



# **Trophy Hunting benefits, the impact of bans and what responsible decision-making demands**

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## IUCN – WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1948, IUCN is the world's largest global environmental organization.

- **Democratic** Union with >1,200 State and NGO Member organizations in 160 countries.
- The leading provider of the **latest knowledge** about biodiversity, with more than 11,000 experts and scientists.
- The only environmental organisation with official **Observer Status** at the **United Nations** General Assembly.



# IUCN POLICY/GUIDING PRINCIPLES

IUCN is committed to ensuring any uses of wild living resources are equitable and ecologically sustainable.

Use of wild living resources, if sustainable, is an important conservation tool because the social and economic benefits derived from such use provide incentives for people to conserve them.

(Res. 2.29 (2000), IUCN Policy Statement on Sustainable Use of Wild Living Resources)

Trophy hunting is context specific, but under the right conditions, can:

- Provide conservation benefits/drive species recovery;
- Deliver livelihood benefits to local communities;
- Ensure wildlife is more valuable than other land-uses; and
- Assist with management of problem animals.

## TAJIKISTAN

- Community-based trophy hunting, Tajik Markhor *Capra falconeri heptneri*.
- In 2004, <350 Markhor. Family/community-led conservancies led species' recovery to est. 1,300 in 2014.
- Yield up to USD100,000 per animal:
  - 50% goes to conservancies.
  - 40-60% of USD40,000 permit fee to district.



- Trophy hunting of Marco Polo argali, Murgab Concession, Tajikistan
- Managed since 1990, annual quota of 40 rams.
  - Population increased from c.1,500 to c.8,000 (1995-2012).
  - Argali density of 5.3Km<sup>2</sup> compared to 0.1 Km<sup>2</sup> in ecologically similar area
  - Data suggest twice the density of snow leopards in Murgab vs. unmanaged areas.

## BUBYE VALLEY CONSERVANCY, ZIMBABWE

- Est. in 1994, Southern Lowveld, Zimbabwe, 3000km<sup>2</sup>
- Conservancy derives its whole income from hunting operations.
  - Has criteria for trophies.
- Trophy hunting supports the conservation of many species:
  - Lion increased from 21 – c.500 (1998-2015).
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> largest black rhino population the world.
  - Cheetah, wild dog, brown hyena, pangolins.
- Benefits to rural communities:
  - 350-400 jobs, supporting c.2000 families.
  - 1.6 t of meat/month to local tribes.
  - Aid programme providing potable water.



## NAMIBIA

- Legislative reform in 1990s giving tribal communities ability to manage and benefit directly from their wildlife.
  - By end 2014, 82 communal conservancies (>18% of Namibia's land), including c.200,000 people.
  - Elephant population grew from 7,500 to c.20,000 (1995-2014).
  - Expanding lion population and impala, zebra, lechwe increasing.
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- A photograph of two zebras standing in a shallow waterhole. The zebra in the foreground is facing left, while the one behind it is facing right. They are both looking towards the camera. The background shows a dry, open landscape with sparse vegetation under a clear sky.
- Returns to conservancies and members in 2014:
    - From trophy hunting = N\$24 million (US\$2 million)
    - Meat from trophy hunting = N\$7 million (< US\$1 million)
  - Loss of legal hunting would deem many conservancies unviable.

## SO, WHAT WOULD BANS ACHIEVE?

- Wildlife would cease to deliver the same conservation and local livelihood benefits.
- Conservancies no longer viable (e.g., Namibia, Zimbabwe)
- Due to pressure for land conversion (e.g., from agriculture), long-term impact is likely habitat loss = net biodiversity loss.
- Banning trophy hunting would undermine conservation and remove the benefits from conservation to local communities.

## TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- Trophy hunting can be a valuable tool for conservation, and though context specific, can deliver conservation and local livelihood benefits.
- Decision-making shouldn't undermine conservation and livelihoods – if trophy hunting is banned there need to be alternatives that match the benefits it brings to conservation and local livelihoods.