

**Should All Governments Ban Trophy Hunting?**

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## **Should All Governments Ban Trophy Hunting?**

Trophy hunting has been a topic of discussion today, with many governments either supporting or banning the practice within their boundaries. The difference in perceptions towards the issue is motivated by the positive and negative impacts associated with it. For instance, through the Conserving Ecosystem by Ceasing the Importation of Large Animal Trophies (CECIL) Act, the U.S government prohibits importing animal trophies from African countries that support the practice (Dickman et al., 2019). Trophy hunting is common in Africa, with its proponents saying that it conserves land and provides income. Various agencies like the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) advocate for controlled trophy hunting. The IUCN attributes trophy hunting to land protection and improvement of living standards. The reasons why all governments should not ban trophy hunting will be discussed in this paper.

Trophy hunting leads to land conservation ("Trophy hunting," 2019). Allowing landowners to practice trophy hunting helps them to conserve the ecosystem. It is a better practice than clearing forested areas for domestic routines like cattle keeping or crop cultivation. Well-managed trophy hunting helps prevent poaching and ensures guided hunting of specified animals. The animals include lions and rhinoceros, which have seen an upward trend in the species' existence (Batavia et al., 2019). Further conservation is experienced by reducing the number of poaching cases in countries that have legalized trophy hunting.

Trophy hunting enhances the control of the wildlife population ("Trophy hunting," 2019). Trophy hunting is an essential tool in controlling the numbers of wild animals in particular locations. In some areas with limited resources such as grass and land, the escalation of the number of animals such as deer can cause unexpected shortages, leading to the destruction of other species requiring vegetation. The population of parks and reserves for controlling animal

populations may be overcrowded, leading to human-animal conflicts as they search for food and space. Many grazers also threaten to destroy vegetation, which is essential for conserving land by preventing soil erosion. Sheikh & Bermejo (2019) argued that animals that endanger the ecosystem could be managed by legalizing trophy hunting.

Trophy hunting can help fund and support anti-poaching efforts ("Trophy hunting," 2019). Poaching is among the primary dangers facing wildlife in the world. Governments have set various measures to prevent and mitigate poaching with little or no success. The failure is due to the amount of capital required in successfully managing the practice (Lemieux, 2014). Instead of getting funds from other projects, the governments can legalize managed trophy hunting and use the funds to support anti-poaching strategies. The hunting packages are expensive, with most countries that legalized hunting of elephant trophies selling them for about 80000 dollars for a young elephant. According to Dickman et al. (2019), the IUCN states that controlled hunting of animal trophies can harness revenue and incentives, which is enough to help conserve wildlife and fight poaching.

Trophy hunting is a practice that has received mixed reactions from governments, with each having reasons for legalizing the practice or rejecting it. Governments should not ban trophy hunting because of the various benefits associated with it. One of the reasons is helping conserve land by private owners instead of clearing land for cattle keeping and agriculture. Trophy hunting is an alternative practice compared to deforestation. Therefore, it is an environmentally friendly method. The wildlife population is controlled through opportunistic species that can destroy the ecosystem. Moreover, the practice can help fund anti-poaching, which is costly for countries with other demanding challenges. These reasons are a good starting point for governments to legalize trophy hunting.

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