

## MBIRIKANI GROUP RANCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### COMMUNITY STATEMENT ON LION KILLINGS

14 May 2023

We, the leaders and representatives of the Mbirikani community, are shocked by what happened on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>, when six lions were speared to death on our ranch. We strongly condemn the actions by the group of people that did this, they do not represent our community.

We recognize the need to protect wildlife on our land and we work with partners like Big Life Foundation and others to do this. We have had much success, our lion population has grown significantly over the last 20 years and this has brought many benefits from tourism and conservation.


There are also challenges living with animals such as lions, which can cause conflict by killing our livestock. We do our best to balance the benefits and costs of sharing our land with wildlife, and our community strongly supports programs like Big Life's Predator Compensation Fund that help us to do that. This incident was not related to any grievance with that initiative.

Yesterday's actions are unacceptable to us and we apologise for the concern that will be felt by everyone who has supported our conservation efforts on Mbirikani.

We state again, this act does not represent the majority. Our community has always been committed to conservation, and this has not changed. We have recently made this clear by allocating 118,000 acres of our land for wildlife and livestock use.

We will do everything in power to make sure that nothing like this ever happens again.

Signed,

 MGR chairman

Daniel Metoe,  
Chairman, Mbirikani Group Ranch Management Committee