

A Review of the Global Trophy Hunting Procedures and Processes with Illustrations from Zimbabwe

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Abstract

Trophy hunting has become one of the most topical and controversial tourism and conservation issues in the world today. This informative and analytical paper exposes the loopholes in the practice's procedures and processes with illustrations from Zimbabwe and then proffers feasible recommendations for the sustainability of the practice. Data for the illustrations was collected from in-depth interviews with national park authorities, registered hunting operators, some local communities around the hunting areas and the hunters themselves. This research revealed that although the global trophy hunting procedures and processes were well laid out as set by world body organisations such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species (CITES), there were several loopholes in the system which needed urgent attention especially for Zimbabwe. The study recommends that countries such as Zimbabwe, which rely heavily on wildlife tourism, should not necessarily adopt a 'me too approach' and ban trophy hunting. Rather, they should get rid of the weaknesses inherent in the trophy hunting procedures and processes highlighted in this paper to ensure a win-win situation for the practice. Further research needs to be undertaken to document the contribution of trophy hunting to the decimation of big game in such countries so that any decision to ban the practice can be justified.

Key Words: Trophy hunting, loopholes, hunting concessions, national park, hunting procedures and processes.

Introduction

Trophy hunting is a specific and selective legal form of wildlife hunting that involves payment for a hunting experience and the acquisition of a trophy by the hunter (Baldus and Cauldwell, 2004). In most cases, the hunters target, the oldest animal in a given population, preferably a male with the largest body size, antlers or horns. (Baker, 1997, Lindsey *et. al.*, 2007(a) and Buckley, 2014). According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (2012), the elements that differentiate this type of hunting from the broad array of other hunting activities include the fact that the hunters pay a high fee to hunt an animal with trophy characteristics of their choice since hunter motivations vary widely (Lindsey *et. al.*, 2007). This kind of hunting is also characterized by low off-take volumes and is usually undertaken by hunters from countries or areas other than where the hunt occurs (Baker 1997). The animals to be hunted in this type of hunting should be in their native geographic areas and not be in enclosures where they cannot use their natural ability to escape (Lindsey, 2008).

When did trophy hunting begin in Africa?

Extent literature reveals that trophy hunting in Africa was introduced in the early 1950s as a response to uncontrolled hunting and the resultant decimation of game stocks in the continent (Lindsey *et. al.*, 2007). The idea was to preserve the remaining wildlife through controlled hunting. Today, trophy hunting is a US\$200 million per annum industry in the 23 Sub-Saharan African countries where it is practiced and a US\$20 million industry per annum in Zimbabwe alone (Mayor, 2015 and Lindsey, 2008).

The rationale for trophy hunting

Trophy hunting was introduced in the continent when proactive conservationists foresaw disaster at the rate at which human populations were increasing and the rate at which wildlife numbers and habitats were shrinking. If this uncontrolled hunting had been allowed to continue, perhaps the only animals that would be living today would only be those domesticated by man. Since the introduction of controlled hunting, a lot of animals which would otherwise be extinct today are still surviving and in some instances have increased in number. As an example, in the 2004 13th Conference of the Parties (CoP13) of CITES, South Africa was granted limited hunting of the endangered Southern White Rhino. Since then, data from IUCN African Specialist Group indicates that, the numbers of Southern White Rhino have increased from 1 800 to over 20 000 (IUCN, 2009). However, this may not be the case with other hunted animals in other hunting grounds. Today, there are several other reasons that can be forwarded in support of trophy hunting. These are as follows;

Firstly, trophy hunting is generating most of the revenue being used to cover the costs of protecting and growing the depleted and extinction threatened wildlife populations worldwide (Lewis and Jackson, (2005) and Lindsey, (2008). Unfortunately, most of the countries that habitat this game are economically struggling and donor agencies and non-consumptive wildlife activities on their own have and are failing to sustain the costs of wildlife conservation which include; intensive anti-poaching and monitoring patrols, game ranger salaries, borehole drilling, animal micro-chips, vaccines, helicopters, vehicles and many more (Mayor, 2015).

Secondly, trophy hunting has given economic value to land that would otherwise be deemed useless. In Zimbabwe and as shown in figure 1, most of the country's national parks and wildlife areas are located in peripheral, dry and fragile environments not suitable for agriculture and some are not even suitable for human habitation as they are located in tsetse and mosquito infested areas. Others such as Gonarezhou and the wildlife area now run by Wild Horizons in Victoria Falls had to be de-mined to pave way for the animals.

Thirdly, trophy hunting contributes to the development of communities living in juxtaposition or in co-existence with wildlife in the hunting areas (Damm, 2005). However, it is the extent of benefit that is worrisome. As cited by Mayor (2015) studies have shown that only 3% of the proceeds actually filter down to the local communities. Most of the money is siphoned off by the hunting industry and government officials. However, the problem of percentages should not be overlooked here, as this is 3% of US\$20 million for Zimbabwe alone. This translates to US\$600 000 filtering down to Zimbabwe's local communities annually!

Fourthly, aside revenue generation, trophy hunting is source of employment for the locals. As an example, according to Packer *et. al.*, (2009) in Tanzania, trophy hunting employed approximately 3,700 people in 2004 and in turn, those workers supported 88 240 family members. The local communities are also expected to acquire the meat from the hunting expeditions and hence where trophy hunting is well managed, the revenue and employment generated give local people an incentive to suppress poaching and keep animals alive but unfortunately, the benefits do not always go to people on the ground (Nelson *et. al.*, 2013).

Figure 1: Zimbabwe trophy hunting areas (Source: Safari Operators Association of Zimbabwe SOAZ)



Fifthly, trophy hunting is a high value low volume activity (Lindsey, Roulet and Romanach, 2007a). Therefore, the activity is more environmentally friendly compared to other non-consumptive wildlife based activities such as game drives. In some instances, trophy hunting also gets rid of wild animals that would have grown dangerous to the rest of the other animals and to humans. Some of the animals will no longer be reproductive but will still be able to prevent the younger and fertile males from entering their harem or even kill them (Lindsey, 2005 and Nelson et. al., 2013).

Last but not least, there are claims by some authors such as Lindsey (2007b) that the consciousness that an area is a hunting area and the actual presence of trophy hunters sometimes deters poachers. This observation however needs to be substantiated.

In which areas is trophy hunting legally granted and inhibited globally and in Zimbabwe?

In most countries of the world, trophy hunting is permitted in many areas including safari areas, private game ranches, communal area concessions, private hunting concessions, conservancy areas, protected game reserves, private game parks and many more. In some countries such as South Africa, permitted hunting has been granted even in sanctuaries. In Zimbabwe, there are three areas in which trophy hunting is permitted. These include state land, private land or conservancies and communal areas. Under state land there are Park Safari Areas and Forest Areas. Zimbabwe has 16 designated safari areas most of which are shown in figure 1. The Forest Areas are managed by the Forestry Commission.

There are several private land owners in the country who are engaged in wildlife farming or ranching and thus offer sport hunting facilities to the public. Communal areas in juxtaposition with wildlife areas in the country are allocated hunting quotas every year for sport hunting so that they realise some benefits from the wildlife which in many instances destroy their crops, livestock and sometimes human life. Since most of the country's rural District Councils who are supposed to administer this wildlife utilization program have no capacity to provide professional hunters and outfitting services, they usually flight tenders for these services to safari operators. The proceeds from the hunting quotas are supposed to be ploughed back into developmental projects for the concerned local communities. In addition, the local communities are also expected to receive the meat from other hunting expeditions carried out in the area.

Trophy hunting is not permitted in Zimbabwe's national parks as indicated in figure 1 and yet this is where most of the reported poaching and reckless killing of wildlife is occurring. As an example, Zimbabwe's Minister of Environment, Water and Climate confirmed that, "at least 55 elephants were killed in Hwange National Park since early 2015" (Muza, 2013). One wonders whether such heinous acts are committed on the trophy hunting ticket.

Why is trophy hunting increasingly becoming an emotive and controversial issue today?

There are several reasons why trophy hunting has become an emotive issue today. One reason could possibly be because poachers are taking advantage of the hunting that is already permitted to illegally kill the animals. In countries such as Tanzania, which holds 30-50% of all Africa's wild lions, trophy hunting appears to be the primary driver of lion population declines outside protected areas (Lindsey, 2005). According to a UK-based Charity Lion Aid, trophy hunters in Zimbabwe killed around 800 lions in the 10 years to 2009, out of a population in the country of up to 1,680. This is compared to a total of 990 lions killed for sport in Botswana, Zambia, Namibia and Mozambique combined over the same period. Those who are against the practice, especially animal rights activists and some conservationists argue that, in areas where wildlife hunting is permitted, animal numbers are alarmingly dwindling (Packer, *et. al.* 2009). Among the conservationists, there is no consensus over the effectiveness of trophy hunting as a conservation tool possibly due to the negative publicity that the practice is receiving. This skepticism is perhaps being driven by the fact that most of the existing literature is skewed

towards anti-hunting. Pro-hunting literature is quite limited and is mostly confined to hunting publications and persons interested in the practice (Lindsey, 2007b). Outcries from local communities of not deriving value from the trophy hunting expeditions have also simmered anti-trophy hunting feelings among many people (Lindsey, 2008). Trophy hunting procedures are also being flouted left, right and centre in most of the countries where the practice is still permitted. For Zimbabwe, the Minister of Environment water and Climate recently clearly admitted that the rules were not water-tight (Muza, 2013).

In light of the above discussion, there are a number of pertinent questions that need to be addressed in relation to trophy hunting especially in Zimbabwe today. The first one is, "Is trophy hunting still a noble cause"? As a response and in the light of the above definition and the original intentions of trophy hunting, anybody would be tempted to resoundingly say 'yes'. If the answer to this question is yes, then as presented by Mayor (2015), the next question that needs to be addressed is, "Is selling permits to trophy hunters the issue that ought to be brought to trial here or the trophy hunting procedures and processes that need to be well policed and enforced?" In other words, can we ban a noble cause because its procedures and processes are being flouted and that criminals are riding on its existence to poach and decimate wildlife in the continent and for Zimbabwe in particular?

For some countries such as Zimbabwe, one would want to ask, "to what extent is trophy hunting contributing to wildlife poaching and decimation in the backdrop of numerous wildlife management problems in the form of corruption, negligence of duty by wildlife officials, poaching, seasonal veldfires, climate change, fast track land reform programs and a psychological instinct to want to kill any wildlife on sight among the populace?" The researchers are convinced that, it is the purpose of trophy hunting that is critical here instead of the 'me too' approach to ban trophy hunting and deprive the country and its impoverished local communities of a US\$20 million dollar industry. This is where the country then argues that advocating for a ban on trophy hunting is equivalent to imposing sanctions on the country instead of assisting the country to get rid of corruption and up efforts to conserve its remaining wildlife in a win-win situation. This paper argues that, it is the country's trophy hunting procedures and processes that need to be well policed and enforced and for this to happen, the current processes and procedures need to be analysed to expose the loopholes so that they are dealt with. This was the main objective of this paper.

Overview of existing literature on trophy hunting

A lot of literature exists on trophy hunting worldwide. However, it is pertinent to point out from the onset that, in as much as there are a lot of peer reviewed articles on the topic, there is also a significant amount of gray literature on the subject matter as alluded to earlier on. To manage this overwhelming literature, this article mainly focused on trophy hunting in Africa and dwelt on literature not more than a decade old (2005-2015). In this period, one of the most prominent authors who has researched and written extensively and consistently on trophy hunting in Africa is Peter A. Lindsey. His works are cited by almost every journal article on trophy hunting in Africa published after 2005. There are many other authors who have also contributed to this topic some of whose contributions will be overviewed in this section.

In terms of area of study, most articles on trophy hunting in Africa have focused on those parts of the continent with vibrant wildlife based tourism industries and with the most prominent trophy hunting areas. Focus has therefore been on East, West and Southern Africa, with very few

articles on trophy hunting in North Africa. In terms of trophy hunting discussion themes, the tendency has been to focus and research on the economic and conservation significance of trophy hunting to the continent and debate on whether the practice should be sustained or banned. Very few authors have focused on the trophy hunting procedures and processes in the continent perhaps because these are clearly laid out by key world bodies such as the IUCN, UNWTO and CITES and in national statutory instruments and acts. This is quite unfortunate as it is obvious that most of the challenges facing the practice today could be emanating from loopholes inherent in these processes and procedures. In the face of new challenges raised by technological advances, climate change, human-animal conflicts and many more, these procedures and processes need to be constantly fine-tuned to plug any emerging loopholes.

Methodologically, there are no detailed methodology sections in the existing gray literature which raises serious doubts on the trustworthiness and worthiness of the data. For the published journal articles, only a few articles have significant methodology sections especially macro-scale studies covering regional parts of the continent such as Southern Africa, West Africa and East Africa.

However, for individual country and specific hunting areas or micro-scale studies, these are provided. In the foreseeable future, debates and more articles on whether to ban or keep the practice of trophy hunting appear imminent. The researchers however wish that more researches could be conducted aimed at alternative ways of addressing the loopholes revealed in this paper.

Methodology

A qualitative research design or method of enquiry was adopted for this research as many researchers consider this the optimal design in collecting data on individuals' perspectives and experiences particularly when sensitive topics are being explored.

The study participants

The study participants for this research consisted of key stakeholders to the trophy hunting practice in Zimbabwe. These were;

(i) The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA): The key informant to this organization was its Spokesperson and Public Relations Officer. The organization was included due to its role as the issuer of hunting licenses and permits and is the custodian of all wildlife in the country.

(ii) The Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA): This was included for its role in ensuring the registration of all trophy hunting agencies and safari operators in the country.

(iii) The Safari Operators Association of Zimbabwe (SOAZ): This is a private sector association which assists its safari operator members in the business of running their operations. Membership to this association is optional and members' activities include photographic safaris and accommodation in the wilderness, as well as hunting operations in designated areas. SOAZ also assists prospective visitors in obtaining information on activities available. They also keep operators up to date on official requirements regarding the licensing and running of tourism facilities in Zimbabwe. This is the voice of the hunting operators who

arrange hunts for both professional hunters and ordinary clients or tourists. The chairperson of the organization was the key informant for this research.

(iv) The Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force: This is an organization working with all sectors of the society to conserve and ensure the sustainability of wildlife resources in the country. The chairman of the organization was also the key informant for the research.

(v) The CAMPFIRE Association of Zimbabwe: The Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE), is a community-based natural resource management programme in which Rural District Councils, on behalf of communities on communal land, are granted the authority to market access to wildlife in their district to safari operators. The chairperson was the key informant for this organization.

(vi) The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP): The police were included in this study as these were augmenting and reinforcing anti-poaching efforts by the ZPWMA. The officers in charge of police stations at Shangani, Gwayi and Dete hunting areas were also participants in this research.

(vii) The Zimbabwe Professional Guides and Hunters Association (ZPGHA): This is an association dedicated to the persual of ethical and sportsman like hunting and guiding in Zimbabwe. The organization aims at maintaining the highest standards of professionalism amongst its members and is committed to the long term management and utilisation of wildlife. The organization trains and educates future hunters and guides in the industry both in Zimbabwe and in Africa as a whole.

(viii) Hunting Agencies/Safari operators: These were included as they are responsible for organizing hunts on behalf of their clients which could be professional hunters or ordinary tourists without hunting licenses. A total of 25 hunting operators as sampled in table 1 were telephone interviewed.

Table 1: Sampled hunting operators for interviews

Province	Harare	Bulawayo & Mat. South	Masvingo	Manicaland & Mash. East	Mash. West & Central	Midlands	Mat. North	Totals
Total number of Hunting Operators (HOP)	9	33	1	4	11	7	10	75
Sample	3	11	0	1	4	3	3	25

NB* Total number of Hunting Operators were derived from the National Manpower Advisory Council (NAMACO) Human Capital Audit Report of 2014

(ix) District Administrators: These were included as they were the local authorities hunters reported to before the hunt. They also played a significant role in the distribution of hunting benefits. District administrators for Shangani, Gwayi and Dete were therefore taken as the respondents in this category.

Data collection methods and instruments

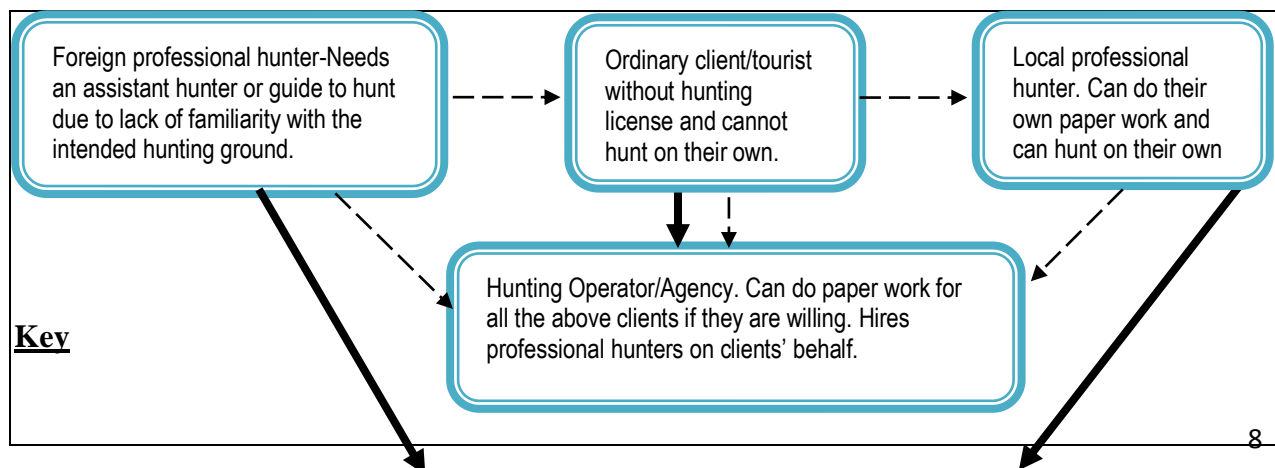
In-depth unstructured personal and face to face interviews were used to collect data from all the key informants in 3.2 above except for the hunting operators where telephone interviews were used to verify and augment responses from the key informants of the various stakeholders. The hunting agencies/operators involved were mainly from Bulawayo and Harare and were registered with the ZTA. Voice recorders and notepads were the key data collection instruments for the in-depth face to face interviews for the key informants. Content analysis was the key data analysis technique used to reveal the loopholes in the country's trophy hunting processes and procedures. Most data from the gray literature was highly opinionated and emotional, raising concerns on the worthiness and trustworthiness of the data. A significant level of response error was also recorded as evidenced by the sometimes contradictory responses to the same issue from the different stakeholders. Non-response errors on matters relating to corruption which the respondents thought were too sensitive and confidential to discuss were also encountered. The researchers did not consider written consent from individual respondents as practical and necessary and hence only verbal consent for the in-depth interviews were obtained. However, soft and/or hard copies of the completed paper were given to the study participants to verify the facts they had raised in the interview.

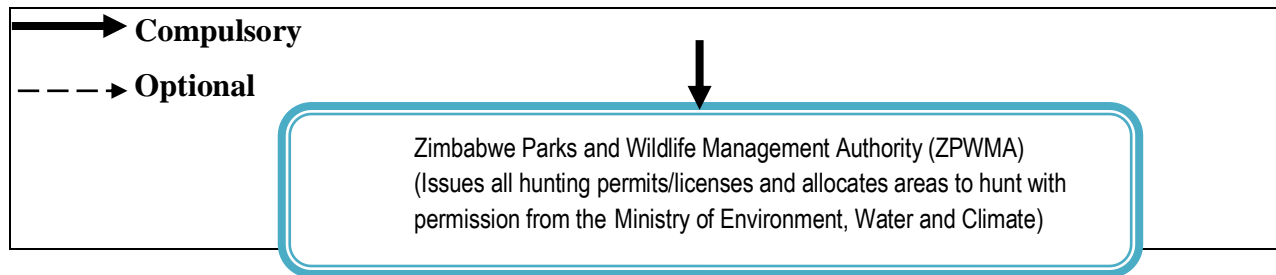
Findings

An exposé of Zimbabwe's trophy hunting procedures and processes

The country's trophy hunting procedures and processes will be presented here to enable the readership to understand and appreciate where the loopholes in the country's trophy hunting system emanate from. The procedures presented are mostly for foreign professional hunters intending to hunt in Zimbabwe but however, variations in these procedures with regards to client/ ordinary tourist and local professional hunters are also highlighted. Before the hunting steps can be presented, it is pertinent to point out that, three trophy hunting license scenarios for the country were revealed by the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA). These scenarios are depicted in figure 2.

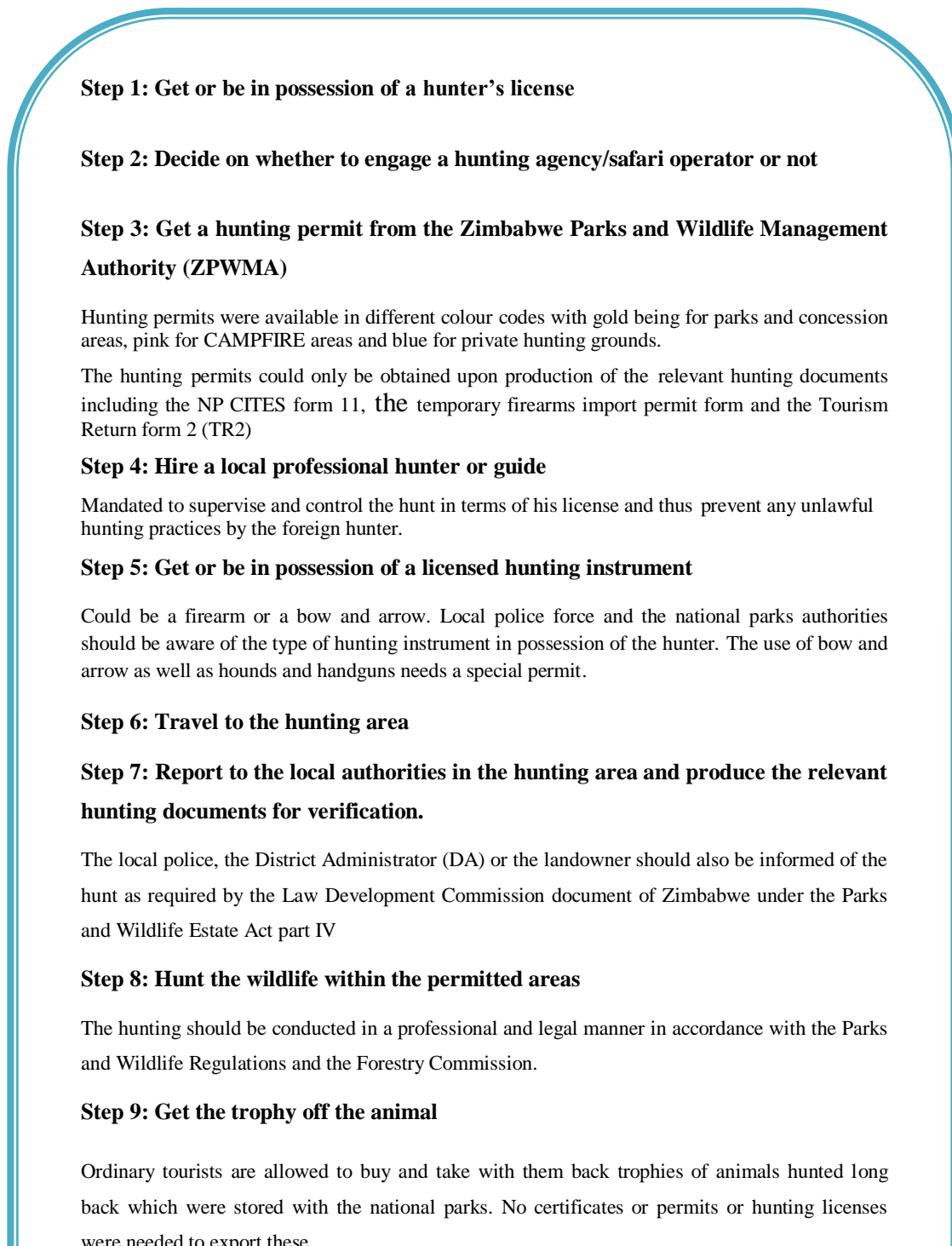
Figure 2: Trophy hunting license scenarios for Zimbabwe





The trophy hunting procedures and processes for Zimbabwe are summarised in the annotated diagram in figure 3.

Figure 3: An annotated diagram of the trophy hunting procedures and processes in Zimbabwe



Loopholes in Zimbabwe's trophy hunting procedures

(a) Lack of supervision of all hunting areas by park authorities

Although the ZPWMA was responsible for allocating hunters areas to hunt, interviews with five local professional hunters revealed that the authority had also sold hunting concessions to some individuals. Some of the safari lands such as the area hosting the Elephant's Eye in Dete were also being rented out to individuals for a certain period of time. However, a visit to this lodge and the area revealed that the lodge owners at the Elephant's Eye were already concentrating on photographic safaris. Other safari lands such as Gwayi and Shangani had been left to the local communities to own and run and ensure that everyone benefits from them. Due to the expansive nature of the areas which needed supervision, the National Parks and Wildlife Authorities admitted that they had of late been finding it difficult to supervise hunting activities in all these areas. Unprofessional hunters and poachers were easily invading such areas where there was little follow up. This problem of lack of supervision of hunting grounds was being exacerbated by the absence of boundaries in the hunting areas which was making it difficult to restrict hunting to the designated areas and yet putting fences and other boundaries around hunting areas is tantamount to the controversial 'canned' hunting.

According to the ZPWMA, the shortage of funds, equipment and machinery to carry out accurate annual animal censuses, was making it difficult to monitor wildlife numbers in the country. From this statement, one could conclude that the establishment of hunting quotas by the Scientific Services Division of the Parks Authority could possibly be based on estimates and guesswork. Many hunts could also be going on unnoticed and the Zimbabwe Conservation Taskforce alleged that this could be the reason why some wildlife numbers in the country were rapidly dwindling. One retired professional hunter revealed that during his active days, some trophy hunters came disguised as relatives to concession owners and hence did not bother to follow the trophy hunting rules and regulations like having a license, paying for the hunt and reporting the hunt to the nearest wildlife and other relevant local authorities. Hunts would therefore be conducted with the concession owner and the 'visitor' without the knowledge of the national parks and wildlife authorities as well as the police.

Related to supervision, some hunters were of the opinion that animals under study in the country were not easily noticeable and hence were also susceptible to hunting as was the case with Cecil the Lion which had been under study since 1999. They argued that the animal tags were too small to be recognized from a distance. Henceforth, even the animals under study were prone to death by hunters. The local hunters indicated that they did not have adequate information on the animals under study and therefore the death of Cecil the lion was a wake-up call to the ZPWMA. If the park authorities were not aware of such animals under study, it implied that certain individuals were experimenting and studying the country's wildlife without its consent.

However, the parks authorities stated that they were aware of the animals under study in the country including Cecil the Lion but not all local hunters were. The authority argued that the tags on the animals were visible enough to any professional hunter and that the country's laws did not allow isolation of such animals despite the fact that more than 80% of the animals under study in the world today are in private concessions where hunting is prohibited. Instead of revising such laws the authorities argued that it was possibly the dissemination and updating of information on animals under study to local professional hunters which needed improvement to enhance the protection of such animals.

(b) Corruption and lack of good governance by wildlife authorities

All the respondents concurred that corruption had cancered all the trophy hunting procedures and wildlife ranks in the country. The Zimbabwe Conservation Force and SOAZ alleged that police and immigration officials at the country's already porous border posts were being bribed and allowing some trophies and even live animals to be illegally exported. These sentiments were also echoed by other trophy hunting researchers such as Lindsey (2005), Lindsey (2007) and Lewis and Jackson (2005). Some villagers around Gwayi and Shangani also confirmed that some local authorities were being bribed and allowing unlawful hunting. As confirmed in a press statement by the country's park authorities in July 2015, some members of the hunting fraternity were illegally transferring hunting quotas from one hunting area to the other.

In addition, the travel agencies and safari operators interviewed alleged that some assistant hunters were also being bribed to assist trophy hunters get the trophies they wanted at all costs including killing more than the number of animals allocated to them. The IUCN article of (2009) concurred with this observation and further noted that, hunting concessions were being sold at cheap prices and individuals were getting hunting permits without valid hunting licenses through bribes as a result of corruption and the need for fast cash.

(c) Trophy handling

The ZPWMA confirmed that tourists were allowed to buy and take with them back trophies of animals hunted long back which were stored with the national parks. No certificates, permits or licenses were needed to export them. Henceforth trophy hunters or professional hunters were killing wildlife in advance to sell the trophies to potential tourists and other willing buyers. One professional hunter stated that, *"through bribery, hunters were even killing animals with small trophies and then exchanging them with the big trophies that were stored for sell in the national parks"*.

(d) Benefits of trophy hunting to wildlife conservation and community development.

The Zimbabwe Tourism Authority stated that more than 50% of the head offices of the hunting agencies/operators in the country were foreign based but with satellite receptions in the country. Lindsey (2008) in his studies of trophy hunting in Central and West Africa also made similar observations. He discovered that most hunting operators in these regions were based in Europe and significant proportions of revenue leakages were therefore unavoidable. For Zimbabwe, the ZTA admitted that limited follow up was being made towards monitoring profits generated by hunting operators in foreign countries. Furthermore, local employees were being paid pittances which forced them into corruption. Overall, the proceeds from trophy hunting were not adequately being accounted for. Such accounting information could be quite pertinent to

inculcate a positive trophy hunting concept among the populace as it could significantly mitigate allegations of corruption, misuse of funds and meat from the hunting expeditions. In places such as Dete, the local communities had used trophy hunting funds to build schools, hospitals and for road construction. However, the locals from Gwayi for example, were not seeing any changes brought about by the revenue generated from trophy hunting. They indicated that only a few of them were getting the meat from trophy hunting as the villagers were too many. They also complained of the 'first come first served' method used by the police to distribute the meat. This they said was unfair. Although the villagers in Dete welcomed the infrastructural developments brought by the activity, they indicated that this was too little compared to the amount of money they heard was being generated from the activity.

(e) Unprofessionalism by foreign trophy hunters and their assistants

The unprofessional activities cited by the ZPWMA included the shooting of female and young animals, use of sounds to attract wildlife attention, use of animal and other types of baits, the use of spotlights and hunting with dogs. The deliberate or non-deliberate non-disclosure of information by assistant hunters was also a challenge. The authority also expected all trophy hunters to know all the rules and regulations before the hunt so as avoid untargeted animals being killed and to maintain professionalism within the industry.

(f) Employment status of professional hunters-training and retraining

The ZPWMA condemned the current scenario where some local assistant hunters were not formally employed in the hunting industry. The interviewed professional hunters indicated that 80% of their colleagues were not formally employed. This left them highly vulnerable to corruption at all levels of the hunting process. In the case of Cecil the Lion, the assistant hunter admitted that he forgot to provide adequate information before the hunt. However, one is not sure whether this was deliberate or not. These unemployed hunters were therefore creating their own employment in the name of entrepreneurship and conducting unsanctioned hunts to survive. Walter Palmer, the hunter who killed Cecil the lion of Zimbabwe, paid money to the assistant hunter who also said he desperately needed the money to take care of his family. Such desperation, can lead to corruption and unprofessionalism in this profession.

In summary, it is clear that the lack of supervision of the country's hunting areas, hunting expeditions and the wildlife itself coupled with corruption, were driving the country's hunting industry into negativity. According to the ZPWMA, the country's greatest challenge was corruption, which was being fueled by the economic crisis that the country has and is currently facing. This challenge had actually cancered all the trophy hunting steps and wildlife ranks in the country. As of now, there is no imminent solution to this problem and groundbreaking research needs to be undertaken to address this disaster.

Recommendations

From the loopholes in the country's trophy hunting procedures and processes revealed in this paper, several recommendations can be made. It is advisable that these recommendations be applied wholly and in tandem for them to be effective. These are as follows;

(a) This study recommends that the practice of 'trophy hunting' be re-branded to conservation hunting or 'conservation trophy hunting' as advocated by Lindsey (2008) to make the

conservation aspect more prominent than the trophy. This has to be done because there could be a very high possibility that the emotional and psychological feeling attached to a 'trophy' are driving professional hunters to acquire the 'trophy' at all costs even if it means engaging in unprofessional hunting practices and corruption. If hunters are psychologically aware that they are doing it mainly for conservation, they might be compelled to hunt in a professional way.

(b) Deterrent sentences have to be effected for those found in mora of wildlife procedures and processes and trophy hunting related corruption. Such individuals should be arrested, prosecuted, heavily sentenced and even banned from trophy hunting for life. Such ruthlessness has worked well to drastically reduce rape cases and livestock theft in this country.

(c) Communal areas should be given sufficient hunting quotas for them to see value in the wildlife and not just meat handouts. This is supported by Lindsey (2008) who advocates for the local community to be involved in the management and wise use of wildlife as much as possible. This could be achieved if government devolves the management of wildlife to local communities. In this case, the current systems put in place to protect livestock could also be applied to wildlife.

(e) Another formidable alternative would be to introduce private game parks in the country's protected areas and allow individuals to own game. The Stanley and Livingstone Private Game Park which is within the Victoria Falls Protected Area is a shining example which quickly comes to mind on this issue especially in terms of wildlife conservation and community engagement. Game drives through these private game parks are thrilling and awesome compared to the almost empty game drives experienced by guests to some of the country's government owned national parks.

(f) Government should seriously consider the need to develop an accreditation or certification system for the industry. The benefits of such systems worldwide speak for themselves. Trophy hunting operators who adhere to the laid down trophy hunting procedures and processes will then be recognized, honoured and rewarded. This will entice other hunting agencies and operators to behave the same.

(g) All trophy hunting operators especially foreign owned, should be registered with the relevant bodies managing trophy hunting in the country especially the ZTA and the ZPWMA. This is also recommended by Lindsey *et. al.* (2007a). Appropriate and enforceable legislation should then be put in place to enable these national trophy hunting bodies to suspend hunting licenses in the event of non-compliance to hunting regulations by the agencies/operators and also ensure maximum economic benefits for the country from the practice. In addition, the government should ensure that all local assistant hunters belong to a state approved hunting association, are registered and are regularly called for refresher courses.

(h) Trophy hunting regulations and legislation should be regularly revisited e.g. biannually in order to deal with corruption and other emerging challenges facing the industry.

(i) Finally and perhaps most importantly, there is need to get rid of the psychological instinct by Zimbabweans, especially newly resettled farmers and those living in proximity to wildlife areas to kill wildlife upon sight.

Conclusions

Overall, Zimbabwe should not adopt a 'me too approach' and ban trophy hunting in the country. Such a ban will deprive the country of a US\$20 million per annum industry which is contributing to the socio-economic development of its rural areas although its full potential still needs to be realized. As it is now, the government, donor agencies and non-consumptive wildlife based activities on their own cannot effectively sustain the conservation requirements of the country's remaining wildlife. This is because the Government is currently facing liquidity challenges and the political and economic climate in the country is not conducive to donor funding. Due to the political fallout between Zimbabwe and the western countries, most donor agencies from these countries have withdrawn their conservation services. The industry itself is also currently not performing well due to the country's soiled image and many companies are contemplating retrenching and or closing down. In the face of such challenges, the country should scrutinize its trophy hunting procedures and processes and make them watertight, if not airtight, rather than opt for a complete ban of trophy hunting. What is required is a win-win solution to the challenges facing the trophy hunting practice in the country.

Suggestions for further research

There is need to document the impacts of the loopholes revealed in this paper and to determine the contribution of trophy hunting to the decimation of big game in the African continent and in Zimbabwe. This needs to be established in the backdrop of other numerous wildlife management problems that the country is facing including poaching, seasonal veldfires, climate change, fast track land reform programs and a populace with a psychological instinct to kill any wildlife on sight. This paper also calls for further research on how best to deal with corruption and unprofessionalism in the hunting profession to save the industry.

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