

TO: Prof. Judi Wakhungu

Principal Secretary

Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources & Regional Development Authorities

NHIF Building, 12th Floor

Ragati Road, Upper Hill

PO Box 30126-00100

Nairobi, Kenya

Kenyans demand an immediate inquisition into the killing of Mohawk, pertinent actions to be taken to secure the Nairobi National Park ecosystem and for the Government to Involve Kenyans in Finding Lasting Solution to the Conservation Conundrum.

We, the people of Kenya, are deeply saddened by the death of Mohawk. The way the situation unfolded and what has been reported in the news and over social media has left us with a lot of questions that we need answered.

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has oft been touted as leaders in wildlife conservation. Today, in the face of the killing of Mohawk, one of Nairobi National Park's most iconic male lions, this leadership is being called into question. We demand that KWS conduct an immediate inquisition into the events that led to the shooting of Mohawk followed by the development of actionable "Problem animal control" policy to ensure that no more of Kenya's wildlife are lost in this manner.

From this inquisition, we would like to know the following:

1. What time did KWS first hear about the lion being sighted and what time did KWS arrive on the scene?
2. When KWS arrived on the scene why didn't the officers together with AP's, Police etc., cordon off the area and make sure that there was no public around?
3. Which KWS teams were dispatched to the site? Was a Problem Animal Control unit there?
4. Did KWS attempt to dart the lion so as to capture and take it back to the park?
5. If not, why was there no attempt to dart the lion? Is it true that the team who was there had no darts or a dart with half dosage?
6. Was there a vet on site?
7. What were the series of events that led to the motorcyclist injured? What was he doing and where was he standing in relation to Mohawk's position in the thicket?
8. Who gave authorization for the lion to be killed? What policies are followed in this case and who has this authority? Are all rangers aware of these policies?
9. Was there a KWS officer onsite in plain clothes with a handgun? If yes, why was he there and what was his role?
10. What, if any disciplinary actions will be taken against those deemed responsible for this preventable incident?
11. What actions to enable KWS to better manage such cases of conflict and to prevent harm to people and/or wildlife will be taken post inquisition? E.g., crowd control, improved response times
12. Is it true that Mohawk was simply using a wildlife dispersal corridor on the southern end of the park? What is being done to secure this wildlife dispersal corridor? Was he disturbed by the construction in the park?
13. Is it true that Cheru and some of the other lions who have recently left the confines of the park have left because of disruption and/or broken fences caused by SGR and Southern Bypass construction?
14. If yes, will all construction be stopped until fences are fixed and a proper analysis of disruption provided? Also what actions, remedies and penalties will be conferred on the SGR contractor for their negligence and their role in Mohawk's death?
15. Will KWS engage with the public to overhaul rules and regulations, training etc., of rangers so that they can respond to these issues using conservation best practice?

Kenya reportedly has less than 2,000 lions remaining in the country. On the 30th of March, we witnessed the unnecessary killing of an iconic lion by those whose mandate it is to protect our wildlife. Accusations are flying that these sudden forays of lions outside of NNP are due to construction, land grabbers, and pro-fence advocates trying to show that the park is unsafe. KWS can address these accusations by being transparent, carrying out an inquisition and taking appropriate action.

We deserve not only the truth, but accountability and subsequent actions from the Kenya Wildlife Service to ensure the safety and sustainability of Nairobi National Park ecosystem and all its wildlife.

We also call upon KWS, the Environment Ministry and the National Government to involve Kenyans in decisions and activities pertaining to wildlife conservation as is required in the Constitution. In this regard, we demand an inclusive National Conservation Dialogue (NCD). The NCD ought to lead to an agreed, futuristic and effective National Conservation Agenda that will be informed and inspired by science; the need to protect wildlife into the undetermined future; the need to effectively involve local communities (their cultures, thoughts and aspirations), as well as the need to revise conservation laws, policies and practices that are inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

We look forward to hearing from you on the way forward by **Wednesday 6th April**.

Best regards,

Salisha Chandra, Julie Dawson, John Mbaria
Kenyans United Against Poaching

Chris Pareiyo, Ibrah Kantet
Eseriani Wildlife Association

Jamey Ponte
Jane Goodall Institute- Roots & Shoots Kenya

Raabia Hawa
Ulinzi Africa Foundation / Walk with Rangers Initiative

Michael Mbithi
The Wildlife Foundation Board/Athi Kapiti Wildlife Conservancies / Lion Entry Deterrent Systems (LEDs)

Jacqueline Arkle, Tanvir Ali
Independent Conservationist

Salim Ahmed Umar
Safari Exposure Tours Ltd / Independent Wildlife activist / A Walk for Wildlife

David Mascall
Light for Life

Response should be sent to:
Kenyans United Against Poaching Trust
P.O Box 14734-100, Nairobi, Kenya
info@kuapotrust.org / kenyansunited.kuapo@gmail.com

CC: General Director, Kitili Mbathi
KWS Headquarters
Kenya Wildlife Service
PO Bo 40241-00100
Nairobi, Kenya

