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100s in captivity.

Less than 10 in the wilds of their natural habitat.

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## CANNED LION HUNTING IN SOUTH AFRICA: *CHRONOLOGY 1997 - 2015*

- 1994** **INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE:** - **Tsonga traditional Healer Maria Khosa** advises Linda Tucker of atrocities taking place in the Timbavati area with White Lions being forcibly removed from their ancestral heritage lands and taken into cages.
- 1997** **THE COOKE REPORT:** “Canned Hunting” is first exposed by the international media, named and shamed, by the British investigative TV program called The Cook Report.
- 1998** **CAMPAIGNS:** of animal welfare groups to shut down canned hunting malpractices gain momentum.
- 2000** **A White Lioness:** (whose two parents were stolen from the wild and traded in an under-the-counter deal with a South African zoo), is born in Bethlehem, South Africa, on Christmas Day in a notorious canned hunting camp.
- 2001** **POLICE RAIDS:** secure the lioness’s safety.
- 2002** **GLOBAL WHITE LION PROTECTION TRUST (WLT):** takes all necessary action to free this lioness, named “Ma-Ra” by the African elders who revere the White Lions as a sacred heritage.
- 2004** **PROTECTED AREA:** After 4 years of campaigning and legal action, the WLT succeeds in winning Marah’s freedom, after raising the funds to purchase vast tracks of wilderness land as a Protected Area in the heart of the White Lions endemic habitat.
- 2006, June** **THE SUNDAY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER:** runs the story quoting animal welfare experts warning of “a looming animal welfare disaster.” No legislative protection for the White Lions. They are being hunted in cages, using large caliber weapons, and they may be legally hunted in the wild of their endemic habitat.
- 2006** **WLT WHITE LION REINTRODUCTION:** after nearly 20 years of technical extinction in the wild, the Global White Lion Protection Trust reintroduces 4 white lions successfully to a free-roaming territory in their natural habitat, to the point of self-sufficiency and surviving in the wild.
- 2007** **SCIENTIFIC CENSUS:** Lions numbers in the wild have crashed. A census undertaken in 2007, which originally estimated 100 000 lions in Africa, records less than 18 000.

**PATRON:** Dr Ian Player **PANEL OF ADVISORS:** Mr M.J Mahlangu (MP), Adv Nkosi Phathekile Holomisa (MP), Mr Harold Posnik, Mr Jason Turner (Msc), Mr Noel De Villiers, Ms Sindiswa Mathebula **COUNCIL OF INDIGENOUS ELDERS:** Retired High Chief Francois Paulette (Dene People, Canada); Ilarion Imerculieff (Alleut People, Alaska); Mother Moon (Chippewa People, Ojibwa Nation, Native America); Dr Apela Colorado (Oneida People, Hawaii); Dr E. Richard Atleo (Nuu-chah-nul People, Canada); Jan Si Ku (Ku Koi San People, southern Africa)  
**TRUSTEES:** Linda Tucker (CEO & Founder); Jason Turner, Philippa Hankinson, Paul Saayman

- 2006-2007 PARLIAMENTARY APPEAL:** The WLT presents twice to the South African Parliament [Parliamentary gazette, [www.pmg.org.za](http://www.pmg.org.za)] calling for restitution and protection of this unique animal, as a critically endangered animal of national and global importance. Government commits to a **National Prohibition**. Three successful Ministers of the Environment announce publically they will prohibit Canned Hunting.
- 2007 IFAW REPORT:** (International Fund for Animal Welfare): comprehensive findings on the shocking malpractices, widespread lack of regulation and policing. Due to aggressive captive speed-breeding for trophy-hunting, lions are inbred, deformed, and mal-nutritioned, mass-housed in tiny facilities, sometimes without shade, water, and any recreational facilities.
- 2008 DEAT:** (Department of Environment and Tourism): On 1 February 2008 lions are removed from the government's list of "large predators": meaning killing of captive bred lions continues, *without* national regulation. DEAT reveals that hunters paid more than R93 million in 2007, and more than R49 million in 2006, to hunt lions. Personally appalled by the malpractices that have been brought to his notice, the Minister of Environment, **Martinus van Schalkwyk** announces new legislation (known as **TOPS: National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act: Threatened or Protected Species Regulations**) that outlaws "canned hunting" and forces hunters and breeders of captive predators to adhere to strict regulations.
- 2008 to 2010 WLT WHITE LION REINTRODUCTION:** the WLT successfully introduces another 2 prides of white lions integrated with wild tawny lions to free-roaming territories in their natural habitat of the Greater Timbavati Region.
- 2009 NSPCA REPORT:** (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) – produces a 22 page Report revealing more than 1000 lions recorded as hunted in South Africa the previous year 2008, double the previous year, and the number of lions hunted in 2009 has doubled again. Virtually all these lions are captive-raised ie tamed wild animals, hand-reared, then shot. More than **159 captive breeding facilities** are recorded in 2 provinces alone and **16 associated lion hunting farms**. Cubs are being farmed out to tourists for "cub-petting", before being caged and raised in appalling conditions for killing.
- 2009 GLOBAL CENSUS:** Studies indicate more drastic declines in the wild since the lion census of 2007. Due to artificial removals from their natural habitat, White Lions have become virtually extinct in the wild. However, it is **still legal** to hunt lions in the wilds of the greater Timbavati region, the only place on earth where the White Lions occurred naturally in the wild. Lions are being wiped out in nature and genetically impaired in captive-breeding camps, yet no national legislation has been promulgated for their protection.
- 2009 INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTION:** The **Global White Lion Protection Trust (WLT)** succeeds in getting a RESOLUTION passed at the **World Wilderness Congress in Mexico** (1500 delegates from 51 countries) – to have the White Lions listed for protection by international Governments and all appropriate bodies worldwide. It is recorded that they are revered as sacred by indigenous peoples, and are an important part of natural biodiversity.
- 2009 HIGH COURT RULING:** Bloemfontein High Court Ruling confirms the Government's position to shut down Canned Hunting.
- 2010 A.R.A REPORT:** (Animal Rights Africa) The most recent documented findings shock the international community – a comprehensive report entitled "*Hunting in South Africa: A Bloody Mess*" reveals there are an estimated 5000+ lions in cages, genetically impaired and kept for killing. The industrialization and brutal malpractices have escalated out of all control.
- 2000 – 2010 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETINGS ON LION MANAGEMENT:** the WLT submitted comprehensive recommendations to the Panel of Experts on the Integrated Management Plan for Large Predators in SA.

- 2010**      **APPEAL TO US CONGRESS:** After presenting at the *Defenders of Wildlife* conference, the WLT appeals to the US Government Fish and Wildlife services and to tighten regulations around the importation of lion trophies from S.Africa. The US is responsible for nearly 60% of lion trophies leaving the continent.
- 2010, Nov**      **SUPREME COURT RULING:** For unaccountable reasons, the Panel of Experts in dismantled and the Appeal Court fails to follow through on High Court ruling, and the government Prohibition is waved *in favor of canned hunting*.
- 2012**      **GENETIC BREAKTHROUGH:** After 6 years of collaborative genetic research, involving 7 countries and comparisons between White Lion genetics, snow leopard, tiger, spirit bear and golden lion genetics, the WLT makes the ground-breaking discovery of the “Genetic Marker” for the White Lions. This is genetic code that will be the key to having White Lions declared an endangered animal according to International Law (CITES, and IUCN RED DATA Listing). Announced by the BBC, and scientific paper published in Nature Communications.
- 2012**      **AVAAZ** (international advocacy organization) joins the cause: raising *2 Million signatures* over next 2 years to prohibit the trade in lion bones to the East for “medicinal purposes”, as a consequence captive lion breeding and canned hunting. With rhino poaching on the increase, the Eastern Market is now demanding bones whole-scale with particular interest from wild free-roaming lions.
- 2013**      **BRITISH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT:** The WLT presents in Westminster calling for a trophy ban on lion imports at British Ports. Linda Tucker tours US cities, with TV interviews
- 2014**      **GLOBAL MARCH FOR LIONS:** The WLT unites with other international NGOs including IFAW, LionAid and CACH as WLT supporters around the world to help mobilize a **Global March for Lions** in which 62 cities participated. The WLT hand-delivered a plea to S. Africa’s President Zuma and Archbishop Desmond Tutu added his voice in prayer in prayer to our appeal.
- 2014**      **WORLD LION DAY:** Acornhoek Sepedi and Tsonga communities join march for their White Lion heritage, now exploited in zoos and circuses worldwide, and still unprotected in the region of their origina and international law (CITES).
- 2014**      **LION BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOP:** DEDET, CSIR and PATHERA jointly proposed the downlisting of lions in South Africa from CITES Appendix II to Appendix III, which will further reduce the conservation status, protection and regulation of lions, especially in terms of trophy hunting and trade in lion parts and bones. This proposal is being taken before CITES at the next convention in 2016.
- 2015**      **COLLABORATIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST DOWNLISTING OF CONSERVATION STATUS OF LIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA & BANNING OF CANNED LION HUNTING:** like-minded animal welfare and conservation organisations (such as WLT, NSPCA, CACH, Born Free Foundation, Lion Aid, Free Me, SanWild, and Drakenstein Lion Sanctuary) need to unite and collaborate to campaign against the downlisting, and force the SA Government & DEDET to ban canned lion hunting and shut down canned lion hunting / breeding operations.