



**Joint Letter of the German Delegation of the
International Council for Game and Wildlife
Conservation (CIC)
and the German Hunters Federation (DJV)**



To

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Attn.: The Rt Hon, Zac Goldsmith, Minister of State

Mail to: huntingtrophyconsultation@defra.gov.uk

**The current debate in the UK on "trophy hunting" and the associated threat of import
or even export restrictions on hunting trophies**

Berlin, 25th of January 2020

Dear Sirs,

The German Delegation of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and German Hunters Association (DJV) follow the current debate in the UK on "trophy hunting" and the associated threat of import or even export restrictions on hunting trophies from sustainable, regulated hunting with utter astonishment and great dismay.

Both bodies hold the view that import or export bans on hunting trophies are a short-sighted instrument which only in very rare individual cases has been proven to lead to more protection efforts. In this context we refer to the ["Briefing Paper on Trophy Hunting" by World Conservation Union IUCN](#) from 2016.

The unilateral and biased actual debate in the UK fails to acknowledge the detrimental effects which such bans would have not only on the protection of wild animals and their habitats, but even more so on the livelihood of the affected mainly rural [human population](#).

We highly regret that neither representatives of countries affected by import bans nor practical conservationists with local experience nor scientists were heard yet. We refer to a [recent article in Science Magazine](#), stating that a further absence to hear representatives of affected countries such as Zimbabwe, Namibia or Botswana would be considered as "a denial of human rights".

In this context, the signatories of this paper strongly caution against populist interference against sustainable game management by sovereign states. Our African partners meanwhile see such interferences as neo-colonialistic and eco-imperialistic aspirations from Europe.



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In Germany, similar demands for import restrictions on hunting trophies are regularly clearly rejected both by the responsible [German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation \(BfN\) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment \(BMU\)](#): "The Federal Government is not backing a blanket import ban not only because it is not justified in technical terms, but also in order not to jeopardise protection projects that depend on income from hunting trophies gained by lawful, legal and sustainable hunting."

It is a widely proven fact that revenues from sustainable, regulated hunting have been financed important projects for the protection of wildlife, both in this country and internationally. Examples from Germany include the successful rescue of the remaining peregrine falcon population and its reintroduction into original habitats, the protection of curlews or lapwings from predation that threatens their existence, and protection projects for black grouse or [measures to improve the habitat](#) of partridge and hare.

Hunting trophies of game species such as red deer or chamois in Germany provide wildlife-biological conclusions and monitoring data. Trophies are much more than mere souvenirs.

They provide information on age structure, health status and therefore information on sustainability and success of hunting systems. This applies to deer species in the UK and [chamois in Germany](#) as well as to [markhor in Pakistan](#), [dall-sheep in the USA](#), [elephant in Botswana](#) or [mountain zebra in Namibia](#).

The undersigned associations support the fight against unethical hunting practices such as the so-called "Canned Lion Shooting" and strongly oppose such practices.

The undersigned associations support the improvement of established hunting systems when they are found to be deficient.

At the same time the undersigned associations reject import restrictions or blanket bans of any kind against trophies gained by means of regulated hunting as well as the resulting restrictions on practical hunting - which thus immediately interfere with basic human rights (and would immediately affect at least 5000-10.000 employees in the UK).

Such efforts demonstrably do not lead to more security against e.g. poaching, since, came such bans into effect, wild animals and their habitats would lose their value for landowners and the local human population, [as is clearly shown in Kenya](#).

The undersigned fear for the livelihood of the countryside population, landowners, gamekeepers and their families - all of them people with whom we share a common passion and goal, who we visit and who come to visit us (private individuals, but also for example stationed members of the English Forces). People who, like us, provide for income, the protection of wildlife and their habitats, the protection of agriculture and forestry, and the provision of one of the best food-sources: venison.

Before decisions are made, we ask DEFRA to hear the affected English families and landowners, scientists and practical conservationists from home and abroad, as well as



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representatives of countries that would be directly affected by import bans, and to base decisions on their statements.

Dr. Wilhelm von Trott zu Solz

Chairman, German Delegation of the CIC

Dr. Dirk-Henner Wellershoff

Vice-President of the DJV