

Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

12 August 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

Standing up for elephants abroad We the undersigned urge you to stand up for elephants on this World Elephant Day. As conservation organisations that are caring for elephants, we know of their immense importance to ecosystems and communities across the world, we see this every day in our work inspiring visitors to connect with our elephants and in the conservation work we support and carry out. With the Animals Abroad Bill approaching we are asking you to stand up for high animal welfare and ensure this Bill delivers in effectively protecting these iconic animals in the wild.

Elephant populations in their native ranges are under pressure. Poaching, conflict with local communities and habitat loss are threatening elephants across Africa and Asia. As carers for our own herds we hold a deep responsibility to act and speak up for elephants.

In the UK, zoos and safari parks have made great strides in caring for elephants, supported by decades of research. BIAZA's elephant care guidelines are considered the strongest in the world. And we are proud to be at the very forefront of elephant care and conservation. Sadly, this is not the case across the world, but we now have the opportunity to drive improvements in international welfare standards and conservation.

Understanding and improving the welfare of elephants is a complex issue with many factors to consider. With that in mind we urge you to ensure that this Bill will support a move towards better elephant welfare globally, through an increased awareness and use of welfare assessment techniques to achieve highest possible standards of care and highest possible elephant conservation impacts.

Our conservation work is fighting nearly impossible odds. As such there is a real risk that future generations could grow up in a world without elephants. At safari parks and zoos we provide millions of visitors with the opportunity to be inspired by being close to and observing these intelligent and wonderful animals. We know what a tragedy it would be to the world to be bereft of their kind.

Kind regards,



Dr Jo Judge, CEO
BIAZA



Alyn Cairns,
Zoo Manager, Belfast Zoo



Darren Webster, Director,
Blackpool Zoo



John Muir

Hector Muir, Director,
Blair Drummond Safari
Park

J. Christon

Jamie Christon, CEO,
Chester Zoo

Dr DA Tropeano

Dr DA Tropeano OBE,
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J. W. Merrington

Jon Merrington, Head of
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Larry Bush

Larry Bush,
CEO,
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Chris Kelly

Chris Kelly,
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West Midlands Safari Park



Dominic Jerney

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