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SOUTH AFRICAN
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Introduction to the Lion Task Team and SAPA's Collaborative Framework Proposal:

In the wake of the Minister's resolute decision to phase out the captive lion breeding industry, the Lion Task Team emerges as a visionary force, diligently working towards a harmonious transition. At the forefront of this transformative initiative is the South African Predator Association (SAPA), presenting a forward-looking framework that envisions collaborative regulation and streamlining of the captive lion industry. This proposal responds to the Minister's directive, acknowledging the need for a profound shift towards ethical standards and responsible practices, with a dedicated focus on the welfare, well-being, and traceability of each individual animal.

SAPA's proposed framework is a testament to the association's commitment to progressive and ethical management of captive lions. In recognition of the complexities involved, SAPA collaborates seamlessly with the department to develop and introduce comprehensive norms and standards. These guidelines are crafted to ensure the welfare and well-being of captive lions while addressing the crucial aspect of traceability, ensuring transparent documentation throughout each lion's lifecycle.

The Lion Task Team deserves commendation for its steadfast efforts in assessing and auditing the industry. Their dedication to gathering insights and data is instrumental in making informed decisions and steering the industry towards a more ethical and sustainable future. This collaborative spirit between SAPA and the Lion Task Team underscores the commitment to collective responsibility, recognizing the multifaceted challenges posed by the transition from captive breeding.

SAPA's proposed framework positions the association as a proactive partner in the administrative landscape of the captive lion industry. Rather than highlighting regulatory shortcomings, SAPA aims to be a catalyst for positive change. The framework not only facilitates a voluntary exit for breeders seeking to transition out of the industry but also ensures the continuity of ethical practices for those committed to the responsible management of captive lions.

In this spirit of collaboration, SAPA stands ready to be the preferred administrative body, fostering an industry marked by transparency, ethics, and sustainability. The objective is to forge a collaborative path with the department and other stakeholders, where SAPA's expertise supplements and enhances existing regulatory efforts. Together, SAPA and the Lion Task Team envision an industry that aligns with the Minister's directive while laying the foundation for a responsible and ethical legacy in captive lion management.

