

# South Africa's out-of-control big cat industry — and how to tackle it

South Africa's big cat industry is out of control. A lack of effective regulation and legislation has allowed an industry to grow on an industrial scale, perpetuating the illegal trade of all big cat species. FOUR PAWS' report examines the big cat industry in South Africa and how it supplies the globe, both legally and illegally with big cats and their parts. The report also offers solutions on how to phase out the industry and for South Africa to reverse its negative role in global conservation.



**Three networks of traders and big cat facilities and people involved in the tiger trade operating in South Africa**



**PAIA requests provide evidence of how fragmented and ineffective existing regulations are for the keeping, movement, killing and trade of non-native big cats across provinces**



**Scale of the captive big cat industry**



**South Africa neglecting international agreements to protect tigers and big cats**



**How can South Africa become a leader for the protection of big cats?**



## Recommendations

- 1 Ban commercial trade:** End all commercial breeding and trade of big cats and their parts, with a complete phase-out of captive facilities by 2030.
- 2 Strengthen regulations:** Establish a centralised database for monitoring all captive big cats and facilities that keep big cats.
- 3 Close loopholes:** Harmonise provincial regulations to eliminate inconsistencies that allow illegal trade to flourish.
- 4 Global cooperation:** Align South Africa's policies with international standards, particularly the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and lead global advocacy for stricter protections for big cats.



Scan to read the full report here:



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