



Ministry of Environment
Forestry and Tourism

Report Wildlife Crime
"SMS to 55555"

PRESS RELEASE

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

14 May 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON LION INCIDENTS IN THE NGONGA AREA, ZAMBEZI REGION

The Ministry acknowledges with concern the ongoing situation in the Ngonga Area involving recurring lion activity and the safety concerns raised by the local community.

During the period 14-15 April 2025, the Ministry in collaboration with Kwando Carnivore Project embarked on putting some Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation measures in place to minimize further livestock losses in Ngonga areas due to the presence of lions. Nine (9) kraals in the area were wrapped with durable plastics to avoid lions seeing the cattle while they are inside the kraals. This measure helped as since then there was no cattle killed as a result of breaking out of kraals, isolated cases where cattle were caught outside the kraals during the day were reported. In addition, a collar was put on lioness as part of early warning system through which communities in Ngonga area were being informed on the movements of the lions.

On the night of Friday, 9 May 2025, the Ministry, through its dedicated wildlife team, successfully translocated a pride of six lions comprising two adult females and four cubs from the Ngonga Area to the Kasimba area within the Bwabwata East (Kwando Core Area). Unfortunately, due to operational constraints, one adult female and two cubs could not be moved during this initial exercise and remained in the Ngonga Area.

While the initial translocation was executed successfully, the Ministry has confirmed that the translocated lions returned to the Ngonga Area on the night of 13 May 2025. They made their way back by crossing the B8 road through the Kwando Gate, returning to their original territory. This return has understandably heightened fears and frustration among the residents in the area. The Ministry wishes to assure the community that it is taking this matter seriously and remains committed to ensuring the safety of the public while conserving our nation's wildlife. As such, a follow-up operation is being prepared to recapture the entire pride both the ones that returned and those that were left behind. This time, the lions will be relocated deeper into Bwabwata National Park, specifically to the Omega 3 area. This new location has been strategically selected to reduce the likelihood of the lions returning to Ngonga and to minimize the risk of HWC.

The Ministry understands the fear and inconvenience caused by the recurring presence of lions near human settlements. While the killing of wildlife is always considered a last resort in accordance with conservation principles, we are prioritizing relocation efforts and strengthening our response capacity on the ground. Furthermore, the Ministry is actively exploring the possibility of deploying staff to remain in the area for closer monitoring and community reassurance during this period.

Media Contact: Public Relations Office; +264 61 284 2840, info.pro@mef.gov.na,

Issued by:

Public Relations office

Report Wildlife Crime "SMS to 55555"