

NAMIBIA: SIGNIFICANT INCOME STREAM FROM TROPHY HUNTING PROJECTED

[The Southern Times](#), Namibia

Professional hunting activities are expected to bring in more than N\$ 4.3 million to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) this financial year, according to the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the 2016/2017 to 2018/2019 financial years tabled by Minister of Finance Calle Schlettwein. Estimates include N\$3.8 million from wildlife utilization permits and N\$150,000 from the registration of professional hunters, while other registration and licenses is estimated to rake in about N\$42, 000 during this financial year. The total number of conservancies in the country stands at 83 and benefits more than 300,000 rural Namibians. A total of 71 were awarded wildlife utilization quotas and trophy hunting, which has become the most important contributor of income to conservancies after photographic joint venture tourism.

“The Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) program has again proven that it can contribute towards the alleviation of poverty and the plight of rural communities. Development of enterprises to diversify income opportunities in many conservancies has been a key target and this was achieved under the CBNRM program,” a summary assessment of recent past performance achievements in the MTEF stated.

Concerns and debates around the role of trophy hunting in conservation areas raged last year after the killing of ‘Cecil the lion’ in Zimbabwe and an endangered black rhino in Namibia. These two incidents triggered the demand to ban trophy hunting in Namibia and throughout Africa, and some major airlines last year banned the transportation of hunters’ animal trophies. Meanwhile, the Namibian Cabinet directed the MET to actively campaign against such attempts to ban or restrict hunting and the export of wildlife products.

US COURT OVERTURNS BID TO STOP IMPORTATION OF NAMIBIAN RHINO TROPHIES

Gerhard R Damm

The Washington DC District Court has ruled that American hunters can import endangered black rhino trophies from Namibia into the United States despite opposition from two groups which argued that allowing the export of the trophies would encourage rhino poaching in Africa.

Delivering judgement in the joint lawsuit filed in the Washington DC District Court in April 2014 in which US-based Friends of Animals and the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force (ZCTF) sought a court interdict against the two black rhino hunts conducted in Namibia, Washington DC District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson ruled that there was no legal basis for the challenge. [Conservation Force](#) acted as legal representative of the Republic of Namibia’s [Ministry of Environment and Tourism](#) and [Dallas Safari Club](#).

Judge Jackson said the importation of rhino trophies did not constitute a threat to the preservation of the black rhino because they were issued by the Namibian government after considering the possible impacts on conservation.

Earlier, Namibian Information minister Hon. Tjekero Tweya announced that his government had resolved to reject all calls by groups opposed to its policy of allowing hunting of animals which include rhinos. “Cabinet directed the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to actively campaign

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa’s wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org

against any attempt to ban or restrict hunting and the export of wildlife products from Namibia. Cabinet took note that a code of conduct for conservation hunting is being developed, accompanied by improvements in the regulation of hunting and strengthening the link between hunting and conservation," Tweya said. In line with the policy, Namibia has directed all government ministers and agencies to campaign against the ban on trophy hunting.

In 2012 the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organization (NACSO) were awarded the prestigious [CIC Markhor Award](#) for the introduction and supporting of the Communal Conservancy Program in Namibia, which allows rural communities to facilitate the sustainable use of wildlife on communal land. As self-governing entities, the Namibian Communal Conservancies enjoy the same rights over wildlife and tourism that private farms do; as collectives they earn money on conservancy lands from hunting tourism and game sales as well as from joint ventures with lodge operators. As a consequence wildlife numbers increased dramatically.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded on extensive assessments of the conservation and management programs of black rhinos in Namibia, that the import of two sport-hunted black rhinoceros trophies from Namibia will benefit conservation of the species. The black rhino hunts associated with the imports of two sport-hunted trophies are consistent with the conservation strategy of Namibia, a country whose rhino population is steadily increasing, and will generate a combined total of \$550,000 for wildlife conservation, anti-poaching efforts and community development programs in Namibia. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Dan Ashe U.S. citizens make up a large share of foreign hunters who book trophy hunts in Africa and he concluded that "gives us a powerful tool to support countries that are managing wildlife populations in a sustainable manner and incentivize others to strengthen their conservation and management programs." Ashe also said that "the future of Africa's wildlife is threatened by poaching and illegal wildlife trade, not [by] responsible, scientifically managed sport hunting", and that "the Service remains committed to combating wildlife crimes while supporting activities that empower and encourage local communities to be a part of the solution."



**Namibian Minister of Environment and Tourism
Hon. Pohamba Shifeta**

In response to the judgment of Judge Jackson, the Namibian Minister of Environment and Tourism, Hon. Pohamba Shifeta pleaded with environmental lobby groups against hunting to put an end to what he explained would be detrimental to the conservation of rhinos and elephants. He said "the NGOs jointly applied to ban the importation of black rhino products which was dismissed, not on merit but on legal standing." Making a case for hunting, Shifeta argued, "our programs are known to be good projects. Our species of both black and white rhino are on an increase and there is nothing to worry about. Our conservation

efforts are clearly known. We have ethical hunting programs." He added, "conservation programs will be harmed if hunting stops," explaining that hunting supports 82 conservancies and accounted for 60% of income. "Imagine if you take that away. In accordance with our legislation and policies, the proceeds generated by means of trophy hunting should be reinvested into the conservation of that species. This fund pays for black rhino conservation projects approved by the Fund's board, such as law enforcement and anti-poaching units, community benefits and surveys. Our story has been hailed across the globe as it also seeks to empower Namibian citizens, particularly those in rural areas through employment creation and income generating activities" Shifeta concluded.

For further information on the rhino hunts please read the following articles

- [Black rhino hunter 100% certain he's helping survival of the species African Indaba 06-2015 Vol 13-3](#)
- [African Indaba interviews Corey Knowlton African Indaba 06-2015, Vol 13-3](#)
- [Can rhinos profit from trophy hunting? African Indaba 02-2014, Vol 12-1](#)



The Importance of Hunting towards Conservation

Namibia Professional Hunting Association Position Paper (4 March 2016)

With this position paper the executive committee of the Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA EXCO) wants to factually contribute to a better understanding of hunting, which, if conducted sustainably and ethically, hugely contributes to the protection of wildlife and its habitat. **Contact NAPHA CEO Tanja Dahl at ceo@napha.com.na for your copy of this document**



WORKING TOGETHER FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS AND PEOPLE ACROSS AFRICA AND EURASIA

Jacques Trouvilliez, Executive Secretary of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds ([AEWA](#))

One lesson that has been well and truly learned in nature conservation is that for policies to be really effective countries have to collaborate to address common problems. Within the UN system it is also recognized that this applies to the different Programs, Conventions and Agreements set up over the years. That each of these bodies has a distinct niche and a clear role does not justify a bunker mentality. By synergizing, cooperating and collaborating they can find common cause with natural allies and seek compromises with those whose agendas do not necessarily match their own.

[AEWA](#), the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, is a prime example of an organization that embodies this approach. It is a daughter agreement of the [Convention on Migratory Species](#) and specializes in waterbirds that use similar habitats and face similar threats along the African-Eurasian flyway. It was negotiated by countries from different continents, rich and poor, developed and developing, with territories in the frozen north through the temperate zones and the Tropics and across the Equator.

The coalition backing the Agreement includes governments and some NGOs with diametrically opposed perspectives – conservationists from [BirdLife International](#) and hunters from the [International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation \(CIC\)](#). It is a constituency united around

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