



Hi Mark,

I just wanted to send my heartfelt thanks to you and to BNI Maidstone Pioneer Chapter for inviting me to breakfast and for donating the cheque for £100 from your members.

The African Lion is truly in crisis. In the last 50 years their population has dropped from over 200,000 to around 18,000 today, a decline of more than 90%.

Currently, we are campaigning for the UK Government to consider a ban on the importation of lion trophies and indeed all lion products into the UK.

Such a bold move would have a significant impact back in Africa on the lion trophy hunting business. The UK is a very influential Government amongst its European neighbours and certainly within the Commonwealth. If the UK takes the bold step to ban the importation of all lion products, other countries will begin to consider their position.

The ivory trade was banned not by the exporting countries but by restrictions emanating from the importing countries.

The trophy hunting industry is very powerful indeed and sadly lion hunting is marketed as a viable conservation measure. The hunting fraternity call it "sustainable offtake" and try to convince the world that killing the remaining fragile populations of lions will indeed secure their future prosperity. Nothing could be further from the truth, and if we could get this trade stopped, it would most certainly begin to have a positive impact on the remaining lion populations.

Your donation this morning will most certainly help us in our quest.

Kind regards,

Chris.

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