

Members of the House of Lords
Houses of Parliament
Parliament Square
London
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June 12, 2023

To Noble Members of the House of Lords,

We write, as wildlife conservation experts, advocates, and community representatives who live or work in countries throughout Africa—including Botswana, Tanzania, South Africa, Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo—to express our steadfast support for the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill, sponsored by the Rt. Hon. Baroness Fookes, and to urge you to give the Bill your full support at its Second Reading on 16th June 2023. The Bill would prohibit the import into the United Kingdom of hunting trophies of animal species listed with the highest level of protection in Annex A or B of the Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations (2018).

We are well aware that a small number of UK-based academics have been extremely outspoken in the UK media in their defence of trophy hunting in Africa and their associated opposition to this Bill. Although they purport to speak for Africa, they present grossly over-simplified and unsubstantiated arguments, and it is critical for Honourable Members of the House of Lords to acknowledge that they do not represent the views or experience of many scientists and community members living and working throughout the African continent. In addition, many international scientists have voiced their concerns about trophy hunting.[1]

Trophy hunting can have critical, negative impacts on the biology and ecology of targeted species (including endangered species). By removing reproductive-aged animals from the population, trophy hunting can decrease genetic variation, alter population structures decrease population density, and cause unnatural evolutionary impacts.[2] Changes in social structures can exacerbate human-wildlife conflict (which can potentially put human lives at risk).[3] Hunting reserves (especially those that are fenced) can fragment habitats and disrupt migration routes.

Trophy hunting has a history of mismanagement with quotas based on inadequate data, unsustainable hunting quotas, and a lack of transparency (e.g.,[4]), all while there is insufficient evidence that trophy hunting contributes to conservation.[5] Legal trade, include trophy parts, makes it harder to enforce anti-poaching laws[6] and can inflate demand for the parts and products of imperilled or trafficked species. Lethal removal of species can also devalue those animals in the eyes of the public, thereby increasing poaching rates.[7] It also undermines good governance principles and inhibits progress towards global Sustainable Development Goals under which the UK has an obligation to ensure it has a positive impact on development.

We wholly refute the claim that trophy hunting is a “necessary evil,” as promulgated by certain conservation scientists, many of whom have proven funding ties to the trophy hunting industry.[8] The trophy hunting industry is based on an economic model that inherently incentivizes the overexploitation of wildlife while distracting investments and political capital away from diversified and sustainable revenue opportunities. It directly competes with and undermines truly sustainable and economically important revenue generation from photo-based tourism and other non-consumptive initiatives.

The vast majority of funds generated by trophy hunting never reach conservation programmes or local households.[9] If and when they do, such funds are entirely negligible for conservation efforts compared to the damage inflicted by the industry through the irreversible loss of key natural resources.[10] Funds that reach community level are too often siphoned off by the corrupt local elite or simply used for other purposes entirely unrelated to conservation.

We also reject the fallacious proposition that banning trade in hunting trophies is neocolonialist or racist. The irony of this claim is that it is in fact the Western-conceived, profit-driven trophy hunting industry that perpetuates colonial power dynamics and continues to drive social and economic inequalities every day across many communities.[11] There are countless examples across Africa where operation of the trophy hunting industry has displaced local people,[12] obstructed opportunities for community land ownership and management of natural resources based on indigenous knowledge[13] and facilitated corruption.[14] We urge the House of Lords to step up as a global leader against such colonial relics and end the UK’s involvement in the selfish, destructive and myopic business of trophy hunting.

Trade prohibitions on hunting trophies are absolutely necessary to stop the extinction of imperilled animals and to disincentivize exploitative colonial practices. Only by leaving trophy hunting in the past, where it belongs, may we establish conservation and development programmes that have preservation, rather than greed, as the primary imperative and ensure that local communities have a real stake in the management of their natural resources. Contrary to the trophy hunting apologist narrative, there are many development opportunities that present sustainable revenue generating solutions for communities living with wildlife, for example the carbon sequestration revenue generation programmes in Tanzania and Kenya[15], and successful development of agri-tourism in countries including Tanzania and South Africa.[16]

We are people who live and work in Africa; we are scientists, industry representatives, conservationists, academics, sustainable development experts, economists and wildlife stakeholders. We experience the trail of greed and destruction left by trophy hunters both personally and through the work we do every day. We recognize both the immediate and long-term damages that the industry and its apologists ignore.

This Bill stands in solidarity with the views of millions of Africans who believe trophy hunting to be a morally reprehensible and insulting waste of our remarkable nature, and who believe that conservation can never be achieved down the barrel of a gun.

We fully endorse the passage of the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill and respectfully urge you to consider our expertise and on-the-ground perspectives as you engage in the second reading of the Bill on June 16th and during the final stages of the legislative process.

Yours sincerely

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2. Moctar Ba, head of Directorate for the Protection and Restoration of Species and Environments (DPREM), Mauritania
3. Katherine Baxter, CEO, Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)
4. Amal El Bekri, Rapad Maroc (Associative Network for Animal Protection and Sustainable Development), Morocco
5. Professor Fred Bercovitch, Ph.D, Conservation Science Advisor, Anne Innis Dagg Foundation, USA/Zambia/South Africa/Botswana
6. Rachel Jane Blackmore, Charity Coordinator for poverty relief, Tanzania
7. Ester Boaz, Pastoralist, Tanzania
8. Lamin F. Ceesay, Animal Health Officer, Animal Welfare Advocates Association The Republic of Gambia
9. Chiemaka Chidozie, Executive Director, The Humane Network, Nigeria
10. Masegenya Chiganga, Businessperson, Tanzania
11. Dr Adam Cruise, Investigative environmental journalist and academic, South Africa
12. Karen de Klerk, Chairperson, Cape Animal Welfare Forum, South Africa
13. Dr Audrey Delsink, Director of Wildlife, Humane Society International, South Africa
14. Yameogo Dieudonné, Director of Wildlife and Hunting Resources, Burkina Faso
15. Noma Dube, Founder, Zimbabwe Elephant Foundation, UK/Zimbabwe
16. Sarah Dyer, Co-founder, Voices4Lions, South Africa
17. Amani Zahinda Elikia, Coordonnateur Général de RCF-RDC, Democratic Republic of Congo
18. Blamah Sando Goll, Technical Manager for the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and head of CITES Management Authority, Liberia
19. Alain Mitondo Hamisi, Union of Associations for Gorilla conservation and Community Development in Eastern DRC (UGADEC), Democratic Republic of Congo
20. Meliya Daudi Haraka, Pastoralist and student at Ardhi University, Tanzania
21. Dr Ross Harvey, Director of Research and Programmes, Good Governance Africa, South Africa
22. Faustine Edward Ishengoma, Entrepreneur, Tanzania
23. Jenga Jenga, Pastoralist, Tanzania
24. Anyanwu Joseph, Ambassador, End Ecocide, Nigeria
25. David Kabambo, Co-Founder & Executive officer, Peace for Conservation, Tanzania
26. Dr. Thomas W.Kahema, Executive Director, Tanzania Animal Welfare Society, Tanzania
27. Emanuel Kaika, Pastoralist, Tanzania
28. Fred Ole Kariankei, Founder mara Isinya Conservancy, Kenya
29. Kilaye Karino, Nursing Officer, Tanzania
30. Lt Gen Dr Seretse Khama Ian Khama, Former President of Botswana
31. Nanyorr Menye Kibori, Human Rights Defender, Tanzania
32. Olepurko Kileto, Community and Human Right Activist, Tanzania
33. Shengena Killel, Pastoralist, Tanzania

34. Saitoti Leyan Koika, Animal scientist, Tanzania
35. Modibo Konate, head of CITES Management Authority, Mali
36. Ulysse Korogone, CITES focal point on wildlife and forestry, Benin
37. Nana Koulibaly, head of CITES Management Authority, Guinea
38. Melubo John Kusoro, Human rights defender, Tanzania
39. Tubulu Nebasi Lerug, Nursing officer, Tanzania
40. Bantu Lukambo, Director General, Innovation for the Development and Protection of the Environment (IDPE), Democratic Republic of Congo
41. Mustapha Prester Luseni, AWEPO - Animal Welfare and Environmental Protection Organisation, Coordinator and Research Innovation Officer, Sierra Leone
42. Christopher William Mbise, Campaigner and activist, Tanzania
43. Farai Maguwu, Director of Centre for Natural Resource Governance, Zimbabwe
44. Ezekiel Saning'o Mangi, Education officer, safety and health expert, Tanzania
45. Dennis Melitha Makanga, Graduate in Travel and Tourism, Tanzania
46. Andrew Simon Msami, Economist, Tanzania
47. Kitamwas Wanday Melita, Pastoralist, Tanzania
48. Kasale Maleton Mwaana, Teacher and Human Rights defender, Tanzania
49. Papati Melubo, Livestock Keeper, Tanzania
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56. Denis Moses, Human rights lawyer and activist, Tanzania
57. Boniface Mpario, Maasai senior elder and professional safari guide, UK/Kenya
58. Mshabaha Mshabaha, Human Rights Defender, Tanzania
59. Modest Charles Mussa, Entrepreneur, Tanzania
60. Shubert Mwarabu, Wildlife campaigner, founder of Vijana na Uhifadhi (Youths in Conservation) and musician, Tanzania
61. Dr Sakara Nagol, Geospatial Ecologist & Researcher, Tanzania
62. Lashaiki Mboi Nasira, Pastoralist, Tanzania
63. James Nchoe, Pastoralist, Kenya
64. Navaya Ndaskoi, Scholar, Tanzania
65. Daniel I. Ndoinyo, Community Development practitioner, Tanzania
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68. Odero Charles Oderos, Executive Director, Tanzania
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70. William Ole Seki, Ngorongoro District Resident, Tanzania
71. Lingato Olekotoy, Medical officer and Pastoralist, Tanzania
72. Marco Olesikorei, Ecologists, Tanzania

73. Moloimet Olorwas Olemoko, Land Tenure Specialist, Tanzania
74. Joseph Moses Oleshangay, Human Rights Lawyer (representing Masaai against land evictions), Tanzania
75. Mlebhe Mshaliza, Entrepreneur, Tanzania
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77. Leonard Omullo Orondo, Outgoing Director at the National Land Commission, Kenya
78. Mako Osapuk, Livestock breeder, Tanzania
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83. Babu Rotiken, Lawyer, Tanzania
84. Samaila Sahailou, Director of Wildlife, Parks and Reserves Hunting, Niger
85. Aman Joab Samson, Entrepreneur, Tanzania
86. Mathayo Kesuma Sandei, Pastoralist, Tanzania
87. Peter Sarwatt, Managing Director, Tanzania
88. Sarah Schmidt, President, Executive Committee, The Big Fix, Uganda
89. Alfred Sihwa, Director at Sibanye Animal Welfare and Conservancy Trust, Zimbabwe
90. Simon Sika, Engineer, Tanzania
91. Rimonet Jephason Sikilal, Defender of Human Rights, Tanzania
92. Doudou Sow, head of CITES Management Authority, Senegal
93. Dr Sharyn Spice, Sociology lecturer University of the Western Cape, South Africa
94. Richard Ssuna, DVM, Director and Senior Veterinarian HSI Second Chance Chimpanzee Refuge, Liberia
95. Justine John Swai, Carpenter, Tanzania
96. Clamian Thadeus, Pastoralist, Tanzania
97. Gideon Kyan Toroge, Journalist, Tanzania
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