



The Honourable Minister or Local Government Environment Affairs and Development Planning  
Mr Anton Bredell  
Email: c/o Rudolf.VanJaarsveldt@westerncape.gov.za

Cc: Dr Baard  
Cape Nature  
Email: ebaard@capenature.co.za>

Cc: The Overstrand Municipality  
Liezl de Villiers  
Senior Environmental Manager: Environmental Management Section  
Overstrand Municipality  
Email: ldevilliers@overstrand.gov.za

25<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**OPEN LETTER CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM AND A WORKSHOP TO  
REVISE OUTDATED, INEFFECTIVE, UNETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE  
MANAGEMENT OF BABOONS IN THE WESTERN CAPE**

Honourable Minister Bredell,

The undersigned organizations are part of the Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa (WAPFSA), an alliance of diverse South African NGOs that share certain values, knowledge and objectives and that collectively comprise a body of expertise from scientific, conservation, legal, welfare, rights, tourism, social justice and public advocacy sectors.

It has come to our attention that Human Wildlife Solutions has been recently contracted by the Overstrand Municipality to manage the Bettys Bay baboon troop, consisting presently of sixteen individuals, within the world renowned Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve.

We note that the management protocols followed by HWS are those produced by the Baboon Technical Team for use in the City of Cape Town and now accepted by Cape Nature (as the Western Cape conservation organisation) “as permit conditions to standardise and regulate management interventions by, for example, local authorities” for baboon management in the Western Cape.

We have continuously expressed that the protocols need to be reviewed and revised (Attached Annexure A and B) as the efficacy of the management is dependent on better control of human behaviours through management of waste and overall reduction of deterrents which entice baboons into human occupied areas. It is clear that the various municipalities are responsible for solid waste management, signage and by-laws that enforce the systems – but it is Cape Nature who issues permits that allow:

1. The use of lethal management, referred to by Cape Nature as “selective removal of recalcitrant problem animals”.
2. The use of pain aversion, through use of paintball guns, and sound aversion through use of bear bangers.
3. The use of loud playback recordings of leopards, other predators, or the sounds of animals being killed to represent an unnatural landscape of fear in attempts to prevent the baboons utilising historic home ranges. A practise which has been condemned by leopard advocacy groups and reputable zoologists.

We submit that the issuance of permits that allow the use of these ‘tools in the toolbox’ should be ceased until a more considerate and comprehensive management plan is in place.

The current guidelines and protocols cannot be applied to every scenario. Protocols written for dense urban settings are not to be considered the same for low density housing in a natural/protected environment. We therefore request that a fully inclusive workshop is hosted to revise the management systems and draft a comprehensive, compromise management document for management of baboons and primates in South Africa.

It cannot be denied that globally, wildlife is widely threatened. To have UNESCO declared Biosphere Reserves in South Africa is indeed a privilege. The Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve is the oldest of these and is designed to protect the world’s smallest plant kingdom and unique ecosystem of which baboons are an integral part. It is a foregone conclusion that lethal management of our small numbers of extant baboons should not be sanctioned by the authorities. Our request is an urgent one before HWS are allowed ‘hands on’ management (using the current inappropriate protocols) of the previously never-managed KBR troop in Bettys Bay, while simultaneously addressing the needs of all other baboons in the Western Cape.

The interface between baboons and humans will come under increasing pressure as intensive land use continues to put wildlife under extreme pressure. How we manage that interface needs careful consideration and we should be evolving management techniques, encouraging the employment, skills development and care of environment through developing the management system and not simply resorting to deliberately inflicting pain or killing of wildlife.

Dr Jane Goodall has recognised that what is planned for the Bettys Bay troop of baboons is unacceptable, and by extension should be unacceptable management for all baboon troops. We urge Minister Bredell to resolve this on-going issue of concern and call for an urgent,

inclusive workshop so that manner in which the interface between humans and primates is managed through an acceptable compromise Management Plan.

Sincerely,



Stefania Falcon

[stefania@emsfoundation.org.za](mailto:stefania@emsfoundation.org.za)

Mobile 0027 733012107

In Behalf of the following signing Members of  
the Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa:



Animal Talk Africa	Founder	Wynter Worsthorne
African Climate Alliance	Climate Dep	Sai
Baboon Matters	Founder	Jenni Trethowan
Ban Animal Trading	Director	Smaragda Louw
Beauty Without Cruelty (South Africa)	Chairperson	Toni Brockhoven
Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group	Co-Founder	Peter Oxford
South Peninsula Customary Khoisan Council	Senior Chief	Stephen Fritz
Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education	Director	Samantha Dewhirst
EMS Foundation	Director	Michele Pickover
Four Paws (SA)	Director	Fiona Miles
Future 4 Wildlife	Co-Founder	Anna Centura
Gifted for Good	Env. Education	Jabu Myeni
Global March for Elephants and Rhinos	Vice-Director	Megan Carr
Global White Lion Protection Trust	CEO Founder	Linda Tucker
Institute for Critical Animal Studies (Africa)	Director	Les Mitchell
Monkey Helpline	Co-Founder	Steve Smit
OSCAP-Outraged SAfrican Citizens Against Poaching	Director	Kim Da Ribeira
Parliament for the People	Reg Farming	Vivien Law
Southern African Fight for Rhinos	Director	Lex Abnett
Vervet Monkey Foundation	Founder	Dave Du Toit
Youth Climate Group	Climate Justice	Sera Farista
WildAid Southern Africa	Director	Guy Jennings