

11 January 2021

The Executive Director

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

NAMIBIA

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Dear Madam,

CONCERNS OVER IMPACT OF REMOVAL OF OMATJETE ELEPHANTS-KUNENE REGION

We trust that this letter finds you in good health.

Please find the list of signatories who are all stakeholders with legal standing in this issue included.

We refer to the publication regarding the tender invitation from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for the removal of 170 Elephants and specifically to the 30 Elephants earmarked from the Omatjete area. We are convinced that the 30 Elephants referred to generally in the tender document as Elephants in the Omatjete area, are likely to include Elephants which also frequent the Ugab River and surrounds, they are generally referred to in tourism as the “Desert Adapted Elephants” (DAE) and are a major tourist attraction to the area.

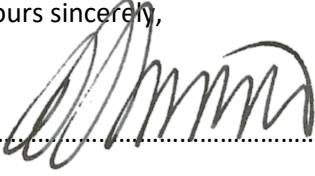
It needs to be understood that the signatories petitioning here have considerable vested interests in and/or a huge dependence on the tourism sector in the Tiseb, Sorris-Sorris and Doro Nawas conservancies and as such add value to these conservancies directly and indirectly through Joint Ventures, financial contributions and job and skills development provision to the communities as well as attractions and facilities to the Tourism industry consumers visiting Namibia. The scale of these benefits to all largely depends on the client value of the tourists visiting these areas. This in turn is highly dependent on the attractions offered to lure the tourists from all corners of the World. There is also a grave concern for the consequences and effects the removal of the Elephants will have on the already very sensitive downstream ecology of the areas affected and the logical impact on conservation.

While the stakeholders represented here fully accept and understand the challenges faced by the Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) issues in this specific area, we are convinced that the downside of removing the Ugab DAE population and, as a consequence, effectively, potentially partially shutting down tourism in these conservancies might not be the answer as it will clearly have detrimental consequences to the CBNRM model as a whole. Initiatives to mitigate, manage or prevent HEC by known NGO's, the Wildlife Credit fund compensation scheme along with new initiatives need to be stepped up and expanded in order to create an acceptable balance. Areas where the generation of tourism revenue is not possible, e.g. freehold farms and some conservancies can clearly afford a more clinical approach to the problem. In areas overlapping with those dependent on tourism revenue derived from DAE, practical solutions through clear MOU's might be pursued.

We would therefore like to take the liberty of appealing to your good office to place a moratorium on the removal of the DAE given the arguments above and hereby pledge our assistance in addressing the HEC problems existing in our areas of operation, i.e. the roaming areas of the Ugab herds. Failing this would be tantamount to admitting defeat and the acceptance of the implosion of the CBNRM model Namibia has pioneered as well as a major loss to the already suffering Tourism Sector.

We keenly await your response and would welcome an urgent engagement in this regard with your good office.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. H. Dörgeloh (Chairperson, Kunene Environmental Protection Association)

On behalf of the signatories

Signatories:

Kunene Environmental Protection Association – KEPA

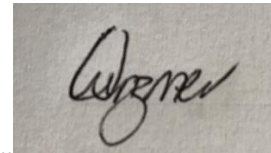
Heiko Dörgeloh / Chairman



About Africa Adventures & Tours

Walter Gentzmer / Owner

www.aboutafrica.co



Madisa Camp

Claire Whipp / Director

www.madisacamp.com



Buruxa Camp

Claire Whipp / Director

www.buruxacamp.com



Brandberg White Lady Lodge

Sarah Roos / Manager



www.brandbergwillodge.com

Mowani Mountain Camp

Stefan Horsthemke / Managing Director

www.chiwani.com



Camp Kipwe

Stefan Horsthemke / Managing Director

www.chiwani.com

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Brandberg Rest Camp

Basil Calitz / Owner

www.brandbergrestcamp.com



Best Travel Services

Uschi Wiese /Owner

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Mahena Safaris

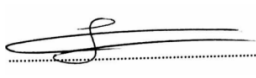
Uschi Wiese/Owner

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Dik Dik Adventure Tours

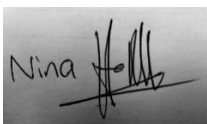
Christine Bays / Owner

www.circuit-randonnee-trek-namibie.com

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Namibia Click & Travel

Nina Holtrup /Owner

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African DreamTravel

Cordula Hampson / Marketing & Public Relations

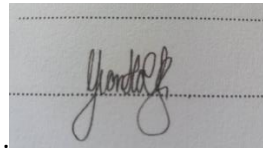
www.african-dreamtravel.de

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Local Tourism Is Lekker - Namibia

Yvonne von Holtz / Founder

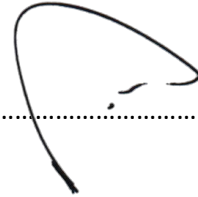
www.localislekker.travel



Destination Swakopmund

Olivier Ahrens / Founder

www.destination-swakopmund.com



Namibian Horse Safari Company

Andrew Gillies / Owner

www.namibiahorsesafari.com



Namibian Wild Horses Foundation

Christine Swiegers / Board Member

www.wild-horses-namibia.com



Global March for Elephants and Rhinos

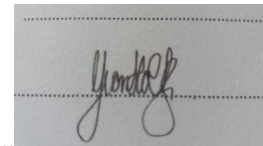
Rosemary Alles / President

www.March4ElephantsAndRhinos.org



Magic Destinations

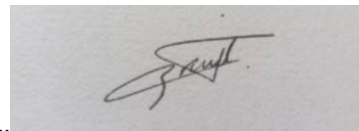
Yvonne van Holtz / Owner



Grandeur Nature Safaris

Franck Bruneliere /Owner

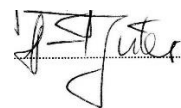
www.grandeurnaturesafaris.com



Puros Bush Lodges & Camp

Hein Truter / Owner

www.wild-exo.com



Skeleton Coast Adventure Tours

Hein Truter / Owner

www.wild-exp.com



Erongo Wild

Franmari Lang / Director

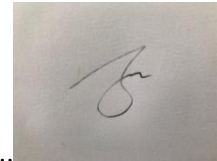
www.erongowild.com



Ombuwa Tours

Wotan Coetzer / Owner

www.ombu.co.na



Elephantics

Fran Duthie: President / Co-Founder

www.elephantics.org

..... AGREED VIA EMAIL.....

Two Million Tusks

Jane Alexandra - Co-founder

www.twomilliontusks.org

.....AGREED EMAIL.....

Future for Elephants

Heike Henderson / Founder

www.FutureForElephants.org

.....AGREED VIA EMAIL.....

Rafiki Tours

Joseph Kafunda / Owner

www.rafikisafaritours.com

.....AGREED VIA EMAIL.....

Sorris Sorris Conservancy

Gerson Aiseb

.....AGREED VIA EMAIL.....

Supporting letters attached from:

- *Mowani Mountain Camp and Camp Kipwe*
- *Madisa Camp*
- *Buruxa Camp*
- *Dik Dik Adventure Tours*
- *Namibian Wild Horses Foundation*
- *Erongo Wild*