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*Environmentalists, some scientists and the tourism industry are against the proposed cull*

## Scientists say 'no' to elephant culling

November 18, 2005,  
17:30

Scientists have come out against the proposed culling of elephants at the Kruger National Park, saying there is no justifiable scientific evidence that proves that elephants are harming plant life at the park. **The Earth Organisation** and the Southern Africa Association for the Advancement of

Science have instead offered contraception as a viable alternative.

They say hormonal contraception will not harm elephant herds. "There are no studies to justify the cull, the cull should not take place. The research must be done properly. This is not about the vegetation studies, this is about the country's public image, tourism and jobs," says **Lawrence Anthony, the Founder of The Earth Organisation**.

The call to stop the culling comes after the department of environmental affairs held consultations with interested stakeholders.

**The Earth Organisation** also announced the formation of an independent government advisory board. It will continue investigating the matter and report directly to Marthinus van Schalkwyk, the tourism and environmental affairs minister.

Tourism officials have meanwhile called on all stakeholders to handle the matter properly.



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