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13 November 2021

The German Coalition Partners/ the Future German Government

Attention: Olaf Scholz, Annalena Baerbock and Christian Lindner

By Email

Banning of the trophy hunting by client countries

Let me start by introducing our NGO. African Community Conservationists ("ACC") is a Non-Profit organization founded by Ms Esther Netshivhongweni who was born and buttered in Limpopo South Africa, with its roots in South Africa being their Head Quartered country. *Our vision is, "Togetherness in conserving our natural resources for economically empowered African communities"*. ACC is a member of the South African National Wildlife Forum. Its members are community structures such as traditional authorities and Communal Property Associations in Limpopo, Kwazulu Natal, North West and Eastern Cape in South Africa. ACC strategic members who support wildlife transformation agenda in South Africa are wildlife companies from various organisations such as Wildlife Ranchers South Africa (WRSA), Professional Hunters Association (PHASA) and Confederation of Hunters Association South Africa (CHASA). ACC has two programs currently which are on the top of their agenda viz;

- a. Custodian of Wildlife is Traditional Communities – Donating wild animals to traditional communities for ownership. The program which aims to increase wild animal herds in the hands of communities and teach them proper sustainable utilisation of these resources.
- b. Kids in Conservation (KiC) – Donating game meat to creches for protein on the other hand educating kids on wildlife

We have partnership agreements with Vhembe Biosphere, University of Venda and Association de communes et collectivités d' outre – m er (ACCD'OM) based in France, Paris. These partnerships are aimed to support African communities in the struggle to fight poverty through sustainable utilisation of African natural resources.

It is a disgrace as African communities still receiving media information that our client countries in the world are still listening to the so-called animal rightist groups on the management of African natural resources as if African communities do not exist. We are alive and very active on the agenda of sustainable utilisation of our resources. Trophy hunting has been improving livelihoods of communities and benefiting conservation for many years. I am part of the Makuya community; owners of Makuya Nature Reserve who have been benefiting more than 65% of the hunting income for many years. Our Traditional Council is able to sustain itself from hunting income. See the Makuya video video.

As ACC representing our communities; we are frustrated with no hope on protecting conservation when we receive media reports of the so-called animal rightists who put animal rights above our human rights and human dignity as well as undermining many of the African government constitutions.

Hunting is our culture and tradition that is why African government constitutions enshrine this culture. Any one from any corner of the world who is promoting banning of trophy hunting; that person and/or organisation:

- Is trying to colonise Africa by instructing them what to do with their natural resources
- Is driving conservation into extinction by ensuring that communities lose interest in protecting these animals
- Represents their own selfish and short-sightedness colonisation plan for African natural resources
- Wants to slaughter African continent by poverty. We have tested the mind-set of animal rightist groups, when there are lions killing African kids in Tanzania these animal rightists are quiet. When there is successful trophy hunting of an animal which benefits communities and conservation, they make a loudest world noise to a level of giving an animal a name which never existed. They do that to play with people emotions to benefit money for themselves on the expense of African nations.



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We have been conserving these resources for centuries as Africans, a good example is in Limpopo, South Africa which is the biggest hunting destination in the SADC region. If animal rightists are to be listened to, these animals will just go extinct like in Kenya.

We kindly invite the German Coalition Partners and the Future German Government to engage our communities directly in acquiring as much information as possible to inform future sustainable solutions for African solutions of African natural resources. For the German Future Government, we would like to engage our communities before you take a decision on importation of the hunted trophies.

This matter is about African livelihoods, after the client countries have banned importation of hunted trophies; will they stop Africa and the world to slaughter and process meat from Cows, Chicken, Fish, Duck, Pigs and Goats? Will they stop killing plants making them vegetables? Will they stop us using our traditional herbal medicines? When are they stopping big medical manufacturing giants to kill and process our plant for medicinal use?

From Africa it is our rights, culture, tradition and heritage to sustainably utilise our resources; and we refuse to buy and embrace conspiracies of animal rightists which are aimed to destroy African conservation wealth. The client countries must wake-up and start engaging communities and stop listening to people who do not even have these animals.

We hope this letter will pave a way for open-minded, transparent and future-focused engagement with African communities.

On behalf of all our communities ACC would like to thank you in advance for the support of ACC mission.

With best regards,

Vhamusanda Vho-Netshivhongweni ME (Mcom)

Chairperson : African Community Conservationists (ACC)