

# **Tourist Hunting in Tanzania**

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# 1. AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON TROPHY HUNTING

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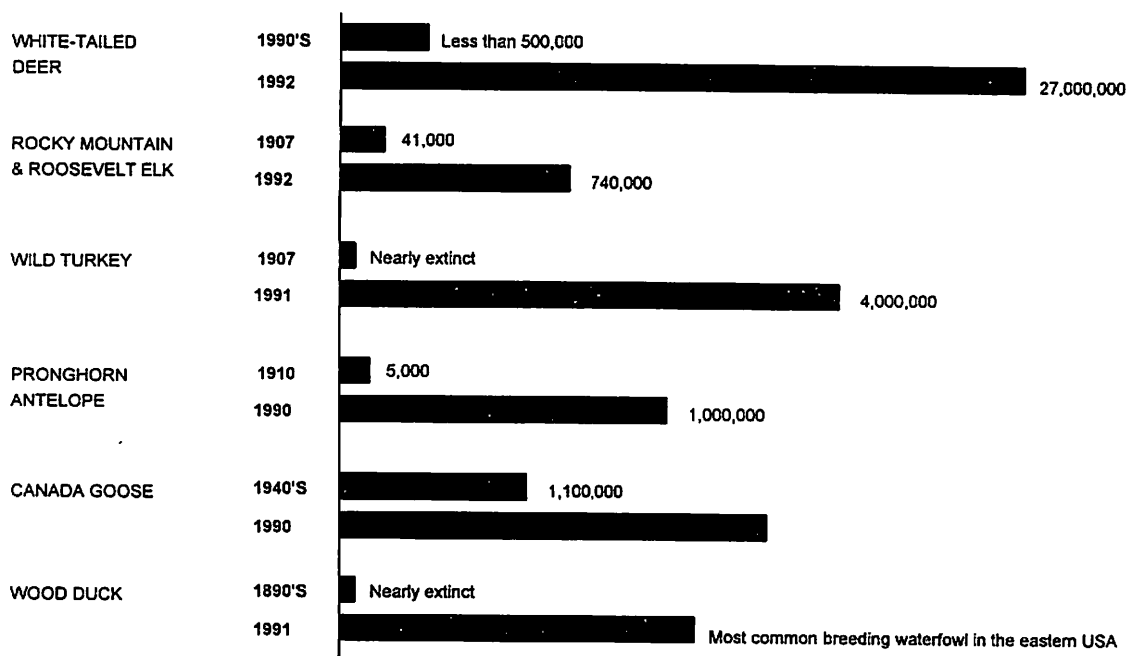
## 1. INTRODUCTION

There is a relationship between trophy hunting by tourists in Africa, and sport hunting in the homeland of those hunters. Sport hunters in North America provide the largest pool of hunters from which Africa draws, so this paper begins by examining hunting in North America. The paper then moves to consider various aspects of hunting in Africa.

## 2. TROPHY HUNTING IN NORTH AMERICA

Populations of game animals in North America have greatly increased due to conservation programmes funded by hunting. The regulatory designation of species as *game animals* has given them a status and value to 19 million game hunters. Licence fees, permits, tags, stamps and special excise taxes on American hunters have paid for most of the costs of conserving these species and the habitats that they occupy. Hunting and fishing generate more than US\$ 1 billion per year. Furthermore, hunters spend a further US\$ 1 billion leasing and acquiring habitat each year. Much of the revenue deriving from hunting is applied at the level of the State Game Departments, who are responsible for the conservation and management of game animals. Hence, most hunting revenue is applied to conservation rather than deposited in general treasuries. Indeed, more than 75% of all revenue devoted to conservation in North America derives from hunters and fishermen. Revenue from hunting has covered most of the costs of reintroducing, managing, and policing various species of game animals. These conservation measures have succeeded, as shown by increasing population sizes (Figure 1). Many populations of species once on the brink of extinction have been restored, together with their habitat, by wise use of revenue generated from hunters. Their restoration occurred well before the enactment of the US Endangered Species Act, or before the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) came into force.

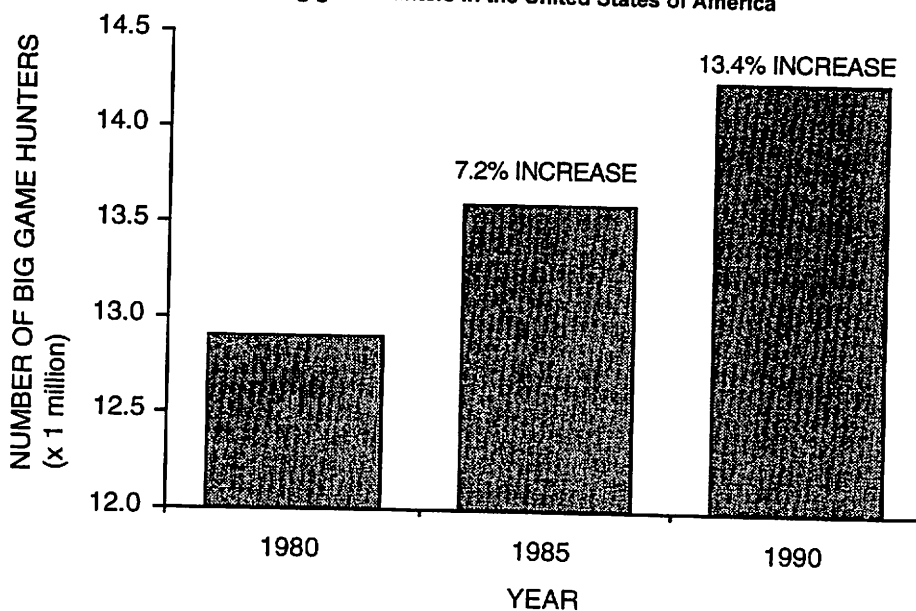
Figure 1: The increase in the game animals of North America



The increase in the abundance and availability of game animal populations in North America has stimulated more people to become big game hunters (Figure 2). A positive feedback cycle has generated more revenue for the Game Departments and resulted in more land being dedicated to wildlife conservation. The number of big game hunters in the USA has increased at a net rate of over 15,000 new hunters per month for several decades. Over 6 million new big game hunters have been recruited since 1965. The states of Texas, Michigan and Pennsylvania each now has over 1 million licensed hunters. In most states, hunters are residents, but this is not true everywhere. Most revenue in the western states, such as Colorado, Montana, Idaho and Alaska, derives from non-resident hunters who pay higher fees than residents and take fewer animals. Hunters have created 1.3 million jobs in the US market. Hunters alone directly spend US\$ 1.6 million per hour in the US. The total economic effect from hunting in 1991 was estimated to be US\$ 35 billion, and with multiplier effects it probably exceeds US\$ 100 billion per year.

An important consequence of having over 19 million hunters, 14 million of who are big game hunters (Figure 2), is that they spill over to finance programmes in Africa. The increasing wealth of Americans and the increasing numbers of big game hunters has resulted in more tourist hunters with the interest and financial means to hunt trophy animals in Africa. The interest of American hunters in Africa is growing, and the demand for tourist hunting within Africa will continue to increase. Furthermore, the market is less vulnerable to fluctuations from recessions and civil wars than is photographic tourism.

Figure 2: The increase in the number of big game hunters in the United States of America



### 3. ROLE OF SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

Safari Club International (SCI) is a conservation group for hunters. SCI is the largest organization for trophy hunters in the world, and is some 40 times larger than the next hunting organization of its kind. SCI is growing at the rate of 20% per annum, with 5000 new members each year, and has about 30,000 core members in over 160 chapters from Namibia to Moscow. SCI serves as the principle market place for trophy hunts, and its Las Vegas convention held every January is attended by 9000 hunters. One third of its core members goes to Africa every one to one and a half years. SCI follows the tradition that hunters pay for conservation, and is a mighty force for conservation. Consequently SCI has integrated the spending of millions of dollars contributed over-and-above the licence fees and expenditures spent during hunts, to special projects. The trophy hunting industry is strong world-wide, and is expected to continue to grow as the wealth of foreign hunters increases. SCI therefore sees hunting in Africa as a means of financing conservation programmes, and ensuring the future prosperity of rural people through the wise use of renewable natural resources.

#### 4. TROPHY HUNTING IN AFRICA

As in the US, trophy hunting can create a market for wildlife in Africa so that it is valued and protected. In Africa, trophy hunting by tourists occurs on a small scale, but earns more than resident hunting. Thus, trophy hunting in Africa cannot yet be expected to support the same scale of conservation programmes as those within the US. Nevertheless, trophy hunting by tourists can play a very important role in Africa, where it is often the principle incentive to respect the species and its habitat. This is particularly true outside protected areas, because it is usually only tourist trophy hunters who provide any economic value for conserving species and habitats in such areas.

##### 4.1. IMPACT ON WILDLIFE

Trophy hunting has the greatest *per capita* benefit, and the least negative impact, of any activity in the ecotourism industry. Indeed, hunters were the original ecotourist, and hunting requires very little infrastructure and leaves the habitat relatively undisturbed. The small numbers of animals collected by trophy hunters are usually biologically surplus males whose genes have already been dispersed. Far more males occur in a population than are needed for reproduction in most species, and the reduction in numbers of males makes room for others, and actually stimulates reproduction. Good management keeps populations below the carrying capacity of their habitat, thereby minimising habitat damage, disease, reduction in birth rate, vulnerability to drought, and fighting losses. Thus, the modern-day tourist hunter can fill an important niche in any scientifically based wildlife management plan governing the conservation and use of Africa's natural resources.

##### 4.2. BENEFITS OF TOURIST HUNTING

In remote, undeveloped areas, trophy hunting can bring wealth to rural people by harnessing the very high economic value of wildlife, as compared with other forms of land use. Benefits include:

- **improvement of environment:** trophy hunting can provide economic incentives to rural villagers to regard wildlife as an asset rather than a liability. This encourages villagers to maintain their local wildlife within a pristine and natural environment. The presence of an active safari operator can stimulate wildlife and habitat preservation. Furthermore, hunting is an important source of government revenue for wildlife and habitat conservation;
- **provision of food:** trophy hunters often produce meat for local people, and can help reduce and control crop damage. Trophy hunting can create incentives that favour wild game over domestic animals. Wildlife withstands droughts and tsetse flies better than domestic animals, and is much less demanding on the ecosystem;
- **provision of water:** a safari hunting operator will establish a predictable and secure source of water in the most arid areas. This can mean drilling wells that rural people as well as wildlife can use. In some instances, safari licences provide the revenue used for drilling wells, as in some Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) areas in Zimbabwe;
- **alleviation of poverty and provision of employment:** trophy hunting can turn wildlife from a liability into an asset. It can maximise the benefits from wildlife that is under-utilized. Consequently, tourist hunting can have a profound effect on rural poverty. Tourist hunting directly employs many people who may not otherwise contribute to the local economy. Running a hunting safari requires many duties and tasks, ranging from camp construction to trophy preparation. Tourist hunting may be the primary source of income for a village, and the income of the local people can more than treble in relation to the average national income. Hunting requires little or no infrastructure, and no other activity has the same potential as trophy hunting to improve the quality of life of rural people;
- **enhanced role for women:** with the development of small businesses women can sell agricultural products, jewellery, pottery and other items. Indirectly, women benefit as men in the village come into a new position of contribution. Husbands and sons who play an important role in the hunt increase their self-esteem. This changes their relationship with their family;
- **health and medicine:** safari companies are usually the main provider of health care to rural people living in remote areas. A safari company can add decades to rural human life expectancy, particularly of children. Simple medications reduce a great deal of suffering caused by malaria, diarrhoea, eye infections, and so on;

- **small business enterprise:** many ancillary businesses can be built around the trophy hunting industry, such as: promotion of local arts and crafts, pottery, jewellery and clothing, entertainment, transportation, taxidermy, and road and bridge building; and,
- **agriculture:** tourist hunting can have a scarecrow effect on wildlife that is in conflict with man, and help to keep it off the fields. Hunting can also provide the revenue and incentive for rural people to tolerate and overcome the effects of crop damage. Hunting can reduce dependence upon crops, and rural people can derive income from the safari operator for the sale of agricultural products such as corn, vegetables and fruits.

In summary, the international hunting client sees hunting as the ideal way to return land to its natural state, and to let wildlife populations flourish. Hunting can provide the maximum value and most direct incentive for the sustainable use of wildlife. Thus, trophy hunting is a fundamental technique in conservation and vital to the well-being of rural people, who will ultimately determine the fate of their surrounding ecosystem. International hunters can be proud of their participation in Africa.

## **5. THREATS TO TROPHY HUNTING IN AFRICA**

Tourist trophy hunting occurs at a very low volume and is directed at select members of the species. It is therefore unlikely to be detrimental to populations. Despite this, the home countries of tourist hunters visiting Africa have placed trade restrictions on the import of trophies. If hunters cannot take their trophies home they will be discouraged from trophy hunting in Africa. The problem occurs at two inter-related levels. The protectionist movement is having an effect upon the interpretation of international and domestic laws and regulations, and poses the greatest threat to conservation programmes today.

First, trophy imports are subject to international restrictions, particularly through CITES. Resolution Conference 2.11 gives importing nations the option of making a comprehensive examination of the status and management of species listed on Appendix I of CITES, before agreeing to the import of trophies into the home state. Countries like the US treat this as a mandatory obligation, along with proof of enhancement of conservation programmes. The US Office of the Scientific Authority (OSA) has even refused to recognise the trophy quotas agreed by CITES for elephant, cheetah, and leopard, until it makes its own determination, which was not the original intent of CITES. Furthermore, the EU is proposing this interpretation for species listed on Appendix II, as well as on Appendix I, before allowing the import of trophies. Australia has long had this requirement for species listed on both appendixes. Clearly, the trophy hunting industry would become totally impossible if every party to CITES made its own separate determinations. Ideally, the range state in which the species occurs is in the best position, and has the greatest interest, in making such determination. However, Third World nations may be unable to fund all the necessary studies and documentation. A lack of funds should not be allowed to prevent such nations from using a conservation tool like tourist hunting. If further listing of species continues, it is all the more important that tourist hunting is not treated like high volume commercial trade.

Second, range state nations may impose stricter domestic regulations, as a result of pressure by the protectionist movement. Resolving this issue requires a co-operative approach, because SCI cannot represent mutual interests without the help and assistance of countries with hunting industries. Tanzania is complemented for its opposition to the elephant trophy import guidelines that were first illegally adopted by the OSA of the US CITES Management Authority, and then more recently re-proposed. Never before has there been such organized opposition and alliance of interest against a proposed regulation by the US OSA. Unfortunately, such opposition has never been necessary before!

All interested parties need to co-operate on this problem. SCI has attempted resolution of this issue through lawsuits in court, the hiring of a full time lobbyist and by public education programmes documenting the role and value of tourist hunting. Party nations must introduce appropriate resolutions at CITES Conferences of the Parties. It is necessary to clarify that Resolution Conference 2.11 only provides for an optional, rather than a mandatory, examination and proof of enhancement on the part of the importing nations. Furthermore, the obligation rests with the

exporting nation to determine whether the taking of a species is detrimental to the survival of that species. It is not the intent of CITES that importing parties presume that the findings of the exporting nations are false. It is not possible for 113 importing nations to make their own individual determinations that the exporting nation is best suited to make.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

The international hunting client sees hunting in Africa as the ultimate hunting experience. Furthermore, the hunting client believes that hunting provides a direct incentive for sustainable use of wildlife for otherwise impoverished rural people. International hunters can be proud of their participation in conservation in Africa. SCI will do everything in its power to stop any unnecessary interference with conservation options and intrusion upon sovereignty of range states. Range states must spend their money on more important activities than proving to other nations that low volume off-take such as tourist hunting is not detrimental. This issue needs co-operative work, and Tanzania is to be complemented on its stance thus far.