

Meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Banning Trophy Hunting.

Date: 1st July 2020

Attendees: (Together with Eduardo Gonçalves – Secretariat)

MPs & Peers	Staff	NGOs
Sir Roger Gale MP	Keith Chapman [for Kate Osborne MP]	Lion Aid: Christine MacSween & Pieter Kat
Baroness Hayman of Ullock	Lynne Rouse [For Margaret Ferrier MP]	Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting: Siobhan Mitchell
Christine Rees MP	Matt Miller [For John Nicolson MP]	Conservative Animal Welfare Foundation: Lorraine Platt
Dave Doogan MP	Iain Dow [For Dr Lisa Cameron MP]	Labour Animal Welfare Society: Jane Evans on behalf of Mark Glover
Pauline Latham MP		HSI UK Claire Bass
Margaret Ferrier MP		World Animal Protection Vanessa Amoroso
Amy Callaghan MP		FOUR PAWS UK Becky Dharpaul

Apologies received:

Kevin Brennan MP, Baroness Gale, Kate Osborne MP, John Nicolson MP, Baron Rennard, Mark Jones [Born Free]

Sir Roger Gale MP:

Opened the meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group [APPG] on Banning Trophy Hunting and congratulated Eduardo Goncalves on his new book and the coverage it received in the press. Sir Roger then asked Mr Goncalves to take the Chair for the 'Election of Officers'.

Election of Officers:

All elected unopposed:

Chair: Sir Roger Gale MP
Co-Chair: Baroness Hayman of Ullock

Vice Chairs:

Dr Lisa Cameron MP
Baron Rennard
Hywel Williams MP

Officers:

Kevin Brennan MP
Amy Callaghan MP
Dave Doogan MP
Baroness Gale of
Andrew Gwynne MP
Pauline Latham MP
Christine Rees MP

Oral Update from Mr Eduardo Goncalves [Secretariat]

There are approximately 200 trophies from CITES listed species imported into Britain each year. Approximately 1/5 are elephants and others include hippos, baboons, lions, leopards, zebras, giraffes and monkeys. British hunters also bring back cheetahs, polar bears, rhinos etc.

This does not give the full picture. There are a number of other animals that British trophy hunters are shooting such as warthogs and wildebeest and other African wildlife which are not classed as endangered. There are not counted therefore there is no data.

So, the best estimate is circa 1000 trophies are imported into Britain every year. The government has pledged to ban imports of trophies from endangered species. A very welcome step. However, it does mean that potentially up to 80% of the trophies that come into Britain will still be able to be imported.

The government should clarify its definition of endangered species. The current criteria as explained by is as follows:

- Species listed in Annexes A and B of the EU wildlife trade regulations.
- Species that are classed as endangered or critically endangered or extinct in the wild, on the IUCN Red List.

It is good to have a framework, however that framework does leave open a couple of questions, one of which is that there are a number of species which CITES considers to be at risk of extinction, including at least in part because of hunting, which could be left off the list because they're not featured in the annexes A and B of the wildlife trade regulations or classed as Endangered+ by IUCN. An example of that is the reindeer which are a popular species among some trophy hunters - they would fall through the gap.

So as the criteria currently stands, British hunters will still be able to hunt reindeer and bring back trophies of reindeer even though their classed as vulnerable to extinction and one of the causes of that status is hunting.

There are also other anomalies. For example, trophies from Hartmann Zebras would be prohibited, but not trophies of Common or Plains Zebras. Similarly, with Hyenas - trophies of Brown Hyenas would be prohibited, but not those of Striped Hyenas. So, there definitely needs some clarification.

But probably the most important thing is that it doesn't reflect where the public is on this. Voters feel that, essentially, all trophies should be banned because all animals that are hunted for trophies suffer equally and that it is wrong. It is not the case that an animal is going to suffer any more or less because they're in more or less danger.

As far as voters are concerned, 85% want a total ban on hunting trophies and only 3% support the position that the government is putting forward that there should be a ban on trophies of only endangered species.

I would hope that the role of the All-Party Parliamentary Group would be to support and encourage the government to bring forward this legislation, to make it as expansive and as comprehensive as possible, and ensuring that there are effective enforcement mechanisms and tough punitive measures included in the bill.

Aims and Objectives:

The following draft objective for the APPG was presented:

The objectives of the APPG on banning trophy hunting are: "To secure a comprehensive and properly enforced UK ban on trophy hunting imports, and for Britain to be a global leader in helping to end trophy hunting".

Following discussion, the following amended objective was approved unanimously:

"to secure a comprehensive and properly enforced UK ban on all trophy hunting imports and for Britain to be a global leader in helping to enter trophy hunting".

Meeting Closed. Thanks from the Chair Sir Roger Gale MP to attendees and the secretariat.