



Animal Welfare.  
Worldwide.

## Global Climate Strike

### March for **Animal Welfare. Worldwide.**

## Memorandum of Pertinent Issues in Respect of Climate Change and Animal Welfare.

Dear Representative,

In support of the “Global Climate Strike” for **Animal Welfare, worldwide** on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2023, we, FOUR PAWS in South Africa, urge the South African government to fulfil their obligations to the South African people to implement a just transition toward a low carbon economy and society, in light of the below considerations:

### **Full Submission:**

- 1. End the suffering of billions of Animals.** Around 80 billion land animals are slaughtered for food each year worldwide. The meat and dairy industry not only cause immense suffering for billions of farm animals, but it is also a dominant driver of the climate crisis. Animal-based food production and consumption must be drastically reduced to save billions of farm animals from suffering and exploitation to stay within the 1.5°C global heating limit.
- 2. Fair and just transition to animal and planet friendly farming,** we need a transition to farming systems that are resilient against weather extremes, diverse to support biodiversity and resilience of animals and ecosystems and help farmers in regard to external factors like droughts, heavy rain and other stressors which might affect crop yields and threaten their existence.
- 3. Promote food system change,** transitioning to healthy plant-based diets we can save land, water and resources and improve nature’s resilience to the climate crisis. A switch to plant-based diets, reducing consumption of (all) meat and other animal derived products. It is possible to feed South Africa’s growing populations a healthy, sustainable diet within food production boundaries by 2050 if animal protein consumption and production is reduced by 50%.

4. **Meat reduction to save the planet.** According to a May 2023, Meat Exhaustion Day Report by FOUR PAWS International, South Africa Meat Exhaustion Day was 8 May 2023, this calculation helps us understand the impact of our collective meat consumption on the planet and guides governments to formulate policies on food and farming that address their national contexts. We urge the government and the food industries to take action, set clear goals and implement effective policies for meat reduction because moving away from factory farming and adopting sustainable diets has major positive effects for the planet, human health, and animal welfare.
  
5. **Adopt higher animal welfare standards.** The Government of South Africa is urged to make available free of charge all animal welfare Standards developed by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). At present, these various Standards need to be purchased and are therefore not readily available to members of the public. The government should furthermore set emission reduction targets for the agriculture sector and require producers of meat and other animal-derived products to document and make available their emissions data. These emission reduction targets should be publicized to enable comparison within the sector.



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Fiona Miles

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