



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Her Excellency Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila
Prime Minister of Namibia

Your Excellency:

I'm writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally who are aghast that Namibia is making scapegoats of wild animals for complex problems that require strategic long-term solutions.

Reportedly, Namibia intends to butcher 700 additional wild animals, including 83 elephants, after already shooting over 150 animals, purportedly for meat to feed hungry people, in response to drought conditions, and to address conflicts between humans and other animals. We urge Namibia to reconsider these actions, which will not achieve these aims, are regarded around the world as cruel, and put the global public at risk of a pandemic and to focus instead on more effective long-term solutions.

Nearly half of Namibia's population currently faces hunger. Meat from a few hundred animals will not come anywhere close to addressing this calamity, and the sources of water for humans and livestock as opposed to those for wild animals—who reside in Namibia's national parks—are not the same. Moreover, COVID-19, SARS, HIV, Ebola, and other zoonotic diseases have shown the world the dangers of butchering and consuming wild animals.

Because the plan is so blatantly short-sighted, there are allegations of ulterior motives, which a shift away from killing wild animals would shut down. Apparently, trophy hunters are being permitted to shoot some of the animals for a fee. We hope you agree that this time of crisis should not be an occasion for Namibia to entertain such pursuits.

The supposed benefits of killing several hundred wild animals also do not outweigh the negative consequences, and the decision is not based on sound science. Rather, the killing of these animals could lead to imbalances and worsen suffering, since every species plays a vital role in ecosystems.

Elephants, for example, are highly intelligent animals with strong family bonds. Killing even a few of them could devastate entire herds, leading to chaos, increased mortality among the survivors, and the risk of frustrated animals aggravating human-animal conflicts.

We understand that the United Nations is already working to help address Namibia's dire predicament, and we urge you to make further

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efforts to work with the World Food Programme, UNICEF, and the UN Population Fund as well as to encourage the international community to step in to provide lifesaving assistance, especially as the climate catastrophe is a matter of global concern. We also urge Namibia to consult with climate scientists and wildlife experts on creative lifesaving efforts that could reduce Namibia's drought burden, alleviate problems that Namibia's wildlife face, and address human-wildlife conflicts.

Last but not least, since animal agriculture is responsible for nearly a fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions, Namibia may want to consider trying to persuade the governments of the countries with the greatest meat consumption, such as Australia and the U.S., and regions producing the most meat, such as Asia, to incentivize their respective publics to support vegan food production and vegan eating. Namibia may also want to push the world's worst greenhouse gas emitters—China, India, and the U.S.—to tackle their footprint on the planet more effectively.

Thank you for your time and consideration. May we please hear from you? I can be reached at JasonB@PETAAsiaPacific.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Baker
Senior Vice President
PETA