



Honourable Minister Pohamba Penomwenyo Shifeta
Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Private Bag 13306
Windhoek
Namibia

Lifo.Fillemon@met.gov.na; Janine.Sharpe@met.gov.na; Colgar.Sikopo@met.gov.na;
Romeo.Muyunda@met.gov.na

Thursday 12th August 2021 - World Elephant Day 2021

MINISTERIAL UPDATE ON THE ELEPHANT AUCTION

The Pro Elephant Network (PREN) consists of an international community of diverse individuals and organizations, comprising specific expertise, from both western and eastern academies, on wild and captive elephants, including the fields of science, health, conservation, elephant welfare, economics, community leadership, social justice and the law.

The members of the Pro Elephant Network refer to your communication dated 11th August 2021 which is attached hereto.

Please can Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism confirm:

1. If the forty-two elephants that are to be captured and sold internationally are for *in situ* conservation purposes only?
2. What the final destinations of the forty-two elephants selected for exportation are?
3. If any of the fifty-seven elephants will be going into captivity?

We appreciate your time in addressing our request and kindly await your prompt reply.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration,

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefania Falcon', is written over a large, faint watermark of the PREN elephant logo.

Stefania Falcon
On behalf of PREN

stefania@proelephantnetwork.org

Mobile +27 (0) 73 301-21-07



www.proelephantnetwork.org

PREN MEMBERS

Owais Awan

Advocate High Court, Islamabad, Pakistan

Suparna Baksi-Ganguly

President and Co-Founder, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Center,
Bangalore, India



Dr Brett Bard	Veterinarian, South Africa
Dr Jessica Bell Rizzolo	Postdoctoral Researcher, the Conservation Criminology Lab, Dep of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University
Janey Clegg	Committee Member, SPCA Mutare, Zimbabwe
Professor David Bilchitz	Director, South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public and Human Rights and International Law, South Africa
Megan Carr	Founder, Rhinos in Africa
Lenin Chisaira	Founder, Advocates 4 Earth/Green Law Connect, Zimbabwe
Dr Betsy Coville	Wildlife Veterinarian, USA
Nomusa Dube	Founder, Zimbabwe Elephant Foundation
David Ebert	Advocate, Founder Director - Animal Defense Partnership, USA
Stefania Falcon	Co-Founder, Future 4 Wildlife, South Africa
Daniela Freyer	Co-Founder, Pro Wildlife, Germany
Michele Franko	Captive Elephant Caregiver and Advocate, USA
Chief Stephen Fritz	Indigenous Leader, South Peninsula Khoi Council, South Africa
Dr Toni Frohoff	Ethologist and Behavioural Biologist, Founder of TerraMar, USA
Dr Marion E. Garai	Elephant Behaviour Specialist, South Africa
Dr Ross Harvey	Environmental Economist, Botswana
Heike Henderson-Altenstein	Director, Future 4 Elephants e.V.
Alok Hissarwala Gupta	Elephant Specialist, Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organizations
Iris Ho	Senior Wildlife Specialist, The Humane Society International
Peter Hodgskin	Founder, Hands-off Fernkloof, South Africa
Lynne James	Independent, Elephant Conservation, Zimbabwe
David Kabambo	Founder Director, Peace for Conservation – Wildlife Management, Tanzania
Dr Paula Kahumbu	WildlifeDirect, Kenya
Professor Mohan Kharel	Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal
Jim Karani	Advocate, Lawyers for Animal Protection in Africa, Kenya
Dr Winnie Kiiru	Founder, Conservation Kenya
Brigitte Kornetzky	President and Founder of Elefanten in Not , Switzerland/India
Dr Mark Jones	Born Free Foundation, UK
Kahindi Lekalhaile	Africa Network for Animal Welfare, Kenya
Dr Smaragda Louw	Director, Ban Animal Trading, South Africa
Dr Keith Lindsay	Conservation Biologist, Amboseli Trust for Elephants, Kenya; Fondation Franz Weber



Giorgio Lombardi	Warden Vogelgat Private Nature Reserve, South Africa
Nuria Maldonado	Ecologist, Environmental Science, Max Plank Institute
Linda Masudze	Advocate 4 Earth, Zimbabwe
Varda Mehrotra	Environmentalist, Climate Crisis Researcher, India
Brett Mitchell	Director, Elephant Reintegration Trust, South Africa
Dr Nurzhafarina Binti Othman	Founder: Seratu Aatai, Elephant Conservation and Research Coordinator at HUTAN-KOCP, Malaysia
Sharon Pincott	Elephant Behavioural Specialist, ex-Hwange, Zimbabwe
Michele Pickover	Executive Director, EMS Foundation, South Africa
Dr Yolanda Pretorius	SA Wildlife College, Elephant Behavioural Specialist, South Africa
Dr Jan Schmidt-Burbach	Veterinarian, Head of Wildlife Research and Animal Welfare, World Animal Protection International
Dr DJ Schubert	Wildlife Biologist, Animal Welfare Institute, USA
Ingo Schmidinger	Elephant Husbandry – Co-Founder iScapes
Antoinette Van de Water	Director, Bring the Elephant Home, South Africa
Vasanthi Vadi	CEO – Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations, India
Lara Wallis	Director – Animal Law Reform South Africa
Prof Dan Wylie	Rhodes University, South Africa
Amy P. Wilson	Director Animal Law Reform South Africa



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

Tel: 061 2842840

Private Bag 13306

Fax: 061 229936

Windhoek

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Press Release
(For Immediate Release)**

11 August 2021

Editors and Journalists

Ministerial update on the Elephant Auction.

The Ministry has successfully sold 57 out of the 170 elephants which were put on tender in December 2020. The sale of these elephants will raise a total 5.9 million Namibian dollars and attracted five bidders of which only three were successful.

A total of 15 elephants will be captured and remain in Namibia while 42 will be exported out of Namibia. The capturing will start this month to be conducted by Namibian Registered Game Capture Operators and supervised by the Ministry's officials.

The Elephant tender for 170 elephants was advertised on the 3rd December 2020 and closed on the 29th January 2021. The elephants that were put on auction includes 30 from Omatjete area, 50 from Kamanjab-commercial farming area, 60 from Grootfontein-Kavango cattle ranch area and 30 Grootfontein-Tsumkwe area.

With this auction, we intend to reduce elephant numbers in specified areas to minimize human elephant conflicts which has become persistent leading to extensive damages to properties, life losses and a disruption of people's livelihoods.

The allocation of where the elephants will be captured from is still to be done, the Ministry will consider the social behavior of elephants and how severe the situation is in the listed areas to inform the allocation.

The funds generated through this auction will be transferred into the Game Product Trust Fund to be reinvested in the conservation of Namibia's wild animals, including in community conservancies. Particularly the funds will be used for human wildlife conflict management, wildlife management among others.

Issued By:

**Romeo Muyunda
MEFT SPOKESPERSON**

