



Honourable Minister Barbara Creecy
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
minister@environment.gov.za
fshaik@environment.gov.za
NLeontsinis@environment.gov.za

Mr Shonisani Munzhedzi
CEO South African National Biodiversity Institute
ceo@sanbi.org.za
Mr Elliot Mashile
SANBI
E.Masile@sanbi.org.za

Mr Leslie Mudimeli
Executive Director National Zoological Gardens
L.Mudimeli@sanbi.org.za

13 April 22

Honourable Minister and SANBI Representatives,

PREN OPEN LETTER RE CHARLIE THE ELEPHANT AT THE PRETORIA ZOO

ENDORSEMENT OF THE EMS FOUNDATION STATEMENT

The Pro Elephant Network (PREN) as an international community of diverse individuals and organizations, comprising specific expertise, on wild and captive African and Asian elephants, including the fields of science, health, conservation, welfare, economics, community leadership, social justice and the law, has been respectively engaging with the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment and meeting with SANBI, since December 2020.





On the 16th December 2020 members of PREN alerted the Honourable Minister to their concerns regarding the mental and physical well-being and welfare of Charlie, the bull elephant at the Pretoria Zoo.

PREN members have subsequently repeatedly requested that Charlie undergo an assessment by independent, renowned elephant experts and, if the results of the assessments are in favour, that he be allowed to follow a rehabilitation program for reintegration in a more suitable natural environment, in collaboration with the Zoo and the EMS Foundation, a Member of PREN.

We are aware of the arduous and fruitless engagement process that took place between the EMS Foundation and SANBI representatives during 2021.

PREN fully endorses the actions of the EMS Foundation which includes the [public statement](#) of the 7th of April 2022.

PREN hereby formally requests once again that the South African Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment and SANBI, grant access to Charlie in order for an urgent independent veterinary and behavioural assessment to be carried out.

We remain concerned for Charlie's physical and mental well-being.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefania Falcon', with a checkmark at the end.

Stefania Falcon

PREN Coordinator

stefania@proelephantnetwork.org

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



www.proelephantnetwork.org

SIGNING MEMBERS OF PREN

Owais Awan	Advocate High Court, Islamabad
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	Exotic / Wildlife Animal Veterinarian
Dr Harvey Croze	DPhil (Oxon) Collaborating Researcher – Amboseli Trust for Elephants – Kenya
Nomusa Dube	Founder, Zimbabwe Elephant Foundation
David Ebert	Advocate, Founder Director of The 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 Behavioral Biologist, Founder of TerraMar Research
Dr Marion E. Garai	Elephant Behaviour Specialist - South Africa
Dr Ross Harvey	Environmental Economist, Botswana
Heike Henderson-Altenstein	Director, Future for Elephants e.V.
Alok Hisarwala Gupta	Lawyer, Animal Law – India
Iris Ho	Head of Policy - Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)
Peter Hodgskin	Founder, Hands-off Fernkloof, South Africa
Sangita Iyer	B.Sc., M.A., Founder of Voice for Asian Elephants Society, Nat Geo Explorer and Wildlife Filmmaker
Lynne James	Independent, Elephant Conservation, Zimbabwe





Dr Mark Jones	Veterinarian, Born Free Foundation - UK
David Kabambo	Founder Director of Peace for Conservation – Wildlife Management - Tanzania
Dr Paula Kahumbu	WildlifeDirect, Kenya
Professor Mohan Kharel	Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal
Nuria Maldonado	Ecologist, Environmental Science, Max Plank Institute
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
Professor Bob Jacobs	Neuroscience Researcher – Colorado College - USA
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
Linda Masudze	Advocate 4 Earth, Zimbabwe
Varda Mehrotra	Environmentalist, Climate Crisis Researcher – India
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	Director, EMS Foundation, South Africa
Bharati Ramachandran	CEO of the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations – India
Ian Redmond OBE	Founder, African Ele-Fund and Elefriends Campaign, Chairman of Ape Alliance and Co-founder of Rebalance Earth
Ingo Schmidinger	Elephant Husbandry – Co-Founder iScapes





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
Dr Liz Tyson	Animal Welfare Law, Programs Director - Born Free USA
Antoinette Van de Water	Director, Bring the Elephant Home, South Africa
Vasanthi Vadi	Trustee of the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations – India
Prof Dan Wylie	Rhodes University, South Africa

