



## Ingwelala Share Block (Pty) Ltd

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### *Message from the Chairman*

Dear Members of Ingwelala,

## **Male Lion Trophy Hunt in the Umbabat**

### **Background**

You will recall in 2012 that the Umbabat Exco had included a Leopard in their application for species to be hunted in the Umbabat. Notwithstanding Ingwelala's official objections at the time, approval for the Leopard Trophy Hunt was granted by the Authorities (Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency) and a CITES Tag issued. Ingwelala's view expressed to the Umbabat Exco in February 2012 was that commercial hunting in the Umbabat should only be based on ecologically sound grounds supported by scientific specialist studies, in species where the Ecological Carrying Capacity is in excess and the reduction of these densities is fully justifiable and sustainable. It seemed clear at the time that the UPNRA Exco's view was that commercial hunting was budget driven and depended on the predicted expenses for the forthcoming year. Ingwelala's view was that it is completely unacceptable to Ingwelala that animals are simply shot just to make up budget levels irrespective of the ecological and/or scientific justification for this.

### **Male Lion Trophy Hunt**

In the 2018 application for species to be hunted in the Umbabat, a male Lion older than 5 years was included and approved by the Authorities on 21 February 2018, provided the trophy hunt takes place within the legal framework that is in place (relevant legislation, norms and standards and veterinary regulations).

Seeing that this is such an emotive and controversial issue, the purpose of this Letter is to officially advise all Ingwelala Members of this trophy hunt in order to avoid any rumours and misinformation.

The male lion trophy hunt is currently underway in the Umbabat and the Ingwelala Board invited the Umbabat Warden to its Meeting this past Sunday 27 May 2018 in order to address the concerns the Board has about this hunt. During these discussions, the Warden explained the process of applying and obtaining approval for species to be hunted each year, as well as the hunting protocols to be followed for the different species. Of major concern to the Board was the risk of the dominant male of the Western Pride being targeted, and if shot, the resultant adverse effect on the remainder of the pride. The Warden advised the Board that the target was an elderly male lion that often encroached into the north-eastern section of the Umbabat from the KNP, and steps were being taken to increase the probability of the target lion being identified and located. The Warden understood our concerns regarding the risk of the dominant male of the Western Pride being shot and indicated his willingness to prevent this from happening.

Sincerely

**Kevin Alborough**  
Chairman