



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Call for evidence on the scale and impacts of the import and export of hunting trophies

November 2019 (updated: January 2020)



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We are asking for evidence which will help us to better understand the import and export of hunting trophies and its impacts. We'll use the evidence gathered, alongside responses to our consultation, to inform whether any further action is required to address any negative consequences of poorly managed trophy hunting.

We are grateful for any evidence or information that you can provide to address any of the issues raised as part of the consultation. Evidence can come in many forms and could be numerical data, case studies, personal experiences, or reports and documents, whether they are historic or new.

We are looking for expert advice on the following areas:

- conservation
- the scale of the impact of further restrictions on the import and export of hunting trophies
- international action
- building a wildlife economy
- animal welfare

About you

Confidentiality and data protection

This call for evidence document and process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this call for evidence, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality

can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

This call for evidence is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office “Consultation Principles” and be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

If you have any comments or complaints about the process, please address them to:

Consultation Coordinator

Area 6B, 6th Floor

Nobel House

17 Smith Square,

London, SW1P 3JR.

Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

Question 1: What is your name?

Question 2: What is your email address?

Question 3: What is your organisation?

If you're replying as an individual, please type 'individual'.

**Question 4: Would you like your response to be confidential?
(Required)**

Conservation

We recognise that some conservationists believe that trophy hunting can be an effective conservation tool, supporting local livelihoods and attracting revenues for other conservation activities. We also recognise there is evidence that badly managed trophy hunting can have negative impacts on wild animal populations, including on populations of animals of non-target species.

Question 5: Please provide any evidence you have on the impacts on species conservation and the natural environment of the import and export of hunting trophies to and from the UK.

Question 6: Are there greater impacts from the import and export of hunting trophies to and from the UK on some species over others?

The scale of the impact of further restrictions on the import and export of hunting trophies

We would like further information to understand the scale of imports and exports of hunting trophies, as well as any impacts on UK businesses from further restrictions. We would like to understand more about the potential scale of any impacts.

Question 7: Please provide evidence of the number of hunting trophies entering and leaving the UK, which species these are derived from and which animal parts they consist of or are made from (e.g. head, paws, skin).

We are particularly interested in information about hunting trophies which do not currently require a CITES import or export permit.

Question 8: Please provide any evidence to assist our understanding of the number of companies which are supported by the movement of hunting trophies between the UK and other countries.

Question 9: Would UK businesses be impacted by stricter controls on the import and export of hunting trophies and, if so, how?

If possible, please provide evidence of the (i) potential magnitude of both one off and ongoing impacts, including value and/or number of sales, (ii) types of businesses (e.g. small and medium size enterprises) and (iii) distributional impacts (e.g. transfer of income between businesses and sectors).

International action

We recognise that a change in the UK's policy in relation to the import and export of hunting trophies may have an impact on other countries. We would like further information on these impacts.

For example, we understand that some countries have imposed bans or stricter measures on imports of hunting trophies, including the USⁱ, Australia, the Netherlands and Franceⁱⁱ. The measures vary from imports being judged on a case by case basis in the US, to targeted bans on hunting trophies made from specified parts of a particular species (e.g.

lion heads, paws and skins), for example in France, and a broader set of measures restricting imports of hunting trophies from over 200 species, as in the Netherlandsⁱⁱⁱ. A small number of countries have also introduced domestic legislation to restrict the practice of trophy hunting, including Brazil^{iviii}, Kenya^v, India^{vi} and Malawi^{vii}.

Question 10: We are interested in finding out more about other countries' restrictions on trade, import or export of hunting trophies, or domestic restrictions on the practice of trophy hunting itself. Please provide any information and/or evidence that you are aware of on this.

Question 11: Please provide evidence of the impacts of restrictions on trade, import or export of hunting trophies, or impacts of domestic restrictions on the practice of trophy hunting on:

- a) species conservation and natural environment
- b) livelihoods and the well-being of rural communities living with wildlife
- c) economic development

Building a wildlife economy

We would like to explore alternative means which can deliver the benefits to conservation and local people that trophy hunting operations are considered by some to bring. The viability of alternatives such as photo-tourism have been contested^{viii ix x}.

Question 12: Please provide any evidence of the impact that import and export of hunting trophies to and from the UK has on supporting local livelihoods.

Question 13: Please provide any evidence of alternative practices that could deliver similar ecological, social and economic benefits in the UK and abroad to those that trophy hunting is purported to provide.

Question 14: Please provide any evidence on the scale of revenues from trophy hunting, particularly in relation to other sectors in the economy.

Question 15: How much money goes back to communities from trophy hunting compared to other activities such as wildlife tourism?

Animal welfare

We understand that there have been some reports of sub-standard animal welfare relating to poorly managed trophy hunting, which has caused physical or mental stress to animals.

Question 16: Please provide any evidence to support any concerns about sub-standard welfare of animals which are hunted for trophies.

How to respond

You can either respond via the online form (preferred): <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-management/call-for-evidence-trophy-hunting>

in writing to: Hunting trophy team, Seacole building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

or by emailing huntingtrophyconsultation@defra.gov.uk.

UPDATE: We are aware that some individuals and organisations may not have been able to fully engage in this call for evidence as a result of the pre-election and Christmas periods. The call for evidence closing date has therefore been extended. This is in line with best practice guidelines to ensure interested parties have sufficient time to respond.

Responses must be received by 11:59pm on 25 February 2020.

Bibliography

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^x Dickman, A., Cooney, R., Johnson, P.J., Pia Louis, M., Roe, D., and 128 signatories (2019). Trophy hunting bans imperil biodiversity. *Science* 365(6456), pp. 874.