



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Lion Conservation and Trophy Imports

Thank you for contacting me about the conservation of lions in Africa.

I entirely agree with you that lions are an iconic species that deserve our best protection, and I am glad that the UK Government is committed to conserving the world's wildlife. The UK is a leading participant in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which is reviewing the protection granted to lions.

I agree with you that the killing of the Zimbabwean lion known as 'Cecil' was a particularly distressing case. The Africa Minister, Grant Shapps, wrote to the government of Zimbabwe to call for our two countries to work together to promote lion conservation.

I know there have been serious concerns raised about African lion hunting trophy imports, which is why I strongly welcome the UK's agreement in principle with other EU member states to introduce stricter measures. I was also pleased that in 2012 the UK funded a conference in Johannesburg to consider conservation of the African lion with other interested countries.

As part of its efforts to tackle the illegal wildlife trade more broadly, the Government hosted and led the London Conference on Wildlife Trafficking, where over 40 countries adopted the London Declaration in an effort to save iconic species from being poached to the brink of extinction. It has also set up the £13 million Illegal Wildlife Challenge Fund to support projects in the developing world.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Edward Timpson

Edward Timpson MP

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