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# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

FOREWORD GERMAN DELEGATION OF THE CIC	03
FOREWORD PROFESSOR ADAM HART, UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE	04
1. OBJECTIVE	06
2. TROPHY HUNTING, OVERSEAS HUNTING, INTERNATIONAL HUNTING?	07
3. "SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL": THE MEDIA PERSPECTIVE	09
4. INTERNATIONAL HUNTING AS A SUBJECT OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION	10
<ul> <li>5. ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF INTERNATIONAL HUNTING</li> <li>5.1 Species Conservation and Recreational Hunting</li> <li>5.2 Positive Ecological Effects of International Hunting</li> <li>5.3 Negative ecological effects of international hunting</li> </ul>	12
<ul> <li>6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL HUNTING</li> <li>6.1 The Economic Importance of International Hunting in Africa</li> <li>6.2 "Community-based natural resource management": Ideal for Utilizing Wildlife</li> <li>6.3 Economic Consequences of Hunting Bans and Import Restrictions on Trophies</li> </ul>	16
7. SOCIO-CULTURAL ASPECTS OF HUNTING TOURISM	19
<ul> <li>8. CONCLUSION <ul> <li>8.1 People Protect What They Value</li> <li>8.2 Ecological Effects</li> <li>8.3 Economic Effects through "Community-based Management" of Natural Resources</li> <li>8.4 Import Bans or Restrictions on Trophies Endanger Conservation Efforts</li> <li>8.5 Hunting Tourism and Photo Tourism: Two Sides of the Ecotourism Coin</li> <li>8.6 Responsibility Ethics vs. Ethics of Conviction</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	21
BIBLIOGRAPHY	27

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# FOREWORD

In the debate about international hunting, emotional arguments and deeply ingrained convictions often take centre stage. As Sven Herzog writes, the term ,trophy hunting' is sometimes used with ,discriminatory intent'. Africa's iconic wildlife, including lions, elephants, and rhinoceroses, provides anti-hunting activists and animal rights advocates the best opportunity to reinforce general prejudices against hunting. They have identified hunting abroad as the ,soft flank' of wildlife use, and their political allies use the ban on trophy imports as a political lever to appease the anti-hunting lobby in various countries.

By examining empirical data and considering numerous studies, Sven Herzog questions whether the rejection of international hunting truly serves the interests of nature conservation and animal welfare. He questions the effectiveness of alternatives such as photo tourism and examines how well-regulated overseas hunting can contribute to species conservation and the economic empowerment of African communities. International hunting, under strict regulations and in a sustainable framework, plays a key role in preserving biodiversity. It not only enables the generation of essential revenue for protected areas but also supports local communities by creating jobs and generating income.

This study is an invitation to critical thinking and questioning established assumptions. It urges readers to look beyond the surface of emotional rhetoric and see international hunting in a new light-as a promising way to tackle the conservation challenges in Africa.

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**Professor Adam Hart,** University of Gloucestershire, Co-author of Trophy Hunting, winner of the Marsh Ecology Book of the Year Prize, 2023

We are living through, and are the cause of, an extinction event. Our activities, our huge demands on the planet, are without doubt the cause of this biodiversity crisis. Habitat loss is key among the threats we pose, because if flora and fauna have no place to live then extinction becomes a reality. We urgently need to find ways in which we can co-exist with the natural world such that we retain habitat. However, most of our land-uses, like agriculture, mining, towns, cities and roads, are at odds with that goal. Economic return and growth seem mostly to require land uses that destroy, rather than promote, habitat.

One land-use that can conserve habitat is recreational hunting. Initially counterintuitive, the idea that hunting can help conservation is also deeply controversial. Many people around the world feel that hunting animals is morally wrong, and that hunters who will pay for the pleasure of hunting are "sick", "evil" and worse. However, the reality is that, in many places, clients paying to hunt specific animals can provide enough revenue to prevent habitat being converted into other land-uses that will not support a natural ecosystem. Many hunters will in fact pay very large sums to hunt individual animals with particularly large horns, antlers, tusks or other "trophies". Revenue from hunting tourists, and especially these so-called

"trophy hunters", can pay salaries, fund antipoaching patrols, maintain infrastructure and so on. But of course, the flip side of this coin is that, if poorly regulated and managed, hunting can rapidly reduce biodiversity. Unscrupulous operators and officials meanwhile can also make sure that little of the revenue raised goes to those people living within and around hunting areas.

Currently, many Developed World nations are considering imposing "trophy bans" of one form or another, usually motivated by the fact that they believe trophy hunting to be a threat to conservation. Typically, these bans seek to prevent the importation of hunting trophies, either from any animal, or from animals identified as threatened in some way. These proposals are usually very popular among the public, and among politicians seeking easy wins. It is a curious hypocrisy that many of the nations proposing bans often themselves have thriving trophy hunting industries, which of course are not threatened by import bans. Nations like the UK push for bans while languishing at the bottom of global conservation league tables, all the while hosting overseas hunters paying huge sums to shoot red deer in the Scottish Highlands or grouse on the Yorkshire moors. Meanwhile, nations like Botswana, Namibia and Zambia head

those same league tables, and use regulated trophy hunting as part of their, highly successful, conservation tool kit.

On one side then there are strong voices calling for bans, while on the other are those that maintain hunting is good for conservation. As is often the case, there is a balance point between these two positions and many conservation scientists, including me, are trying to find that balance. Hunting can be a useful conservation tool, but it can also have problems relating to animal welfare, conservation and revenue sharing. Politicians and the public must navigate this challenging landscape with little experience or understanding, and to do so against a backdrop of highly partisan campaigning, and in some cases active misinformation.

In this study, Sven Herzog provides some waymarks and paths for those trying to navigate this difficult debate. Those readers of a cynical disposition will doubtlessly point to the fact that this study was commissioned by the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, a hunting organization. However, if you are such a reader then I would point you to the many reports condemning hunting published by large, global NGOs campaigning for bans and ask whether you apply



Professor Adam Hart

that same level of cynicism to those? Do not be fooled into thinking that the trophy hunting debate is simple, no matter which side of the fence you are on. It is far from straightforward and there is no definitive answer to whether trophy hunting is good for conservation. The reality is that is depends on where it undertaken, what species are targeted, which economic model is used, and so on.

I have seen much of the information presented to politicians in the UK, and I have watched the parliamentary debates. It is woefully clear that, while many politicians want to help conservation, they are being served poorly by the information they receive. What is desperately needed in this debate is far less campaigning rhetoric (from both sides), and far more evidence-led discussion, based on reliable sources This report dives into some of that evidence and provides a counter narrative to the one most politicians will have heard. That is refreshing. After all, it is only by receiving a range of information will they be able to decide whether bans are really such a good idea.



Two tons of meat for the people in the hunting area -Matetsi, Zimbabwe

# **1. OBJECTIVE**

This study aims to provide an overview of scientific findings on the impacts of hunting tourism from ecological, economic, and socio-cultural perspectives, based on selected studies from various geographic regions. It also aims to shed light on current political developments both in Europe (import bans) and in the host countries (hunting bans) and to assess these developments based on a synthesis of selected examples.

At this juncture, we must consider which terms to use in this study to ensure an unbiased and value-neutral approach. "Trophy hunting" is a common term in everyday language and scientific literature, but it is often used inconsistently and sometimes with discriminatory

intent. In most contexts, it is not clear what meaning is intended. Furthermore, one sometimes gets the impression that even the authors of a text are not really clear about which connotation is being addressed. The term "trophy hunting" is therefore often nothing more than a "buzzword," an empty trendy term that generates media attention. Therefore, we should avoid usina this term.

Against this background, it seems important to find a neutral, geographically open, and nondiscriminatory term that accurately describes the issues previously referred to as "trophy hunting." The terms "hunting tourism," "overseas hunting," or "international hunting" are suitable here (cf. Siege & Siege 2020).

# **2. TROPHY HUNTING, OVERSEAS HUNTING, INTERNATIONAL HUNTING?**

Before we delve into the substantive questions more intensively, we should clarify and differentiate between some terms.

In addition to the terms "trophy hunting" and "hunting tourism," we frequently encounter terms such as "overseas hunting," "international hunting," "sports hunting," "safari hunting," and increasingly "conservation hunting." At this point, we ought to ask ourselves which terms we should use within the framework of this study to achieve a neutral and unbiased approach.

"Trophy hunting" is a common term both in everyday language and in the scientific literature, but it often has pejorative and sometimes even discriminatory connotations.

The specific meaning of the term often remains unclear, as does the connotation intended by the author. Furthermore, the expression "trophy hunting" often does not go beyond a "buzzword," a meaningless trend term that primarily attracts media attention. We should, therefore, use this term cautiously. In this context, it is essential to find a neutral, geographically and discriminatively neutral term that describes the matter that has been broadly referred to as "trophy hunting" as accurately as possible. Terms such as "hunting tourism," "overseas hunting," or "international hunting" offer themselves here (cf. Siege & Siege 2020).

The term hunting tourism is defined by the social and economic processes it involves: "Tourism" refers to a temporary change of location by individuals to destinations outside their usual living and working environments, typically for recreational purposes. Tourism as an industry is a relatively distinct sector in most regions of the world, which undertakes the task of enabling people to engage in this form of recreation. Hunting tourism is thus a phenomenon of so-called "leisure hunting," an evolutionary stage of human hunting (unlike subsistence hunting or market hunting,



see Herzog 2019), characterized primarily by the fact that hunting is not conducted to secure one's own livelihood.

In this context, it is irrelevant whether a hunter travels from one country to another for hunting, whether it's within Europe or in Africa. The reasons for hunting are also insignificant. Whether the motivation for hunting is to socialize with like-minded hunters, to take down

In all cultures, hunting trophies had a ritual significance: dancers with colobus monkey, leopard, and kob antelope in Gambella, Ethiopia.

a particular game animal, or simply to experience a unique nature experience. Even if some common definitions fundamentally exclude this (Fennell 2015, Shannon et al. 2017), hunting tourism can certainly also be interpreted as a form of nature or ecotourism (for a more detailed discussion, see Ellenberg et al. 1997, Strasdas & Zeppenfeld 2011, or Siege & Siege 2020), provided it is carried out sustainably and resource-efficiently.

hunting actions themselves rather than the

It is important not to equate "international

hunting" and "canned hunting," i.e., the hun-

ting of animals in fenced areas rather than

in free-ranging wild habitats. The subject of

canned hunting will not be explicitly addres-

Furthermore, the term ,illegal hunting,' often deliberately or unintentionally equated with

,trophy hunting,' should be referred to as ,poa-

ching' to avoid confusion (cf. Bauer et al. 2015).

Finally, a clear separation between the action

itself and its consequences on one hand and

the motive of the action on the other is an es-

sential prerequisite for an objective discus-

perspective of the hunter.

sed in this study.

sion of the subject.

"Overseas hunting" describes hunting by the hunter as an "overseas hunter," i.e., someone who hunts outside their home country. The specific circumstances of this hunting and/or their motives are not further evaluated. The term "international hunting" behaves practically synonymously. The latter seems overall more appropriate as it refers more to the

Often overlooked by the public: Hunters from the Netherlands or Denmark also hunt abroad in





# **3. "SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL**": THE MEDIA PERSPECTIVE

The media frequently portray powerful images of white hunters posing dominantly over hunted wildlife under the African sun. In contrast, images of driven hunts in regions such as central Europe and Scandinavia, conducted by guest hunters from various countries, are much less frequently seen.

The killing of the lion Cecil in 2015 in Zimbabwe triggered the largest public media reaction to date (cf. Lindsey et al. 2016, Macdonald et al. 2016). Siege & Siege (2020) refer to this event, which was strategically publicized by international NGOs, as "the 9/11 of overseas hunting."

As a result, France, the Netherlands, and Australia have banned the import of trophies from lions and other species. The United Kingdom and Germany have each intensely and publicly debated a ban on trophy imports. Some countries have since required even more comprehensive documentation of sustainable management before allowing trophy imports, and more than 40 airlines now refuse to transport hunting trophies (Carpenter and Konisky 2019).

The fact that red deer in Bavaria or Saxony can be more endangered than elephants in northern Botswana is just as irrelevant in public representation as the fact that ethical minimum standards for hunting exist both here and there,

sometimes adhered to more, sometimes less. Often, the media evaluation lacks a balanced assessment of the circumstances concerning their impacts. To stick with the example mentioned above: while the presence of even a large number of red deer in Germany can at most lead to grazing damage in forests and fields, but does not seriously threaten anyone's livelihood or health, elephants can indeed threaten the economic existence of entire families or village communities. People are regularly injured or killed by elephants. Elephants, therefore, along with lions, are among the most hated animal species among residents of rural African areas (Packer 2015). Nevertheless, we find in most, at least publicly funded media reports, the narrative that red deer should be culled, and elephants should be protected.

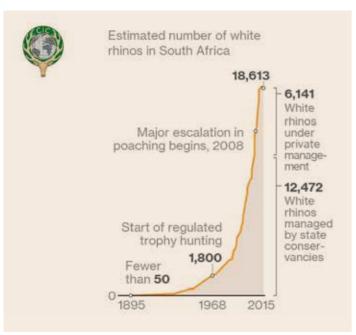
The question of how this division in media perception comes about cannot and should not be the subject of this study. However, we must never lose sight of the fact that numerous extraneous factors are at play in the analysis of the phenomenon of "international hunting": wild animals are always projection surfaces for deep human, also very personal emotions, from which journalists and other media professionals, but also scientists, are by no means free.

In the Ngorongoro Crater: The image of the "King of the Beasts" often shapes the media's perspective.

# **4. INTERNATIONAL HUNTING AS A SUBJECT OF SCIENTIFIC** INVESTIGATION

For many decades, international hunting tourism, and its effects on local ecosystems, as well as on local economic and social conditions, have been the subject of scientific investigations, a current selection of which is analysed below. It is to be expected that different authors will approach this topic from different professional angles, i.e., ecological, socioeconomic, and socio-cultural perspectives, and thereby come to different results.

Interestingly, sometimes disturbingly, and in any case, concerning, is the fact that the professional standards that should be applied to a scientific publication are not always guaranteed in publications on the subject of "hunting." Regularly, we find publications in quite reputable scientific journals that merely



Often ignored by the media: since the 1960s, international hunting has contributed to the preservation of species such as the southern white rhinoceros in South Africa.

convey a preconceived opinion of the authors. For example, Horowitz (2019) writes in a commentary on the work of Dickman et al. (2019): "...Their premise is not sustainable in light of fundamental morality. Whether we agree with Dickman et al. or not, wildlife has the fundamental right to exist independently of human existence and human interests. The intentional killing of animals to satisfy the whims of wealthy individuals is despicable. No potential benefit, not even those presented by Dickman et al. as advantageous for wildlife, justifies undermining the moral foundation of the protection of the Earth's natural resources. It is our responsibility to suppress the destructive tools at our disposal to ensure these resources remain intact. Killing endangered species is based on an apparent fallacy. Our most urgent concern is to restore endangered species to their former state, regardless of human interests. If it is not necessary for basic survival, hunting in all forms should be eradicated like the smallpox virus..."

A professional debate on the question of ethics and especially the ethical implications of the phenomenon of "hunting" is always welcome. However, pure (albeit entirely legitimate) personal opinions have no place in a scientific publication. The relevant platforms of social media provide the appropriate forum for such comments.

It is also noticeable that many studies focus on the countries of the Global South, particularly Africa. This may be due to the availability of funding, the impact of large iconic mammal species on a lay audience, or the personal socialisation of the respective authors.

Finally, a pronounced lack of interdisciplinarity in the research is noticeable (cf. Bichel & Hart 2023). An approach that aims to understand the nature of hunting tourism must be fun-



damentally interdisciplinary, as it is a complex topic with many different facets that need to be analysed from ecological, economic, and socio-cultural perspectives. This phenomenon is likely related to the aforementioned fact that even in peer-reviewed scientific journals, the two (fundamentally opposing) perspectives are regularly presented without distinction. When the data situation does not allow for such a distinction (which is quite often the case), this problem must at least be critically discussed. The present study follows an interdisciplinary approach by attempting to analyse the ecological, economic, and socio-cultural impacts of international hunting. The aim is to summarise the results of different studies with different specialist focuses in a synopsis. The starting point, following the disciplinary study situation,  ecological, economic, and socio-cultural

is first of all the question of which:

effects of international hunting are verifiable. These questions will be answered by analysing selected scientific and other specialist publications on this topic and, on this basis, an interdisciplinary assessment of the phenomenon of "international hunting" will be attempted.

It is not always easy to make a clear distinction between the three dimensions of sustainability. They are often causally interrelated. This is regularly the case when, as we will see, the utilisation of the value-creation potential of wild animals creates improved local economic conditions, which in turn create incentives and potential for conservation measures.

Numerous scientific studies have shown the positive effects of international hunting: here the radio-collaring of an elephant.



This is likely to be viewed critically: Hunting outfitters often advertise with such images.Yet International hunting means much more than just the trophy.

# **5. ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF INTERNATIONAL HUNTING**

#### **5.1 Species Conservation and Recreational Hunting**

There is a broad consensus today that the main causes for the decline of large mammals are habitat loss and degradation, competition with livestock farming, poaching for meat and the trade in animal products (ivory, horn, etc.), as well as persecution due to direct conflicts between humans and wildlife (cf. Schipper et al. 2008). This is not always clearly communicated in secondary and tertiary literature, as evidenced by the current CMS/ COP report, which indiscriminately equates

"over-exploitation" with "hunting." There is also widespread agreement today that sustainable use, including sustainable hunting, is one of the most important, if not the most important, instruments for the conservation of both endangered and non-endangered species and their habitats worldwide (cf. Herzog 2019). A recent meta-analysis of 1,000 scientific and professional publications from the period between 1953 and 2020 emphatically confirms this (Di Minin et al. 2021).

#### 5.2 Positive Ecological Effects of International Hunting

When examining the dominant issues in the protection and management of wildlife populations today, we must consider how international hunting can contribute to these efforts. Key approaches in this context include:

- Maintaining appropriate population sizes and
- social structures of the hunted species
- · Preventing poaching and illegal trade in wildlife products

Preserving largely intact ecosystems

• Providing the necessary financial resources for species protection

Particularly the last point has significant economic implications, which will be discussed further in the appropriate context. Furthermore, we must differentiate between sustainable and non-sustainable hunting. Today, we possess extensive knowledge about the biology and ecology of hunted species and their habitats. Numerous wildlife management tools are

available today (cf. Herzog 2019), enabling and supporting sustainable management. The question is no longer whether we should hunt wildlife populations but how to do it sustainably to protect and conserve species and populations. This "how" is determined by biological and ecological facts and the threat status of the species or population.

For over a century, the challenges of protecting Africa's iconic large mammals and corresponding solutions have been discussed (cf. Schillings 1906, Seton-Karr 1908). In the latter half of the 20th century, conservation thinking and ecosystem thinking gained increasing importance in the industrialized countries of the North. In this intellectual environment, the effects of international hunting and hunting tourism on species and ecosystems, particularly the African savanna landscapes, have been explored and investigated.

Adams (2004) describes that since the mid-20th century, international hunting has been a crucial factor in conserving numerous, not exclusively iconic, wildlife species in sub-Saharan Africa.

The example of the two rhino species in South Africa and Namibia is impressive, showing that sustainable hunting, including the legal export of trophies, can significantly contribute to the protection of these species and their habitats. The population of the southern white rhinoceros (Ceratotherium simum) in South Africa and Namibia has increased from about 1,800 individuals in the late 1960s to over 18,000 individuals in the mid-2010s due to sustainable hunting practices. The black rhinoceros (Diceros bicornis) has also seen a population increase from around 2,300 individuals in 2004 to about 3,700 individuals in 2014 (cf. Cooney et al. 2017, 't Sas-Rolfes et al. 2022).

For instance, the protection of North American bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis) has been financed mainly through revenues from hunting and hunting tourism. After the population decreased from about one million in the early 19th century to about 25,000 individuals in the 1950s for various reasons, it has more than tripled since then due to conservation measures financed by hunting revenues (Hurley et al. 2015). A similar situation exists for the bighorn sheep species.

of Mexico on Tiburon Island, which went extinct for unknown reasons and were reintroduced by local indigenous communities. Within a few decades, their population has increased more than twentyfold under hunting management and now probably aligns with the habitat's carrying capacity (Valdez et al. 2006, Wilder et al. 2014, Hurley et al. 2025).

The conservation of the endangered Suleiman markhor (Capra falconeri megaceros) and the Afghan urial (Ovis ammon orientalis) is also a success attributed to international hunting. In the 1980s, there were estimated to be fewer than 100 individuals of the former and around 200 individuals of the latter in Pakistan. Through intelligent community-based management ("community-based management"), funded by revenues from international hunting, the populations of the markhor have increased to about 3,500 individuals, and the urial population has grown to around 2,500 individuals, thus saving these subspecies from extinction (Woodford et al. 2004, Frisina & Tareen 2009).

The sustainable management of wildlife under international hunting includes more than just protecting, conserving, or reintroducing individual species. Di Minin et al. (2016) review the impacts of international hunting on conservation in sub-Saharan Africa, concluding that hunting tourism can maintain or enhance regional biodiversity through three main mechanisms: 1. Funding for conservation projects,

2. A relatively low CO2 footprint compared to other forms of ecotourism,

3. Special protection for populations of hunted

The authors conclude that non-specific hunting bans or restrictions on importing hunting trophies can have highly negative impacts on the overall conservation situation in the region. Cooney et al. (2017) illustrate how international hunting positively impacts different regions of the world through various approaches:

· Direct incentives for landowners (state, community-based, or private) to protect wildlife,

 Generating financial resources for conservation, including anti-poaching efforts,

 Reducing illegal wildlife killing through increased tolerance of wildlife.

Dickman et al. (2019) respond to increasing in-

itiatives aiming to ban the hunting of specific iconic species, particularly in Africa, or to impose import bans on trophies of these species in Northern countries. They argue that such initiatives, if successful, would significantly harm conservation efforts. In African countries with hunting tourism, more land is used for hunting than for total reserves without hunting, and banning hunting would quickly lead to converting these areas into agricultural land, including grazing areas or settlements, resulting in the loss of valuable ecosystems and biodiversity. Decades after Kenya banned hunting in the 1970s, there has been a significant decline in





In areas where hunting is not permitted, poaching, which includes the use of snares, is a frequent occurrence.

wildlife populations, especially the iconic species (cf. Child 2000). Ogutu et al. (2016) also show a continuous decline in various wildlife species in Kenya from 1977 to 2015, correlating with an increase in livestock. This trend appears unbroken. Similarly, the situation in Uganda, Botswana, and Malawi, or in countries like Somalia, which currently have neither functioning reserves nor sustainable hunting systems (Amir 2006), is barely studied. The question arises whether the presence of legal hunting activities can significantly reduce illegal hunting and poaching through the mere presence of legal hunting activities. Observations and initial scientific studies support this hypothesis.

Studies suggest that illegal land users, settlers, and poachers tend to avoid areas with established hunting management and antipoaching patrols, thereby enhancing conservation efforts (Strampelli et al. 2022). In Botswana, conflicts between humans and wildlife increased after a hunting ban was imposed. The number of documented conflicts rose from 4,361 in 2012 to 6,770 in 2014 (Mbaiwa 2018).

Areas where hunting tourism is abandoned due to import bans and restrictions are unprotected from negative human impacts. Valuable ecosystems are lost this way. A study in the Selous and Rungwa game reserves found that poaching was significantly lower in areas with active hunting concessions compared to those without (exceptions: elephants), with less poaching in the Selous where there were more hunting concessions than in Rungwa (Lyakurwa et al. 2020).

In addition to these direct impacts, international hunting also has numerous indirect effects. The most important indirect effects are the creation of local incomes through international hunting, leading to increased acceptance of wildlife species that might otherwise be intensively persecuted in human-wildlife conflicts. As long as wildlife is seen solely as a liability and has no economic value, uncontrolled killing, for example, of lions regularly preying on livestock, can easily lead to unsustainable regional overexploitation due to spill-over effects.

Another crucial contribution of international hunting is preventing poaching through the financing of specific anti-poaching structures.



Ethically indefensible: hunting farms and enclosures offer special breeds as unique trophies. Here, a "Golden Gnu."

### **5.3 NEGATIVE ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF INTERNATIONAL HUNTING**

Concerns are frequently raised that hunting tourism may have negative ecological impacts. In this context, the risk of poorly or unsustainably managed game species negatively impacting plant and ecosystem diversity is often cited. Other authors argue that international hunting has led to long-term declines in certain species populations, particularly in



Not sustainable: artificial breeding.

regions where hunting pressures exceed the natural population growth rates (e.g., Ripple et al. 2016). Similarly, inappropriate or excessive hunting quotas have been associated with decreases in certain species (e.g., lions and leopards) (Bauer et al. 2015).

An example of this is the danger of overhunting leading to long-term population declines, as documented for certain ungulate species (e.g., white rhinoceros) and apex predators (e.g., lions). Trophy hunting, particularly of older males, has also been criticized for potentially disrupting social structures and reproductive success in species like elephants and big cats (Whitman et al. 2004; Milner et al. 2007). Additionally, the illegal hunting of high-value species (e.g., rhinoceroses for their horns) exacerbates the risks posed by legal hunting activities.

The selective hunting of specific individuals based on their trophy value can lead to genetic and demographic changes within populations. This selective pressure may favour individuals with less desirable traits (e.g., smaller

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#### Hunter and photographer Carl Georg Schillings was already dedicated to conservation-based hunting (gamekeeping) in 1898.

horns or antlers) and can impact the genetic diversity and health of the population over time (Coltman et al. 2003; Darimont et al. 2009). Despite these concerns, it's important to note that well-regulated hunting programs can

mitigate many of these negative effects. However, improper management or lack of enforcement can result in over-exploitation and long-term ecological damage.

Several studies have shown that international hunting tourism can be a significant source of funding for conservation efforts, helping to protect large tracts of habitat and support anti-poaching measures (Lindsey et al. 2007; Dickman et al. 2019). Nevertheless, the balance between conservation benefits and ecological risks remains a critical issue for sustainable wildlife management.

# 6. ECONOMIC DEVELOP-MENT THROUGH **INTERNATIONAL HUNTING**



Worldwide hunting travel offers at the "Jagd und Hund" fair, Dortmund.

### 6.1 The Economic Importance of International Hunting in Africa

The economic significance of international hunting naturally varies depending on the geographic region and societal conditions. In Africa, hunting tourism is prevalent in 23 countries, with the industry being particularly significant in Southern Africa and Tanzania. In Central and West Africa, hunting tourism either remains stable or is declining. Hunting tourism in these regions occurs almost exclusively in an area of approximately 1,394,000 km<sup>2</sup> south of the Sahara, which is comparable to the size of Germany, Austria, and Italy combined (Lindsey et al. 2007).

The direct economic contributions of international hunting, such as its contributions to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of individual African countries, vary. Estimates suggest

& Siege 2020).

## 6.2 "Community-based natural resource management": **Ideal for Utilizing Wildlife**

Looking back at the history of community-based management of wildlife, it becomes clear that such approaches have been effective in Africa since the 1960s. Early projects in countries like Kenya (Sindiyo 1968), Botswana, and Zimbabwe (ZIMBABWE 1975) started integrating hunting tourism into their conservation strategies. These projects have consistently demonstrated positive outcomes for local communities and wildlife conservation.

For example, Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE (Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources) program, initiated in 1989, aimed to integrate local communities into wildlife management. The program allocated hunting quotas and revenue-sharing mechanisms to communities, fostering local economic development and conservation efforts. This approach helped to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts and provided communities with financial incentives to conserve wildlife (Murphree 1990). Despite its successes, CAMPFIRE faced challenges such as delays in payments and eco-

nomic instability in Zimbabwe, which affected

the effectiveness of the program. However, it remains a crucial model for community-based natural resource management in Africa and is often referenced in conservation policies (Frost & Bond 2008, Child 2002).

16

that Tanzania, generates about 300 million US dollars annually, significantly impacting local communities. In other countries, such as Namibia and South Africa, the income from international hunting is similarly substantial, providing essential funding for conservation efforts and local economic development (see Siege

The generated income is crucial for the protection of natural habitats and offers higher financial incentives for conservation than other land-use forms, such as livestock farming or agriculture. Alternative land uses in these areas, like forestry or ecotourism, often do not yield comparable economic returns (Child 1988, Lindsey et al. 2007, Di Minin et al. 2016).



Sustainable land use: In some cases, wildlife and livestock can complement each other, such as on cattle farms in Namibia.





Community-based management: A village hunt in a buffer zone at the Selous Game Reserve, and the meat is transported to the village by tractor.

Drying over fire and smoke makes wild meat durable.

The economic benefits of international hunting are not limited to Africa. In Namibia, a survey across 77 communal conservancies from 1998 to 2013 showed that hunting tourism

contributed significantly to conservation financing and provided essential income for local communities (Naidoo et al. 2016).

### 6.3 Economic Consequences of Hunting Bans and Import Restrictions on Trophies

#### 6.3.1 Convention on International **Trade in Endangered Species** of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

CITES, established in 1975, aims to regulate international trade in endangered species. The convention categorizes species into Appendices based on their conservation status,

with Appendix I including the most endangered species. The trade of these species is heavily regulated, and any commercial trade is prohibited. Appendices II and III include species that may not be immediately threatened but could become so if their trade is not strictly controlled.

International agreements have contributed to making international hunting sustainable for decades: CITES COP 15 in Doha, 2010.



#### 6.3.2 National Hunting Bans and Import Restrictions

National bans on hunting and import restrictions can have significant impacts on local communities and conservation efforts. For example, when Botswana imposed a hunting ban in 2014, local communities suffered economically, leading to increased human-wildlife conflicts (Blackie 2019). Similar scenarios were observed in Kenya and other countries where hunting bans were implemented without providing alternative income sources for local communities (Ogutu et al. 2016).

Studies show that hunting bans often lead to negative economic and ecological consequences. For instance, the import ban on African elephant trophies in the U.S. from 2014 to 2017 resulted in a significant reduction in mayedenga et al. 2021).

# 7. SOCIO-CULTURAL ASPECTS **OF HUNTING TOURISM**

The socio-cultural impacts and implications of international hunting are diverse. They affect various areas, which can be divided into two main topics addressed in this chapter. These are the attitudes of hunting guests toward hunting activities and the attitudes of local populations toward hunting tourism, which will each be examined based on a study.

A survey of hunting guests (n=150) and African hunting tour operators (n=127) by Lindsey et al. (2006) found that hunting guests believe that hunting contributes to the protection of wildlife, even in areas where no attractive landscapes or significant wildlife populations exist. The presence of agriculture and livestock in a region is not necessarily a deterrent to hunting tourism. This demonstrates that hunting tourism can be viable where other forms of ecotourism may not be profitable. Hunting guests' attitudes towards the hunting conditions, particularly the safety of their hunting activities, are not seen as restricting conservation

hunting licenses sold, adversely affecting conservation funding and local economies (Nya-

Clark et al. (2023) highlighted that such bans do not necessarily address the root causes of wildlife decline and may exacerbate the situation. They argued that well-regulated trophy hunting could be a more effective tool for conservation than outright bans, which often lead to unintended negative consequences for wildlife and local communities.

Overall, international hunting, when managed sustainably, can provide substantial economic benefits and support conservation efforts. It is essential to balance hunting regulations with the needs of local communities and wildlife conservation to achieve long-term sustainability.

measures. This is often not recognised by hunting operators. Moreover, some guests willingly adhere to such standards if required. Therefore, the authors believe that proper regulatory oversight of hunting is necessary.

Von Houdt et al. (2021) examined whether people's attitudes toward international hunting are influenced by their living conditions. They discovered significant differences in survey responses, particularly those from Africa, compared to other regions. It is noteworthy that the study was based on an online survey, which may have led to the underrepresentation of rural African areas.

The second major socio-cultural theme is the ethical implications. Most scientific studies focus on the ethical implications of (recreational) hunting as such (e.g., Gunn 2001; Lovelock 2015; Batavia et al. 2020; Darimont et al. 2021; Ghasemi et al. 2023) or the psychology of hunters (Darimont et al. 2017; Beattie 2020). The term "trophy hunting" has rarely been analy-



A constant threat: Hundreds of people in Africa fall victim to elephants each year.

sed scientifically from an environmental ethics perspective. Certain exceptions are the works of Macdonald et al. (2016), Nelson et al. (2016), and Batavia et al. (2019, 2020).

Macdonald et al. (2016) and Nelson et al. (2016) primarily argue from the perspective of responsibility ethics, similar to most authors who deal with hunting ethics. At the same time, many (fundamental) animal and nature conservation organisations exclusively accept a virtue ethics approach. Responsibility ethics

In Malawi, women

protect them-

crocodiles while

selves from



mean that an action is justified if it aims to achieve a moral good or avoid a moral evil. Virtue ethics is a theoretical approach where actions are assessed based on intrinsic values and principles, regardless of their consequences (Weber 1926).

Macdonald et al. (2016) formulated this conflict in the context of international hunting in Africa: "... Some opponents of trophy hunting consider it unjustifiable, regardless of potential positive impacts, and base their view on a moral commandment, which they trace back to the Kantian philosophy. ... Suppose the argument is, the intentional killing of large cats by Western politicians is unacceptable,' then legislative responses to Western virtue ethical values may have far-reaching negative consequences for biodiversity. ... Those in the Kantian camp could take comfort in knowing that they are on a morally higher plane. But who would have influence, if these animals in Africa, which they could save, remain in misery as long as they could... " (translated from the English by the author).

Thus, we can state that this topic can be deepened further and we, as in other societies, also have a conflict between virtue ethics and responsibility ethics in hunting. Most scientific publications take the responsibility ethics approach.

# 8. CONCLUSION

### 8.1 People Protect What They Value

It has been shown that people who live in simple, often poverty-stricken environments alongside wildlife either tolerate or actively protect these animals if they value them. Such value arises primarily from incentives, typically through the direct economic benefits to communities and households from the use of these wild animals. The utilisation of freeranging wildlife (whether through hunting or



Lucky wildebeest, the trap did not tighten around its neck. Poaching decreases when wildlife gains value, for example, through regulated hunting.

photo tourism) is in direct competition with other, ecologically problematic land uses like agriculture and grazing.

The exploitation of the potential that wildlife offers provides the basis for sustainable, economic regional development that maximises the protection of natural resources, in this case, the local wildlife populations and their natural habitats.

### **8.2 Ecological Effects**

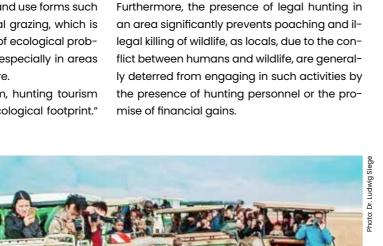
The vast majority of scientific studies to date indicate that international hunting, over the long term and broadly speaking over recent decades, has predominantly positive ecological impacts. These arise primarily from more intensive protection and sustainable management of the hunted species, their prey, and their habitats.

This occurs mainly through direct and indirect economic incentives. These issues will be further explored below.

The related value creation potentials contribute to reducing competitive land use forms such as intensive and often illegal grazing, which is increasingly a major cause of ecological problems in southern countries, especially in areas with high population pressure.

In contrast to photo tourism, hunting tourism has a significantly lower "ecological footprint."

Lion in traffic: the ecological footprint of photo tourism is higher than that of international hunting.



This is due to the considerably higher value

creation per hunting guest compared to a

photo tourist, while simultaneously requiring

far fewer infrastructure demands (transporta-

tion routes, energy, water supply, goods supply,

The economic advantage of international hun-

ting tourism extends beyond the CO2 footprint,

encompassing factors like land use and land-

scape fragmentation. Essentially, hunting tou-

rism is associated with far fewer interventions

in ecosystems than most other tourism types.

waste disposal, hotel construction, etc.).

#### TENDER ADVERTISEMENT Date: 15 January 2019

#### Advertising Conservation Hunting in Salambala and Bamunu Conservancies

The above-mentioned conservancies are located in Zambezi Region. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has granted a conservation hunting quota to these conservancies for the 2019 hunting season. The quota includes the following:

Salambala: Buffalo x 3; Burchell Zebra x 10; Elephant x 6; Kudu x 2; Warthog x 3; Wildebeest x 3; Crocodile x 1; Hippo x 2; Impala x 10; Waterbuck x 2; Baboon x 2.

Bamunu: Bulfalo x 12; Burchell Zebra x 10; Kudu x 2; Elephant x 3; Warthog x 4; Crocodile x 1; Duiker x 2; Hippo x 3; Reedbuck x 3; Waterbuck x 2.

Terested Hunting Operators must obtain tender documents from NACSO's Natural Resource Working Group, Ausspanplatz, 19 Lossen Street, 2nd floor, Windhoek on behalf of Salambala conservancy. Please contact Ms Rosalia lileka at 0813581174 or email: Rosalia@nnf.org.na.

The deadline for final submission of proposals is 29 January 2019. All documents must be delivered or couriered to:

NACSO's Natural Resource Working Group, 2nd floor, Ausspannplatz, 19 Lossen Street, Windhoek

### 8.3 Economic Effects through "Community-based Management<sup>#</sup> of Natural Resources

Hunting tourism takes place in 23 countries in Africa, with the industry being most prominent in southern Africa and Tanzania, and it continues to grow. In central and western Africa, hunting tourism is either stable or declining. Its primary importance lies in creating economic incentives for protecting large areas.

Alternative land uses (such as agriculture or photo tourism) on these lands are often not feasible or only possible with significant interventions in the ecosystem or associated with significantly larger ecological footprints. Although the initial investments and capital costs for market-based forms are higher, hunting tourism projects and businesses also create significant economic benefits for local communities and provide economic incentives for natural resource conservation.

for conservation.

**Tendering of hunting** quotas for conservancies in Namibia by NASCO (Namibian Association of Community-Based Natural **Resource Manage**ment (CBNRM) Support Organisations).

"Community-based management" or "community-based natural resource management" is characterised by decentralised administration and the transfer of extensive land use rights to local communities that manage forests or utilise wildlife (including hunting). This approach aims to protect natural resources and combat poaching.

Such "community-based management" has now become a key concept for the utilisation of natural resources. The major strengths of this approach lie in the direct involvement of local people in the management and value creation of wildlife and in protecting wildlife from poaching. By providing sustainable economic benefits, hunting tourism helps to mitigate poaching and provides tangible benefits

### 8.4 Import Bans or Restrictions on Trophies **Endanger Conservation Efforts**

Import bans or restrictions on hunting trophies in various northern countries have significant implications for conservation activities and rural development. They often lead to decreased investment in conservation measures or rural development, as a study by Nyamayedenga et al. (2021) shows.

The authors analysed the impact of an import ban on African elephant trophies in the USA between 2014 and 2017 and found a significant reduction in hunting activities and a

similar reduction in economic benefits for local communities.

Clark et al. (2023) investigated the documented social, ecological, and political impacts of past trophy import bans and found that extensive bans lead to cost increases and exacerbated threats to the species concerned. Such bans are described as grossly ineffective conservation tools that may cause more problems than they solve.

### 8.5 Hunting Tourism and Photo Tourism: Two Sides of the Ecotourism Coin

Photo tourism is not always sustainable. A zebra flees from a lioness through a corridor of photo tourists.

Hunting tourism can create incentives for conservation activities that other forms of ecotourism cannot. Guests are often willing to pay significant sums to hunt in areas where there are no alternative land uses and high wildlife populations.

The presence of livestock and agriculture in a region is not a disqualifying factor for hunting tourism. This shows that hunting tourism can create incentives for wildlife conservation even in areas where other forms of ecotourism may not be financially viable.



### 8.6 Responsibility Ethics vs. Ethics of Conviction

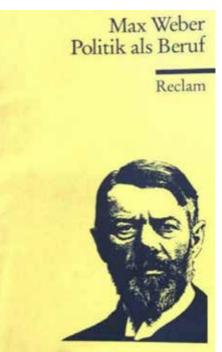
It has been shown that international hunting in almost all relevant contexts contributes positively. This particularly applies to the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity. At the same time, hunting tourism has numerous positive economic impacts, creating jobs and income, alleviating poverty, transferring responsibility to local communities, protecting biodiversity, and preventing crime.

The ethical justification for international hunting is thus derived from the positive societal values of these actions (creating jobs, stabilising local economies, preventing poverty, transferring responsibility to local communities, securing biodiversity, preventing crime, etc.). This is independent of the motives of the actors, particularly the hunters themselves.

A societal perspective, which creates generally valid rules and restrictions for people, requires factual consideration. The evaluation should be based on responsibility ethics.

At a time when biodiversity loss and climate change are among humanity's greatest challenges, this approach seems more appropriate. An individual, conviction-based approach excludes the ability to respect differing opinions, which can lead to ethical conflicts.

Responsibility ethics belongs to the constant improvement of existing instruments, correcting errors, and solving problems. If international hunting, as shown by the majority of scientific studies, is a powerful tool for poverty



The "originator" of the concept: responsibility and conviction ethics.

alleviation and conservation, it would be unwise to discard this tool just because individual cases present problems.

However, problems should not be ignored. Instead, a continuous improvement process is indicated, developing and sharpening sustainability criteria for international hunting and enabling people to live responsibly, including ensuring the protection and maintenance of ecosystems and biodiversity.

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