

WAZA & PAAZA™ statement on drought-stricken Zimbabwe

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and the Pan-African Association of Zoos and Aquariums (PAAZA™) are greatly concerned with the dire situation in Zimbabwe. The drought stricken country is home to a wide diversity of wildlife and according to recent reports the relentless El-Niño induced drought has only worsened the already critical conditions of the country's threatened species. The Government of Zimbabwe has issued an announcement to public and private entities alike, which states that Zimbabwe's wildlife is up for sale. The announcement was made in an effort to raise money for the four million inhabitants who are in need of aid.

Wildlife reserves in Zimbabwe are home to a diverse range of threatened species. WAZA & PAAZA™ is concerned that conservation and the long-term welfare of wildlife were not taken into account when the decision was made to sell wild animals to private entities. This decision may only exacerbate existing threats, and further fuel poaching and illegal trade - a major problem that has plagued the region. Instead, nature based solutions and sustainable practices could help to cope with such situations and support the livelihood of local communities in the long run.

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