



8737 Colesville Road, Suite 715
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 448-1407

April 13, 2020

Minister of Agriculture Han Changfu
Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China
No. 11 Nongzhanguan Nanli, Chaoyang District
Beijing, China 100125

Re: Born Free USA Comment Letter on China's National Catalogue of Livestock and Poultry Genetic Resources

Dear Minister Han Changfu,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of comment to the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China on the National Catalogue of Livestock and Poultry Genetic Resources. My name is Julie Kluck and I am the Campaigns Associate at Born Free USA, a non-profit organization that seeks to end the suffering of wild animals in captivity and protect wildlife in their natural habitats by keeping wildlife in the wild and encouraging compassionate conservation globally. Born Free is active in the anti-wildlife trafficking movement, having devoted years to advocating for major reform in wildlife trade both in the United States and internationally.

We write to you at this tragic time when coronavirus continues to spread throughout the globe. To date, coronavirus has affected 211 countries and territories resulting in 1,883,119 cases and 117,569 deaths worldwide. Furthermore, as I am sure you are already aware, causing not only serious public health concerns, but also significant economic impacts across the globe. We recognize the significance of the Ministry of Agriculture in reforming the nation's wildlife trade laws, both in the legal and illegal perspective. However, we wish to express grave concern over loopholes in the consultative draft of the National Catalogue of Livestock and Poultry Genetic Resources (hereafter referred to as "the Catalogue"). These concern the continued allowance of many species of wild animals bred for meat consumption and fur, or other parts and products thereof. According to the revised consultation draft of the Catalogue, wildlife exempt from the ban, but are not limited to, include mink, fox, raccoon dog, rabbit, and camel, also including many sub-species and any hybrid offspring thereof.

Many wildlife species listed in the Catalogue has the potential to be implicated in zoonosis, with certain animals transmitting across non-human species and others suspected to be an intermediary host between animal and human transmission. Looking at past history with wildlife trade is the SARS pandemic in 2002 (also first identified in China) and its connection to civets, and the 2015 MERS epidemic in South Korea and its connection to camels and bats. With the uncertainty of surrounding wildlife species and the potential of zoonosis in close proximity to humans in wildlife markets, we urge the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China to expand the ban to all wildlife for all purposes for the sake of global public health. Until then, breeding, consuming, and the use of other wildlife parts and products listed as "livestock" pose an extreme risk to human health and ecological balance.

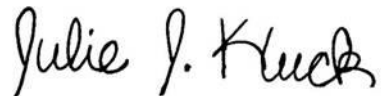
Despite various efforts made by China to protect wildlife, and its people, the coronavirus pandemic demonstrates that breeding wild animals for meat consumption, fur, and the wildlife trade is posing a

severe threat to the people of China and the world at large. As coronavirus continues to spread, it has become a global challenge. The cost of manipulating nature for human consumption, such as wildlife farming, is vast. It encompasses the loss of countless lives, including healthcare professionals who have sacrificed themselves to save others, the loss of billions of dollars to cover medical and business costs, and global restrictions on the movement of populations, manufacture, and trade. We can no longer treat the symptoms of viral outbreaks without tackling the root causes.

Due to all of this, Born Free USA respectfully request that the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China ban all species of wildlife bred for meat consumption, fur, and other parts and products in the National Catalogue of Livestock and Poultry Genetic Resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie J. Kluck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Kluck
Campaigns Associate
Born Free USA
Email: julie@bornfreeusa.org
Phone: (301) 448-1407