



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL

June 24, 2016

President John P. Magufuli, Ph.D.
President's Office
The State House
1 Barack Obama Drive
11400, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Esteemed President Magufuli,

Our organizations, representing millions of wildlife advocates around the world, are deeply concerned about the recent decision by the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism to permit *Green Mile Company Limited* - owned by individuals from the United Arab Emirates - to renew its trophy hunting operations in Tanzania. We urge your government to rescind the exclusive hunting concession recently granted to Green Mile, given its appalling and grave violations of Tanzania's wildlife laws, including multiple instances of severe animal cruelty that were well documented and occurred as recently as 2014.

In 2014, a Green Mile promotional video posted online depicted egregious unethical behavior toward animals that was also, in part, in violation of Tanzania law. The video depicted hunters killing animals with semi-automatic weapons as well as silencers and pistols, running over animals with their cars, shooting at animals from moving vehicles, picking up and carrying a zebra foal, and other animal cruelty. The video also depicts a young boy shooting at the wild animals. Following a public outcry and an investigation into the incident, Green Mile was rightfully expelled from Tanzania. However, just two years later, in May of 2016, Green Mile was inexplicably awarded exclusive hunting rights in the Lake Natron Game Control Area.

This series of incidents, and the company's contempt for the norms of proper wildlife management and civil conduct, are disqualifying and provide ample grounds for denying its application to renew its concessions operation. Conservation groups and politicians have loudly voiced their opposition to this recent decision, and we share this disdain for what this company has done to wildlife.

The tragic killing of Cecil the lion in July last year – the sort of grossly unethical conduct that smacked of the behavior of the Green Mile team – sparked global outrage and set in motion a wide range of reform efforts. Thus far, 45 airlines have banned transportation of hunting trophies of the Africa Big Five species. The European Union, United States, and Australia have instituted various forms of import restrictions for hunting trophies. The Green Mile incident yet again demonstrates the depravity and

selfishness of this subculture that so often disregards domestic measures to protect wildlife and threatens to drive species into extinction.

If you do not reverse this decision, I predict there will be a global backlash against the Tanzanian government and it will produce a loss in tourism. Millions of people throughout the world who cherish wildlife will take their business to Botswana, Kenya, and other nations throughout Africa that have instituted strong policies to protect wildlife.

The wildlife of Tanzania and other nations in Africa are an important natural resource, and the creatures who live on the land should be treated with respect and decency. No nation that is so dependent on wildlife tourism should do anything but offer the strongest standards of protection. That starts with denying opportunities for the worst of the wildlife killing operators from setting up shop in your beautiful nation.

Sincerely,



Wayne Pacelle
President and CEO
The Humane Society of the United States



Andrew Rowan
President and CEO
Humane Society International