TROPHY HUNTING & CONSERVATION

An assessment of evidence regarding impacts and benefits of sport hunting on wildlife and habitat conservation

CONSERVATION
BEFORE
TROPHY
HUNTING

FOR PEOPLE.
FOR WILDLIFE.
FOR EVER.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"Big game hunting, in terms of conservation, does not work"- IUCN

1. Studies by conservation scientists, IUCN, UNEP, independent economists and US Congressional researchers - as well as research by arguably Britain's leading lion conservationist Andrew Loveridge (who radio-collared and monitored Cecil the lion until his untimely death in 2015) – all point towards trophy hunting not delivering net conservation benefits to species or habitats. Instead they are identified as being directly responsible for serious negative impacts.

SPECIES AND NUMBERS

2. 1.7 million trophies of wild animals were taken around the world in the past decade, of which at least 200,000 were of species threatened with extinction. British hunters have taken around 5,000 trophies since data began being gathered by CITES in the 1980s.

3. The flow of trophy imports into the UK is increasing: twelve times as many trophies were taken between 2010-2017 as were taken in the decade from 1981-1990. (2017 is the most recent year for which full figures are available).

4. Elephants are by far the most popular trophy species for British big game hunters. Over 1000 trophies of elephants have been taken by UK hunters as well as over 1 tonne of ivory.

5. Hundreds of trophies have also been taken of hippopotamus, bears, leopards, zebras, and lions. Large numbers of primates – including various species of baboon and monkey – have been killed, as have other big and medium-sized cats including cheetahs, lynxes and wild cats.

6. Trophy hunters are permitted to take trophies of CITES Appendix I species. Trade in Appendix I species is strictly prohibited unless there are exception circumstances. However trophy hunters are exempted from these provisions.

7. Trophy hunters have also been granted permits to shoot and import trophies of species classified as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List. There are records showing that permits have been granted to trophy hunters – including British hunters - allowing them to shoot animals from species that are listed as being extinct in the wild.

8. The trophy hunting industry actively encourages hunters to shoot large numbers of often rare species from all around the world. Safari Club International (SCI) alone has upward of 80 different award categories.

9. In addition to the 'African Big Five' prize, SCI promotes awards including the 'African 29' which requires a minimum of 29 kills (including 3 of the 'African Big 5'); the 'Global Hunting Award' – the diamond level requires the hunter to have hunted in all 6 continents; and the 'Hunting Achievement Award' requires a minimum of 70 kills at silver level rising to 125 kills at diamond level.

DECLINES OF ICONIC SPECIES

10. Studies of lions have found trophy hunting to have been the primary driver of the species' decline in trophy hunting areas. UK scientist Andrew Loveridge (who collared and tracked Cecil the lion) reports trophy hunting had the single most significant effect on lions in Hwange National Park.

11. Large numbers of radio-collared lions in Hwange National Park – home to Cecil the lion – have been shot by trophy hunters, despite their protected status and ongoing monitoring.

12. A UNEP report found that trophy hunting contributed to population declines of key African lion populations. An IUCN Red Data analysis on lions expresses concern that trophy hunting is one of the main contributors to what it calls an "astonishing" decline of 42% of the continent's total lion population.

13. Lions are currently unable to reproduce fast enough to recover from the high level of trophy hunting. A report published by the US Congress has similarly indicated that the combined rate of trophy hunting and poaching currently out-strips the fertility rate of African elephants.

14. IUCN has found trophy hunting to have significantly depleted leopard populations. Trophy hunting has also contributed to drastic reductions in populations of a range of other species including the Dorcas gazelle (Gazella dorcas) and the Nubian bustard (neortis nuba).

15. There are concerns that giraffes may also now be seriously affected by trophy hunting. The giraffe population of sub-Saharan Africa has experienced a 40% drop in the previous decade, largely caused by trophy hunting largely by American tourist hunters. The trophy hunting industry is resisting proposals to list giraffes on CITES Appendix II.

IMPACT ON SPECIES' SURVIVAL PROSPECTS

16. In addition to taking significant numbers of often threatened species, research indicates that the preference of trophy hunters for the most attractive animals is having a significant impact on the gene pool of these species. This could affect the survival prospects of some of the world's most iconic wildlife.

17. Tuskless elephants, reduced tusk sizes and the virtual disappearance of 'big tuskers' are indicators of the impacts of hunting. Trophy hunters are taking animals that are the most evolutionary fit and possess the high-quality genes a population of animals needs to adapt quickly to a changing environment.

18. The latest research indicates that removing just 5% of healthy male lions could be enough to tip the species irretrievably towards extinction. The genetic diversity of the modern population of lions had been reduced by about 15% since the modern trophy hunting industry took off in colonial times.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

19. The CITES database shows a number of permits have been issued for hunting trophies of tigers, black rhinos and animals that have gone extinct in the wild such as the scimitar-horned oryx and the Arabian oryx. The last Arabian in the wild was shot by hunters in 1972. British trophy hunters are among those who have shot these endangered animals for trophies.

20. Unlike the US Administration, the UK government permits the import of trophies of Appendix I cheetah. According to the IUCN Red List, the known cheetah population is estimated to be approximately 6,700 adult and adolescent animals distributed across 29 subpopulations. The cheetah has experienced a decline of 89% from its historic range.

21. One of the causes of significant declines in threatened wildlife populations has been the setting of high hunting quotas despite the lack of scientific data to support such high quotas. UNEP and IUCN reports and other scientific studies have noted particularly unsustainable quotas for lions, leopards and elephants.

22. Trophy hunting's profit motive has been identified by UNEP-WCMC as a key driver of unsustainable practices and the damage trophy hunting is inflicting on lion, leopard and elephant populations. In the latter case, high quotas have been maintained despite falls in populations of up to 40% or even 75% in some areas. Leopard hunting quotas have been set in the almost total absence of any population data.

23. Andrew Loveridge, the UK lion researcher who followed Cecil up until his death, found extensive 'double-counting' – or what he calls "quadruple-counting" - of populations by official surveys used to justify high lion hunting quota levels.

CANNED HUNTING

24. Canned hunting, far from having a negligible impact on lion conservation, is fuelling the trade in animal bones and encouraging poaching. Lions are being taken from the wild in order to 'refresh' bloodlines in lion 'factory farms' and counter problems of disease and in-breeding. Wildlife trafficking 'kingpins' involved in the illegal rhino horn trade have been discovered to also be involved in the lion bone trade.

25. As well as lions, captive game facilities include cheetahs, leopards, jaguars, caracals and even tigers. There are no legal protections for captive tiger hunting or bone trading in South Africa, where the industry is concentrated, as tigers are classed by the government there are an 'exotic' species.

CONSERVATION RESULTS

26. It has been asserted that allowing trophy hunting to continue can deliver conservation benefits to species, including those threatened with extinction. However studies by IUCN show that hunting concessions report very poor results for species and habitat conservation.

27. Hunting areas have been shown to have consistently lower conservation performance levels than national parks for an equivalent management level. Hunting areas almost always have a lower animal population density than that of national parks.

28. Studies throughout the African continent also consistently show significant declines in key species in areas where trophy hunting occurs. In more than half the areas studied by IUCN the animal populations had declined.

29. IUCN and other conservation scientists have also found that hunting areas are "preying" on nearby national parks and their wildlife populations, with negative consequences for threatened species.

30. In a major report on the conservation impacts of trophy hunting, IUCN concludes: "big game hunting, in terms of conservation, does not work."

INVESTMENT IN CONSERVATION

31. It is claimed by some that trophy hunting can contribute to wildlife conservation by virtue of a proportion of hunting fees going towards local conservation departments and organisations. However there is little evidence of trophy hunting having directly led to measurable positive conservation outcomes for species or wildlife.

32. Research indicates that the trophy hunting model of conservation leads to significant under-investment in habitats and species. An editorial in Africa Geographic – which says that trophy hunting "no longer pays its way" - found the total revenue generated by the 200,000km2 of hunting areas in Tanzania to be US$30 million per annum. It said that the true conservation cost for that land if done correctly would be US$150 million per year.

33. Loveridge argues that the revenue generated by trophy hunting that is earmarked for conservation cannot cover the costs of conservation such that they either mitigate negative impacts of trophy hunting, let alone deliver net positive outcomes.

34. He gives the example of the Hwange reserve, where he worked and observed Cecil until his death in 2015. "Hwange's annual conservation budget is around $276 per sq km. Even at this bargain-basement budget, it cost more than US$1.5 million to protect Cecil until he was 12 years old. A one-off fee of $50,000 to kill him did not remotely offset this cost. Nor did the park, whose budget paid for his protection, benefit from this revenue."

35. He concludes: "In reality, hunting greatly undervalues African wildlife. That is not to say that people do not become rich through hunting. They do. But little of the financial gain filters down to covering costs of conserving wildlife."

INCENTIVISING CONSERVATION

36. Supporters of trophy hunting assert that the industry generates significant revenues which – as well as supporting community development - provide local communities with the incentive to conserve species and their habitats, rather than persecute wildlife or convert land to other uses such as agriculture. However, studies by IUCN and others indicate that such economic incentives from trophy hunting are low.

37. A report co-authored by the UN Food & Agriculture Organisation and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, a pro-hunting group, found that hunting companies contribute only 3% of their revenue to communities living in hunting areas.

38. Its report goes on to say that the vast majority of expenditure does not accrue to local people and businesses, but instead to firms, government agencies and individuals located internationally or in national capitals.

39. The trophy hunting industry creates very few jobs in local communities. In the whole of West Africa, the number of jobs created has been estimated at 400 permanent staff and 400 temporary staff.

40. The average is around one permanent job for every 5,500 ha of hunting area. In Tanzania, a popular destination for 'African Big Five' hunters, annual income averages at US$0.09/capita/ha.

41. The IUCN says that the jobs created are precarious, few in number and are not competitive with the resources obtained from the other usages of the land, including agriculture (a major cause of habitat loss).

42. It adds that big game hunting does not effectively contribute to development despite taking up vast areas of land. Moreover very little of the money spent by hunters on expeditions is seen by local communities, explaining their lack of interest in preserving hunting areas.

43. In the words of one village official: "We're more closely allied with the photographic operators than the hunters. They are finishing off the wildlife before we've had a chance to realise a profit from it. Hunters don't recognise us; they only recognise the government. 25 percent of hunting fees goes into the 'hole' at the district. We're supposed to get 5%: we don't see even that."

44. Much-vaunted 'community conservancy' projects in Namibia and the CAMPFIRE program in Zimbabwe had also failed, generating on average just US1-3 per household per year, which observers say provides little incentive for local communities not to poach.

45. Overall the financial contribution from trophy hunting is minimal and there is no evidence of it having created incentives to conserve species or habitats. According to IUCN research, the contribution of hunting to the national budget is highest in Tanzania, where it is still only 0.3% and uses 26% of the national land area.

GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

46. Supporters of trophy hunting make the case that 'well-managed, regulated hunting' can deliver significant wildlife conservation benefits. However, as IUCN and others have found, there are serious governance and corruption issues in virtually every African country where tourist hunters go to hunt that appear to make such a goal unfeasible in practice. Good governance is said to be absent from almost the entire big game hunting sector in many countries, according to IUCN.

47. An investigation by a US Congressional committee found what it called many troubling examples of funds either being diverted from their purpose or not being dedicated to conservation in the first place.

48. Problems with corruption occur throughout hunting range states. Tanzania ranks in the bottom third of all countries with respect to government corruption. Zimbabwe, meanwhile, consistently ranks as one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

49. Some scientists who have dared to expose corruption or mismanagement have been expelled. Dr Craig Packer, Director of the Lion Research Center at the University of Minnesota, conducted a series of studies which had identified over-hunting as the major reason for the steep decline in the lion populations in Tanzania, a highly popular destination for lion trophy hunters. He was unceremoniously replaced by a scientist affiliated with a trophy hunting advocacy group.

50. Another scientist, Dr Henry Bink, was removed from his post studying lions in Selous Game Reserve. His work was replaced by research deemed to be more 'hunter-friendly'.

51. It is not clear in many cases where purported conservation contributions from trophy hunting operations end up. There are numerous reported instances of trophy hunting fees meant for conservation being diverted to very different goals.

52. In June 2017, the Tsholotsho Rural District Council in Zimbabwe sold permits to a safari hunting company to hunt 50 elephants in order to fund the construction of a football stadium. Other reports suggest money has gone towards building roads and other infrastructure projects that are directly damaging to conservation.

53. A consequence of corruption is that local communities feel betrayed that benefits promised from recreational hunting have failed to materialise and that those benefits have instead been centralised into the hands of elites. This further undermines already weak efforts to engage rural populations in protecting wildlife and its habitats.

ANTI-POACHING

54. It is sometimes claimed by defenders of trophy hunting that the presence of hunting concessions deters poachers, and that revenues from hunting can fund anti-poaching operations. However investigations have found that trophy hunting permits have been used by 'pseudo-hunters' for illegal poaching operations.

55. It has been argued that permitting foreign hunters to kill wildlife for 'sport' that Africans are not permitted to kill even for foot heightens feelings of injustice and sends mixed messages, both of which can contribute to increased levels of poaching.

56. Trophy hunting is largely a seasonal activity, therefore the presence of guides fails to provide a deterrent to poachers. As one report put it: "poachers just need to wait for the hunters to leave."

57. Many countries which have a thriving trophy hunting industry have devastating levels of poaching. They include Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

58. The sums invested in anti-poaching operations by the trophy hunting industry have been found to be insignificant. The average spend in Tanzania by trophy hunting operators for anti-poaching efforts was US$0.18 per hectare. By contrast the figure for Kenya's Wildlife Service – where trophy hunting has been banned since 1977 - is US$14 per hectare.

59. The trial of a major wildlife trafficking kingpin revealed that almost a quarter of the 222 rhinos killed in South Africa in 2011 had been taken on trophy hunts authorised by provincial conservation authorities.

60. In January 2018 the new Environment Minister of Tanzania openly accused trophy hunting operators of being directly involved in poaching and illegal exports of ivory.

BANS AND MORATORIA

61. A report by independent economists concluded that the long term viability of wild lion populations will be enhanced if fewer lions are shot by trophy hunters. It said that pro-hunting studies have concluded that reduced lion hunting would make almost no difference to the area of financially viable hunting land. A reduction in the number of lions hunted would, however, increase the chances of the species' survival in the wild.

62. Bans and moratoria on trophy hunting and trophy imports have been successfully employed as a policy instrument by governments and conservation authorities in a number of countries. There are a number of instances where they have been shown to directly benefit the conservation status of species.

63. There are no reports of any bans/moratoria having had any direct negative impact. Moreover there are also no instances where trophy hunting has been introduced as a planned measure to improve the conservation status of a species.

64. Botswana – the subject of recent news reports speculating that the country's new President may re-introduce trophy hunting - declared a ban on trophy hunting in 2013 in response to concerns about declining elephant populations, since which time those populations have stabilised (according to some reports, elephant populations have increased in number since implementation of the ban).

65. Kenya has had a ban on all trophy hunting in place since 1977. According to Professor Judi Wakhungu, Kenya's former Cabinet Secretary of Environment: "In Kenya we believe a live

animal is worth more over its lifetime than a one off killing. Elephant hunting was made illegal in 1973, followed by a ban on all animal hunting in 1977. Since then our elephant population has been growing steadily, and our rhino breeding programme has been successful."

66. Kenya's nature tourism industry is booming. This has allowed the government to contribute far more to anti-poaching programmes than countries where trophy hunting continues.

67. Some of the countries with the world's greatest biodiversity have implemented bans on trophy hunting and trophy exports. They include Brazil, Costa Rica and India. Earlier this year, Columbia joined the list.

68. A number of countries have introduced trophy import bans. In March 2015, Australia implemented a ban on all African lion trophy imports. In November the same year, France did likewise. The Netherlands has gone even further. In April 2016, the government introduced a ban on imports of all CITES Appendix I species and six Appendix II species (white rhinoceros, hippopotamus, African elephant, Argali wild sheep, the African lion, and the polar bear). In all, Holland has banned the import of 200 hunted trophy species.

69. Many conservationists now believe that the decline in iconic species such as lions can only be reversed by measures which include halting trophy hunting. They argue that a complete cessation of all lion hunting would allow populations to stabilise, buying time for other coordinated measures.

70. Andrew Loveridge, the British lion conservationist who radio-collared Cecil, describes the positive impact of a moratorium on trophy hunting in Hwange National Park on the area's lion population:

    "With a temporary ban on hunting, we went from a situation in Hwange in which any male lion leaving the national park was in danger of being indiscriminately shot to one in which adult lions were relatively safe. Because male lions were now living much longer, with the survival rate of males increasing to more than 80%, there were many more males in the population. The structure of the population was starting to look much more like those seen in well-protected national parks like the Serengeti or Kruger."

71. Parallels have been drawn with the International Whaling Commission which was formed in 1946 to protect rapidly declining blue whale populations in particular. Blue whale numbers had reduced by more than 99% during the 20th century as a result of hunting. In the Antarctic, its favourite region, showed it was down to 360 individuals – about 0.15% of its original numbers.

72. While the convention is imperfect, the recovery of whale populations is indisputable. According to the latest figures from IUCN, there are currently believed to be between 10,000 to 25,000 blue whales worldwide, in five separate populations.

THE FUTURE OF BIG GAME CONSERVATION

73. Studies by the UN World Tourism Organisation and independent economists indicate that non-consumptive alternatives such as nature tourism are much more significant in socio-economic terms, and are much better placed to be able to generate revenues and incentives for conservation.

74. According to UNEP and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, lions are currently prospering in a number of large and well-managed protected areas that have generated significant cash revenue through wildlife tourism for park management and local communities, providing a strong incentive for conservation.

75. With tourism numbers increasing in Africa, and income from trophy hunting likely to become increasingly insignificant, developing the benefits from sustainable nature tourism is a more realistic – as well as a more compassionate – option for supporting conservation.

76. Meanwhile economists state that any suggestion that trophy hunting can play a significant role in economic development at a wider scale is "completely implausible".

BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITIES & CONSERVATION

77. Local communities are also winners in a comparison between trophy hunting and nature tourism, according to Africa Geographic. "When it comes to contributions to local communities, the average trophy hunting operator in Tanzania spent US$0.08 per hectare per year, compared with tourism concessions in Kenya's Maasai Mara paying $40 per hectare per year."

78. The IUCN states that it believes sub-Saharan Africa has considerable potential for developing nature tourism. It points to examples of companies such as Wilderness Safaris which currently manage 50 camps and 2.8 million hectares, and the positive contribution this is making to conservation noting that these companies have their own conservation and local support projects. IUCN further notes that similar approaches have been developed in Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya "with much success."

79. Lion populations have prospered in areas where there is more nature tourism and less trophy hunting. For example, lion populations have increased in the Serengeti, which experiences less trophy hunting and greater non-consumptive wildlife watching or photographic tourist activities.

80. The Timbavati area on the western edge of the Kruger National Park saw the number of hunters halve between 2016 and 2018. The area is now a popular destination for photographic tourists. Timbavati's total wildlife population grew from 9444 in 1998 to 13,710 in 2018 – an increase of 145%. Its elephant population also grew significantly, from 314 in 1998 to 768 in 2018 – an increase of 240%.

81. Conservationist and wildlife film-maker Dereck Joubert has estimated that while the value of a lion trophy may be as low as USD$15,000, the lifetime value of a lion through nature tourism could be as high as USD$2 million.

82. Similarly, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has calculated that the lifetime nature tourism value for a single elephant to be in the region of USD$1.6 million. British lion conservationist Andrew Loveridge has estimated that a single male lion could be worth as much as $100,000 per year, based on the time tourists spent viewing the animals.

83. In their 2015 report *'Towards Measuring the Economic Value of Wildlife Watching Tourism in Africa',* the UN World Tourism Organisation outlines many instances where non-consumptive wildlife tourism revenues benefit local communities, and where those communities have been encouraged to protect wildlife for non-consumptive purposes.

84. Examples include the development of birding tourism in South Africa which has been promoted by community projects supported by NGOs from the tourism sector and has encouraged the development of many small service businesses along birding routes; mountain gorilla viewing tourism in the Bwindi Forest National Park in Uganda; the Kichwa Tembo Masai Mara Tented Camp in Kenya; and turtle watching tourism in many coastal areas"

CHALLENGES

85. The key challenge currently facing nature tourism in being able to maximise its potential to deliver socio-economic and conservation benefits in rural Africa appears to be the enormous area of land still under hunting concessions which is delivering very poor results on both fronts.

86. In addition, trophy hunting currently often occurs in areas adjacent to protected parks and other areas where nature tourism occurs. These hunting concessions are depleting wildlife numbers in these areas, which in turn threatens the draw of nature tourism camps.

Introduction

It is now the case that, even among those most sympathetic towards hunting, there is growing consensus that the future of conservation is not through sport hunting.

A major report by IUCN says that hunting areas "**will play a lesser role in future conservation strategies."**[1] The 'pay to slay'/'if it pays it stays' model is increasingly seen as a failed one. IUCN describes it as **"a largely exhausted management system".** While it **"serves individual interests"** it does not serve **"those of conservation, governments or local communities".**

The primary reason for this assessment is that **"the poor socio-economic returns on big game hunting noted by this study and its lower performance levels in terms of conservation do not make it a priority solution for land use or conservation in the future."**

It describes the theory of trophy hunting as a contributor to conservation as one **"developed around thirty years ago, according to which wildlife had an economic value which would convince local communities to preserve it".** However **"all the figures, maps and data consulted show that this theory is in fact untenable and that the economic value is not sufficient to generate the expected behaviour change."**

A review conducted by US Congressional researchers supports the IUCN report's conclusions: **"Claiming that trophy hunting benefits imperilled species is significantly easier than finding evidence to substantiate it."**[2] The US study concluded that **"the evidence shows that trophy hunting is having negative impacts across sub Saharan Africa."**

The US report goes on to dismiss two of the key premises put forward by proponents of trophy hunting as a conservation tool: **"Our analysis shows that trophy hunting cannot be assumed to have a conservation benefit on the strength of a guarantee that hunters' fees will flow to communities or wildlife agencies".** It adds: **"It is difficult to consistently conclude that any particular trophy import would enhance the survival of a species."**

A number of research papers identified by the US report highlight some of the causes behind trophy hunting's negative impact on wildlife and habitat conservation. Palazy et al (2011), for instance, found that **"because humans value rarity, targeted species that are threatened are likely to be disproportionately hunted, thereby becoming even more vulnerable, which could eventually push them to extinction."**

Andrew Loveridge, the UK lion scientist who famously radio-collared and monitored Cecil the lion until the animal's death in 2015, criticises the trophy hunting conservation model: **"If the commoditisation of wild animals by the hunting industry doesn't pay for conservation, the refrain of 'if it pays it stays' starts to sound worrisomely hollow and not dissimilar to a protection racket."**[3]

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[1] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

[2] "Missing the Mark – African trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits", a report by the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources

[3] "Lion Hearted – the life and death of Cecil and the future of Africa's iconic cats", Andrew Loveridge

As a result of his experience monitoring lions in Hwange, Zimbabwe, he points an accusing finger at the trophy hunting industry: **"In our study of lion population biology in Hwange National Park, trophy hunting had the single most significant effect, with levels of hunting mortality exceeding deaths of lions in conflict with people or killed in wire snares set by poachers. It far outstrips natural levels of mortality."**

There is growing consensus that a new approach is needed to improve the conservation prospects of wildlife. One proposal that has been put forward is for CITES and national management authorities to adopt the precautionary principle framed around a 'reverse-listing' model.

Under such a model **"the default position on any species is that it is not to be traded"** supported by the introduction of a **"levy on all trades approved and carried out under CITES rules to put CITES funding on a sound and sustainable foundation adequate to the task".**

As some have pointed out, reverse-listing is not a new proposal. It was originally put forward by the Australian government in 1981. At the time, however, there were just 700 species listed in Appendices I and II of CITES, whereas today there are over 35,000.

Supporters of the proposal say that **"it would be more practical and wiser from the point of the precautionary principle to carefully select and list only those species that are demonstrably not under any threat and where trade can be proven to be ecologically sustainable, not just in relation to the species, but also in relation to the ecosystems it resides in".**

Supporters add that the scale of the trade today is such that monitoring needs are huge in comparison to when the CITES system came into force. They point out that the annual budget for CITES to administer the global trade system **"is a paltry US$6 million."**[4]

US Congressman Raul M Grijalva, Chairman of the US House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee, believes that the balance of evidence clearly shows that the impacts of trophy hunting are negative for conservation:

"While trophy hunting has benefited at-risk species in rare circumstances, most hunts cannot be considered good for a species' survival. Taking that claim at face value is no longer a serious option. Anyone who wants to see these animals survive needs to look at the evidence in front of us."[5]

An editorial in Africa Geographic entitled "Trophy Hunting in Africa is in decline and no longer pays its way", echoes the various assessments made by IUCN, Andrew Loveridge and Rep Grijalva among others:

"Hunting used to be a conservation tool, but in the great majority of cases it no longer plays this role and will not do so in the future. The absence of the economic profitability of big game/trophy hunting confirm that consumptive management cannot generate sufficient income to conserve nature." [6]

[4] "Why trophy hunting is counter-productive as a 'conservation tool', Africa Geographic, 24 December 2018
[5] "New analysis: trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits", Annamiticus.com, Rhishja Cota, June 20 2016
[6] "Trophy Hunting in Africa is in decline and no longer pays its way", Africa Geographic, March 8, 2019, editorial

The author of the editorial - Bertrand Chardonnet - was a former government wildlife adviser in 40 African countries and co-chair of IUCN Antelope Specialist group. He has also been a leading figure in one of the world's most powerful hunting advocacy groups.

1. What is the scale of trophy hunting today?

"To win the highest Safari Club International (SCI) award, known as 'World Hunter of the Year', a hunter must kill more than 300 animals across the globe"[7]. IFAW has estimated that **1.7 million** trophies of wild animals were taken in the past decade, of which at least **200,000** were of species threatened with extinction[8].

- SCI is one of a number of hunting industry groups that encourage hunters to take large numbers of often rare animal trophies across the globe. In recent years, **500** hunters have won SCI prizes for hunting all of the 'African Big Five'. A further **200** have been presented with awards for shooting more than **100** different species.
- Numerous news reports have shown how individual hunters have amassed huge numbers of kills. The most recent instance involved a Spanish hunter who has killed **1,317** elephants, **340** lions, **127** black rhinoceros, **167** leopards and over **2000** African buffaloes.
- It has emerged that trophy hunters have been permitted to shoot CITES Appendix I species (trade in Appendix I species is strictly prohibited unless there are exceptional circumstances), and also species that are classified as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- There are also records showing permits have been granted to trophy hunters allowing them to shoot animals from species that are listed as being extinct in the wild.
- CITES data analysed by IFAW shows there is strong pressure on iconic species as a result of the activities of the trophy hunting industry. **"Three of the 4 threatened taxa from the Africa Big Five (elephant, leopard, lion) are among the top 6 most traded of imperilled taxa**"[9]
- The IFAW analysis found that **"of the top 20 threatened taxa, African lions have the strongest statistically significant increase of trophy hunting trade since 2004. At least 11,000 lion trophies have been traded worldwide from 2004 to 2013."**
- It added: **"other Africa Big Five species are also popular with trophy hunters, with more than 10,000 elephant trophies and more than 10,000 leopard trophies between 2004-14."**
- There is strong competition among trophy hunters to kill large numbers of wild animals in order to get into the coveted record books held by trophy hunting associations such as the Safari Club International (SCI), Boone & Crockett, Rowland Ward, Pope & Young, and the Weatherby Foundation among others**: "Trophy hunters often kill more than one animal of a certain species as they are constantly trying to achieve a higher score."[10]**
- SCI alone has upward of **80** different award categories. In addition to the African Big Five, it promotes prizes including the 'African 29' which requires a minimum of 29 kills (including 3 of the 'African Big 5'); the 'Global Hunting Award – the diamond level requires the hunter to have hunted in all 6 continents; the 'Hunting Achievement Award' requires a minimum of 70 kills at silver level rising to 125 kills at diamond level; while the 'World Conservation & Hunting Award' is given to members who have achieved a multitude of its hunting prizes

[7] "Trophy Hunting by the numbers – the United States' role in global trophy hunting", HSI-HSUS, February 2016
[8] "Killing for Trophies – an analysis of global trophy hunting trade", IFAW
[9] "Killing for Trophies – an analysis of global trophy hunting trade", IFAW
[10] "Trophy Hunting by the numbers – the United States' role in global trophy hunting", HSI-HSUS, February 2016

including **"all 15 Grand Slams, the diamond level of 25 of the 27 inner circles, the fourth Pinnacle of Achievement, Zenith and the Crowning Achievement"**[11]

Table 1 - UK HUNTING TROPHY IMPORTS

UK hunters have taken growing numbers of trophies since CITES began collecting data in **1981**. At least **5,000** trophies have been taken by British big game hunters. (Assuming an average of 12.5kg per tusk, the 1,241.1kg of ivory represents approximately 100 trophies to add to the total of 4961).

Twelve times as many trophies were taken between 2010-2017 as were taken in the decade from 1981-1990. (2017 is the most recent year for which full figures are available).

YEARS	**NO. OF HUNTING TROPHIES**
1981-1990	**171** + 192KG IVORY
1991-2000	**677** + 20KG IVORY
2001-2010	**1963**
2011-2017	**2075** + 1029.1KG IVORY
2018	**75** (PROVISIONAL FIGURES)
TOTAL	**4961** + 1,241.1KG OF IVORY

Table 2 - MOST POPULAR SPECIES FOR UK TROPHY HUNTERS (1981-2017)

Elephants are by far the most popular trophy species for British big game hunters. Over **1000** trophies of elephants have been taken by hunters as well as over **1 tonne of ivory.**

Hundreds of trophies have also been taken of **hippopotamus, bears, leopards, zebras, and lions**. Large numbers of primates – including various species of **baboon and monkey** – have been killed, as have other big and medium-sized cats including **cheetahs, lynxes and wild cats**.

Wild sheep, goats and pigs also appear on the list. The figures do not include species that are not CITES-listed but which are popular among trophy hunters, such as **giraffe**.

SPECIES	**NUMBER OF TROPHIES**
1. African Elephant	**1083** + 1357.1kg ivory
2. Hippopotamus	**622**
3. Black Bear	**532**
4. Leopard	**323**
5. Zebra (Hartmann)	**278**
6. Lion	**256**
7. Chacma baboon	**247**
8. Lechwe	**204**
9. Nile crocodile	**161**
10. Caracal cat	**157**

[11] "Killing for Trophies – an analysis of global trophy hunting trade", IFAW

Other species taken by British trophy hunters include wolf (132), brown bear (126), Hamadrayas baboon (82), Tsessebe (59), Grivet Monkey (55), Vervet Monkey (54), White rhino (43), wild cat (42), Bontebok (40), Yellow baboon (36), Blue Duiker (34), and Cougar (31).

2. What impact is trophy hunting having on wildlife?

Studies of wildlife populations in Africa show that many iconic species favoured by trophy hunters are in sharp decline. Causes include widespread poaching and habitat loss, suggesting that trophy hunting has failed to effectively support conservation, stop trafficking or land use changes. Studies also point to trophy hunting having a directly negative impact on conservation, including in areas where it has been promoted as a conservation tool.[12]

- UK scientist Andrew Loveridge, who collared and tracked Cecil the lion, reports that **"in our study of lion population biology in Hwange National Park, trophy hunting had the single most significant effect, with levels of hunting mortality exceeding deaths of lions in conflict with people or killed in wire snares set by poachers. It far outstrips natural levels of mortality."**[13]
- In their study of *'Sport Hunting, Predator Control and Conservation of Large Carnivores',* Packer et al concluded that **"trophy hunting appears to have been the primary driver of a decline in lion abundance in the country's trophy hunting areas and is likely affecting lion abundance in Katavi National Park and possibly Tarangire National Park".** Their research indicates trophy hunting **"may have similarly driven a decline in leopard abundance".**
- Trophy hunting has been found by UNEP to have led to **"impacts on reproduction among hunted populations, with increased turnover rates of pride males and reduced cub survival, if prime males were targeted"** (Whitman et al 2004) as well as **"changes in socio-spatial behaviour"** (Davidson et al 2011)[14]
- The UNEP report also found that **"trophy hunting was reported to have contributed to population declines outside of (and within some) protected areas in Tanzania (Lindsey et al 2013) and was considered by Packer et al (2011) to pose the greatest threat to the populations in trophy hunting areas."**
- In Tanzania's Katavi National Park, 1118 of the big cats were counted in 1993. **"By 2014 there was not a single lion remaining."**[15]
- **"Hunting of lions was considered to be responsible for the skewed sex ratio and low abundance in edge areas and outside of the Katavi National Park,"** according to Kiffner et al, **"and was reported to have resulted in changes in the sex ratio of the Selous population" (**Brink et al 2012).[16] **"Hunting operators considered lions to be declining in a significant proportion of hunting areas in Zambia"** (Lindsey et al 2013).
- In South Luangwa, Zambia, there was found to be **"a declining population, low recruitment, low sub adult and adult male survival, depletion of adult males, and a senescing adult**

[12] "The Effects of trophy hunting on five of Africa's iconic wild animal populations in 6 countries – analysis", Conservation Action, Adam Cruise, January 2016

[13] "Lion Hearted – the life and death of Cecil and the future of Africa's iconic cats", Andrew Loveridge

[14] "Review of panthera leo from the United Republic of Tanzania and from Zambia". UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, 2015

[15] "The Effects of trophy hunting on five of Africa's iconic wild animal populations in 6 countries – analysis", Conservation Action, Adam Cruise, January 2016

[16] "Review of panthera leo from the United Republic of Tanzania and from Zambia". UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, 2015

female population. The primary cause of mortality was considered to be trophy hunting (Rosenblatt et al 2014)"[17] Meanwhile, "**Lower Zambesi National Park observed male-depletion compared to other systems, and male mortality was reported to be mainly due to trophy hunting and wire snares** (Becker et al 2013b)."

- In Mozambique, a study by Begg C et al revealed that only 33 per cent of all lions shot were of 'acceptable trophy age' (over the age of 6 years old is commonly considered the 'sufficient breeding age'). **"The off-take in neighbouring hunting concessions has had noticeable effects on the population structure of lions both in the hunting areas and in the neighbouring protected areas, which reduced the density of adult males, increased infanticide, increased turnover of territorial males and is thus considered unsustainable. This, the study finds, is why hunters 'are struggling to find lions of the right age as they are probably not available in sufficient numbers to support the current quota'."[18]**
- A number of causes of trophy hunting-induced declines have been identified: **"Scientists report that trophy hunting can affect a specific, localised population of a given species in many ways: by reducing the number of animals in the population, by reducing the population's reproductive capacity, and by altering the ecosystem where the species resides."[19]** Trophy hunting concessions have also been found to block traditional wildlife migration corridors.[20]
- The 2015 IUCN Red Data analysis on lions reveals concern that current management regimes in terms of trophy hunting is one of the main contributions "**to an astonishing decline of 42% of the continent's total lion population."[21]**
- Hunting concessions currently cover huge proportions of the remaining range of species such as lions. **"African lions are hunted across at least 558,000km2, which comprises 27-32% of the lion range in countries where trophy hunting of the species is permitted."[22]** Because of this, concerns have been expressed about the viability of species such as the African lion in its current strongholds**: "Trophy hunting has contributed to population declines outside (and inside some) protected areas in Tanzania, a country that holds between 30-50% of Africa's lions."**
- The volume of trophy hunting of declining populations is another cause for concern. CITES records indicate that approximately 10,000 lion trophies were taken by hunters in the past decade. The current wild population is estimated at approximately 20,000. According to conservation group LionAid: **"Lions simply cannot reproduce fast enough to maintain this offtake level of adult (and subadult) males, meaning that the resource is being mined rather than sustainably utilised.**"[23]

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[17] "Review of panthera leo from the United Republic of Tanzania and from Zambia". UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, 2015

[18] "The Effects of trophy hunting on five of Africa's iconic wild animal populations in 6 countries – analysis", Conservation Action, Adam Cruise, January 2016

[19] "Missing the Mark – African trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits", a report by the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources

[20] Africa Geographic: "why trophy hunting is counter-productive as a 'conservation tool', December 2018

[21] "The Effects of trophy hunting on five of Africa's iconic wild animal populations in 6 countries – analysis", Conservation Action, Adam Cruise, January 2016

[22] "The trophy hunting of African lions: scale, current management practices and factors undermining sustainability" – Peter Andrew Lindsay, et al

[23] "The effects if lion trophy hunting on lion populations", LionAId, 29th November 2010

- A report published by the US Congress has similarly indicated that the combined rate of trophy hunting and poaching currently out-strips the fertility rate of African elephants. As Africa Geographic points out: **"Big game hunters target the same large-tusked individuals that poachers target."**[24]
- Michele Pickover of South Africa's EMS Foundation says that the approach of regarding wildlife as a 'resource' to be consumed by humans has the effect of reducing biodiversity significantly and increasing the number of threatened species because it alters the way ecosystems function. As a result, South Africa has **"the highest estimated rate of extinctions for any area in the world, with 37% of its mammal species threatened."**[25]
- Scientists looking at lion "harvesting" data between 1996 and 2008 found that the number of lions taken had declined. **"This was not due to a lack of effort by the hunters, nor due to fewer hunters visiting Tanzania: since 1998 hunting has seen an increase in clients of 60%. The decline was simply due to the fact that Tanzania was rapidly running out of trophy lions, and clients were increasingly shooting underage males. The net result was that the steepest harvest declines occurred in areas with the highest harvest intensities, and trophy hunting contributed at a level of 92% to reduced success by statistical analyses.**
- **"The lions were not poached, snared, poisoned or shot by irate livestock owners; they were simply overhunted. Nor were they succumbing to factors such as disease and drought – lion numbers remained stable in tourist areas without hunting."**[26]
- Andrew Loveridge's study of lions in Hwange not only revealed a startling number of radio-collared lions were being taken by trophy hunters; it also found that lions were being lured with bait out of the protected area into neighbouring hunting concessions. The penchant among trophy hunters for males had an immediate effect on the local population – the lions taken **"represented 72% of the adult territorial males tagged within the Park and 60% of the tagged subadult males. Two consequences became immediately apparent: the proportion of adult males/females declined from 1:2.8 to 1:6.3, and the rapid turnover of males resulted in increased infanticide."**
- In addition, **"2 lion prides saw a change of males 4 times during the 5 years of the study as previous male coalitions were successively removed by hunters. A total of 19 cubs were lost most likely lost due to infanticide (directly observed on five occasions) from four prides."**
- The IUCN has also found trophy hunting to have significantly depleted leopard populations. **"Male leopards are the most coveted by trophy hunters, but selecting for a particular sex of a hunted animal can skew the sex ratio and encourage loss of genetic variation".** In consequence, **"loss of male leopards disturbs the social structure of a leopard group, leading to sometimes deadly conflict and infanticide."**[27]
- In a paper entitled *'Effects of trophy hunting on lion and leopard populations in Tanzania',* Packer et al (2011) found that leopard numbers declined the most in areas where trophy hunting was most prevalent. The researchers found that when it came to regions in Tanzania

[24] Trophy Hunting in Africa is in decline and no longer pays its way", Africa Geographic, March 8, 2019, editorial
[25] "Killing for Profit" – exposing the illegal rhino horn trade", Julian Rademeyer, Zebra Press
[26] "The effects if lion trophy hunting on lion populations", LionAId, 29th November 2010
[27] "Trophy Hunting by the numbers – the United States' role in global trophy hunting", HSI-HSUS, February 2016

that had the highest leopard trophy harvest, data showed the steepest declines in the overall population.[28]

- It's not just iconic species such as lions and leopards that have felt the effects of trophy hunting. **"In the 1980s, hunting contributed to drastic reductions in populations of the Dorcas gazelle (Gazella dorcas) and to extermination of the Nubian bustard (neortis nuba) from Sahelian Africa** (Newby 1990)."[29]
- There are now suggestions that giraffes may also be seriously affected by trophy hunting. It is estimated that the giraffe population of sub-Saharan Africa has experienced a 40% drop in the previous decade, largely caused by trophy hunting largely by American tourists. 21,402 giraffe bone carvings have been imported to the United States in the last decade, as well as 3,008 pieces of skin and 3,744 other hunting trophies. It is estimated that 3,700 giraffes were killed by trophy hunters in the last 10 years.[30]
- Currently, giraffes are not CITES-listed, and there are no restrictions on sport-hunting this species. At least 2 giraffe sub-species are endangered. There are moves to include giraffes on Appendix II of CITES – however these proposals are strongly opposed by trophy hunting industry groups.

[28] "The Effects of trophy hunting on five of Africa's iconic wild animal populations in 6 countries – analysis", Conservation Action, Adam Cruise, January 2016

[29] "Does sport hunting benefit conservation", A Loveridge et al in Macdonald/key topics in Conservation Biology

[30] "Giraffes facing 'silent extinction' due to American trophy hunters", LadBible, Mike Wood, December 7th 2018

3. Does Trophy Hunting threaten wildlife species?

In addition to taking significant numbers of often threatened species, research has recently indicated that the preference of trophy hunters for the most attractive animals is having a significant impact on local wildlife populations and the survival prospects of some of the world's most iconic wildlife. Tuskless elephants, reduced tusk sizes and the scarcity of 'big tuskers' are not only indicators of the impacts of hunting – they suggest a weakening of the species' gene pool and that elephants may face an uphill struggle to survive, particularly in light of new pressures such as climate change. New research indicates that removing just 5% of healthy male lions could be enough to tip the species irretrievably towards extinction.

- The trophy hunting community revolves around record books which award points for the aspect and size of trophies. For instance, the bigger the horns, the greater the number of points awarded, and therefore greater the likelihood of an entry in the prestigious record books.
- However researchers have recently started to notice a trend. Studies of bighorn sheep in the Rocky Mountains have shown that **"decades of trophy hunting have resulted in a 20% decline in the size of ram's horns in today's sheep."**[31]
- A similar phenomenon has been observed with the Cape buffalo, one of the 'African Big Five' species (a previously plentiful species which has very recently seen its IUCN status upgraded to 'near threatened'). **"During the period 2004-2015, the observed mean Cape buffalo trophy size were below 101 inches, the SCI minimum score. Similarly the mean African elephant trophy size was below the SCI minimum score of 90 pounds for the period 2005-2015."**[32]
- In fact, a number of recent studies have sounded the alarm over an apparent dramatic decline in the size of elephant tusks, and what this could mean for the species' survival. In 2016, a research paper about the status of Zimbabwe's elephants in the Matetsi safari area noted that tusk sizes had declined significantly from 2004-15, and suggested that hunting could be to blame.
- The paper followed the publication of a report in 2015 which found that **"tusk size in African elephants experienced a substantial decline in 2005-2013 relative to the 1960s; a period covering 2 elephant generations."**[33]
- Other researchers have detected the almost total disappearance of 'big tuskers'. **"Nowadays, hunters say they're excited for anything bigger than 75 pounds. And while there have been a few big elephants hunted in Zimbabwe this year, the average tusk size that hunters can expect is closer to 40 or 50 pounds."**[34] Elephant conservationist Michelle

[31] "How Trophy Hunting can drive extinctions due to climate change", National Geographic, Stephen Leahy

[32] "Trophy hunting and sustainability: temporal dynamics in trophy quality and harvesting patterns of wild herbivores in a tropical semi-arid savanna ecosystem", Victor K Muposhi et al, Conservation Action (conservationaction.co.za)

[33] Ecol Evol 2015 Nov; 5(22) 5216-5229 – Patrick I. Chiyo, Vicent Obanda and David K. Korir

[34] "Why killing a bull elephant with big tusks hurts the herd", National Geographic, Rachael Bale

Henley believes that there may only be 50 'great tuskers' left throughout Africa. She has called on them to be protected from hunters.[35]

- There is broad agreement that the reported increase in tuskless elephants is due to the combination of selective hunting by trophy hunters and poaching of elephants with the largest tusks.[36]
- However the emergence of 'tuskless' elephants has left scientists worried**: "Tuskless elephants weaken their chances of survival since they need their tusks – to strip bark from trees and dig for water in dry riverbeds to survive long dry seasons, to defend their young from predators."**[37]
- Accelerating and unpredictable climate change could now leave elephants highly vulnerable, and unable to adapt quickly enough, scientists have warned**. "When environmental conditions change – a shift in seasonal rainfall or warmer temperatures – the risk of extinction increases dramatically, even with a healthy population of animals apparently unaffected by trophy hunting."**[38]
- The pursuit by trophy hunters of large male lions with impressive manes is also believed to have had a significant impact on the species as a whole. Whereas previously it was thought that shooting single males had little effect on the pride and on lion numbers, many experts now believe that killing large males has contributed significantly to the decline in lion numbers.
- **"When a pride male is killed and another male takes over his role, the newcomer generally kills all his predecessor's cubs – a brutal version of not wanting to bring up someone else' children, and of limiting their genetic legacy. It also brings the females in the pride quickly back into oestrus, and ready to breed again. Breeding is not the only thing affected when a senior male is killed – there is also the loss of acquired knowledge and experience, and the stability of the whole pride structure is thrown out of balance."**[39]
- The targeting of the most impressive animals effectively removes the strongest and fittest specimens from the species' gene pool. **"'Trophy' animals tend to be the most evolutionary fit and possess the high-quality genes a population of animals need to adapt quickly to a changing environment",** according to evolutionary ecologist Robert Knell.[40]
- Knell contends that **"hunting animals that stand out from the crowd because of their impressive horns or lustrous manes could lead to extinction."** His research predicts that **"removing even 5% of high-quality males risks wiping out the entire population for species under stress in a changing world".**
- His research, published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, points to previous periods in history where hunting has led to the extinction of species such as the zebra-like quagga, which was once common in southern Africa, the Tasmanian tiger of mainland Australia and Tasmania.[41]

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[35] "One of Africa's biggest elephants was just killed by trophy hunters", Christina M Russo, The Dodo, 16 October 2015

[36] "Missing the Mark – African trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits", a report by the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources

[37] "Why trophy hunting is counter-productive as a 'conservation tool', Africa Geographic, 24 December 2018

[38] "How Trophy Hunting can drive extinctions due to climate change", National Geographic, Stephen Leahy

[39] "Cuddle Me, Kill Me" – a true account of South Africa's captive lion breeding and canned hunting industry, Richard Pierce (2018)

[40] "How Trophy Hunting can drive extinctions due to climate change", National Geographic, Stephen Leahy

[41] "Trophy hunting removes 'good genes' and raises extinction risk", BBC News, Helen Briggs, 29 November 2017

- Knell, of Queen Mary College, University of London, said the assumption by some that so-called selective harvesting was not especially threatening to a population of animals **"does not take into account recent work",** adding: **"The results were very, very clear. This can happen even with an annual harvest rate as low as 5% of the high-quality males."**[42]
- Studies also reveal that the genetic diversity of the modern population of lions have been reduced by approximately 15%. The findings, which are blamed on hunting, led researchers to conclude: **"With a high genetic diversity, a population of any animal possesses a wider selection of different versions of genes. It is then better able to cope with environmental threats, diseases and other threats. The new research has shown that lions have lost some of that ability over the past 100 years."**
- They add: **"Climate change threatens to trigger new diseases among African wildlife and to bring about more intense droughts and heatwaves. The warning signs have been around for a long time."**[43]
- The researchers, who include Andrew Loveridge – the British 'Cecil' researcher – write: **"African lion populations are undergoing dramatic contractions in range and declines in numbers. We show that the genetic diversity of the modern population was reduced by 12%-17% with a reduction in allelic diversity of approximately 15%, compared to historical populations, in addition to having lost a number of mitochondrial haplotypes.**
- **"We also identify a number of 'ghost alleles' in the historical samples which are no longer present in the extant population."**
- **"We argue a rapid decline in allelic richness after 1895 suggests the erosion of genetic diversity coincides with the rise of a European colonial presence."**[44]

[42] "How Trophy Hunting can drive extinctions due to climate change", National Geographic, Stephen Leahy

[43] "How the lion lost its strength: big cats' survival at risk as DNA defences dwindle", The Guardian, Robin McKie, 30 March 2019

[44] "A century of decline: loss of genetic diversity in a southern African lion-conservation stronghold". Simon G Dures, Chris Carbone, Andrew J Loveridge et al, March 11 2019

4. Are threatened species being hunted?

"Appendix I includes approximately 1000 species threatened with extinction. CITES prohibits the international trade of Appendix I animals or plants except where the purpose is non-commercial, such as the import of sport-hunted trophies or for scientific research… Under CITES, the import of sport-hunted trophies is not considered 'commercial trade'."[45]

- Andrew Loveridge, in his book about the life and death of Cecil the Lion, records: **"After the first 4 years of research on lion behaviour in Hwange, it was starting to become clear that many of the male lions we collared in the park were being shot in the surrounding hunting areas. These hunts were approved and completely legal. But it was puzzling and worrisome that so many lions, supposedly protected by the national park, were dying."**[46]
- A 2015 study by the International Fund for Animal Welfare listed the numbers of trophies taken of threatened species between 2004 and 2014.[47] The list includes include American black bear: 93,322; Hartmann's mountain zebra: 12892; Leopard: 10299; African elephant: 10294; Chacma baboon: 9504; Lion: 8231; Wolf: 6534; Brown bear: 6482; Hippopotamus: 5812; African crocodile: 4693; Lechwe: 4601; Caracal: 4108; Blackbuck: 3238; Cougar: 2303; Hamadryas baboon: 1813; Argali: 1691; Polar bear: 1534; Grivet monkey: 1410; Blesbok: 1348; and Canada Lynx: 1276.
- CITES permits some of the world's most endangered wildlife to be hunted for 'sport'. Its database shows a number of hunting trophies of **tigers, black rhinos** and animals that have gone **extinct in the wild** such as the scimitar-horned oryx and the Arabian oryx, of which the last animal in the wild was shot by hunters in 1972. British trophy hunters are among those who have shot these endangered animals for trophies.
- In 2017 (the most recent year for which full figures are available), **1405** trophies from **22** Appendix I species and sub-species were permitted to be taken by trophy hunters. The most popular were **leopards** (817), **African elephants** from the species' most endangered populations (235), **scimitar-horned oryx** (111) and **cheetahs** (97).
- There has been a surge in popularity in trophy hunting of some critically endangered species. Records of **black rhino** hunting trophies show **11 were taken in the 1980s**, **2** in the 1990s, **26** in the 2000s, and **81 from 2010 to 2017**. Black rhino trophies included **feet, bodies, skins** and **genitalia**, as well as **horns**. British trophy hunters were among those to have hunted black rhino.
- Despite its status as one of the most endangered mammals on earth, CITES records show **tiger trophies** being traded with CITES' permission as recently as **2016**. At least two of the tigers shot for sport had been bred in captivity in South Africa. CITES' database show 3 tiger skins and a trophy being imported into Britain from India in 1990. Other countries to have imported tiger trophies include Bulgaria, Spain, France, the US, Norway and Pakistan.
- CITES records show British hunters also imported hunting trophies of pygmy hippopotamus and other species considered critically endangered including the Arabian Oryx. The last remaining Arabian Oryx in the wild was shot by a hunter in 1972. Since then, a breeding

[45] "Killing for Trophies – an analysis of global trophy hunting trade", IFAW

[46] "Lion Hearted – the life and death of Cecil and the future of Africa's iconic cats", Andrew Loveridge

[47] "Killing for Trophies – an analysis of global trophy hunting trade", IFAW

programme has been underway using animals kept in zoos and private collections which has led to the species being reintroduced.

- CITES records show that Arabian Oryx have once again been shot for 'sport' by trophy hunters since the year 2000. Approximately half of those killed were born in captivity, while approximately half were wild oryx. In 2014, a British hunter was among those to have killed an Arabian Oryx. The animal had been bred in captivity in South Africa.
- Unlike the US Administration, the UK government permits the import of trophies of Appendix I cheetah. According to the IUCN Red List, the known cheetah population is estimated to be approximately 6,700 adult and adolescent animals distributed across 29 subpopulations. The cheetah has experienced a decline of 89% from its historic range.

Table 3 – **HUNTING OF IUCN RED LIST SPECIES: UK IMPORTS.** The CITES database reveals that – since the 1980s - permits have been issued allowing the import into the UK of hunting trophies from a number of the world's most endangered species, including animals that have gone extinct in the wild.

SPECIES	**RED LIST STATUS**
Tiger (panthera tigris) & Amur tiger (panthera tigris altaica)	ENDANGERED. DECREASING. 2154-3159 INDIVIDUALS
Pygmy hippopotamus (hexaprotodon liberiensis or choeropsis liberiensis)	ENDANGERED. DECREASING. 2000-2499 INDIVIDUALS
Black rhinoceros (diceros bicornis)	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED. 4880 INDIVIDUALS
Dama gazelle (nanger dama)	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED. DECREASING. 100-200 INDIVIDUALS
Arabian oryx (oryx leucoryx)	VULNERABLE. WENT EXTINCT IN WILD IN 1972. 1000 INDIVIDUALS
Addax (addax nasomaculatus)	CRITICALLY ENANGERED. DECREASING. 30-90 INDIVIDUALS.
Markhor (Capra falconeri)	NEAR THREATENED. 5,754 INDIVIDUALS
Scimitar-horned (Oryx dammah)	EXTINCT IN THE WILD

Table 4. HUNTING OF CITES 'APPENDIX I' SPECIES: UK IMPORTS

British hunters have taken hundreds of trophies from some of the world's most endangered animals since CITES came into force. Among the species hunted are **black rhinos, cheetahs, leopards, a rare sea turtle,** and **tigers**.

Total no of CITES Appendix I species imported into the UK: 705 (1981-2017)
List of 'Appendix I' Species hunted by UK hunters: • Addax • Arabian oryx • Black rhino • Cape mountain zebra • Caracals in South Africa

- Cheetah
- Dama gazelle
- Elephants in Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, Cameroon, Zimbabwe and South Africa
- Hawksbill sea turtle
- Leopard
- Markhor
- Nile crocodiles in Mozambique, Tanzania and South Africa
- Scimitar oryx
- Tiger
- White rhino

5. How sustainable is trophy hunting?

One of the causes of significant declines in wildlife populations has been the lack of scientific data to support the trophy hunting quotas that have been set. It is often the case that quotas are set in the absence of any such data. As an IUCN report noted, South Africa has seen **"the persistence of unsustainable management practices, in particular with regards to quota setting and attribution of hunting concessions… unethical practices have become a problem due to the intense competition that reigns."**[48]

- Lions are among the species to have been badly hit by apparently arbitrary quota-setting processes: **"The main problems associated with current management practices of lion hunting in some countries were identified as: non-scientific bases for setting quotas; excessively high quotas and off-take levels in some countries; fixed-quotas, which encourage over-harvest; lack of age restrictions; and hunting of females"** (Hunter et al, 2013)[49]
- The stability and viability of local lion populations has been directed affected by these issues: **"Excessive trophy hunting was reported to have had negative impacts on the population density in South Luangwa National Park, and to have altered sex-ratios and ranging behaviour** (Yamazaki 1996 in Lindsey et al 2012)."
- Various reports have noted that the large volume of lions which the authorities have allowed to be hunted has also been damaging. UNEP and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge noted the **"high pressure"** on lions directly attributable to trophy hunting, stating that **"the sustainability of harvest was highly questionable."**
- The pattern of over-hunting has been consistently seen at local level, including in the Selous Game Reserve. Here, according to IUCN, **"the rate at which lions were being killed by big game hunting was not sustainable."**
- Lindsay et al found that quota-setting is frequently not informed by scientific data: **"Quotas are not generally established in a scientific manner and there is an over-reliance on subjective personal opinions during the process, including those of hunting operators".**
- In Namibia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, quotas appear to be set at least in part based on **"the extent and location of problem animal reports, which need not have a close relationship to lion abundance. Such linkages create scope for false reporting of conflict, which further decouples quotas from what populations can necessarily support."** The study found lion hunting quotas to be unsustainable in all lion range states with the exception of Mozambique.[50]
- An investigation found that the Namibian government sets trophy hunting quotas each year yet it **"does not know how many breeding-age desert-adapted lions are left, how many**

[48] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

[49] "Review of panthera leo from the United Republic of Tanzania and from Zambia". UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, 2015

[50] "The trophy hunting of African lions: scale, current management practices and factors undermining sustainability" – Peter Andrew Lindsay, et al

territory/pride males there are, or even how many of each sex are killed during human-lion conflict."[51]

- The problems associated with the quota system have been recognised even by a majority of trophy safari operators. In a survey, 62.2% of operators said they felt there were problems associated with the trophy hunting of lions in their country. **"Inappropriate, unscientific or excessive quotas were the most commonly identified problems associated with lion hunting."**[52]
- The profit motive of trophy hunting has been identified by UNEP-WCMC as a key driver of unsustainable quotas and damaging impacts on local lion populations: **"Mesochina et al (2010) noted that trophy hunting fees were paid based on the fixed hunting quota, even if the animals were not hunted, which may act as an incentive for hunting younger individuals."**[53]
- The problem is not confined to lions. In the case of elephants, according to UNEP-WCMC, **"current levels of trophy hunting and current hunting quotas within the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area were considered unsustainable; hunting over the last ten years was thought to have depressed bull numbers in the area."**[54]
- A 2016 paper by Muposhi et al paper found that tusks sizes of elephants in the Matetsi safari area declined significantly from 2004-15, possibly indicating unsustainable hunting. The study goes on to state that quotas **"may have been based on previous experiences and individual opinions and not based on scientific experiences."**
- In Zimbabwe, there have been dramatic falls in elephant numbers. In Mana Pools, the decline is put at 40%. In Matusadona and Chizarira, declines are estimated at around 75%. **"Yet Zimbabwe has been set a massive export quota of tusks as trophies, the biggest of the six countries – 1,000 annually, which has been in place since 2004. This means each year 500 elephants could be legally shot by trophy hunters and their tusks exported. The CITES trade database reveals that in the period 2003-2013, a total of over 28 metric tons of tusks have been exported from Zimbabwe by trophy hunters alone."**[55]
- There are numerous other instances where local surveys have indicated elephant and other wildlife populations to be in decline, but where the data appears to have been ignored and high levels of trophy hunting has been allowed to continue. The 2015-2020 elephant management plan in Sebungwe and mid-Zambezi, for instance, recognises population declines yet allows trophy hunting to continue.
- A report by US Congressional researchers found that "**unsustainably high rates of trophy hunting"** had not only **"caused population declines in African lions"** but that the same had possibly occurred in the case of African leopards.[56] Its findings are supported by a number of scientific studies.
- A paper by T. Grant for the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group in 2012 reported that **"no density or spatial ecology data exist for leopards in Zimbabwe".** Zimbabwe has one of the highest

[51] "The big lie about lion trophy hunting", Simon Epsley, Africa Geographic, 10 August 2017

[52] "The trophy hunting of African lions: scale, current management practices and factors undermining sustainability" – Peter Andrew Lindsay, et al

[53] "Review of panthera leo from the United Republic of Tanzania and from Zambia". UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, 2015

[54] UNEP-WCMC, 2014, review of trophy hunting in selected species, Cambridge

[55] "The Effects of trophy hunting on five of Africa's iconic wild animal populations in 6 countries – analysis", Conservation Action, Adam Cruise, January 2016

[56] "Missing the Mark – African trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits", a report by the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources

annual leopard trophy hunting quotas in Africa, but the sustainability of quotas **"has not been assessed".**

- Grant found that **"without any reliable scientific study, the stakeholders (farmers, hunters, rural councils and tour operators) came up with 500, a figure CITES approved".** An investigation found that Tanzania has an unsustainably large export quota for trophy hunted leopards.
- Mozambique, meanwhile, requested to double its leopard hunting quota at the 14th CITES COP **"despite the knowledge that leopard populations were declining everywhere, that most leopards hunted were either female or under age or were shot in a concentrated hunting area."** IUCN's Species Survival Commission noted that **"little research had been conducted into the status, distribution or ecology of the leopard in Mozambique"** and that there were **"no detailed field studies"** to justify raising the quota.[57]
- As a report of an investigation carried out by the US Congress concluded: **"If quota levels are not based on scientific information, or are fixed in a way that ignores changes in the population's size and behaviour, trophy hunting could have negative consequences for the population's health."[58]**

[57] "The Effects of trophy hunting on five of Africa's iconic wild animal populations in 6 countries – analysis", Conservation Action, Adam Cruise, January 2016

[58] "Missing the Mark – African trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits", a report by the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources

CASE STUDY – Lions & Trophy Hunting: A British conservationist's experience

Andrew Loveridge, the UK lion researcher who followed Cecil up until his death, found extensive 'double-counting' – or even what he calls **"quadruple-counting"** - of populations by official surveys which justified high hunting quotas to be set:

"Each of the 30 private properties in the Gwaai Conservancy bordering the (Hwange) park had applied for a hunting quota. Added to this, quotas were also allocated to the state safari-hunting areas, to forestry land, and to two adjoining rural district councils. In total, 37 relatively small parcels of land had hunting privileges.

"These 'quotas' were supposed to be based on an evaluation of wildlife populations resident on the property or the concession in question. Invariably, each landowner asked for and was allocated at least one male and one female lion to hunt. For larger properties, between 2 and 5 male lions were allocated.

"Given what we now knew about the ranging behaviour of lions, it seemed improbable that each and every relatively small property had its own resident lions. It was much more likely that a few lions were roaming across a wide area encompassing many small, unfenced tracts of land. If indeed quotas were based on any credible population estimate, it seemed that landowners were double, triple or quadruple counting the lions moving through the area.

"We already knew that most lions that were shot, at least the adult males, were animals that normally dwelled in the national park and only made short forays into the hunting areas. We knew this because we'd fitted most of the lions being hunted with radio collars and we could see from the data that they spent most of their time in the national park.

"It seemed hunters were counting the same lions on their land that we were studying in the park. All in all, 62 male and 13 female lions were on the quota to be hunted in 2003 in the hunting concessions around Hwange; 75 lions were eligible for killing.

"In effect, every single one was on the hunting quota and could be shot as soon as it poked its nose over the park boundary.

"This chimed well with what we knew about the survival of male lions we had radio-collared. I calculated that, on average, male lions had a 50% chance of survival in any one year, though in some years the survival rate was as low as 27%.

"These animals were not dying of old age, disease, injury by dangerous prey, or in fights with other males, as one would expect in a naturally functioning national park ecosystem. They were invariably being shot by hunters outside the park. It also made very little difference whether they were adults or young males. It it was male and had half a chance of being passed off to a wealthy hunting client, it was 'fair' game."[59]

[59] "Lion Hearted – the life and death of Cecil and the future of Africa's iconic cats", Andrew Loveridge

6. Does hunting of captive-bred trophy animals have conservation implications?

The taking of trophies of captive-bred animals such as lions is sometimes justified on the basis that the animals are not in the wild and therefore this type of trophy hunting does not have a negative direct impact on conservation. However, conservation groups have expressed serious concern that such trophy hunting is fuelling the trade in animal bones and encouraging poaching. There are also reports of lions being taken from the wild in order to 'refresh' bloodlines in lion 'factory farms' in order to counter problems of disease and in-breeding.

- Current estimates of the numbers of captive predators in South Africa are around or in excess of 10,000 animals. While approximately 85-90% are lions, other species bred for 'canned hunting' include cheetahs, leopards, jaguars, caracals and even tigers. As many as 6,000 or more lion cubs alone are bred in captivity in South Africa each year for trophy hunting and the bone trade.[60]
- According to Richard Pierce, a conservationist and film-maker who has researched the industry: **"The intensive farming of a wild species is being carried out for three reasons: it's easy to do, it is highly profitable; and for now it is legal."** He describes the operations he witnessed as **"intensive"** and that the industry appears **"to have profit as its sole aim."**
- He adds that **"most experts believe that the south African breeding industry will eventually result in an increase in poaching of wild lions."**
- Dereck Joubert, leader of the National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative, who has researched in Botswana for more than 25 years, says the market is adding to the 'emergency situation' facing all Africa's wild lions whose bones are often passed off as tiger bones for use in pseudo-medicinal products: **"The bone trade out of South Africa, nearly all from captive-bred lions, is stimulating the market in Asia, which is far bigger than the supply will ever be. Selling lion bones on the market is also putting more pressure on Asia's tiger populations, and there are fewer than 3000 tigers left in the wild'."**[61]
- His concerns are echoed by WWF, which says that trade in bones from these dual-purpose facilities has promoted the belief that it is acceptable to use products from the animals: **"They undermine efforts to protect wild tigers and to halt the illegal trade by complicating enforcement activities, and by normalising and legitimizing the sale of tiger parts and products, which in turn drives up demand."**
- WWF says that it has evidence that the industry is fuelling renewed poaching of wild lions: **"an increase in reports of lion poisonings and killings in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Uganda and Tanzania show there is an escalating trend in the trade of lion body parts, the result of which is an impending threat to some national populations.**[62]

[60] "Cuddle Me, Kill Me" – a true account of South Africa's captive lion breeding and canned hunting industry, Richard Pierce (2018)

[61] "Overkill – the race to sae Africa's wildlife", James Clarke, 2017, Struik Nature/Penguin Random House South Africa

[62] "The Extinction Business – SA's Lion Bone Trade', EMS Foundation www.emsfoundation.org.za & Ban Animal Trading www.bananimaltrading.org , July 2018

- An investigation by South Africa's EMS Foundation has also found links between the canned hunting/bone trade industry and known international crime syndicates involved in wildlife trafficking and poaching: **"Organised elephant and rhino trafficking groups, because they have the existing killing and smuggling infrastructure in place, can, and have, extended their activities to wild lions. These same syndicates are producing processed lion 'cake' and tiger 'jelly/cake' in South Africa from tigers and lions in the South Africa big cat captive industry."**
- They add: "**There are reports that these body parts are shipped out to SE Asia in cargo ships and through military/diplomatic channels. They are also leaving the country in parcels and luggage to other African transit countries (and then presumably from there on to Southeast Asia)."**[63]
- These concerns are echoed by Kristin Nowell, the IUCN coordinator of the 'Red List' for big cats, who says that South Africa is stoking Asian demand for lion parts as stand-ins for tiger parts and is fuelling a growing legal trade in the teeth and claws of wild lions, further reducing their numbers. According to Nowell, confiscations and NGO research shows that some sellers are passing off lion teeth and claws as tiger parts.

[63] "The Extinction Business – SA's Lion Bone Trade', EMS Foundation www.emsfoundation.org.za & Ban Animal Trading www.bananimaltrading.org , July 2018

7. What about “problem animals”?

Trophy hunters sometimes justify the sport on grounds of the need to cull or manage ‘problem’ animals. This is somewhat disingenuous, as the motive for sport hunting is not to provide a philanthropic ‘pest control’ service. However the issue is relevant not least because it has been suggested that trophy hunting can actually aggravate the issue of ‘problem animals’. For example, the hunting of some game species which are also prey for the lion has forced lions to pursue livestock, while the removal of mature bull elephants has resulted in young bulls behaving in ways described as similar to that of juvenile delinquents without a strong father figure.

- The scale of problem animals is uncertain - **“there is little information available on the number of lions killed as problem animals by local people,”** according to Bauer.[64] However there are known to be instances where cheetahs have been reported as ‘problem’ animals in order to be able to legally hunt them when hunting quotas have been used up.
- Big cat conservation group Panthera has reported a scarcity of wild prey due to over-hunting by humans. **“When wild prey are over-hunted, lions are forced to feed on livestock. This drives further conflict with humans in which the lions ultimately loses”.** This includes the use of pesticides and poisons with which to kill lions.[65]
- When human settlements and agriculture encroach upon wildlife habitat, it is difficult to justifiably assert that it is the animals that are the ‘problem’. Nevertheless there are non-lethal means by which to address human-wildlife co-existence challenges.
- One such initiative is the Cheetah Project pioneered by Vision Africa Wildlife which generates tourism revenues for farmers who allow cheetahs to stay on their farms. **“We described it as the cheetahs are able to pay their way through an eco-tourism project focused on the cheetah’s conservation. This project has been adopted by other conservation projects and has proved to be very successful.”[66]**

[64] “Review of panthera leo from the United Republic of Tanzania and from Zambia”. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, 2015

[65] “Rise of Canned Lion Hunting in South Africa – reducing the king of the beasts to easy prey”, Times Media Books, 2015 (a collection of reporting from Times media)

[66] Vision Africa Wildlife www.visionafrica.co.za

8. Does trophy hunting help conserve wildlife?

It has been asserted that allowing trophy hunting to continue can deliver conservation benefits to species, including those threatened with extinction. However studies by IUCN show that hunting concessions report very poor results for species and habitat conservation. Hunting areas have been found to **"have lower performance levels than national parks for an equivalent management level in the preservation of their perimeters (and) in the preservation of vegetation that is found there",** and that **"hunting areas almost always have a lower animal population density than national parks".**

- Studies throughout the African continent consistently show significant declines in key species in areas where trophy hunting occurs. In more than half the areas studied by IUCN **"the animal populations have declined."**[67]
- In Zambia, **"analysis of the use of the main hunted species ('top species': lion, leopard, black antelope, roan and buffalo) in the hunting safaris on offer shows a downward trend."**
- In east Africa, the Ngorongoro has been able to conserve its black rhinoceros while **"neighbouring hunting areas have none left."**
- A comparison of hunting areas and neighbouring protected areas found that the hartebeest in West Africa **"is more abundant in Pendjari National Park than in surrounding hunting areas."**
- In the Central Africa Republic, out of ten species considered, 7 were doing better in national parks than in hunting reserves. Of the 3 where they were doing better in hunting reserves – the hartebeest, the giraffe and the defassa waterbuck – the populations are virtually nil for the latter two in both hunting areas and national parks.
- The Selous reserve, the largest game hunting area in Africa, has seen significant declines in wildlife. For instance **"the 2006 census showed a significant reduction in the populations of buffalo, hippopotamus, gnus and impalas since 2002."**
- An IUCN report states: **"Big game hunting in Zambia does not work either from a conservation point of view of an economic or social one."**
- **"Core populations of endangered species are greater in national parks,"** but they are threatened by the presence of hunting concessions on their periphery which are benefitting from effective conservation in these protecting areas. When those animals migrate or roam beyond park boundaries, hunting concessions are effectively 'siphoning' off those animals and undermining conservation efforts. According to IUCN: **"Hunting areas should not prey on national parks, because they reduce conservation efforts and do not add sufficient socio-economic benefits.**"
- IUCN researchers saw habitat degradation which was affecting wildlife populations. **"Hunting areas often deteriorate"** as a result of **"the sums allocated to management being insufficient."**

[67] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

- An editorial in Africa Geographic said trophy hunting **"no longer pays its way**". It found the total revenue generated by the 200,000km2 of hunting areas in Tanzania to be US$30 million per annum – **"the conservation cost for that land, if done correctly, would be US$150 million per year."**[68]
- According to IUCN: **"for equivalent management levels, hunting areas play less of a role in conservation than national parks… National parks play a greater role in the conservation of species that are particularly sensitive to human pressure."**[69]
- They conclude: **"Big game hunting, in terms of conservation, does not work."**

[68] Trophy Hunting in Africa is in decline and no longer pays its way", Africa Geographic, March 8, 2019, editorial
[69] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

9. Are hunting fees bringing conservation benefits?

It is sometimes said that trophy hunting can contribute to wildlife conservation efforts by virtue of a proportion of hunting fees going to local conservation departments and organisations. However there is little evidence of trophy hunting having directly contributed to tangible conservation outcomes for species or wildlife. This is in part because the revenues generated are relatively insignificant, and also because it is not clear where they end up.

- When a critically endangered black rhinoceros was auctioned off by the Namibian government to a trophy hunter for USD$350,000, the hunting industry claimed that the money raised would go towards anti-poaching, conservation and community development projects. However one of the NGOs that criticised the auction said that **"there is no evidence that any previous rhino hunts in Namibia have benefited rhino conservation."**[70]
- There have numerous reported instances of trophy hunting fees meant for conservation being diverted to very different goals. In June 2017, one newspaper article described how the Tsholotsho Rural District Council in Zimbabwe sold permits to a safari hunting company, Lodzi Hunters, to hunt 50 elephants in order to fund the construction of a football stadium. Other reports have suggested money has gone towards building roads and other infrastructure projects that are damaging to conservation.
- There have been many complaints that the money usually disappears into a 'black hole'. The lack of transparency in government institutions and serious corruption problems mean it is virtually impossible to point to any demonstrable instances of a 'success story'.
- Conservationists have also questioned whether the amounts said to be raised by trophy hunting operations can realistically make a significant positive impact on conservation. They argue that the revenue generated by trophy hunting and earmarked for conservation cannot cover the costs of conservation such that they could either mitigate the negative impact of trophy hunting, let alone deliver net positive outcomes.
- For instance Andrew Loveridge, the British 'Cecil' researcher, writes: **"In Africa, on average, the annual cost of conservation (such as employment of park rangers, maintenance of infrastructure, and protection from poachers) comes in at around US$500 per square km.** (Yet) **according to conservation biologist Peter Lindsay, revenues from hunting concessions amount to around US$400 per sq km per year. Deduct hunting concession and trophy fees, then subtract operating costs and profits, and you discover that hunting revenue does not come close to covering the actual costs of conservation."**[71]
- Loveridge gives the example of the Hwange reserve, where he worked and observed Cecil until his death in 2015. **"Hwange's annual conservation budget is around $276 per sq km. Even at this bargain-basement budget, it cost more than US$1.5 million to protect Cecil until he was 12 years old. A one-off fee of $50,000 to kill him did not remotely offset this cost. Nor did the park, whose budget paid for his protection, benefit from this revenue."**

[70] "Trophy Hunting by the numbers – the United States' role in global trophy hunting", HSI-HSUS, February 2016

[71] "Lion Hearted – the life and death of Cecil and the future of Africa's iconic cats", Andrew Loveridge

- He concludes: **"In reality, hunting greatly undervalues African wildlife. That is not to say that people do not become rich through hunting. They do. But little of the financial gain filters down to covering costs of conserving wildlife."**[72]

[72] "Lion Hearted – the life and death of Cecil and the future of Africa's iconic cats", Andrew Loveridge

10. Does trophy Hunting Incentivise Conservation?

Supporters of trophy hunting assert that the industry generates significant revenues which – by supporting community development - provide local communities with the incentives required to conserve species and their habitats, rather than persecute wildlife or convert land to other uses such as agriculture. However, studies by IUCN and others indicate that **"the economic results of big game hunting are low."**[73]

- A report co-authored by the UN Food & Agriculture Organisation and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, a pro-hunting group, found that hunting companies contribute only 3% of their revenue to communities living in hunting areas: **"The vast majority of their expenditure does not accrue to local people and businesses, but to firms, government agencies and individuals located internationally or in national capitals."**[74]
- The trophy hunting industry creates very few jobs in local communities. In the whole of West Africa, the number of jobs created has been estimated at 400 permanent staff and 400 temporary staff.[75]
- The average is around one permanent job for every 5,500 ha of hunting area, which compares very poorly with agriculture. In Botswana, for example, it was specifically decided to stop hunting in the Okavango Valley in order to create more jobs for local people.
- Trophy hunting generates very low levels of income for rural communities in Africa. In Tanzania, a popular destination for 'African Big Five' hunters, annual income averages at US$0.09/capita/ha, and creates one job per 5,635 hectares.
- According to the IUCN: **"The situation can be summarised by saying that the jobs proposed are precarious, few in number and are not competitive with the resources obtained from the other usages of the land, including agriculture.**
- **"In this, big game hunting does not effectively contribute to development despite taking up vast areas of land."**
- Moreover, says IUCN, very little of the money spent by hunters on expeditions is seen by local communities **"explaining their lack of interest in preserving hunting areas."**
- One village official in northern Tanzania complained that hunters were wiping out wildlife and that revenues meant for local communities were bring 'swallowed up' by local bureaucrats:
- **"We're more closely allied with the photographic operators than the hunters. They are finishing off the wildlife before we've had a chance to realise a profit from it. Hunters**

[73] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

[74] "The $200 million question - how much does trophy hunting really contribute to African communities?" Economists at Large, 2013 (lead author Roderick Campbell)

[75] "Big game hunting in West Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

don't recognise us; they only recognise the government…25 percent of hunting fees goes into the 'hole' at the district. We're supposed to get 5%: we don't see even that."[76]

- Andrew Loveridge, the British conservationist who radio-collared and monitored Cecil the Lion, said the situation repeated itself in communities around Zimbabwe's famous Hwange National Park, Cecil's former hunting grounds:
- **"I've seen almost no benefit to villagers around Hwange National Park – from hunting, or, indeed, from any kind of conservation revenue. In our survey of 624 households in 3 communities close to the park, only 18% of the respondents said they gained any benefit from trophy hunting taking place on community land.**
- **"Of those who said they benefited, only a quarter gained any kind of direct financial benefit – on average relatively modest one-off payments averaging $40. Given that the definition of local poverty is living on less than 1 dollar a day, trophy hunting is unlikely to raise living standards significantly.**
- **"The promise of improved livelihoods through revenues derived from trophy hunting does not appear to be fulfilled, nor is hunting incentivising people to tolerate wild animals**"[77]
- An investigation by Africa Geographic adds that the occasional practice of leaving elephant meat with local villagers was fuelling problems with poaching: **"Where the boundaries of National Parks are surrounded by hunting concessions, individuals from the communities, living in the area, are employed seasonally by the hunting industry, and 'game meat' is distributed to poor communities during the hunting season. But those communities are not lifted out of the poverty trap and encouraging demand for 'bushmeat' leads to more poaching, not less, inside the National Parks."**[78]

[76] "The $200 million question -how much does trophy hunting really contribute to African communities?" Economists at Large, 2013 (lead author Roderick Campbell)

[77] "Lion Hearted – the life and death of Cecil and the future of Africa's iconic cats", Andrew Loveridge

[78] "Why trophy hunting is counter-productive as a 'conservation tool', Africa Geographic, 24 December 2018

11. Are Community Stakeholder hunting projects working?

The trophy hunting industry has laid great store in a number of experimental projects in which it was hoped that trophy hunting could support conservation by directly involving local communities as stakeholders. However according to IUCN, the results have been disappointing: **"Returns for local populations, even when managed by community projects (CBNRM) are insignificant, and cannot prompt them to change their behaviour regarding poaching and agricultural encroachment."**[79]

- The Campfire Programme in Zimbabwe is often held up as a model. However, the revenues generated have been very poor, on average US1-3/annum/household. **"Such low gains are not motivating for the local communities,"** according to IUCN. **"Therefore they tend not to respect the hunting areas and poach."**[80]
- Despite significant support from international NGOs and foreign governments, **"the CAMPFIRE programme has been poorly administered and the government has been incapable of delivering the promised improvements in wildlife conservation or community development."**[81] In consequence, these projects **"are not able to dissuade them from poaching and expanding agricultural land".**
- In Namibia, results have been equally disappointing: **"the total number of animals actually seen during the game counts has been declining".**
- There is also evidence of mismanagement here, with high hunting quotas continuing to be set despite falls in wildlife populations. **"Elephants, for instance, plunged from 1797 animals in 2015 to only 603 in 2017. However the allocated hunting quota of nine animals remained constant from 2014 to 2018. This is also the case for two out of five of the other high-value hunts – quotas remained constant in spite of fluctuating or declining actual animals counted, suggesting that the game counts may be tailored to the level of income desired by the Nyae Nyae conservancy, rather than to the actual number of animals available to harvest sustainably."**[82]
- There appears to be little difference between these projects and the situation elsewhere in Africa. The total number of jobs created by the trophy hunting industry - 15,000 for the whole of the continent **– "is low in the light of the 150 million people living in the eight main hunting countries and in relation to the surface areas used, representing 16.5% of these eight countries."**[83] The report, from IUCN, concludes: **"The hunting sector uses up a lot of space without generating corresponding socio-economic benefits."**

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[79] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

[80] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

[81] "Missing the Mark – African trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits", a report by the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources

[82] "It pays, but does it stay? Hunting in Namibia's community conservation system", Mongabay, John Grobler, 26 February 2019

[83] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

12. Can trophy hunting realistically support conservation?

Data shows trophy hunting to be a highly inefficient an ineffective means of generating revenues which could support conservation, particularly in comparison to other land uses. In the words of IUCN: **"Hunting contributions to GDP and States' national budgets are insignificant, especially when considering the size of the areas concerned. Economic returns per hectare, for the private sector and for governments are insufficient for proper management."**[84]

- Trophy hunting takes up a huge amount of land – **"for the 11 main game hunting countries, the surface area occupied is 110 million hectares",** representing 14.9% of the total land area of these countries.
- However the return on these assets is very poor indeed. For instance, **"the contribution of hunting to the national budget is highest in Tanzania, where it is still only 0.3% and uses 26% of the national land area."**
- Moreover: **"The contribution to national budgets is also low: one percent of the land classified as big game hunting territory contributes 0.006% to the government budget."**
- The report by IUCN concludes: **"This makes the economic productivity of these hectares very low."**

[84] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

13. Is 'well-managed' trophy hunting feasible?

Supporters of trophy hunting make the case that 'well-managed, regulated hunting' can deliver significant wildlife conservation benefits. However, as IUCN and others have found, there are serious governance and corruption issues in virtually every African country where tourist hunters go to hunt 'big game' that appear to make such a goal unfeasible in practice: **"Good governance is .. absent from almost the entire big game hunting sector in many countries."**[85]

- An investigation by a US Congressional committee noted: **"Conservation outcomes depend on the way trophy hunting and wildlife management are governed. Some analysts note that corruption within governments or organisations can prevent trophy hunting revenues from funding conservation activities and can even lead to the mismanagement of hunted populations."**[86]
- It added: **"We found many troubling examples of funds either being diverted from their purpose or not being dedicated to conservation in the first place."**
- Another report found: **"The conduct of recreational hunting is often linked with corrupt practices, particularly in poor countries that attract foreign tourist hunters willing to spend large sums of foreign exchange top hunt prime trophies."**[87]
- A frequent theme is that money from hunting licences **"does not always reach the beneficiaries."**[88] Problems with corruption occur throughout hunting range states**. "Tanzania ranks in the bottom third of all countries with respect to government corruption, and reports have shown inconsistent and arbitrary application of wildlife laws.**"[89] Zimbabwe, meanwhile, "**consistently ranks as one of the most corrupt countries in the world."**
- World-renowned scientist Dr Craig Packer, who studied the Serengeti's lions for decades, was expelled after he exposed instances of corruption. Packer, Director of the Lion Research Center at the University of Minnesota, conducted a series of studies which had identified over-hunting as the major reason for the steep decline in the lion populations in Tanzania, a highly popular destination for lion trophy hunters.[90]
- Packer was replaced by a scientist affiliated with a trophy hunting advocacy group. Another scientist, Dr Henry Bink, was removed from his post studying lions in Selous Game Reserve. His work was replaced by research deemed to be more 'hunter-friendly'.
- A number of reports, including one from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), **"outline the failure of Tanzanian authorities to manage land and wildlife**

[85] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

[86] "Missing the Mark – African trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits", a report by the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources

[87] "The Influence of corruption on the conduct of recreational hunting" – Leader-Williams et al in 'Recreational hunting, conservation and rural livelihoods: science and practice', 1st edition,. Edited by B. Dickson et al, 2009 Blackwell Publishing

[88] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

[89] "Missing the Mark – African trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits", a report by the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources

[90] "The big lie about lion trophy hunting", Simon Epsley, Africa Geographic, 10 August 2017

effectively, and show little evidence that trophy hunting is contributing positively to wildlife conservation."[91] Tanzania now allows controversial hunting methods to be used, including the baiting of lions and leopards.

- Other poor conservation practices that have been allowed to take root include **"persecution of predators, exceeding of load capacity, the introduction of exotic species, and genetic manipulation of hunted species."**[92]
- One report warns that governance problems have meant there are safari operators **"who seek to circumvent legal controls over biological, ethical and financial aspects of the hunting industry through exceeding or misusing quotas; poor hunting practices; and flouting of foreign exchange regulations."**[93]
- One consequence of these problems is that **"local communities in many countries like Tanzania feel betrayed that benefits promised from recreational hunting have failed to materialise" - "its benefits have instead been centralised into the hands of elites."** This further undermines already weak efforts to engage rural populations in protecting wildlife and its habitats.

[91] "Missing the Mark – African trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits", a report by the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources

[92] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

[93] "The Influence of corruption on the conduct of recreational hunting" – Leader-Williams et al in 'Recreational hunting, conservation and rural livelihoods: science and practice', 1st edition,. Edited by B.Dickson et al, 2009 Blackwell Publishing

14. Does trophy hunting help or hinder the battle against poaching?

It is sometimes claimed by defenders of trophy hunting that the presence of hunting concessions deters poachers, and that revenues from hunting can fund successful anti-poaching programmes. However investigations have found that trophy hunting permits have been used by 'pseudo-hunters' in order to carry out illegal poaching operations, and that key figures in the trophy hunting industry are also involved in poaching. It has also been argued that, by permitting foreign hunters to kill wildlife for 'sport' that Africans are not permitted to kill even for food, feelings of injustice are heightened and mixed messages are sent. Both can contribute to increased levels of poaching. It has further been argued by some that trophy hunting equates to 'poaching but with permits'.

- According to IUCN, the revenues generated by trophy hunting for local communities are so low that they are one of the reasons people in rural Africa continue to poach**: "unfortunately for conservation, the economic data are a strong incentive to continue poaching"** as **"the informal sector 'works better' than the formal hunting sector."**[94]
- US Congressional researchers found that **"while hunters claim that their presence deters poaching, illegal killing has soared to record levels despite the continued operation of trophy hunting lodges and outfitters."**[95]
- According to IUCN, this is because trophy hunting is largely a seasonal activity, therefore the presence of guides fails to provide a deterrent to poachers: **"their presence is too temporary: surveillance is active during the months of the hunting season, and much lower afterwards. Therefore poachers just need to wait for the hunters to leave."**
- A IUCN report concluded that **"as a result, hunting areas are much less effective for conservation than national parks and a certain number of species actually diminish. This is not the case in managed national parks."**[96]
- Many countries which have a thriving trophy hunting industry continue to have devastating levels of poaching, meanwhile. "**In countries where trophy hunting elephants is most popular and trophy hunted ivory exports and discrepancies the highest – Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe – it also happens to be where poaching is most rife."**[97]
- In reality, the sums invested in anti-poaching operations by the trophy hunting industry are insignificant. The average spend in Tanzania by trophy hunting operators for anti-poaching efforts was **US$0.18 per hectare.** By contrast the figure for Kenya's Wildlife Service is **US$14 per hectare.**[98]
- The subtlety in differentiating trophy hunting from poaching can easily be lost among local audiences. In the words of one observer: **"the (US) government is giving a contradictory**

[94] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

[95] "Missing the Mark – African trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits", a report by the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources

[96] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

[97] "The Effects of trophy hunting on five of Africa's iconic wild animal populations in 6 countries – analysis", Conservation Action, Adam Cruise, January 2016

[98] Trophy Hunting in Africa is in decline and no longer pays its way", Africa Geographic, March 8, 2019, editorial

message in terms of the overall ivory ban and its public stance against elephant poaching. 'A poacher is not allowed to kill an elephant and ship the ivory overseas. But an American hunter is allowed to engage in the same slaughter and movement of ivory. The goal should be no more killing. Full stop.'"[99]

- Organised crime syndicates have used trophy hunting permits to acquire rhino horns with a black market value of hundreds of millions of dollars.
- In *'Killing for Profit – exposing the illegal rhino horn trade'* Julian Rademeyer tells how **"at least 329 rhinos were 'hunted' by Vietnamese nationals, netting about 659 horns. Assuming that the average rhino horn weighed between 3 kg and 5 kg, this means that between 2-3 tons of horn were 'legally' exported to Vietnam over that period. In black market terms, that's worth anywhere between $200-300 million. A bargain for the syndicates, considering that the hunts set them back only about $20 million in trophy hunting fees."**[100]
- The trial of wildlife trafficking kingpin Chumlong Lemtongthai revealed that almost a quarter of the 222 rhinos killed in South Africa in 2011 had been 'hunts' authorised by provincial conservation authorities.
- Newspaper reports of the trial told how Lemtongthai's syndicate enlisted Thai prostitutes to pose as hunters and take part in the white rhino trophy hunts in the North West province, before shipping the horns to Asia with authentic permits that were obtained fraudulently under false pretences.[101]
- In January 2018 the new Environment Minister of Tanzania openly accused trophy hunting operators of being directly involved in poaching and illegal exports of ivory.[102] Natural Resources and Tourism Minister Hamisi Kigwangalla named a number of trophy hunting operators said to be responsible, and also said he had information implicating a number of hunting block operators in poaching syndicate.
- He gave the example of hunting operators with permits to kill two wild animals a year killing over 20 animals and using the same permit to smuggle the illegally hunted animals.
- Poor record keeping and enforcement by CITES and national management authorities is leaving the door open to poaching rings. Poland has recently voiced concerns at an EU enforcement meeting about the disappearance of rhino and elephant trophies imported into Poland from South Africa, which are suspected of being smuggled out of the EU into illegal trade. CITES' database shows discrepancies in no fewer than two thirds of trophies with import and export tallies. It also shows that authorities were unable to identify the country of origin of trophies from a number of species.

[99] "Controversy swirls around the recent US suspension of sport-hunted elephant trophies", blog.nationalgeograophic.org, May 6, 2014, by Christina Russo

[100] "Killing for Profit" – exposing the illegal rhino horn trade", Julian Rademeyer, Zebra Press

[101] "Fury at release rhino 'pseudo-hunt' kingpin", Mail & Guardian, 13 September 2018

[102] "Tanzania accuses hunting safari companies of poaching", February 1, 2018, East African Film Network

15. Do trophy hunting bans and moratoria help or hinder conservation?

"There is little debate that the long term viability of wild lion populations will be enhanced if fewer lions are shot by trophy hunters… Pro-hunting studies have concluded that reduced lion hunting would make almost no difference to the area of financially viable hunting land. A reduction in the number of lions hunted will, however, increase the chances of the species' survival in the wild."[103]

- Bans and moratoria on trophy hunting and trophy imports have been employed as a policy instrument by governments and conservation authorities in a number of countries. There are a number of instances where they have been shown to directly benefit the conservation status of species.
- There are no reports of such bans/moratoria having had any negative impact. There are also no instances where trophy hunting has been introduced as a planned measure to improve the conservation status of a species.
- Moratoria have been used on multiple occasions specifically in response to concerns about declines in wildlife population numbers and used to help the populations in question to recover.
- Zambia, for instance, banned lion hunting from 2001 to 2002, halved quotas in 2009, and imposed a moratorium in January 2013 in nineteen hunting blocks. **"The reasons for the ban on cat hunting were given by the government as (a) weak regulatory mechanism; (b) declining lion populations in some areas due to indiscriminate and over harvesting; (c) depletion of habitats for lions; and (d) unreliable statistics upon which to base the quotas"[104]**
- Wildlife authorities and conservation departments have introduced permanent and temporary bans elsewhere explicitly **"to reduce the detrimental impacts and extent of lion hunting".**
- For example: **"Benin and the Central African Republic imposed 2-year and 3-year moratoria on lion hunting during the early 2000s respectively in response to research highlighting declining populations."**
- Botswana removed lions from hunting quota during 2001-2004, and again from 2008 to the present day. Tanzania reduced quotas from 520 in 2008/9 to 315 in 2012 and introduced restrictions on the ages of lions that may be hunted. Zimbabwe stopped female hunting altogether.[105]

[103] "The $200 million question -how much does trophy hunting really contribute to African communities?" Economists at Large, 2013 (lead author Roderick Campbell)

[104] "Review of panthera leo from the United Republic of Tanzania and from Zambia". UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, 2015

[105] "The trophy hunting of African lions: scale, current management practices and factors undermining sustainability" – Peter Andrew Lindsay, et al

- A recent report for CITES' Periodic Review noted that measures to restrict lion hunting ehad been implemented in response to **"dramatic declines in lion harvests that resulted from over-hunting. (AC27 Doc.24.3.3)"**[106]
- Similar measures have been applied for other big game species. **"Zambia banned trophy hunting of big cats in 2013 because of declining leopard populations due to over-harvesting, hunting of underage and female leopards, and depletion of habitats**," for instance.
- In 2009, the South African government put in place a moratorium on rhino horn trade due to concerns that trophy hunting permits were being abused and horns illegally exported.[107] South Africa also stopped issuing leopard hunting permits in January 2016 due to conservation concerns. **"This was in response to the finding by South Africa's Scientific Authority that trophy hunting and the illegal fur trades are the primary threat to the species' survival."** Newspapers reported that officials had concluded that **"trophy hunting of leopards 'poses a high risk to the survival of the species.'"**[108]
- Botswana – the subject of recent news reports speculating that the country's new President may re-introduce trophy hunting - declared a ban on trophy hunting in 2013 in response to concerns about declining elephant populations, since which time those populations have stabilised (and – according to some reports – increased in number).
- Kenya has had a ban on all trophy hunting in place since 1977. According to Professor Judi Wakhungu, Kenya's former Cabinet Secretary of Environment: **"In Kenya we believe a live animal is worth more over its lifetime than a one off killing. Elephant hunting was made illegal in 1973, followed by a ban on all animal hunting in 1977. Since then our elephant population has been growing steadily, and our rhino breeding programme has been successful."**[109] Kenya's nature tourism industry is currently booming. This has allowed the government to contribute far more to anti-poaching programmes than countries where trophy hunting continues.
- Since 1967, Brazil (with the exception of the state of Rio Grande do Sul) has banned all commercial, sport and recreational hunting of native species. India has had a ban in place on the hunting of any wild animal species of schedule I, II, III and IV of the country's Wildlife Protection Act since 1972. Costa Rica – widely considered one of the world's conservation success stories – banned all sport hunting and trapping both inside and outside protected areas in 2012. Earlier this year, Columbia has introduced a ban on all trophy hunting and trophy exports.
- A number of countries have introduced trophy import bans. In March 2015, Australia implemented a ban on all African lion trophy imports. In November the same year, France did likewise. The Netherlands has gone even further. In April 2016, the government introduced a ban on imports of all CITES Appendix I species and six Appendix II species (white rhinoceros, hippopotamus, African elephant, Argali wild sheep, the African lion, and the polar bear). In all, State Secretary Martijn van Dam of Economic Affairs announced a ban on the import of 200 hunted trophy species.[110]

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[106] "The Effects of trophy hunting on five of Africa's iconic wild animal populations in 6 countries – analysis", Conservation Action, Adam Cruise, January 2016

[107] "Killing for Trophies – an analysis of global trophy hunting trade", IFAW

[108] "The Effects of trophy hunting on five of Africa's iconic wild animal populations in 6 countries – analysis", Conservation Action, Adam Cruise, January 2016

[109] "Namibia's Environment Minister rejects criticism over trophy hunting", The Independent, 26 March 2019

[110] "Killing for Trophies – an analysis of global trophy hunting trade", IFAW

- According to a major report into the trophy hunting industry: **"There is little debate, even from hunting advocates such as Lindsey et al (2012) that the long-term viability of wild lion populations will be enhanced if fewer lions are shot by trophy hunters."**[111]
- The report, by a group of independent economists, went on to find that **"pro-hunting studies have concluded that reduced lion hunting would make almost no difference to the area of financially viable hunting land. A reduction in the number of lions hunted will, however, increase the chances of the species' survival in the wild."**
- Many conservationists believe that the decline in iconic species such as lions can only be reversed by measures which include a halt to trophy hunting: **"a complete cessation of all lion hunting would allow populations to stabilise, buying time for other coordinated measures."**[112] According to lion researcher Peter Lindsay, **"trade restrictions could reduce a direct source of mortality of lions and potentially allow lion populations depleted due to over-hunting to recover in the short-term"**[113]
- Andrew Loveridge, the British lion conservationist who radio-collared Cecil, says that a moratorium on trophy hunting in Hwange had a dramatic impact on the area's lion population:
- **"With a temporary ban on hunting, we went from a situation in Hwange in which any male lion leaving the national park was in danger of being indiscriminately shot to one in which adult lions were relatively safe. Because male lions were now living much longer, with the survival rate of males increasing to more than 80%, there were many more males in the population."**[114]
- The recovery of the lion population following the cessation of trophy hunting was not merely in terms of numbers: the structure of the area's lion groups evolved into a healthier and more sustainable ecosystem:
- **"More males meant lion coalitions divided the available space into smaller territories. In our core study site of nearly 3,000 square kilometres, we now had seven male territories, where there had once been only two. Instead of a coalition of males gaining tenure of several prides of females, each male group consorted with a single pride. The structure of the population was starting to look much more like those seen in well-protected national parks like the Serengeti or Kruger."**
- Parallels with a potential ban on trophy hunting have been drawn with the International Whaling Commission which was formed in 1946 to protect rapidly declining blue whale populations in particular. Blue whale numbers had reduced by more than 99% during the 20th century as a result of hunting. **"A count of the species in the Antarctic, its favourite region, showed it was down to 360 individuals – about 0.15% of its original numbers."**
- While the convention is imperfect, the recovery of whale populations is indisputable. According to the latest figures from IUCN, there are currently believed to be between 10,000 to 25,000 blue whales worldwide, in five separate populations.[115]

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[111] "The $200 million question -how much does trophy hunting really contribute to African communities?" Economists at Large, 2013 (lead author Roderick Campbell)

[112] "Cuddle Me, Kill Me" – a true account of South Africa's captive lion breeding and canned hunting industry, Richard Pierce (2018)

[113] "The trophy hunting of African lions: scale, current management practices and factors undermining sustainability" – Peter Andrew Lindsay, et al

[114] "Lion Hearted – the life and death of Cecil and the future of Africa's iconic cats", Andrew Loveridge

[115] "Overkill – the race to save Africa's wildlife", James Clarke, 2017, Struik Nature/Penguin Random House South Africa

16. Are there effective alternatives to trophy hunting which support conservation?

According to the IUCN, trophy hunting concessions cover vast areas of land yet fail to conserve wildlife and habitats adequately, and contribute little to local communities by way of jobs or conservation incentives. Studies by the UN World Tourism Organisation and independent economists indicate that non-consumptive alternatives such as nature tourism are much more significant in socio-economic terms, and are much better placed to be able to generate revenues and incentives for conservation both now and in the future.

- According to UNEP and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, for instance, lions are prsenrly prospering **"in a number of large and well-managed protected areas"** that have generated **"significant cash revenue through wildlife tourism for park management and local communities, providing a strong incentive for conservation."**[116]
- With tourism numbers increasing in Africa, and income from trophy hunting likely to become increasingly insignificant, developing the benefits from sustainable nature tourism is a more realistic – as well as a more compassionate – option for supporting conservation.
- Tourism is a fast-growing industry in Africa. Once significant, the proportion that can be attributed to trophy hunting is now marginal in a number of countries - 1% in South Africa, and 3% in Botswana, Tanzania and Zambia for instance. Yet these countries continue to dedicate a disproportionate amount of their national territory to big game hunting: 13, 23, 26 and 21% respectively.[117]
- Economists point out that trophy hunting accounts for less than 2% of tourism revenues in African hunting range nations. **"As a portion of any national economy, trophy hunting is completely insignificant, with revenue never accounting for more than 0.27% of GDP (Namibia).**
- **"Any suggestion that trophy hunting can play a significant role in economic development at a wider scale is completely implausible when the industry is considered in the context of national economic activity."**[118]
- Countries that have abandoned trophy hunting, such as Kenya, have been able to reap significant rewards. According to IUCN, **"tourism in Kenya is now approaching $US1 billion per year, while the losses projected from closing hunting in 1977 were $US30 million, and are therefore minimal in comparison. Kenya has therefore clearly benefited financially from stopping hunting."**[119] Its report adds: **"Let us reiterate the fact that Kenya, which outlawed hunting in 1977, now makes 15% of its GDP from tourism."**
- Local communities are the clear winners in a comparison between trophy hunting and nature tourism, according to Africa Geographic: **"When it comes to contributions to local communities, the average trophy hunting operator in Tanzania spent US$0.08 per hectare**

[116] "Review of panthera leo from the United Republic of Tanzania and from Zambia". UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, 2015

[117] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

[118] "The $200 million question -how much does trophy hunting really contribute to African communities?" Economists at Large, 2013 (lead author Roderick Campbell)

[119] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

per year, compared with tourism concessions in Kenya's Maasai Mara paying $40 per hectare per year – without counting the redistributions linked to entry fees and employee salaries."[120]

- Elsewhere in Africa, nature tourism has been found to create many more jobs than trophy hunting. **"In Botswana, a 10,000 ha safari park with a luxury camp of nine tents (18 beds) employs an average of 38 people, in other words 2.3 permanent jobs per bed. The ratio is therefore one permanent job for every 263 ha, as against one job for every 10,345 ha for hunting. In this case, safari tourism creates 39 times the number of jobs than big game hunting for an equivalent surface area."**[121]
- The picture is repeated in other African countries. **"In Zambia, tourism in the Luangwa National Park alone (a park that received 42,000 visitors in 2007) created 800 permanent and/or temporary jobs in Mfuwe, which is more than the Central African Republic on 31.5% of the national territory reserved for hunting, and double the number of jobs in the hunting sector of Benin and Burkina Faso together."**
- Whereas hunting **"only provides jobs for one person per 10,000 inhabitants"** and **"is therefore a very marginal employer",** by way of comparison **"a luxury safari concession of 10,000 ha with a single camp employs almost 40 times more people than 10,000 hectares of big game hunting."**
- IUCN states that it believes sub-Saharan Africa has considerable potential for developing nature tourism. It points to examples of companies such as Wilderness Safaris which currently manage 50 camps and 2.8 million hectares, and the positive contribution this is making to conservation. **"These companies have their own conservation and local support projects as well as their own foundations".** IUCN notes that similar approaches have been developed in Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya **"with much success."**
- In Zimbabwe it has been shown that photographic tourism can out-compete hunting as a revenue generator. **"In one CBNRM area a tourist lodge was established in 1994; by 1997, lodge revenue exceeded that of hunting by 100% (Murphree 2001)."**[122]
- Local communities have reported greater satisfaction with and support for nature tourism compared with trophy hunting. In the words of one village official: **"We're more closely allied with the photographic operators than the hunters. They are finishing off the wildlife before we've had a chance to realise a profit from it. Hunters don't recognise us; they only recognise the government".**
- The official complained that revenues promised by hunting operators had failed to materialise: **"25% of hunting fees goes into the 'hole' at the district. We're supposed to get 5%: we don't even see that."** (Sachedina 2008)[123]
- Researchers suggest there are fertile opportunities for developing nature tourism as a way to conserve wildlife and habitats. **"Most tourism in African lion range countries is non-consumptive nature tourism. Among holiday and leisure visitors, nature-based attractions are the dominant motivations for travelling to southern Africa. Aside from tourists who**

[120] Trophy Hunting in Africa is in decline and no longer pays its way", Africa Geographic, March 8, 2019, editorial

[121] "Big game hunting in west Africa – what is its contribution to conservation?" IUCN, PAPACO STUDIES no.2, 2009

[122] "Does sport hunting benefit conservation", A Loveridge et al in Macdonald/key topics in Conservation Biology

[123] "The $200 million question -how much does trophy hunting really contribute to African communities?" Economists at Large, 2013 (lead author Roderick Campbell)

are visiting friends and relatives, tourism industries in lion range countries is almost entirely based on nature tourism (Scholes and Biggs 2004)."[124]

- Lion populations have prospered in areas where there is more nature tourism and less trophy hunting. For example, lion populations have increased in the Serengeti because **"the Serengeti experiences less trophy hunting and greater non-consumptive wildlife watching or photographic tourist activities."**[125]
- The Timbavati area on the western edge of the Kruger National Park saw the number of hunters halve between 2016 and 2018. The area is now a popular destination for photographic tourists. Timbavati's total wildlife population grew from 9444 in 1998 to 13,710 in 2018 – an increase of **145%.** Its elephant population also grew significantly, from 314 in 1998 to 768 in 2018 – an increase of **240%**.[126]
- Conservationist and wildlife film-maker Dereck Joubert has estimated that while the value of a lion trophy may be as low as USD$15,000, the lifetime value of a lion through nature tourism could be as high as **USD$2 million**. Similarly, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has calculated that the lifetime nature tourism value for a single elephant to be in the region of **USD$1.6 million.** British lion conservationist Andrew Loveridge has estimated that a single male lion could be worth as much as $100,000 per year, based on the time tourists spent viewing the animals.[127]
- In their 2015 report *'Towards Measuring the Economic Value of Wildlife Watching Tourism in Africa',* the UN World Tourism Organisation predicts that international tourist arrivals in Africa are predicted to **double** in the next decade.
- The report also outlines many instances where non-consumptive wildlife tourism revenues benefit local communities, and where those communities have been encouraged to protect wildlife for non-consumptive purposes. Examples include the development of birding tourism in South Africa which has been promoted by community projects supported by NGOs from the tourism sector and has encouraged the development of manty small service businesses along birding routes; mountain gorilla viewing tourism in the Bwindi Forest National Park in Uganda; the Kichwa Tembo Masai Mara Tented Camp in Kenya; and turtle watching tourism in many coastal areas.
- Botswana banned trophy hunting in 2014 following years of significant declines in elephant numbers. Its elephant population has since stabilised, and according to some reports has increased. In Botswana, tourism generated **US$687 million** revenue in 2017 and created **26,000** direct jobs. By contrast in 2014 the trophy hunting industry generated under **$20m** in revenue, and created just **1000** jobs.[128]
- The challenge currently facing nature tourism in being able to maximise its potential to deliver socio-economic and conservation benefits in rural Africa is the enormous area of land still under hunting concessions which is delivering very poor results on both fronts. In addition, trophy hunting currently often occurs in areas adjacent to protected parks and

[124] "The $200 million question -how much does trophy hunting really contribute to African communities?" Economists at Large, 2013 (lead author Roderick Campbell)

[125] "The Effects of trophy hunting on five of Africa's iconic wild animal populations in 6 countries – analysis", Conservation Action, Adam Cruise, January 2016

[126] "APNR history of non-compliance", EMS Foundation

[127] "Lion Hearted – the life and death of Cecil and the future of Africa's iconic cats", Andrew Loveridge

[128] Trophy Hunting in Africa is in decline and no longer pays its way", Africa Geographic, march 8, 2019, editorial

other areas where nature tourism occurs. These hunting concessions are depleting wildlife numbers in these areas, which in turn threatens the draw of nature tourism camps.

APPENDIX 1 - WILDLIFE TROPHIES IMPORTED INTO UK (alphabetical order): 1981-2017

Species	No. trophies
Aardwolf	7
Addax	1
African civet	26
African Elephant	1083 + 1357.1kg ivory
African rock python	2
American alligator	4
Arabian Oryx	1
Argali	21
Baboon (unspecified)	1
Barbary sheep	10
Bighorn sheep	1
Black Bear	532
Black rhino	2
Blackbuck	21
Blue Duiker	34
Bobcat	4
Bongo	7
Bontebok	40
Brown bear	126
Brown fur seal	3
Canadian Lynx	4
Caracal	157
Chacma baboon	247
Cheetah	16
Collared peccary	1
Cougar	31
Dama gazelle	1
Egyptian goose	15
Eurasian Lynx	5
Gelada monkey	1
Golden jackal	1
Grivet Monkey	55
Guenon monkey	1
Hamadryas baboon	82
Hawksbill Sea Turtle	1
Himalayan blue sheep	2
Hippopotamus	622
Honey badger	6
Lechwe	204
Leopard	323
Lion	256
Mantled guereza monkey	1
Markhor	12

Nile crocodile	161
Nilgai antelope	1
North American river otter	2
Olive baboon	18
Polar bear	16
Pygmy hippopotamus	11
Roan antelope	7
Scimitar oryx	28
Serval	17
Siberian ibex	7
Sitatunga	7
Spur-winged goose	10
Tiger	3
Tsessebe	59
Vervet monkey	54
Walrus	2
White-faced whistling duck	2
White rhino	43
Wild cat	42
Wild goat	3
Wild sheep	3
Wolf	133
Wood bison	1
Yellow-backed duiker	1
Yellow baboon	36
Zebra (Cape Mountain)	1
Zebra (Hartmann)	278
TOTAL: 70	**4961 + 1,241KG IVORY**

APPENDIX 2 - COUNTRIES HUNTED IN BY UK TROPHY HUNTERS

British 'big game' hunters have travelled to every corner of the globe – from Africa to Asia, North and South America, as well as across Europe – in pursuit of often rare hunting trophies. The most popular destination for UK hunters is **South Africa**.

- Argentina
- Botswana
- Bulgaria
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Central African Republic
- Croatia
- Ethiopia
- India
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lithuania
- Malawi
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Romania
- Russia
- Seychelles
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Turkey
- Uganda
- United States
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

TOTAL: **32**

APPENDIX 3 - SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL (SCI) Hunting Awards

- Asia 8
- African 15
- North American 12
- European 12
- South Pacific 8
- South America 8
- Animals of Africa
- Animals of Africa (Bow)
- Animals of North America
- Animals of North America (Bow)
- Animals of Europe
- Animals of the South Pacific
- Animals of South America
- Animals of Asia
- Introduced Animals of North America
- Predators of the World
- Grand Slam Alternative Methods 24
- Grand Slam Dangerous Game of Africa
- Grand Slam African Big Five
- Grand Slam African 29
- Grand Slam Bears of the World
- Grand Slam Cats of the World
- Grand Slam Moose of the World
- Grand Slam North American Caribou
- Grand Slam North American Deer
- Grand Slam North American 29
- Grand Slam European Deer
- Grand Slam Wild Turkey Slam
- Grand Slam White-tailed Deer Slam
- Grand Slam North American Wild Sheep
- Grand Slam Elk of North America
- Grand Slam Indigenous Animals of South America
- Desert Game of the World
- Wild Oxen of the World
- Wild Sheep of the World
- Wild Goats of the World
- Spiral-horned antelopes of Africa
- Pygmy Antelopes of Africa
- Wild Pigs and Peccaries of the World
- Chamois of the World
- Red deer/wapiti of the world
- Gazelles of the World
- Ibex of the World
- Multiple Methods
- Mountain Game of the World
- Antlered Game of the Americas

- Antlered Game of the World
- Ring-horned Antelopes of Africa
- Ring-horned antelopes of Africa (Bow)
- C J McElroy Award
- Hall of Fame Award
- Diana Award
- International Hunting Award
- World Hunting Award Ring
- Professional Hunter Award
- World Conservation & Hunting Award
- SCI & Cabela's Young Hunter Award
- Pathfinder Award
- Carlo Caldesi Award
- The Adrian Sada T Award
- SCI Major Awards
- Hunting Achievements on Six Continents
- Pinnacle of Achievement Award
- Zenith Award
- Crowning Achievement Award
- Pantheon
- Global Hunting Award
- World Hunting Award
- Inner Circles