



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Banning Trophy Hunting

IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday 1st July 2021

Cross-party politicians launch campaign for total ban on hunting trophies as new figures show rise in imports

A new All-Party Parliamentary Group on Banning Trophy Hunting is being launched on 1st July 2021, the anniversary of the shooting of Cecil the lion, as new figures show British hunters are bringing home growing numbers of trophies from threatened species.

The government pledged in the Conservatives' 2019 election manifesto to ban trophies of endangered species. However an opinion poll carried out by Survation (1,020 respondents, March 2021) shows that 85% of voters want a total ban on all hunting trophies. The figure among Conservative supporters is even higher, at 89%.

New figures show there has been a rise in the number of animal trophies being brought home by British hunters. In 2019 – the most recent year for which full CITES data is available – British hunters brought back 195 trophies of protected species, up 79% on the previous year's figure.

They included the body parts of elephants (including tusks), bears, giraffes, hippos, leopards, zebras, monkeys, and 'canned' lions bred in captivity and hunted within fenced-in enclosures. It is believed that the total number of trophies imported every year into Britain may be as high as 1,000.

Conservative Sir Roger Gale MP (North Thanet) is the Chair of the new All-Party Parliamentary Group. He said:

"The government's commitment to a ban on trophy imports is welcome. Clearly what is needed is a total ban on all 'trophy' imports and I trust that that is what the legislation will, as I have been led to believe, deliver. This is a golden opportunity for Britain to show leadership on the international stage and work with our global partners to end this shocking and outmoded pastime."

Co-chair Baroness Sue Hayman of Ullock, the former Shadow Defra Minister, added:

"There is strong support across both sides and in both houses of parliament for a comprehensive ban on hunting trophies. Labour is prepared to work with the government in implementing legislation which places Britain at the fore of bringing this archaic, brutal pastime to an end."

The group's vice-chairs are Dr Lisa Cameron MP (SNP), Lord Chris Rennard (Lib Dem) and Hywel Williams MP (Plaid Cymru). Other officers are: Kevin Brennan MP, Amy Callaghan MP, Dave Doogan MP, Margaret Ferrier MP, Baroness Gale, Andrew Gwynne MP, Pauline Latham MP, Kate Osborne MP, and Christina Rees MP.

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KEY FACTS: UK Trophy Imports

- **CANNED LIONS:** Over the past decade, British hunters brought home 88 trophies of captive-bred Lions they had shot in enclosures.
- **ELEPHANTS:** Elephants are the most popular CITES-listed animal among British hunters. The UK is one of just 12 countries whose trophy hunters have brought home more than 1,000 elephant trophies as well as over 1 tonne of tusks since CITES came into being.
- **ENDANGERED SPECIES:** British hunters have taken hundreds of trophies from some of the world's most endangered animals including Black rhinos, White rhinos, Cheetahs, Polar bears, Leopards, and Tigers that had been bred in captivity in South Africa for trophy hunting. They have also shot species that are classed by IUCN as Extinct in the Wild.
- **MONKEYS:** British trophy hunters have killed approximately 500 African monkeys and baboons since CITES came into force. Around 100 were shot in the last decade.
- **ZEBRAS:** Imports of zebra trophies have almost quadrupled in recent years. Between 1988-1997, 44 zebra trophies were brought into Britain. Between 1998-2007 UK hunters brought in 111 trophies. In the following decade, 2008-2017, the number jumped to 159.
- **TROPHIES SINCE CECIL:** Since 2015 – the year Cecil the lion was killed – British trophy hunters have brought home approximately 5,000 hunting trophies, of which 996 were from threatened species - an average of nearly 200 trophies of CITES-protected species per year.

Hunting trophies of threatened species in 2019 came from 25 species including:

- **African elephant** – 15 trophies including **tusks** and **bones**
- **Baboons** (4 different species) – 34 trophies including **skins** and **skulls**
- **Barbary Sheep** – bred in captivity
- **Bear (brown)** – 13 trophies including **skins**
- **Crocodile (nile)** – 7 trophies including **skins** and **skulls**
- **Giraffe** – 4 trophies
- **Hippopotamus** – 27 trophies including **teeth** and **tusks**
- **Honey badger** – eg **skins**
- **Hyena** (striped)
- **Lechwe** – including animals bred in captivity
- **Leopard** – 12 trophies including **skins**
- **Lion** – 12 trophies including 9 from 'canned' lions bred in captivity and shot in enclosures
- **Monkey (vervet)** – 12 trophies
- **Scimitar-horned oryx** – classed as Extinct in the Wild by IUCN; bred in captivity for trophy hunting in South Africa and the US
- **Wild goat**
- **Zebra** (2 species) – 14 trophies including **skins**