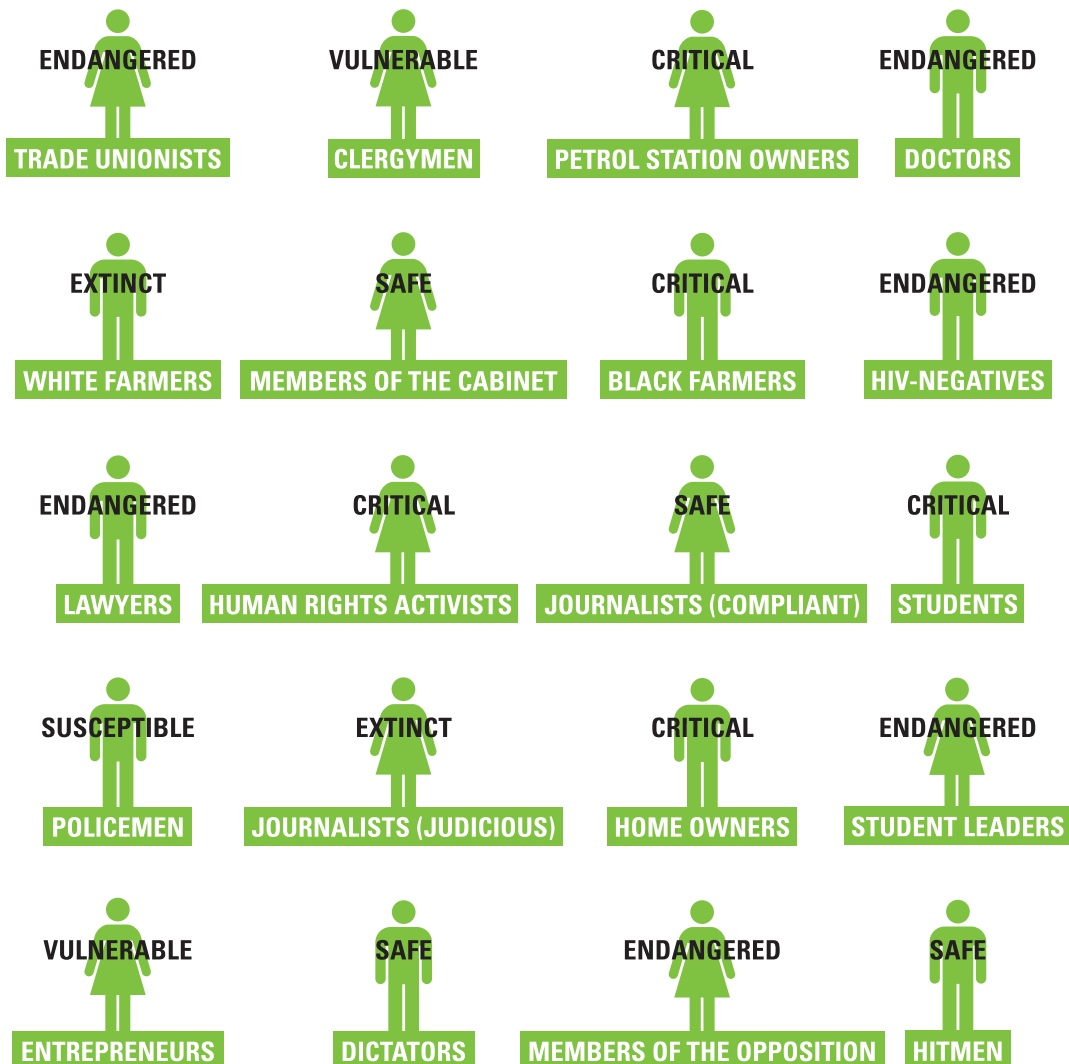


# ENDANGERED SPECIES IN ZIMBABWE



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Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES 14, THE HAGUE (NETHERLANDS), 2-15 JUNE 2007

## BAD CALL

Currently the most endangered species in Zimbabwe is the human race. President Robert Mugabe and his ZANU PF-government have brought the country and its people to the brink of destruction. Human rights are violated on a grand scale. Inflation has reached the world record-breaking percentage of 3,700%. Judicious journalists are killed, tortured or silenced. Members of the opposition, human rights activists, student leaders, lawyers and clergymen are brutally assaulted. The public health and judicial systems are bankrupt. Innocent people are being evicted from their homes. The HIV/AIDS pandemonium is ravaging. The number of child-headed families is growing. Millions of Zimbabweans live in diaspora.

## CALL OF THE WILD

This week the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora holds its 14th Conference of the Parties in The Hague. The Zimbabwean Minister of Environment and Tourism Francis Nhema is present to talk about issues concerning endangered wild animal species. His attendance is exceptional since the EU has imposed a travel ban on Mr. Nhema, like it did on all prominent members of the predatory ruling elite in Zimbabwe. This particular visit does not violate aforementioned EU-sanctions. However Mr. Nhema's presence is an outrage: how can he talk of elephants when he fails to acknowledge the basic rights of his fellow human beings?

## CALL FOR ACTION

We call upon all the parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to call Mr. Nhema to account for the situation in his country. The minister's first job to protect the environment in Zimbabwe is:

- *to make sure repressive laws are revoked;*
- *to disallow corruption;*
- *to restore freedom of press;*
- *to disband the hit squads that abduct and torture people;*
- *to respect and safeguard the dignity and human rights of all Zimbabweans;*
- *to bring economic meltdown to a standstill;*
- *to persuade President Robert Mugabe to stand down from power;*
- *to hold legitimate and fair elections this coming March.*

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