



PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

September 30, 2021

Fulton Mangwanya  
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Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority  
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Dear Dr. Mangwanya:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 9 million members and supporters worldwide, regarding the killing of one of Zimbabwe's legendary lions, Mopane, at the beginning of August. As with the killing of Cecil in 2015, voices from around the world are united in their condemnation of a "hunt" that resulted in the death of a sentient being merely for a trophy. The loss of Mopane leaves two prides vulnerable to social disruption and death.<sup>1</sup> And reports that this killing occurred on the same land and under the same concession as the killing of Cecil call for action from the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA).

The border of Hwange National Park has become a graveyard for some of Zimbabwe's most iconic animals. The grasslands are now a savanna of slaughter, saturated with the blood of the nation's wildlife. The killing of Cecil the lion, baited and lured from the safety of Hwange by conspirators in an illegal hunt, should have marked the final opportunity for Honest Ndlovu and the Antoinette hunting concession to exploit Zimbabwe's wildlife. Now, however, the same thing has occurred again.

While the ZPWMA has yet to release a statement about the facts involved in Mopane's death, we do know that he died slowly and painfully. Reports suggest that it took him 24 hours to die following his initial wounding by bow and arrow.<sup>2</sup> Taken alongside the circumstances of Cecil's killing and the 10 to 12 hours it took for his

<sup>1</sup>Andrew Loveridge, *Lion Hearted: The Life and Death of Cecil & The Future of Africa's Iconic Cats* (New York: Regan Arts, 2018), 124–125.

<sup>2</sup>Katie Davis and Adrian Zorzut, "Echoes of Cecil: US Trophy Hunter Who Killed Mopane the Lion 'Exposed' as Activists Post His Address Online & Demand Justice," *The U.S. Sun*, August 18, 2021, <https://www.the-sun.com/news/3494432/american-shooting-mopane-lion-2/>.

Affiliates:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

suffering to end,<sup>3</sup> it's clear that hunting operators in the Antoinette concession cannot be trusted to end these magnificent animals' suffering.

We now call on the ZPWMA to live up to its core values of "integrity" and "accountability"<sup>4</sup> by ending further hunting opportunities for the Antoinette concession. Ndlovu and his associates faced no legal repercussions for Cecil's protracted and illegal death.<sup>5</sup> They have repeatedly allowed hunting operators to exploit the concession's proximity to Hwange National Park by luring animals from its borders and allowing foreign hunters to kill them in painful, protracted ways. We ask that the ZPWMA hold the concession's owners accountable for profiteering off unchecked cruelty.

We look forward to your prompt action in response to this distressing situation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ingrid Newkirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Ingrid Newkirk,  
President, PETA

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<sup>3</sup>Loveridge, 207.

<sup>4</sup>Zimbabwe Parks and Management Authority, "About Us," 2021, <https://www.zimparks.org.zw/about-us/>.

<sup>5</sup>Loveridge, 226–227.