



OUR RESOURCES
OUR RIGHTS

8 December 2020

Sir,

As representatives of millions of rural Africans, the majority of whom live below the poverty line, we thank you for your interest in conserving our revered and iconic wildlife (“Blood Money”, 7 December). We deeply share your concern about the insidious effects of misinformation on issues that materially affect our wellbeing, and resoundingly echo your objection to vested interests – often from the Global North – putting words in the mouths of rural Africans.

So please hear [our own words](#), from our own mouths.

You say: “trophy hunting was introduced to Africa by colonialists”. We say we have replaced the purely extractive trophy hunting that harmed our communities during colonialism with well-regulated, community-based trophy hunting that provides essential incentives for us to live side by side with dangerous wild animals and generates economic benefits for people who sorely need them.

You say trophy hunting fuels “a precipitous decline in population levels of endangered species”. We say show us the evidence for this offensive, sweeping, and baseless claim which contradicts our information and knowledge as the owners and managers of wildlife.

You say it is not “good enough to say that trophy hunting provides local communities with jobs and income”. We say a ban on hunting imports to the United Kingdom would be disastrous for our communities, denying us crucial revenue and removing our incentives to tolerate iconic and often dangerous wild animals that live on our land. To feed our families we would have little alternative but to convert wildlife habitat into agricultural land. Unlike well-regulated trophy hunting, habitat loss genuinely threatens wildlife populations.

You say “(p)lans to ban big game hunting have been the target of a misinformation campaign”. We say if you are really concerned with misinformation, please ensure your own house is in order.

Yours sincerely,

Maxi Pia Louis, for and on behalf of the [Community Leaders Network](#)
communityleadersnetworkSA@gmail.com

Maxi Pia Louis, NACSO Namibia
Siyoka Simasiku, NCONGO Botswana
Rodgers Lubilo, CBNRM Forum Zambia
Malidadi Berlings Langa, KAWICCODA Malawi

Brisetha Hendricks, NACSO Uibasen Conservancy Namibia
Bupe Banda, Zambia CBNRM Forum Zambia
Isaac Banda, Zambia CBNRM Forum Zambia
Chifundo Dalireni, Wildlife and Environment Society Malawi
Mohammed Kamuna, CWMAC Tanzania
Fadhili Njilima, AWF Tanzania
Georgina George, EECT Tanzania
Ben Lisoso, Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania Tanzania
Florentina Kideka, Tanzania Natural Resources Forum Tanzania
Liberty Chauke, CAMPFIRE, Mahenye Ward Zimbabwe
Jabulani Ndubiwa, CAMPFIRE, Masoka Ward Zimbabwe
Gackemoto Sata, NCONGO Botswana
Maimbolwa Malumo, Mulobezi CBD Zambia
Pharaoh Mbao, Chifunda CRB Zambia
Juliana Melek, Huab Conservancy Namibia
Dorothy Malesu Manga, Sikunga Conservancy Namibia
Tjava Tjijahura, Women for Conservation Namibia
Ishmael Chaukura, CAMPFIRE Zimbabwe
Dr. Lamson Maluleke, Maluleke Peoples South Africa
Lorna Dax, Khoadi Hoas Conservancy Namibia
Dick George, Maun Snake Capture Botswana
Botshelo Sesinyi, Okavango Community Trust Botswana
Baikgopodi Ditiso, NCONGO Botswana
Lungelo Noluthando Dlodla, Community youth activist South Africa
Sauleha Rajak, Community youth activist South Africa
Toderai Makoni, Vhembe Biosphere Reserve – Limpopo South Africa
Nuno Cruz, Green Association Angola
Millica Mwale, Nkhotakota Wildlife Association Malawi
Dickson Saka, Kasungu Wildlife Association Malawi