



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Australia takes major step to protect Africa's lions with ban on canned hunting trophies.

Nairobi, Friday 13th March 2015

The Australian Government is taking action to protect African lions from the practice of canned hunting by banning the import and export of trophies made from these animals.

A canned hunt is a trophy hunt in which an animal is kept in a confined area, increasing the likelihood of the hunter obtaining a kill.

“Canned hunting is unethical and cruel, and the people of Australia want this horrific practice to stop” said Australian High Commissioner-designate to Kenya, John Feakes. “Canned hunts offer an easy and sure kill because the odds are stacked in favour of the hunter. The lions will always be killed because they simply can't escape. It is an abominable and cowardly practice.”

Kenya is at the forefront of animal conservation in the region, most recently with regard to ivory poaching, and does not allow canned hunting. But other countries in Africa do.

This measure, announced on 13th March 2015 by the Australian Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, will treat African lions as though they are listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

This will protect African lions by limiting the ways that African lion items can be imported to and exported from Australia. Trade in personal African lion hunting trophy specimens will only be allowed if the specimen is from an animal that was deceased prior to 1977 (when African lions were listed on CITES).

Background

- The measure has been introduced in response to Australian public concerns about trophy hunting of African lions (*Panthera leo*), and in particular the practice of ‘canned hunting’.
- This measure is about the protection of animal welfare and the ethical treatment of African lions - not the conservation of African lion populations.
- African lions are listed internationally on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- The new measures will apply to imports to, and exports/re-exports from Australia.
- Personally owned African lion hunting trophies may not be imported into Australia unless the specimen was from an animal that was deceased prior to 1977.
- Canned hunting is an unfair hunt. It includes:
 - Hunting of lions in fenced enclosures where they can’t escape.
 - Hunting of lions that have been raised by people, so they approach hunters and their vehicles.
 - Hunting of disoriented lions that have recently been put in a new environment.
 - Hunting of drugged lions.
- The maximum Australian penalty for wildlife trade offences is 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to AUD\$170,000 (KSh12 million) for individuals and up to AUD\$850,000 (KSh60 million) for corporations.
- More information can be found at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/cites/stricter-measures/african-lion>

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