

PROPOSED BAN ON THE IMPORTING OF AFRICAN TROPHY GAME SPECIMENS INTO THE UK?

HOW IT WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY AND THE WILDLIFE INDUSTRY!

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Website dated 15/08/2020-**Trophy hunting is worth at least R 1.98 billion to the South African economy/News/NWU/North-West University.**

Trophy hunting is worth exceedingly more to the South African economy than thought before. A new study headed by Prof. Peet van der Merwe of the North-West University's (NWU's) research unit Tourism Research in Economic Environs and Society (TREES), in collaboration with Professional Hunters of South Africa (PHASA), has shown it can be as much as R1.98 billion, if not more.

The research aimed to determine the profile of trophy hunters in South Africa, their spending patterns and reasons for hunting, their hunting patterns as well as the economic impact of trophy hunting on South Africa.

The study further evaluated what the most popular species for hunting are and which generates the most income.

A total of 362 respondents completed questionnaires on PHASA website, revealing their spending on hunting for the 2015/2016 season.

"Our research, which was mainly focused on foreign tourists or hunters, showed that hunters spend an average of 10,300 US \$ per hunting trip," says Prof Van der Merwe. "This is about R134,500.00. The previous study we conducted in 2013 was not nearly as extensive and showed that the trophy hunting contributed R 1.3 billion to the economy. Although a lot, we underestimated the value."

"It also means that the market should stop underestimating hunters," he adds. "Hunters are not unwise. They don't want to be duped into a fake hunting experience-they want an authentic African experience. With increasing competition from Namibia, the industry cannot allow missteps like these and must provide quality hunting packages and experiences. Therefore nature and authentic hunts are important."

According to Prof Van der Merwe, competition from countries such as Namibia is good for the hunting industry. "It is important that we keep evaluating our product to stay a leader in the industry. It forces us to keep our infrastructure up to standard and our product pure."

"There is nothing as effective as 'word of mouth', and by supplying a product and experience of the highest quality, it will stand us in good stead. However, that is not enough. The National Department of Tourism (NDT) does a great deal to market South Africa as a tourism and eco-tourism destination, but hunting is mainly marketed by the private sector such as product owners and PHASA."

“It is a selective market, but more can be done by the NDT to support it. Hunting is a form of sustainable eco-tourism. Just look at the amount hunters spend compared to other tourists. It can also contribute more to creating jobs in rural areas. It is a lucrative niche market that should not be neglected. We can do more to protect its image.”

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Hunting Overseas.

In response to a recent D.C. Circuit Court *opinion*, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has revised its procedure for assessing applications to import certain hunted species. We have withdrawn our countrywide enhancement findings for a range of species across several countries. In their place, the Service is making findings for trophy imports on an application-by-application basis.

Hunting can contribute to Biodiversity Conservation.

Legal, well-regulated hunting as part of a sound management program can benefit the conservation of certain species by providing incentives to local communities to conserve the species and by putting much-needed revenue back into conservation. To support conservation, hunters should choose to hunt only in countries where hunting is well-regulated and there are strong compliance and enforcement measures, sound management practices and healthy wildlife populations.

Why am I required to have a permit to import or export certain hunted animals?

Permits are required to authorize activities that are otherwise prohibited under U.S. laws. Import and export of hunted animals that are protected under U.S. laws may require issuance of permits. By complying with permit requirements, your personal import will help conserve protected animal species and support the local communities where you hunt, further promoting conservation of these species and their habitats by providing incentives for protection.

How can I export sport-hunted trophies taken in the United States?

Before you make plans to export a sport-hunted trophy taken in the United States, you should contact the foreign country of import, as well as our Office of Law Enforcement, which handles inspections and clearances at U.S. ports of exit. Please be aware that certain requirements may apply regardless of the conservation stakes of your species of interest.

You must obtain a permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to the export of your hunted animal if the species is protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In addition, if the species is included in Appendix I of CITES, you will need to obtain a CITES import permit from the foreign country of import. Please be aware that if you conduct certain regulated activities, including export of a protected species, without the appropriate permits, you risk seizure of the specimens and a fine. If you are requesting to export trophies of species listed in Appendix I, II or III of CITES and /or indeed listed under the ESA, for your own personal use, you should complete application form 9-200-28.

How can I import sport-hunted trophies?

Before you make plans to import a sport-hunted trophy, it is important that you and your safari outfitter or guide understand the permitting, port inspection, and clearance requirements of both the United States and the foreign country in which you plan to hunt. Permits are required for the import of certain animal species. These permits provide a means to balance use and conservation of protected species. By complying with permit requirements, your personal import will help conserve protected animal species and support the local communities where you hunt, further promoting conservation of these species and their habitats by providing incentives for protection.

Generally, for import of sport-hunted trophies, you will need permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Services Division of Management Authority if the species you wish to import is protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In addition, for import of any CITES-listed species, you will need to obtain a CITES export permit from the foreign country, where you plan to hunt. Foreign countries may have additional exportation requirements, and so we encourage you and your hunting outfitter to contact them for guidance. Please be aware that if you conduct certain regulated activities without the appropriate permits, you risk seizure of the specimens and a fine.

Unsure about whether a permit is required?

Review our "Do I need a Permit" webpage, if you are unsure whether the animal species that you are importing, exporting, or re-exporting is listed under CITES and/or ESA.

Some species listed under CITES and/or the ESA have very specific requirements. If you are unsure whether you need to apply for a permit, please contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Our Customer Service Goals for Processing Permit Applications to Import Hunted Wildlife.

Each permit application we receive is reviewed and evaluated on a case-by-case basis. To better inform and service the public and to further fulfil the Service's conservation priorities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild fauna and Flora (CITES), we are outlining Service goals for processing trophy import permit applications in a timely and transparent manner. We continue to make all permitting decisions in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The guidance is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person. The facts and circumstances of an application or of activities on the ground, other limitations on Service resources, the need to consult with other bureaus or agencies, or legal requirements may require additional time or other variances from these goals.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Office of Law Enforcement.

Importing Personal Sport-Hunted Trophies from Africa:

Guidelines for U.S.Hunters.

General Requirements.

- Most hunting trophies imported from Africa come through a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated port. Under limited circumstances, you may be authorised under permit to use a port that does not normally handle wildlife trade. You must show that using one of our designated ports would result in substantial deterioration or loss of the wildlife, or would cause undue economic hardship. If you are importing your trophy through a non-designated port, you must have a copy of your valid port exception permit. You can find general information on importing, including our ports at:
http://www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/Info_Importers_Exporters.htm
- You must file a Declaration for Importation or Exportation of Fish or Wildlife (Form 3-177) with our wildlife inspectors at an authorised FWS port of entry and receive clearance before U.S. Customs and Border Protection releases your shipment. You may file your declaration electronically (<https://edecs.fws.gov/>) or in a hard copy form (form available at: <http://www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/faqs.htm>).
- We will charge a premium fee for inspecting your protected species trophy when you clear it through a designated port during normal business hours. You will pay both base inspection and premium fees if you use a port exception permit. You will pay overtime fees if you import outside of normal business hours. The Service also charges a fee when you apply for CITES or other wildlife import permits.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

- ❖ If your trophy animal is protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), you will need an original valid CITES export document from the country of export or re-export. If the animal is listed on CITES Appendix I (for example, leopard), you also need an original import permit from the United States. You must obtain this permit from the Service before you import your trophy.
- ❖ Trophies must be imported into the United States before all of your CITES documents must be validated upon export by the foreign country's inspecting officials. Your CITES documents must contain the information required by our regulations. See our guidance at: http://www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/Info_Importers_Exporters.htm
- ❖ If you import worked, manufactured or handicraft items made from your trophy for use as clothing, curios, ornamentation, jewelry, or other utilitarian items, you must have CITES documents that indicate a purpose other than hunting (H) for the items (i.e. personal, commercial). If you plan to import curios or other items either separately or in your trophy shipment that you purchased while overseas, be aware that there might be restrictions on what you can import.

- ❖ You must follow all permit conditions and make sure your trophies are tagged or marked as required. For example, crocodile or leopard skins must have a CITES tag inserted through the skin and locked in place using the locking mechanism of the tag. A mounted trophy must be accompanied by the tag from the skin used to make the mount. CITES documents must contain all the information that appears on the CITES tag.

Stricter U.S. Wildlife Laws.

- 🚦 You should be aware that there are several U.S. wildlife laws that may restrict the import of your trophy. If the animal is protected by the Endangered Species Act (for example, leopard, brown hyena or bontebok), you will need to obtain an endangered species import permit before importing your trophy. You can find the list of endangered species at: <https://www.fws.gov/endangered> . Some bird trophies (for example, hoopoe) may need permits under the Migratory Treaty Act. You can find the list of migratory birds at: <https://www.fws.gov/birds/management-species/migratory-bird-treaty-act-protected-species.php> .
- 🚦 Many countries require export permits for wildlife, even for species not protected under CITES. Be sure to check with the exporting country for any additional requirements. Importing trophies without permits required by a foreign country is a violation of U.S. law.

Other Agency Requirements.

- Many hunting trophies are subject to requirements and restrictions enforced by other U.S. federal agencies.
- General import requirements for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) can be found at: <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/basic-import-export> . If you are exporting and re-importing any guns, you should register with CBP before you go (<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-advises-hunters-planning-international-travel>).
- You can find animal import information for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/infosheets/guidanceforfoxhunters.pdf .including specific guidelines for importing ruminant, swine and bird trophies. Hunters should be aware that some shipments may need to be consigned and shipped to a USDA approved establishment.
- The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention have restrictions on the imports of animals that might be vectors, hosts or agents of disease. You can find information on these restrictions. In particular, on African rodents, non-human primates, and civets at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm> .

For additional information contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Office of Law Enforcement:

Phone: 703-358-1949

Fax: 703-358-2271

Email: lawenforcement@fws.gov