



Trophy Hunting Team
Seacole Building
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Sent via email: huntingtrophyconsultation@defra.gov.uk

Re: Opposition to Ban on Trophy Imports.

We wish to voice our opposition to the proposed ban on trophy imports.

My name is Michel Mantheakis, I am the current chairman of the Tanzania Hunting Operators Association, but first and foremost, I am a Conservationist and Professional Hunter for 34 years and have been a hunting safari Outfitter for 26 years. I take great pride that all the areas that I have operated in, I have managed to control poaching and have witnessed with great joy, the population of wildlife steadily increase as a result of my efforts.

The prevailing emotional storm against trophy hunting (however well intended), will have catastrophic results and will cost the loss of more wildlife than hunting has ever harvested, besides the irreparable loss of habitat and biodiversity in Tanzania and in most of southern Africa.

This hysterical emotional storm against trophy hunting has blindsided the public from the reality in Africa, which is that hunting actually pays for the Conservation of Wildlife outside of the National Parks.

Our safari hunting heritage in Tanzania goes back to the time of German East Africa, when safari hunting regulations and fee structures were first established in 1891. The first Game Reserve was established in 1905, by hunters, funded by hunters and conserved by hunters for several generations before the first anti-hunting organizations were even formed.

Tanganyika became a British Territory after World War 1 and the British Colonial administration re-formulated the existing Conservation Policy and created the first National parks, where hunting is not allowed, and more Game Reserves and Game Controlled Areas, where hunting was well regulated. They completely re-wrote the

German Hunting Regulations to create a well-regulated tourism industry from the tourists coming to East Africa for hunting safaris.

Its therefore ironic that the British Government today seems so committed destroying the policy and system that their predecessors created and implemented with great success for over 100 years in its former colonies and administrative Territories in African.

Being a developing Nation Tanzania can't afford to take money away from education, health and infrastructure to fund Wildlife conservation. It is hunting revenue that is funding conservation outside of our National Parks.

The size of Tanzania 364,000 square miles and up until 2018 Tanzania had 32% of its surface area (118,140 square miles almost a third of the country) were hunting concessions until 2018. To put it into perspective the combined size of hunting areas in Tanzania in 2018 were over double the size of the combined area of England and Wales.

Its important to note that out of the 22 National parks in Tanzania today, including the 6 new ones recently Gazetted, only the northern circuit national parks of Serengeti, Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Tarangire receive enough tourists annually to be profitable. These 4 Parks bear the burden of subsidizing the operational costs of the other 16 National Parks in Tanzania, that are in more remote locations that are less desirable and less visited by tourists and therefore fair to earn enough tourism income to meet their operational costs.

Most occupied hunting concessions Tanzania earn more money than most the 18 National Parks that are away from the Northern Circuit. Lukwati Game Reserve is 1,214 square miles while nearby is Katavi National Park that is larger at 1,726 square miles. In revenue comparison Lukwati Game reserve earns over \$500,000 to \$600,000 per annum from sustainable hunting, while Katavi National Park only earns on average \$70,000 per year from photo tourism.

This clearly proves that it is NOT viable to consider converting even more hunting concessions into photographic tourism as has been suggested by the anti-hunting community, so the only salvation of wildlife and the wilderness outside of National parks is a thriving hunting industry.

Hunting creates the needed financial incentive to justify and conserve these wilderness areas against the pressures of alternative use like agriculture and livestock keeping.

The Tanzania hunting industry was thriving until recently when a decline started due to many factors including higher costs and Taxations and anti-hunting pressure that brought about trophy import suspensions as well as a reduction of hunters coming to Africa. As safari sales started plummeting Outfitters started to lose money and were forced to surrender hunting areas that were no longer profitable. By vacating these concessions that hunters have been guarding for so long, they were now exposed to the ravages of poaching and the decimation of more wildlife than hunting has probably ever harvested.

This is not the first time that hysterical anti-hunting propaganda is used to advance their cause and fund raising. We all witnessed the biggest anti-hunting media hysteria and misinformation campaign the world has ever seen when Cecil the Lion story exploded. This discouraged a lot of hunters from travelling to Africa, it is interesting to note that upon investigation of the Cecil affair, the incident involved only a minor legal infraction. What was reported in the media however was pure dishonesty, but it was very profitable dishonesty, as millions were subsequently raised by the anti-hunting and animal rights organizations, and the same is being done today.

Yet the media and anti-hunting campaigners ignore the hundreds of humans killed and eaten annually by Lions in Africa or trampled by Elephants but that does not make the news. In my 2 Concession alone in Longido District 7 people have been killed by Elephant in 2018 and 2019 alone.

Do African lives matter less?

Pastoralist in East Africa kill hundreds of Lions each year to protect their livestock but that does not make the news either. I guess we truly live in an era of fake news, and emotion-based populist politics and fraudulent fund-raising campaigns.

I call it fraudulent because it is fraud, what else can you call it when one intentionally misinforms the public in order to raise money.

The anti-hunting community in USA alone raises 1 billion dollars a year by misinforming the public, and Im sure it's equally vigorous in the UK as well and all this in full knowledge that their actions directly lead to the removal of the key element of conservation outside of National parks and that is the hunting company and their antipoaching programs, resulting the slaughter of more wildlife in a few years than safari hunting has ever taken, which we the hunters have been protecting for decades.

The true value of conservation hunting is not merely found in the revenue it generates annually but rather in the long-term protection of the wildlife resource and its habitat for future generations.

If a hunting area generates \$150,000 to \$300,000 per year in hunting royalties alone by harvesting only 1% to 3% of the population of game, then the total value of wildlife is worth many millions of dollars on that concession alone, and the habitat even more.

What you are not being told by the emotional and hysterical anti-hunting lobby is that the real ARMAGEDON of wildlife in Africa is the population explosion combined with poverty. The growing demand for more and more land for farming and livestock means habitat loss for wildlife and poverty guarantees the existence of poaching and indiscriminate slaughter of game for food.

The unfortunate reality is that as a developing nation the Tanzania population doubles every 15 to 20 years creating unprecedented pressure for the survival of our wilderness areas, so only a vibrant hunting industry can protect and justify the continued existence of wildlife and the wilderness outside of National Parks, but that is something that the anti-hunting lobby conveniently won't admit as it doesn't fit their money making agenda.

When I was young, human activity was islands surrounded by a sea of wilderness. Today it is the wildernesses that are islands surrounded by a sea of humanity. These days you can easily tell the boundaries of protected areas on Google earth, as protected areas appear green due to the tree cover and surrounded by the brown color of bare earth of agriculture, overgrazing and deforestation.

Poverty is the biggest enemy of conservation as it compels people to take the risks for quick financial gains to alleviate the misery and suffering. Desperate people do desperate things and morality can be heavily influenced by financial status.

The anti-hunting community continuously deceives the world by blaming the decline of African wildlife to hunting. They refuse to distinguish between regulated hunting which is a selective and legal tool of conservation from poaching which is a indiscriminate and devastating criminal act.

The Anti-Hunting rationale is as both trophy hunting and poaching involve the killing of a wild animal therefore its all "hunting", so they lump us together with the poachers. It is as wrong as saying that withdrawing money from your bank account and Bank Robbery is the same thing.

Let's consider for a moment the irony in this, that anti-hunting directly contributes to the indiscriminate destruction of wildlife and habitat.

So let's ask ourselves, Who is the senseless killer here, is it the hunter who hunts selectively only old males while spending money to protect all the wildlife and its habitat, or is it the Animal rights organizations that misinform the public, demonizing safari hunting in order to destroy our market, in full knowledge that pushing us out of business will result in the indiscriminate slaughter of thousands more animals and the loss of thousands of square miles of pristine wilderness annually?

So who is the merciless killer here, who is the real monster, the hunters or the anti-hunter?

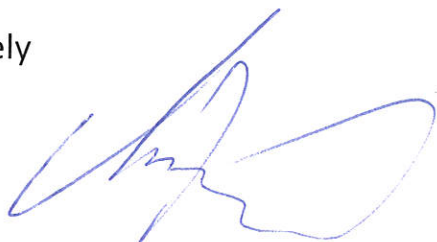
We have inherited natural resources to safeguard for future generations, and it's never been more critical to take action to stem the wanton depletion of our precious natural resources in Tanzania. We have never been more financially weak, more vulnerable to poaching than now. Should this trophy import ban happen and domino effect into other major import countries, it will be the death sentence of the majority of African wildlife outside of National Parks especially in Tanzania.

We all have to agree that we have now entered the most dangerous period in conservation in Tanzania history and most of Africa as well, and our only hope for wildlife outside of National Parks is for the hunting industry to flourish again.

I truly don't believe the politicians who are pushing this trophy import ban are aware of the devastating effect this will have on our wildlife. I don't believe they are aware that the blood will be on their hands and history will remember them for the devastation on wildlife they created.

I implore you to put emotions aside and allow common sense to prevail and act in the best interest of the survival of African wildlife and wilderness areas outside of National Parks.

Your Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Michel Mantheakis', written in a cursive style.

Michel Mantheakis