefits of captive lion breeding,
- b) Examination and critical analysis (costs/benefits) of the introduction of captive bred lions to the wild,
- c) Examination and critical analysis of market opportunities and threats of captive bred lions,
- d) The need and requirements for the regulation for the regulation of captive lion breeding in the country (Adapted from Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for the Lion *Panthera leo* in Zimbabwe, 2006).

The development of the ecotourism industry in Southern Africa, and the creation of new, privately owned wildlife reserves led to the demand for the reintroductions of lions. Although translocation and reintroductions are now well-practiced techniques that are used to establish lion populations in new wildlife reserves, little information is available on the way lions behave after reintroductions (Van Dyk, 1997). In Zimbabwe, there are lions both in the wild and in captivity.

On 6 July 2010, the wildlife management authority management authority met with lion breeders, keepers and animal welfare organizations and the objectives of the meeting were:

- To define purpose of breeding and keeping lions
- To identify and discuss issues related to breeding and keeping of lions in captivity
- To chart the way forward on the breeding and keeping of lions in captivity

It was agreed on the meeting to form a lion taskforce team that would formulate the captive bred lion's policy. The task force team consisted of the following organizations and members;

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority - Mrs. R. Chikerema-Mandisodza

Chipangali Wildlife Orphanage – Mr. K. Wilson

Antelope Park – Mr. A. Connolly

Lion and Cheetah Park – Mr. A. Newall

ZNSPCA – S.Chikadaya/C.Shields

Wild is life Trust – Mrs. R. Dankwerts

Mr. P. Rautenbach

VAWZ - Ms M. Harrison

AWARE – Dr K. Dutlow

## BACKGROUND

Current studies show that there is a decline of between 30-50% in African lion population with estimates ranging from 23,000 to 39,000. The lion population in Zimbabwe is estimated to be between 1000-1700 animals (Chardonnet 2002, Bauer and Van Der Merwe 2004). With a current range of 60,000 – 90,000 km<sup>2</sup> compared to their distribution over approximately 250,000 km<sup>2</sup> in the early 60s (Child and Savory 1964, Smithers 1983). The present range is less than one quarter of 50 years ago and probably no more than 20% of the country's total land area. Lions are currently listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), and are considered “vulnerable” by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group, 2006).

The distribution and home range of the lion has shrunk considerably in historic times. It became extinct in Europe some 2,000 years ago and disappeared from Northern Africa and most of South West Asia 150 years. The lion home range in Eastern and Southern Africa has been extirpated from at least 30% of its historical range (Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for the Lion in Zimbabwe, 2006). A number of factors affect the viability of lion populations. These include availability of wild prey, indiscriminate killing of lions, size and extent of the lion population, lion habitat fragmentation and presence of livestock. Other factors that affect lion populations emanate from inappropriate management, which is lion-human conflict, socio-economic factors, inappropriate policies, land-use, political factors and trade. However, the most important root causes are population growth and poverty (IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group, 2006).

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of captive lion breeders and applications for lion captive breeding in Zimbabwe (ZPWMA Permits records). Currently there are seven registered lion captive breeders with an average of about 50-100 lions (ZPWMA Permits records - Please see current and updated status of lion breeders and keepers in appendix as of August 2011). There are other lion captive breeding operations, which are not registered. Most of the centers started keeping lion for non consumptive tourism and some as pets. The most common use of captive bred lions is lion walks. Lion walks are done with cubs before they reach the age of three. There is anecdotal evidence that some lions bred in Zimbabwe were sold to South Africa to be used in the captive lion hunting industry that was banned recently.

The issue of major concern with captive bred lions is accumulation of mature adult lions. Lion's survival rate in captivity is almost 100%; because there are no predators for the cubs in addition, they enjoy veterinary services unlike in the wild. In addition, lions in captivity live longer than those in the wild. Lions can reach an age of over 20 years in captivity as compared to 10-14 years in the wild (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lion>, accessed July 2007). It seems that this accumulation and lack of other uses (e.g. the banned hunting industry) has led to more and more captive breeders experimenting with the possibility that captive lions can be successfully introduced into the wild. This decision may also be the result of pressure from the conservation community.

To this end, the ZPWMA recognized the need to develop clear guidelines for captive centers, including how lions already in captivity should be kept and what their conservation value is, but also a set of guidelines for controlling the removal of wild lions into captivity, as to date all such lions are essentially lost to the wild population.

This document outlines the results of a stakeholder participatory process conducted by the ZPWMA from August 2010 to September 2011 and forms the basis for a draft captive lion policy document for Zimbabwe

# **NATIONAL PRINCIPLES, NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR CENTRES HOLDING LIONS IN CAPTIVITY AND BREEDING FROM SUCH LIONS (*Panthera Leo*) IN ZIMBABWE**

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this document are:

- i. to provide a national approach and minimum standards to all aspects relating to the management of captive bred lions;
- ii. to establish destination and role of captive bred lions upon reaching maturity;
- iii. to protect the rights of owners of properties neighbouring those on which captive bred lions are introduced;
- iv. to regulate the import and export of captive bred lions;
- v. to protect the genetic integrity of indigenous lion populations; and
- vi. to ensure sustainable use of captive bred lions
- vii. to provide for the welfare of captive bred lions
- viii. to come up with a captive lion inspection team

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Wild** - A lion is considered to be wild if:

- it is free-ranging,
- it lives on wild prey populations, which do not require to be supplemented in numbers or with food,
- its own diet is not supplemented with food artificially,
- it occurs in its natural habitat within the historical distribution range of the particular species, and
- its social requirements are met at all times.

**Managed wild populations** - A lion population is considered to be a managed wild population if:

- it is free-ranging,
- it lives on wild prey populations whose numbers may require to be supplemented,
- it occurs in its natural habitat within the historical distribution range of the particular species, and
- its social requirements are met at all times.

**Captive** - A lion is considered captive if any of the criteria of the definitions for wild or managed wild populations are absent.

**Captive-bred** - A lion bred under controlled unnatural conditions is considered to be captive-bred.

**Canned lion hunting** - Canned hunting is considered to be any form of hunting where:

- a lion is tranquillised, artificially lured by sound, scent, visual stimuli, feeding, bait, other lions, or animals of another species, or any other method,
- captive bred lions are hunted.
- a captive bred lion, or any lion, is prevented from escaping the hunter, either by physical constraint, such as fences, or by mental constraint, such as familiarity with humans.

## **A. KEEPING AND BREEDING OF CAPTIVE BRED LIONS.**

### **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

Lions that are kept in captivity for species conservation and commercial purposes are subject to the following conditions:

- i. No permit for the keeping of lions in captivity will be issued before the facility has been inspected and approved by ZPWMA as a Captive Lion Holding Facility after

- recommendation by the Captive Lion Inspection Team, CLI team (see v. Annual Inspections, sec a) below).
- ii. Lions may not be allowed to breed in captivity, unless the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPMWA) has registered the holding facility, as a Captive Lion Breeding Centre, with an approved conservation management plan and business plan in place. The breeding permit shall be valid for a maximum of one year only and will be re-issued after inspection by ZPWMA. If a breeding permit is not issued, it is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that the animals do not breed. If breeding occurs without a permit the owner will be fined and the animals are subject to confiscation and possible destruction by ZPWMA.
  - iii. Lions may not be captured from the wild population and kept in captivity unless the animal is orphaned or injured and is captured with the purpose of rehabilitating the animal and returning it to the wild within as short a time as possible (a maximum length of about 12 months). The centre will require specific permission from the ZPWMA which will only be issued once a letter of certification from a veterinarian experienced with captive bred lions has been submitted to ZPWMA supporting the specific capture and rehabilitation of the individual case. If the lion is not able to be returned to the wild it should then be kept in a Captive Lion Holding Facility.
  - iv. Captive bred lions and managed wild lions held in captivity may not be released into the wild or transferred from the facility without prior permission from ZPWMA.
    - a. A full proposal must be submitted to the release plan which must include follow up for a minimum of 3 years post release.
    - b. Lions which are destined for release into the wild cannot be habituated to humans in any way and this will be evaluated by the CLI team.
  - v. A register must be kept at the facility and should record for each animal the parentage, sex, age, identification, date acquired, source/origin, treatments administered, movement within the facility, mortalities and reasons for mortality. All mortalities should be immediately reported to ZPWMA for verification or a veterinary certificate issued from a registered veterinarian.
  - vi. Temporary movement permits that apply to specific, identifiable lion(s) must have conditions for the return of such species to their original centers.
  - vii. All captive bred lions should be vaccinated against rabies and all staff that handle the animals must be vaccinated against all zoonotic diseases
  - viii. Lions tested positive for any disease should be quarantined and receive immediate veterinary care.
  - ix. The cost of veterinary inspection and ZPWMA certification will be entirely the responsibility of the owner.
  - x. Captive bred lions may not be exposed to or come into contact with members of the public for any purpose whatsoever, without prior approval from ZPWMA. Captive bred lions may only come into contact with humans for specific stated purposes e.g. for lion walks, veterinary attention, etc
  - xi. All lions are kept at the sole risk of the owner and the ZPWMA does not accept any liability for any cost, loss or damage resulting from keeping lions.
  - xii. Claws may not be removed permanently, canine teeth may not be removed and any alterations to de-voice an animal may not be done.
  - xiii. No lions may be kept as pets.
  - xiv. Exhibition of lions must conform to the Animal Welfare Act.

- xv. Fencing specifications as prescribed by ZPWMA for the management of captive bred lions must be adhered to.
- xvi. An environmental impact assessment in conjunction with the written comments of adjacent landowners will be considered when establishing a captive facility for lions.
- xvii. All abandoned lions from holding/breeding lions would be forfeited by state and there will be no compensation to the owner.

## **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR CAPTIVE LION HOLDING AND BREEDING FACILITIES.**

### **i. Size and lay out of holding facilities.**

- a) Permanent Holding Facilities for Adult Lions: Such facilities should be a minimum size of 30m X 30m for the first animal, and an additional 10m X 10m equiv. per each additional animal.
- b) Temporary Holding Facilities for Adult Lions: Temporary holding facilities for the keeping of lions for a period of up to 6 weeks must provide 10m X 10m per individual. Lions may not be kept in a temporary holding facility for longer than six weeks.
- c) Only Permanent Holding facilities may be used for any tourism related enterprise, provided that such facilities are also fenced with a buffer fence. For growing lions an area equivalent to 3 square meters per kg body weight per animal should be used as a minimum standard.

According to Mellen (1997) the minimum size specifications for felids in captivity are;

<10 kg = 6.5 x 6.5 x 8 ft (2 x 2 x 2.5 m) per cat (l x w x h)

<20 kg = 13 x 6.5 x 8 ft (4 x 2 x 2.5 m) per cat (l x w x h)

Floor space should be increased by 50% for each additional cat.

### **ii. Construction and Fencing**

- a) Holding facilities (temporary and permanent) may be constructed from wire mesh (10 gauge). Razor wire and barbed wire fences may not be used. Fences should not be lower than 2 m if the fence has an overhang and 3m if it does not, and should be cemented into the ground.
- b) Electrification of fences is highly recommended. and electrified fences must have back up.
- c) Overhangs of a minimum of 60 cm at a 45 degree angle should be added if fences are not electrified.
- d) Enclosures should be specifically designed to ensure that animals are protected from fear and distress. They should be able to hide if they need to.
- e) Enclosures should be designed with an area of adequate cover from sun, rain and wind.
- f) Single enclosures should have at least one vehicle access gate.  
Multiple enclosures should be linked by a network of management enclosures or channels such that every lion/group of lions is able to be moved to an enclosure that has a vehicle access gate.
- g) Each enclosure should have access to a “management pen” for the purpose of isolation of dangerous animals, veterinary care and safe cleaning of enclosures.
- h) Suitable substrates should be provided within the enclosures. Concrete is NOT a suitable substrate.
- i) Signage denoting the ‘Danger of Lions’ should be provided on all enclosures.

### **iii. Keeping and Identification of Lions**



- a) All lions should be individually recognizable, and/or marked with an implantable microchip or other appropriate method; so that the owner/manager can at all times reliably identify each particular individual, to the satisfaction of ZPWMA.
- b) Microchip numbers, or identifying marks or characteristics should accompany any subsequent permit application concerning that individual.
- c) ZPWMA should be informed within 10 days of any change in status concerning an animal held in captivity (including birth, deaths, etc) or prior to any intended change of ownership, locality or facility. All escapes should be reported immediately and definitely within 12 hours.

#### iv. Reintroductions in holding/breeding facilities

No wild animals will be captured from the wild for breeding purposes in captivity. There are more than enough holding/breeding facilities in the world to make sure that there is genetic sharing and no inbreeding.

#### v. Welfare Standards

##### The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare

1. Provision of food & water
2. Suitable environment
3. Animal health management
4. Opportunity to express most natural behaviour
5. Protection from fear & distress

The five freedoms as mentioned above are a basic set of principles that are internationally recognised in all aspects of animal welfare. They have been used as a basis for many codes of conduct, welfare acts and general management manuals for animals in captivity. The basis of all captive animal management in Zimbabwe should be founded on these principles and then expanded on where possible, for the enhancement of the welfare of animals held at any facility.

##### 1. Provision of food & water

- All animals should receive the **appropriate** diet for their species, which is of nutritive value and of sufficient quantity.
- Water must be given daily in sufficient quantity and in clean containers. Water must be available for the animals at all times throughout the day and night.

##### 2. Suitable environment

- Animals in outdoor enclosures must be provided with correct shelter, from sun, rain and wind. Enclosures must allow the animals to react normally under a flight or escape situation.

- Careful consideration must be taken with regards to vegetation within the animal's enclosure. All enclosures must have a 'safe' place where the animal can hide from the public and out of view. Harmful vegetation must be removed as well as any vegetation which may interfere with the electric fencing.
- Enclosures must be cleaned daily of manure and left over food, and the water supply must be fresh at all times.
- Enclosures must be suitably constructed with security of the animal and the viewer/general public, taken into consideration.

### **3. Animal health management**

- Routine observation of all captive animals:
- The condition, health and behaviour of each animal must be observed twice daily, especially in the event that animals are left unattended in their enclosures overnight.
- Should an animal be distressed, sick or injured they must receive immediate attention and treatment.

#### **Enclosures**

- Enclosures must be designed with the specific species requirement in mind.
- The size of the enclosure is very important; it is particularly noted that enclosures that are too small lead to a host of psychological issues.
- Trees inside the enclosure or near the enclosure must be checked and frequently maintained so as not to provide an escape route. If the animals' natural activity is within the treetops then trees must be made available within the enclosures, but sufficiently far enough from the enclosure fence. Logs and items of interest, such as water features etc. must also be introduced into the animals enclosure.
- Distance or barriers between animals and public must be sufficient to minimise transmission of disease or potential pathogens.
- Enclosures must not be overcrowded and consideration must be given to correct male / female ratios. If breeding is not intended, or permits have not been issued correctly for the permission of breeding, then males and females must be housed in separate enclosures.
- Enclosures for different species should be designed within an appropriate proximity to one another to reduce stress. Also, antagonistic species should not be housed adjacent to each other. i.e. hyena and lions should not be enclosed directly next to one another

## **Veterinary Management**

Each animal must have veterinary records kept, which is maintained under the supervision of a veterinarian.

The responsibilities of the supervising Veterinarian are as follows:

1. Treatment of sick animals
2. Administration of vaccines
3. Parasite control (internal & external)
4. Post mortem examinations of animals should they die
5. Supervision of quarantine premise
6. Nutrition and the animals diet
7. Euthanasing an animal which is un-treatable

### **4. Opportunity to express most normal behaviour**

- Captive breeding of wild animals should be encouraged only if there is a long-term policy for that species and an insitu project to return them to the wild.
- Accommodation of animals should be as natural as possible so as to meet the physiological and psychological needs of the animal.
- Enclosures must have the correct bedding material, burrows, nesting boxes, pools, substrates and vegetation and other enrichment materials designed to aid and encourage normal behaviour patterns and to stop abnormal behaviour. Facilities must take into account growth in the animals and must be capable of providing adequately for their needs at all stages of their development.
- Social animals should be kept in a social environment with other animals.

### **5. Protection from fear & distress**

- Animals must be handled by appropriate, qualified personel. Handling must be done with care to protect the well being of the animal, avoiding unnecessary discomfort, stress or physical harm.
- If public are allowed to touch the animals it must be for a restricted period of time so as not to cause any discomfort to the animals.

## **AT NO TIMES MUST THE ANIMALS BE PROVOKED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING**

Pregnant animals or very young animals should not be available to view for the public.

Adapted from Tikki Hywood Trust ; Code of Conduct for Captive Wild Animals

## **vi. Inspections**

- a) Inspections of each facility will be undertaken by a designated 'Captive Lion Inspection (CLI) team' comprising ZPWMA, a recognized and approved welfare organization and an experienced veterinarian, and inspection reports should be provided to ZPWMA. These should describe the status of the animals (e.g. disease, nutrition) and the condition of the holding facility (e.g. hygiene, size, cover) before registration is renewed.
- b) When holding facilities do not meet required standards, or when animals are in poor conditions, owners will be given a grace period of one month to correct the problem. If the problem persists after the stipulated time, the animal/s will be confiscated and the onus will be on the owner to provide funds for housing and feeding until the animal can be relocated or destroyed/or destroyed at the discretion of ZPWMA, without any compensation.

## **vii. Euthanasia**

- Aged captive bred lions (over 15 years old) may only be euthanized if ZPWMA issues a permit following recommendations from the Captive Lion Inspection team. Destruction should be performed by a Veterinarian using the most humane method of euthanasia.
- Recommendations for permits for euthanasia of aged animals (older than 15 years) will be made by the CLI team following inspections
- All permits for euthanasia will be issued by the Director General according to the Parks and Wild Life Act Chapter 20:14 of 1996 as amended in 2001.

## **viii. Captive Lion Breeding**

- a) Captive breeding of lions is not permitted, without a current Captive Lion Breeding Permit from ZPWMA.
- b) Breeding should be prevented by:
  - 1. Physical separation
  - 2. Vasectomy of males
  - 3. Surgical sterilization of females
  - 4. Hormonal contraception
- c) This is the responsibility of the owner.
- d) In the event of indiscriminate or illegal captive breeding, the additional animals will be confiscated and/or destroyed at the discretion of ZPWMA without any compensation or benefitting from the trophies. The breeding permit will be rescinded and the owner will be subject to a fine.

## **ix. Captive Breeding Facility Permits**

The purposes for breeding may fall into one or more of the following categories for which maximum numbers of lions on a property are defined:

1. Conservation Objectives
2. Education Objectives
3. Commercial Tourism Objectives, but not including hunting
4. Rehabilitation Objectives

Breeding permits will only be issued under the following conditions:

- a) All minimum standards of keeping lions in captivity have been met.
- b) All breeding animals are correctly identified and their genetic history documented and traced.

The number of lions for each objective will be determined on a case by case basis.

**In accordance with the World Zoo Conservation Strategy (WZCS) and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), zoos should make a significant contribution to conservation, biodiversity and sustainable use issues. All zoos/breeding facilities should therefore participate in internationally coordinated breeding programs of endangered species and contribute directly to conservation activities in the wild.**

#### **x. Captive Lion Holding Facility (non breeding) Permits**

Permits to have captive bred lions on a property will fall under the following categories for which maximum numbers of animals are defined:

- a) Conservation Objectives
- b) Education Objectives
- c) Rehabilitation Objectives
- d) Research Objectives
- e) Commercial Tourism Objectives, but not including hunting

The number of lions for each objective will be determined on a case by case basis

#### **xi. Walking with Lions Permits**

- a) A specific permit for this interaction must be applied for to ZPWMA. A suitable management and business plan, including a suitable retirement plan for these animals, must be in place before a permit is issued. If no progress is made on the stated retirement plan within a two year period of the first issue of the walking permit, further breeding should be suspended. ZPWMA will hold the right to suspend further breeding if the facility does not keep up continuous reasonable progress on its retirement plans.
- b) Interactions with the public must be limited on a lion age basis to :
  - 2 months to 6 months - maximum of 5 people to one cub for 20mins twice daily (for each lion there will be two handlers and a maximum of three eco-tourists).
  - 6 months to 16 months – maximum of 6 people to one cub for 90 minutes twice daily (for each lion there will be two handlers and a maximum of four eco-tourists).
- c) Interactions with the public should stop at 16 months of age. A comprehensive safety briefing should be given at the start of each lion walk.

- d) Two handlers per lion should be present on a lion walk.
- e) ZPWMA will only issue three Walking with Lions permits at any one time to prevent uncontrolled proliferation of lion breeding.
- f) Such permits will only be issued if the centre can show that a significant proportion of the profits from such enterprises are going to a wild lion conservation project in Zimbabwe.

## **xii. Prey and feed**

- The killing of live prey by lions is only permitted as part of a registered rehabilitation or conservation exercise. Permits will not be issued if the facility makes no substantive progress on the above mentioned exercise in a two year period. Members of the public should not be allowed to view this.
- In no circumstance should members of the public feed animals in captivity
- Food & Water must be prepared under hygienic conditions
- must be protected from dampness, deterioration, mould or contamination by insects, birds and vermin
- perishable food and drink must be refrigerated
- staff must be made aware of the importance of hygiene, when dealing with the preparation of food. They must avoid contamination between equipment, utensils and surfaces
- When feeding a number of animals in one enclosure, make sure there are sufficient bowls so as not to cause fighting over food. Preferably food should be hidden around the enclosure for mental enrichment for the animals.
- Drinking troughs must be placed to avoid contamination of soiling by other animals, birds, rodents and other pests.
- Uneaten food must be removed daily – either burnt or buried to avoid an infestation of flies.
- Records of the diets, in terms of quality, quantity & type should be maintained.

## **xiii. Habituation**

- There should be minimum habituation/human imprinting on all lions destined for reintroduction

## **xiv. Human/animal security**

- Ensure all enclosures are properly designed so as to prevent escape of animals e.g. fences/walls of sufficient height to prevent escape by scaling; structure of sufficient depth to prevent escape by digging/burrowing animals (i.e. foundation on such enclosures should go down at least 4 feet); enclosure of sufficient strength to prevent escape; no trees too close to enclosures to prevent escape if trees fall onto enclosures during storms, etc.
- Ensure gates and doors to enclosures are securely locked at all times so as to prevent unauthorised opening.
- Ensure staff are properly trained so that all safety procedures are carried out when entering and exiting enclosures.
- Ensure all enclosures are well-maintained i.e. supporting posts firmly fixed into ground, fence material securely fitted to posts so weight of animals cannot displace it, hinges on gates/doors secure, no damage to enclosure or its fittings that could harm animals (e.g. jagged edges etc.).

- Ensure there are well documented, clear, tested emergency procedures for when there is a fire, flood or an animal escapes.
- Ensure specific members of staff have undergone training and are licensed to use a fire-arm should you have dangerous animals. One such staff member to be on duty at all times in case of an escape.
- Ensure firearms and darting equipment are available for immediate use and are regularly maintained.
- Ensure safety barriers between all enclosures and visitors, are designed so as to prevent contact of visitors with enclosures and that measures are in place to minimise any contact with enclosures, for example, through appropriate signage.
- Except where authorised and properly monitored, discourage the feeding of animals by the public through signage etc.
- Except where authorised and properly monitored, discourage direct contact between an animal and a human, as this may present dangers to the public and cause stress or injury to the animal.
- Carry out a risk assessment ensuring that *direct* contact between animals and humans, if permitted, is controlled and safe e.g. handling, feeding, walk-through exhibits, etc.
- Contact between the public and dangerous wild animals should not be permitted under any circumstances.

## **B. TRANSLOCATION OF CAPTIVE BRED LIONS**

- i. No lion shall be transported without the necessary internal and national permits and without being micro-chipped.
- ii. Crates for the translocation of lions must comply with IATA regulations for air transport and the requirements specified by ZPWMA.
- iii. All transportation of live animals must comply with CITES Resolution Conf. 10.21(Rev. CoP 14)
- iv. Non-indigenous lions (e.g., white lions) should NOT be imported into Zimbabwe to safeguard the integrity of our indigenous gene pool.
- v. A certificate of health must be issued by a competent veterinarian prior to the translocation of any lion and such certificate must indicate that the premises of origin has been free from anthrax, panleukopenia and canine distemper for six months and that each predator is free from diseases such as FIV, BTB or any other disease which may threaten local populations. The animal should have been vaccinated for rabies and treated with a broad spectrum dewormer and acaricide. Any other requirements by local veterinary and other authorities must also be met.

## **C. Export of Lions.**

- 1) It is an offence to export lions from Zimbabwe without a ZPWMA export permit.
- 2) An export permit will only be considered if the exporting facility holds a current permit to keep captive lions.



- 3) An export permit will only be issued if the importing facility, in the country of import, conforms to regulations laid out in this policy document. This will be determined by a site inspection by the 'Captive Lion Inspection team'.
- 4) A certificate of health must be issued by a veterinarian prior to the translocation of any lion and such certificate must indicate that the premises of origin has been free from anthrax, panleukopenia and canine distemper for six months and that each predator is free from diseases such as FIV,BTB or any other disease which may threaten local populations. The animal should have been vaccinated for rabies and treated with a broad spectrum dewormer and acaricide. Any other requirements by local veterinary and other authorities must also be met.
- 5) An import or export of lions must meet CITES regulations.
- 6) No large cat shall be imported or exported or transported without the necessary national permits and without being micro-chipped.
- 7) Non-indigenous lions should NOT be imported into Zimbabwe to safeguard the integrity of our indigenous gene pool.
- 8) Where an application is received for the import of non-indigenous wild large predators into the country, the applicant will have to prove, by means appropriate Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) testing, that the predators are genetically sufficiently dissimilar to local predators to the extent that it precludes the possibility of the hybridization of subspecies, species, or other taxa.

## APPENDIX

Owner	Property	No. of	Comment
<b>Mashonaland West</b>			
Bristow, G.	Lion and Cheetah Park	53	Includes 4 cubs from Vhuka
Chapfika	Vhuka Farm	2	
Cuthbert	Mhondoro	2	
Mason, G	Ruwanzi	7	Includes 1 cub
Dobinson, P	Chengeta/Pamuzinda	20	Approx.
	Marshlands	2	
<b>Mashonaland East</b>			
Travers, J	Imire Game Park	2	
Danckwerts, R	Chedgelow	7	
<b>Mashonaland Central</b>			
Putterill, G	Mwanga Lodge	7	
Carter, S	Bally Vaughan	5	
<b>Manicaland</b>			
F. Muller	Farm in Headlands	?	May have got rid of them
<b>Midlands</b>			
Connolly, A	Antelope Park	89	
	Farm in Kwekwe	4	Not sure
<b>Masvingo</b>			
Sarpo, T	Oscro	20	Approx.
Naude, D	Fair Range	5	
Sparrow, R	Simply Wild	77	Ownership in dispute
<b>Matabeleland North</b>			
Connolly, A	Lion Encounter	5	
Du Preez, I ?	Shearwater	2	
Brown, A	Spencers Creek Crocs	2	
<b>Matabeleland South</b>			
Bristow, P	Bishopstone	2	
Bristow, D	Sentinel	1	
Watson, S		4	Approx.
Steyn, B	Sondelani	10	Approx.
Rosenfels			Not sure
Rogers, C		2	Not sure
York, B			Not sure
Botha	Doddieburn	14	
Wilson, K	Chipangali	15	6 to be moved to Doddieburn
<b>TOTAL</b>		359	

## REFERENCES

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