

**Perspectives on Combatting Illegal Killing:
The Role of Hunters
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Safari Club International

Mission:

- To promote, protect and educate about safe, legal and ethical hunting and wildlife conservation worldwide.



- Approximately 50,000 members throughout the world;
- Non-governmental organisation;
- Chapters in Europe, North and South America, Asia, and Australia;
- Active participant in Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Safari Club International Foundation



Mission:

- To fund and direct worldwide programs dedicated to wildlife conservation and outdoor education;
- To demonstrate the constructive role that hunting plays in nature conservation.



Involvement:

- Tanzanian Lion Research Project to assess lion abundance;
- Zambia Lion Research Project to help in determining lion age;
- Namibia Leopard Research Project to help assess leopard distribution;
- Tanzania Ruaha Buffalo Project to determine how buffalo utilise ecosystems;
- African Wildlife Consultative Forum;
- IUCN and FACE Memberships;
- Active participation in CITES.

Hunters, Hunting and the Fight Against Poaching and Illegal Trafficking



Hunting:

- Enhances the value of wildlife;
- Provides jobs to local residents;
- Finances infrastructure of local communities;
- Removes nuisance animals;
- Supplies food to local communities;
- Establishes a “presence” in remote areas;
- Supports anti-poaching patrols in the field;
- Extends the reach of law enforcement.

Hunters, Hunting and Anti-Poaching Efforts

Concrete Examples

Zimbabwe

- In 2013 in Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, poachers poisoned over 100 elephants;
- A professional hunting company, Lodzi Hunters --
 - discovered the poaching incident;
 - alerted the authorities to the poaching;
 - funded the operation used to apprehend the poachers – paid for the vehicles, fuel, food, camping gear etc.;
 - hired a helicopter to do aerial reconnaissance to determine the extent of the poaching incident.
- As a result, the poachers were caught and punished.




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Hunters, Hunting and Anti-Poaching Efforts

Concrete Examples

Zimbabwe



In 2014, in Zimbabwe, Charlton McCallum Safaris established the “Dande Anti-Poaching Unit” – *DAPU*

- Pays half the salary of 22 community scouts;
- Employs two full time “managers;”
- Provides two dedicated land cruisers;
- Provides rations for the scouts;
- Provides rewards for poacher apprehensions;
- Provides additional equipment (tents, uniforms, etc.);
- Has significantly reduced the number of elephants poached in the area since establishing their presence;
- Safari Club International donated funds obtained from a litigation settlement award in a case with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- <http://dapuzim.com/>

Hunters, Hunting and Anti-Poaching Efforts

Concrete Examples

Mozambique

- In the Lower Zambezi River Valley of Mozambique, Zambeze Delta Safaris – **ZDS** - operates an anti-poaching unit staffed by
 - 22 full-time poaching guards;
 - one anti-poaching manager;
 - two helicopter pilots.
- Unit receives support from a four-man element of the Mozambican Army;
- Area patrolled by ZDS unit saw a net increase in elephants according to the most recent national elephant census;
- Other species have also benefitted including sable which increased from 44 animals in 1992 to 3000 today and cape buffalo which grew from 1200 to over 21,000;
- Those who are apprehended by the ZDS unit are either turned over to law enforcement (for serious offenses involving automatic weapons, etc.) or are subjected to tribal courts. Tribal court sentences typically involve a period of hard labour, working on conservation and development projects.




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Concrete Examples

Tanzania



- In Tanzania, the Friedkin Conservation Fund – *FCF* - works with
 - 120 full-time anti-poaching guards;
 - Two microlight pilots;
- FCF anti-poaching guards are primarily funded by Legendary Adventures, a Tanzania hunting concession;
- FCF teams apprehend an average of between 1800 and 2000 suspected poachers each year;
- Hazardous endeavors: in early 2016, pilot Roger Grower, while flying an anti-poaching mission for the FCF, was killed when his helicopter was shot down by poachers over the Maswa Game Reserve along the border of Serengeti National Park;
- <http://www.friedkinfund.org/what/anti-poaching>

Hunters, Hunting and Anti-Poaching Efforts

Concrete Examples

Worldwide

- SCI and SCIF have launched “Endanger Poaching” program and website;
- Current project: “Save the Selous Game Reserve;”
- Campaign designed to increase the capacity of anti-poaching patrols by incorporating patrol-monitoring technology;
- Employees from the Selous game reserve, Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority and the College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka (CAWM)
- Candidates will undergo advanced training on using the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), as well as acoustic gunshot detection systems and CyberTracker field data collection technologies – tools to help patrols determine poaching patterns to more effectively mobilise anti-poaching resources, increasing detection rates and number of arrests.
- <http://endangerpoaching.org/>




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Take Home Messages

- Hunting and associated benefits are a powerful conservation tool which contributes in the combat against illegal killing.
- When considering trade regulations, need to consult range states' authorities and those the most affected, such as local communities and the range state hunting community.

Thank you for your attention!

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