

PRIVATE BAG BO 199
GABORONE
BOTSWANA

TEL: (+267) 3914955
FAX: (+267) 3951092



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

TO: The Editor
All Media Houses

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PRESS RELEASE

UK PARLIAMENT ON BANNING OF IMPORT OF LEGALLY HARVESTED WILDLIFE

1. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism is concerned over the purported United Kingdom (UK) Parliamentary Bill that is expected to ban the importation of legally harvested wildlife trophies into UK, majority of which are coming from Africa. The list of targeted wildlife includes all species that are on the Botswana hunting quota.
2. If the Bill is passed by Parliament, it will affect Botswana's wildlife management. The importation ban of legally harvested wildlife trophies will negatively impact wildlife authorities including Professional Hunting Associations and Community-Based Support Organizations from across Africa, thereby drastically reducing hunting incentives for Britons to hunt abroad, primarily in Africa.
3. Trophy hunting is a key component of sustainable use approaches to wildlife conservation in Botswana. It has underpinned many of the varied community based natural resources management programmes that work towards more equitable, fair and inclusive biodiversity conservation, and as such Botswana has earned international accolades for her sterling efforts to conserve and manage her wildlife resources. This hard won reputation is a result of the implementation

of wildlife management practices and strategies that stretches back several decades and that continues to this day. This has been sustainable because of our governance system and conservation strategies that focus on the broader ecosystem rather than isolated issues.

4. Elephants are an example of species whose numbers have increased in Botswana as a result of judicious management by government and its partners including community based organizations. Communities continue to generate considerable revenues through community quotas and special elephant quotas, subsequently used to finance elephant conservation projects and livelihood-enhancement projects for Communities in Botswana's elephant range as well as replenishing Conservation Trust Fund.
5. It is therefore crucial for Botswana to continue spreading its message on the conservation benefits of its Community Base Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) model. Furthermore, the Ministry utilize the latest in Population Science, Wildlife Survey Data, and Fair-chase Guidelines when overseeing Hunting Operations.
6. Forcing Botswana and other African Nations to manage wildlife with reduced funding will negatively impact conservation projects, biodiversity enhancement initiatives, and habitat protection in the region. It will also increase the risk of poaching and human-wildlife conflict, negatively impacting for example the largest herd of elephants that Botswana supports.
7. This false narrative that hunting poses a threat to species has no scientific basis and misleads the British citizenry and the world at large.

Thank you.

