

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

Mr Bonani Madikizela
Director: Regulation and Monitoring Services
Department of Rural Affairs and Tourism
P/Bag X447
Pretoria 0001
South Africa

February 13th 2009

Dear Mr Madikizela,

I understand that the South African government is considering legislation to outlaw the use of gin traps. As Vice President of the European Parliament's Animal Welfare Intergroup, I would like to add my voice to those from around the world encouraging you to take such a step.

As you know, gin traps inflict terrible suffering and have a significant impact on innocent by-catch, including the threatened Cape Mountain leopard. A range of other non-lethal and ecological alternatives are available, which can provide farmers with the means to control predators less cruelly.

I hope that you will personally lend your support to a ban on gin traps and I warmly welcome the government's commitment to ending animal cruelty.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.