



# KILLING FOR TROPHIES

AN ANALYSIS OF GLOBAL  
TROPHY HUNTING TRADE



**IFAW**

International Fund for Animal Welfare

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# INTRODUCTION



**When a hunter paid \$350,000 USD for the right to shoot and kill a rare rhino in Namibia,** the debate on killing animals in the name of conservation reignited. While many scientists and organizations reject the “killing them to save them” philosophy that hunters tout as their justification, the practice of sport hunting big game remains legal in nearly all the world’s nations.

In the months since, people have watched as numerous high-profile big game hunters posted pictures with their prized kills and opponents of this practice expressed their disbelief that human beings could take the lives of such charismatic megafauna in the name of sport.

But it was the death of Cecil the Lion in Zimbabwe in July 2015 that caught and held the world’s attention. Trophy hunting opponents condemned Walter Palmer, the US dentist who admitted to killing the iconic black-maned alpha male from Hwange National Park, and a media maelstrom ensued.

In order to study the array of claims that trophy hunting benefits animals, we must first establish the extent to which trophy hunting is practiced. In this report, we chose to start with identifying the numbers of trophies traded across national borders and reported to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). We estimate that as many as 1.7 million hunting trophies could have been traded between nations between 2004 and 2014. At least 200,000 trophies of threatened taxa, or an average of 20,000 trophies per year, have been traded between nations in the same period.

Not surprisingly, the United States accounts for a staggering 71 percent of the import demand, or about 15 times more than the next highest nations on the list.

IFAW researchers pored through the many and dispersed records of CITES’ Trade Database and have produced this enlightening report on the state of international trophy hunting today.

We believe leaders should make informed decisions governing the industry with data as supporting evidence, and this information should act as a springboard for more academic peer-reviewed research on the merits, or lack thereof, of trophy hunting when it comes to the conservation of species and associated animal welfare implications.

Sincerely,

**Azzedine T. Downes**

Azzedine T. Downes  
President and CEO, International Fund for Animal Welfare

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

**CAMPFIRE:** Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources

**CIC:** International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

**CITES:** The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

**CoP:** Conference of Parties

**ESA:** Endangered Species Act

**EU:** European Union

**FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**IFAW:** International Fund for Animal Welfare

**IUCN:** International Union for Conservation of Nature

**SCI:** Safari Club International

**UNEP:** United Nations Environment Programme

**UNEP-WCMC:** United Nations Environmental Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

**USFWS:** US Fish and Wildlife Service

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**As the trophy hunting industry has grown over the last few decades,** governments, conservationists, and animal welfare advocates are keen to understand its global economic and conservation impacts with data as supporting evidence.

Unfortunately, little credible research had been done to understand the global trophy industry’s extent and impact.

This report is a result of a comprehensive analysis of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Trade Database. Approximately one million trade records of CITES-listed wildlife species are reported and entered into the database annually, accounting now for more than 13 million wildlife trade records of more than 34,000 scientific taxa names on the CITES Appendices.

As many as 1.7 million hunting trophies have been traded between nations between 2004 and 2014. And at least 200,000 trophies from threatened taxa, or an average of 20,000 trophies per year, have been traded between nations in the same period.

Our research found that 107 different nations (comprised of 104 importing nations and 106 exporting nations) participated in trophy hunting trade between 2004 and 2014. However, although there is worldwide demand for animal trophies, according to the CITES database, the top twenty countries are responsible for 97 percent of trophy imports.

The United States (US) accounts for 71 percent of the import demand, or about 15 times more than the next highest nations, Germany and Spain (both 5 percent).

These top 20 importing countries are killing and importing their trophies mainly from Canada (35 percent), South Africa (23 percent), and Namibia (11 percent). The most common trade of threatened taxa trophies come from Canada to the US, followed by trophy trade from African nations to the US.

Analyses of the CITES database found that three of the four threatened taxa from the Africa Big Five species (African elephant, African leopard, and African lion) are among the top six most traded of imperiled taxa.

Of the top 20 threatened taxa, African lions have the strongest statistically significant increase of trophy hunting trade since 2004. At least 11,000 lion trophies have been traded worldwide from 2004 to 2013.

Other Africa Big Five species are also popular with trophy hunters, with more than 10,000 elephant trophies and more than 10,000 leopard trophies being legally traded worldwide between 2004 and 2014. Like African lions, the African elephant trophy hunting trade has increased since 2004, while leopard trophy hunting numbers rose for several years after 2004, but have since decreased.

This analysis can serve as a baseline for more study on how trophy hunting is changing and how the global industry ultimately affects animals and their populations, both regionally and globally.



# TROPHY HUNTING INDUSTRY

## What is Trophy Hunting?

Hunting is the activity of chasing and killing wild animals or game, especially for food or sport.<sup>1</sup> “Trophy hunting,”<sup>2</sup> specifically, is a form of hunting in which the hunter’s explicit goal is to obtain the hunted animal’s carcass or body part, such as the head or hide, as a trophy that represents the success of the hunt. Trophy hunting is legal in certain areas with the proper permits and must be differentiated from poaching.<sup>3</sup> Poaching is the illegal take of game, though—like trophy hunting—it can be done for acquisition of coveted parts or products from the target species. For the purpose of this report a distinction was made between trophy hunting (where a gun or bow and arrow were used in the hunt) and trophy fishing or trophy trapping as the method used to find and kill the animals departs considerably from the common use of trophy hunting.

## SIDEBAR:

## LINK BETWEEN TROPHY HUNTING AND POACHING

Poachers have been known to exploit trophy hunting loopholes in order to launder illegal wildlife products en route to the black market. One example is that of the African rhino. The typical rhino horn is about two feet long and 10 pounds, and each pound of rhino horn can sell for approximately USD\$30,000.<sup>4</sup> The ancient Persians believed rhino horn vessels could detect poisons; the Chinese believed rhino horn powder could reduce fevers; the Yemenis prized the horn for coming-of-age daggers presented to teenage boys; and although there is no scientific proof that rhino horn can cure cancer, throughout Asia there is a strong belief that rhino horn is a cancer medicine.<sup>5</sup> Commercial trade of rhino horn is regulated by CITES, which only allows for trophy hunted and stuffed rhinos from a small number of African countries, and secondary sales of the horn are illegal.<sup>6</sup> However, to get around these regulations, smugglers have been caught paying Thai and Vietnamese residents to pose as trophy hunters, bringing them to a South African private hunting reserve where they then pretend or attempt to shoot rhinos, and have had a trained professional hunter on standby to kill the game on their behalf.<sup>7</sup> For example, in November of 2013, a 44-year-old Thai senior official of a trading company was found guilty of arranging for approximately 20 Thai women to pose as rhino trophy

hunters. He was sentenced to a 40-year prison term in South Africa in 2013 after pleading guilty.<sup>8</sup>

It is estimated that approximately 300 rhino horns have been exported by “pretend” hunters since 2009, according to the *Asahi Shimbun*, one of Japan’s largest national newspapers. The number of Thai and Vietnamese hunters has increased over the past several years. The *Asahi Shimbun* reported that 588 applications were approved by South Africa’s Department of Environmental Affairs for rhino trophy hunting between 2009 and November 2012, 320 of which came from Vietnam and 40 of which came from Thailand.<sup>9</sup>

In 2009, the South African government put a moratorium on rhino horn trade due to concerns that trophy hunting permits were being abused and horns illegally exported. However, at the end of 2015, a South African judge lifted the domestic ban. South Africa and Vietnam signed a memorandum in December to end illegal rhino transactions by sharing information and through other measures. South Africa has called on Vietnam to make it a rule to confirm whether hunters have kept rhino horns, but Vietnamese officials have been accused of turning a blind eye to the request.<sup>10</sup>

Other species, including lions, have also been a target for smugglers, for example where traditional medicines using lion bones are coveted.<sup>11</sup>



# TROPHY HUNTING INDUSTRY CONTINUED

## What is Canned Hunting?

Canned hunting is the hunting of animals in an enclosure too small to allow an animal any chance of escape, hunting animals that are drugged or sedated, and/or hunting human-habituated animals. Canned hunting is also commonly referred to as shopping and shooting, put and take, or captive hunting.

Canned hunting operations, which are commonly referred to as shooting preserves, acquire animals through different means. They may breed wild animals themselves or animals may come from private breeders, animal dealers, circuses, or zoos.<sup>12</sup>

Several African game preserves specialize in breeding mutant big game animals, such as white lions or the so-called golden wildebeest<sup>13</sup> in the attempt to create an exclusive market. The breeders charge \$50,000 to hunt a golden wildebeest, almost 100 times as much as a hunt for a wildebeest of typical coloration.<sup>14</sup>

South Africa has seen an increase in canned hunt demand. South Africa, where canned hunting is most prevalent, has approximately 200 ranches with between 6,000 and 8,000 lions and “[h]unters pay as much as \$20,000 to bag a big male,”<sup>15</sup> which is still significantly cheaper than hunting a lion in the wild. The US is the biggest importer of lion trophies. According to data from CITES, 1,113 trophies from captive lions were imported to the US from 2004 to 2014, a 570 percent increase as compared to the next most imported captive animal to the US, the lechwe. The number one exporter of threatened captive taxa from 2004-2014 is South Africa, exporting 2,234 percent more than the US, the second highest country exporting captive threatened taxa.

At least 8,000 captive threatened taxa have been traded between nations from 2004 to 2014, representing an average of over 800 captive trophies per year.

Some hunting organizations have spoken out against “canned” hunting as not satisfying their standards of “fair chase” or “ethical” hunting, or not requiring the hunter to be skilled.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, due to the high population densities of captive animals, risk of disease transmission increases, posing a threat to animals inside and outside the fences.<sup>17</sup>

In the US, with the right permits and in accordance with state law, the USFWS allows captive hunting. Private ownership of ESA-listed species is also allowed, with certain registration requirements.<sup>18</sup>

## History of Trophy Hunting

While the act of hunting for recreation has changed over the course of history, the sport has always been popular for the status it imparts on a hunter. Historically, it was widely believed that a trophy could not be bought, but had to be earned with knowledge, skill, and experience in the name of sportsmanship.<sup>19</sup>

Throughout history, hunting has been a sport for royalty and the elite. Since at least the Roman Empire (753 BC to 27 BC), kings and nobles hunted lions and large wild animals to show their power and wealth. In the Old Kingdom of Ancient Egypt, pharaohs and other “dignitaries hunted large animals for recreation: the peasants hunted smaller animals—geese, ducks and quail—to supplement their meagre diets.”<sup>20</sup> And, prior to the Norman Conquest in England, British kings only allowed the privilege of trophy hunting to the elite.<sup>21</sup>

In 1887, President Teddy Roosevelt founded the Boone & Crockett Club, which established the Boone & Crockett Trophy Scoring System in 1930 for North American mammals.<sup>22</sup> Soon thereafter in 1892, Rowland Ward, a natural history enthusiast from London, created the Horn Measurements and Weights of the Great Game of the World, the first of its kind to record trophies.<sup>23</sup> The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) established the CIC trophy formula in 1930.<sup>24</sup>

All three of these systems focus on comparative analysis and the achievements of individual trophy hunters. Each of these three record books also already have required or are contemplating requiring trophy owners who wish to enter the records to sign an affidavit confirming that the trophy was taken under “Fair Chase.” In the mid-1970s, Safari Club International (SCI) established its own international record book, accessible only to its members.<sup>25</sup>

The development of record books and record keeping systems does not merely record kills, but also evidences the rising popularity of trophy hunting over time.

### SIDEBAR:

## THE PROFILE OF A TROPHY HUNTER

The typical trophy hunter is an older, Caucasian male;<sup>26</sup> however, the number of female trophy hunters has steadily increased over the last decade. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of American women hunters increased by 20 percent,<sup>27</sup> and female trophy hunters such as Rebecca Francis, Kendall Jones, Melissa Bachman, and Jen Cordaro have received significant media attention for publicly posted photographs with their kills.<sup>28</sup>

### Trophy hunting is mainly a sport for the wealthy elite.

The typical hunter does not need to be very experienced or skilled to obtain a trophy. Researchers Darimont and Child conducted a study of approximately 4,300 online photographs of hunters posing with their trophy kills, examining their use of knowledge-based faculty (a hunting guide with accumulated experience in specific areas), physical traits (relative body mass and camouflage clothing), and age predicted predatory performance. The researchers found that guides were the only variable that increased the odds of killing larger prey, whereas, ironically, unguided hunters with the highest relative body mass had the greatest odds of killing larger prey. Ultimately, the study found that many physical-based challenges of hunting could be overcome with efficient killing technology and road access, and knowledge-based challenges could be addressed with hunting guides.<sup>29</sup> Modern trophy hunters thus have eliminated many of the physical challenges of hunting.<sup>30</sup>

It can therefore be surmised that modern day trophy hunters can attribute their success, here defined as killing their targeted prey, to having the requisite financial resources and not necessarily the hunting skills.



**SIDEBAR:**

# HUNTING CLUBS AND TROPHY HUNTING INCENTIVE SCHEMES



## Hunting Groups

Conservation Force, Dallas Safari Club, Professional Hunter's Association of South Africa, Safari Club International, The European Federal of Associations for Hunting & Conservation, and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, amongst many others, support trophy hunting. Many of these groups encourage killing animals through competitions that offer rewards and prizes.

Safari Club International (SCI) is one of the largest of these hunting organizations. It boasts approximately 50,000 members and 150 chapters.<sup>31</sup> In 2015, it collected approximately \$3.6 million in membership service fees, product sales, dues and subscriptions and approximately \$14.4 million more is raised from its annual hunting convention.<sup>32</sup> It is estimated that SCI members have killed more than 2,000 lions, 1,800 leopards, almost 800 elephants, and 93 black rhinos over the past 60 years.<sup>33</sup> SCI, and other hunting organizations, have found ways to make their hunting award programs motivate members to hunt more.<sup>34</sup>

## Record Books and Award Programs

Many hunting organizations keep record books of their members' hunts. SCI keeps one of the largest and most detailed record books, which may include photographs of the hunter with the kill, characteristics of the animal hunted (tusk, horn, antler, skull, body size, etc.), and details about the weapon used and location of the kill.<sup>35</sup>

In addition to the record book, SCI has an intricate and detailed reward program.<sup>36</sup> There are multiple award categories with varying degrees of difficulty. For example, a hunter must kill an elephant, rhino, lion, leopard, and African buffalo to get on the African Big Five Grand Slam list. The most coveted SCI recognition is the World Hunting Award, which requires the hunter to have achieved awards in other lower award categories with a focus on killing animals of particular types across vast portions of the world.<sup>37</sup>

GRAND SLAM CATEGORY (IN AFRICA)	TROPHY HUNTING REQUIREMENT(S)
African Big Five Club	African lion, African leopard, African elephant, Cape or Southern buffalo, and African rhinoceros
Dangerous Game of Africa	Maximum of four of the Big Five. Minimum 5 of 7, Bow 5 of 7. African lion, African leopard, African elephant, African rhinoceros, Cape or Southern buffalo, hippopotamus, and Nile crocodile
African 29	Minimum 29 (3 of Big Five Required), Rifle & Bow requirements are the same. African lion, African leopard, Small cats, African elephant, African rhinoceros, African buffalo, Eland, Bongo, Kudu, Nyala, Sitatunga, Bushbuck, Sable antelope, Roan antelope, Oryx/gemsbok, Waterbuck, Lechwe, Kob (or puku), Reedbuck (or rhebok), Wildebeest, Hartbeest, Damalisc, Impala, Gazelle, Springbok, Pygmy antelope, Dik-dik, Bush duiker, Forest duiker, Nubian ibex, Aoudad, Hippopotamus, Wild pig, and Nile crocodile
Cats of the World	Minimum 4, Bow 3 African lion, African leopard, African cheetah, Wildcat, Jaguar, Cougar, Lynx, Asian Wildcat, Serval, caracal, African golden cat or bobcat
Global Hunting Award	Copper – 2 Continents, Bronze – 3 Continents, Silver – 4 Continents, Gold – 5 Continents, Diamond – 6 Continents (a minimum of 17 native species in Africa, 13 native or introduced in North America, 4 native or introduced in South America, 6 native or introduced in Europe, 6 native to Asia and 4 introduced in the South Pacific)
Hunting Achievement Award	Minimum: Copper – 10, Bronze – 30, Silver – 70, Gold – 100, and Diamond – 125
Diana Award	Given to women who hunt
World Conservation & Hunting Award	Given to members who have achieved and purchased all 15 Grand Slams, the diamond level of 25 of the 27 Inner Circles, the fourth Pinnacle of Achievement, Zenith and the Crowning Achievement. <sup>38</sup>

# THE BUSINESS OF TROPHY HUNTING

Every year, trophy hunters kill tens of thousands of animals, some of them threatened or endangered, sometimes for the thrill of bringing home a trophy.<sup>39</sup> In order to acquire trophies, trophy hunters tend to work with outfitters that may provide equipment, supplies, and trained guides, as well as arrange travel logistics and accommodations.

## Working with a Trophy Hunting Outfitter

Trophy hunting outfitters facilitate trophy hunting outings, making such outings accessible to novices and experts alike—provided clients are willing to pay what usually amount to substantial financial fees. Outfitters are often able to customize each trophy hunting trip to individual needs and can assist with and advise clients about outing logistics with which they may not be familiar, including licensing and permitting processes, identifying target species, recommending necessary equipment, and even suggesting best hunting techniques. Established outfitters can provide an experienced guide that, in most cases, helps garner a successful kill.

## How Much Does it Cost?

Trophy hunting is an expensive sport. Generally, the high price for a trophy hunting package includes travel, lodging, meals, on-the-ground hunting guides, permits, some supplies, and preparation of the kill for taxidermy. Equipment (including hunting rifles, shotguns, bows, and ammunition), shipment of the kill, taxidermy, and gratuity are often considered additional costs. Examples of costs of high-profile hunts reported by the media include: Walter Palmer, spending \$54,000 to kill Cecil the Lion in Zimbabwe;<sup>40</sup> a German hunter allegedly spending \$62,000 to kill a well-known large-tusked elephant;<sup>41</sup> and, as a special case, hunter Corey Knowlton paying \$350,000 for the rights to legally shoot a critically endangered black rhino in Namibia from a Dallas Safari Club auction.<sup>42</sup>

A 2009 report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the CIC found that the typical big game hunter paid more than \$100,000 for a 21-day hunting trip for one hunter, with a price range from \$81,000 to \$110,000.<sup>43</sup> The average cost of a 28-day elephant, lion,

leopard, and buffalo safari was \$116,000, with a range from \$87,000 to \$140,000.<sup>44</sup> And the average cost of a 10-day buffalo and plains game trophy hunting package was approximately \$41,000.<sup>45</sup>

The *New York Times* recently reported market rates for the Big 5<sup>46</sup> trophy hunts in South Africa below.<sup>47</sup>

According to another report, “lion hunts attract the highest mean prices (US\$24,000–US\$71,000) of all trophy species” and generate 5–17 percent of gross trophy hunting income on national levels, with the proportional significance highest in Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia.<sup>48</sup>

Regardless of the type of package, the length of the hunt, where the hunt takes place, or which animals are targeted, the cost of trophy hunting is extremely high compared to other tourist activities such as eco-tourism and wildlife photography tours. According to Safari Guide Africa's websites, an eco-tourism safari vacation package can vary widely, depending on the length of the trip, destination, and quality of transportation and accommodation. The lowest cost package starts from \$1,330 and goes up to \$7,500 per person, when sharing with at least one other individual for trips between 7–15 days.<sup>49</sup> Numerous other organizations offer photographic safari tours in Africa, which are also considerably cheaper than the average hunting safari package. For example, National Geographic Expeditions' 11-day photographic safari through the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater costs approximately \$9,495.<sup>50</sup> The Andy Biggs African Safaris and Workshop offers an 8-day photographic safari in Botswana's Okavango Delta for approximately \$10,000.<sup>51</sup>

Other factors also differentiate eco-tourism and wildlife watching from the trophy hunting industry. The photographic sector operates year-round versus predominantly during the hunting season, can host a larger number of guests, employs more people, generates higher average revenues, and offers higher staff wages than trophy hunting outfitters.<sup>52</sup>

"BIG 5" COMMON NAME	MARKET RATE IN SOUTH AFRICA (USD)	CONSERVATION STATUS (IUCN RED LIST)
Buffalo	\$12,500–\$17,000	Least Concern
Leopard	\$15,000–\$35,000	Near Threatened
Lion	\$8,500–\$50,000	Vulnerable
Elephant	\$25,000–\$60,000	Vulnerable
White Rhinoceros	\$125,000+	Near Threatened

# THE BUSINESS OF TROPHY HUNTING CONTINUED

## Transportation and Taxidermy

The cost of trophy hunting outfitter packages typically includes the preparation of the trophy kill for taxidermy. This may include measurement, dipping, salting, packaging, and crating the killed animal to prepare it for transport back to the hunters' home for taxidermy. Air or ocean freight (which, for example, can take about eight to 12 weeks<sup>53</sup> to get from South Africa to the US) are the most common modes of transporting trophies overseas.<sup>54</sup> A third party generally performs the taxidermy and related costs are not typically included in outfitter package prices.

A hunter decides how the kill will be mounted (shoulder mount, full body, rug, etc.) and prices vary depending on the species. According to the online price list of one taxidermist in South Africa, the costs to shoulder mount one of the Big 5 species are approximately as follows: \$990 for a buffalo; \$780 for a leopard; \$820 for a lion; \$7,900 for an elephant; and \$15,000 for a rhino.<sup>55</sup> Full mounts can cost approximately \$9,900 for a buffalo, \$2,650 for a leopard, \$4,250 for a lion, and \$68,000 for an elephant.<sup>56</sup> Another taxidermist's website from the US states that it will cost about \$300 to shoulder mount a white tail deer and about \$100 to shoulder mount a moose, and around \$750 to full body mount a white tail deer and about \$4,000 to full body mount a moose.<sup>57</sup>



## Permits and Importation Procedures

Hunters need various permits to import and export their trophies. These permits and related costs depend on the hunter's country of residence. For example, US citizens must obtain permits through the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and CITES.<sup>58</sup>

In the US there can be different permits needed based on the type of sport-hunted trophy species and whether it is being imported into or exported out of the US.<sup>59</sup> Export permits require a processing fee of about \$100 per permit and typically take 30 to 90 days for review and comment. Depending on the type of sport-hunted species, an import permit can require a \$100 processing fee and recommends submitting permit paperwork at least 60 days in advance for processing, but it may take up to 90 days.<sup>60</sup> Some CITES-listed species are also protected by other US laws, such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Wild Bird Conservation Act, which include more rigorous permit requirements.<sup>61</sup> For example, applications to hunt species listed as Endangered under the ESA must be published in the Federal Register for a 30-day public comment period.<sup>62</sup>

## Cost Implications

The high cost of trophy hunting often sets high expectations on outfitters. As a result, many outfitters are pressured to deliver a "successful" hunt. Many hunters want to feel that their experience is real and that the hunt has not been staged, but perhaps most importantly, they also expect to bring home a trophy.<sup>63</sup>

Although logistically it is impossible to guarantee, many outfitters claim their clients will go home with a trophy. Such pressures may lead to corruption, unlawful, or questionable means to tilt the odds in the hunters' favor to get a kill.<sup>64</sup> For example, Walter Palmer's guides allegedly used bait to lure Cecil away from the safety of the Hwange National Park and illegally disposed of Cecil's radio collar.<sup>65</sup> There are also reports of American hunting ranches using bait stations to concentrate animals and cameras to track their positions, and of hunting guides on African big game safaris using bush planes to herd animals into the hunters' firing range.<sup>66</sup>

## SIDEBAR:

# AIRLINES BANNING THE SHIPMENT OF HUNTING TROPHIES

In April 2015, Chris Green of Cambridge, Massachusetts created a change.org petition encouraging Delta Air Lines CEO Richard Anderson to join the growing list of airlines that had stopped transporting exotic animal hunting trophies.<sup>67</sup> The successful petition, which was signed by almost 400,000 petitioners, received worldwide attention when American dentist Walter Palmer killed Zimbabwe's beloved Cecil the Lion that July.<sup>68</sup>

Presently, there are approximately 45 airlines around the world that have banned the transport of some or all trophies.<sup>69</sup> US airline embargoes, including those by American, Delta, and United, are important because Americans make up the vast majority of trophy hunters.

However, the trophy hunting industry is fighting back. Corey Knowlton, a Texan who paid \$350,000 in 2014 to kill an endangered black rhino in Africa, along with Dallas Safari Club, Houston Safari Club, Conservation Force, Campfire Association and Tanzania Hunting Operators Association, sued Delta Airlines in federal court for refusing to ship his trophy, claiming the ban violates federal common law duties as a common carrier, discourages conservation, breaks international law, and stigmatizes hunters.<sup>70</sup> The case is still pending.<sup>71</sup>

Shipments of hunting trophies are still allowed by United Parcel Service (UPS) and FedEx, the world's largest freight companies. UPS "accepts shipment [of] taxidermy items that are legally obtained and appropriately documented" and although FedEx does not ship full animal carcasses, they do ship animal parts for taxidermy.<sup>72</sup>

Although most animal trophies can be sent via air freight or ocean freight, ocean freight is becoming more and more popular with cost savings of up to 25 percent compared to air freight.<sup>73</sup> In any event, the airline bans send a clear message to trophy hunters and the trophy hunting industry that the public has a strong voice in making change for wildlife.

Below are highlights of some of the airlines that have banned trophy shipments:

AIRLINE	EFFECTIVE	BAN TROPHY SHIPMENT OF
Air Canada	August 4, 2015	Lion, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros, and water buffalo trophies
American Airlines	August 3, 2015	Buffalo, elephant, leopard, lion, and rhino trophies
British Airways	2015	All animal trophies
Brussels Airlines	June 9, 2015	All animal trophies
Delta	August 3, 2015	Lion, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros and buffalo trophies worldwide as freight
Emirates	May 15, 2015	All animal trophies
Ethiad Airways	June 11, 2015	All animal trophies
IAG Cargo	July, 2015	All animal trophies
Iberia	July, 2015	All animal trophies
Jet Blue	August, 2015	All animal trophies
KLM	1998	All animal trophies
Lufthansa	May, 2015	All trophies of African fauna
Qatar Airways	May, 2015	All animal trophies
Qantas	July, 2015	All animal trophies
Singapore	July, 2015	All animal trophies
United	2015	Rhino, buffalo, lion, leopard, and elephant trophies
Virgin Atlantic	2015	Animal trophies



## TOTAL TROPHIES

**200,000+**

Hunting trophies of threatened taxa traded between nations (2004–2014)

**1,700,000?**

Hunting trophies (non-threatened taxa) traded between nations (2004–2014)



Hunting trophies traded all together, including domestic hunts and those traded between countries (2004–2014)

# TROPHY HUNTING

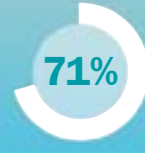
## TOTAL COUNTRIES

**107**

countries participated in trophy hunting trade between 2004 and 2014.



The top twenty countries are responsible for 97 percent of trophy imports.



The United States (US) accounts for 71 percent of the import demand, or about 15 times more than the next highest nations, Germany and Spain (both 5 percent).



These top 20 importing countries are killing and importing their trophies mainly from Canada (35 percent), South Africa (23 percent), and Namibia (11 percent).



## EXPENSIVE SPORT

Some high-profile hunt costs reported by the media include the following:



**\$54,000**

Cost for Walter Palmer to kill Cecil the Lion in Zimbabwe



**\$62,000**

Price tag for German hunter to kill a well-known large tusked elephant



**\$350,000**

Amount Corey Knowlton paid to kill one black rhino in Namibia from a Dallas Safari Club auction.

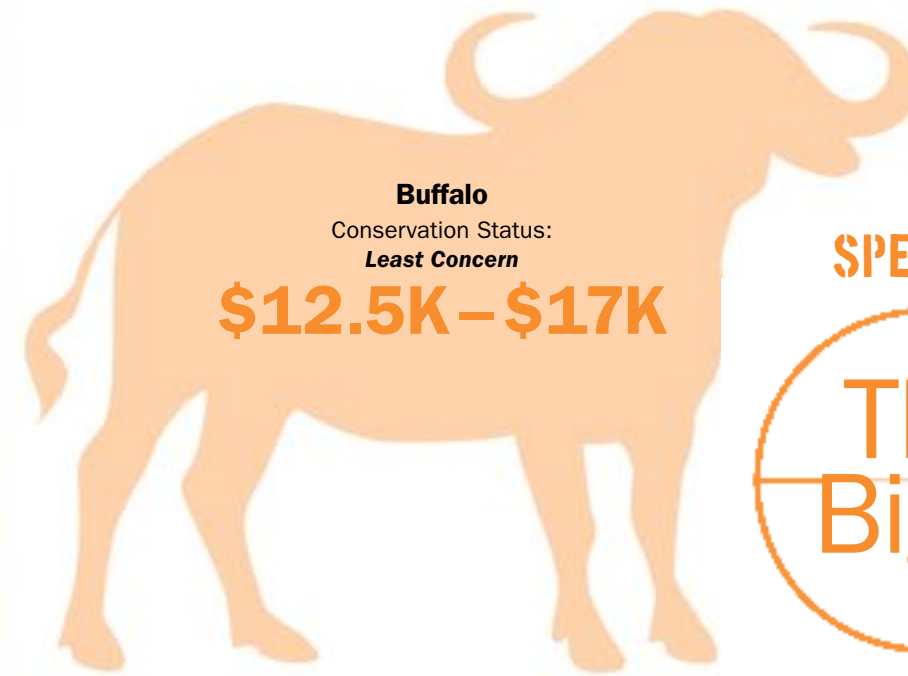


**\$100,000+**

Charge for a typical 21-day hunting trip for one big game hunter

# BY THE NUMBERS

Of the top 20 threatened species, African lions have the strongest statistically significant increase of trophy hunting trade since 2004.



### Buffalo

Conservation Status: **Least Concern**

**\$12.5K – \$17K**



### African Lion

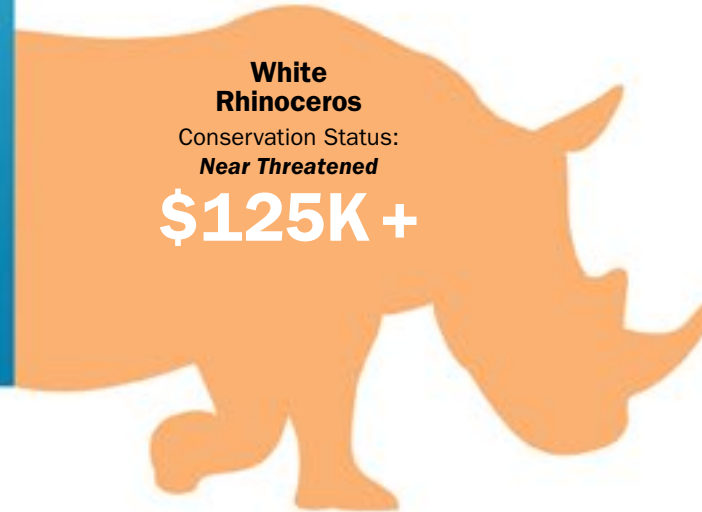
Conservation Status: **Vulnerable**

**\$8.5K – \$50K**

## SPECIES



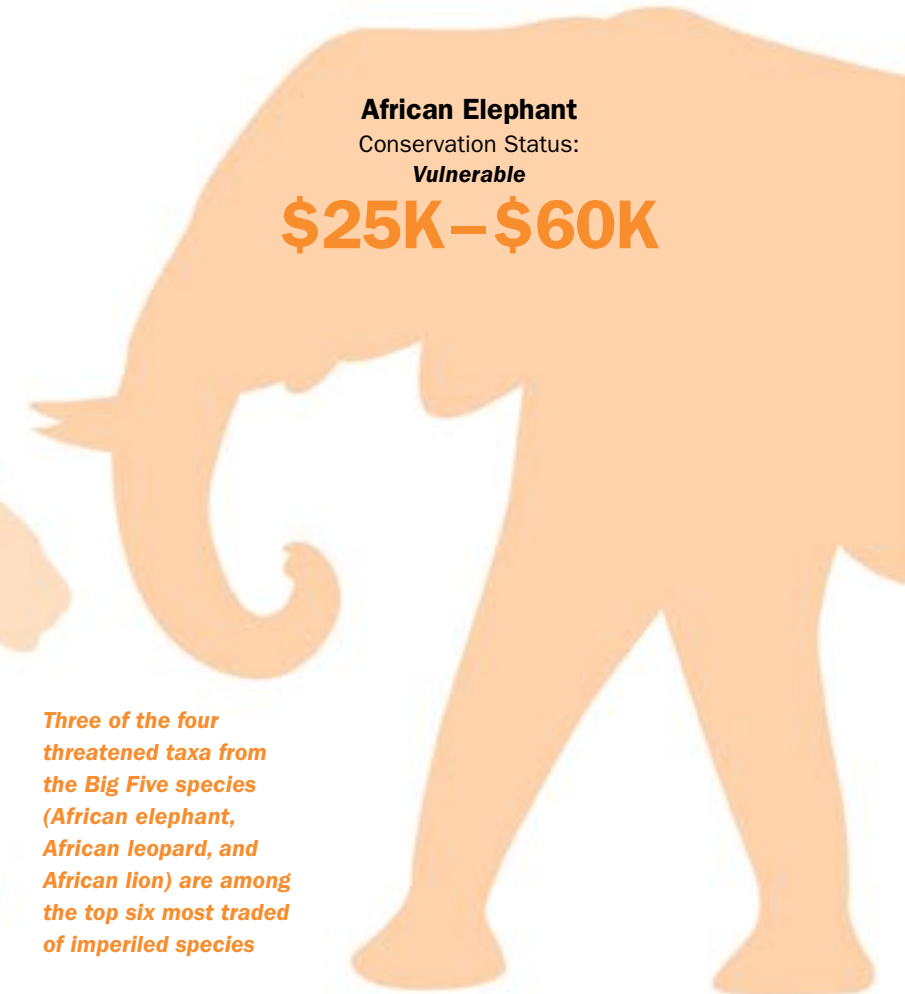
The *New York Times* reported market rates for the Big 5 trophy hunts in South Africa.



### White Rhinoceros

Conservation Status: **Near Threatened**

**\$125K +**



### African Elephant

Conservation Status: **Vulnerable**

**\$25K – \$60K**



### African Leopard

Conservation Status: **Least Concern**

**\$15K – \$35K**

Three of the four threatened taxa from the Big Five species (African elephant, African leopard, and African lion) are among the top six most traded of imperiled species



# LAWS AND POLICIES

The policies and laws surrounding trophy hunting remain complex, with many scientists, governments, and conservationists unable to agree on best preservation and conservation practices and how they interplay with wildlife management plans that include trophy hunting. Wildlife management is complicated, as wildlife often roam large distances and frequently move in and out of parks and protected areas making regulations in, between, and across legal and political boundaries especially difficult.<sup>74</sup> Nonetheless, there are a number of international conventions and national laws that regulate or provide guidance on trophy hunting.

## History of Nature Conservation

Hunting and conservation communities have long recognized the need to regulate trade in game species in order to maintain wild populations.<sup>75</sup> The first international convention was the 1900 London Convention for the protection of Wild Animals, Birds, and Fish in Africa, adopted by Great Britain, Italy, Portugal, Spain and France to conserve flora and fauna on the African continent.<sup>76</sup> This Convention was replaced by the London Convention of 1933, which originally involved nine states and worked to protect 42 African game species.<sup>77</sup> This was then superseded by the 1968 African Nature Convention, which required parties “to ensure conservation, utilization and development of soil, water, flora and faunal resources in accordance with scientific principles and with due regard to the best interests of the people.”<sup>78</sup> These conventions helped lay the foundation for modern day international conservation and trade regulation efforts.<sup>79</sup>

## What is CITES?

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was created in 1973 in an effort to regulate trade of more than 35,000 wild animal and plant species across borders and countries in order to preserve certain species from over-exploitation.<sup>80</sup> It is the most recent and most effective international method for regulating wildlife trade to date.<sup>81</sup> Originally made up of 80 countries, CITES now has 181 signatories. Although the goal of CITES is to conserve biodiversity, it does not ban wildlife trade. In fact, there have been more than 10 million legal CITES trade records since 1975.<sup>82</sup> Depending on the political climate of the parties and the current Secretariat, interpretation of the CITES mission has varied from a responsibility to facilitate legal trade in species to a framework for saving species from extinction.

## CITES Structure

CITES is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). A Secretariat, located in Geneva, Switzerland, oversees the implementation of the treaty and assists with communications between countries.<sup>83</sup> Each country that implements CITES, referred to as a “Party” and collectively known as the “Conference of the Parties” (CoP), designates Management Authorities and Scientific Authorities to carry out the treaty and issue permits for legal trade. They also meet every two to three years to review, discuss, negotiate changes, and vote on various implementations of the convention.<sup>84</sup> The Scientific Authorities determine whether trade in a particular animal or plant species could be detrimental to its survival in the wild.<sup>85</sup>

## Monitoring and Enforcement

Permits to trade protected species are issued by a country’s Management and Scientific Authorities (e.g. Departments within the FWS for the US) if they determine that trade is legal and does not threaten the species’ survival in the wild.<sup>86</sup> These Authorities designate official country inspection import and export ports to verify and inspect specimens. Species-specific trade data are inputted into Party annual reports, which form the basis of the analysis in this report.<sup>87</sup>

Depending on which CITES Appendix a taxon falls under, either an export permit or both an export and an import permit may be needed to allow trade in the species. In the case of Appendix I species, commercial trade may be banned altogether.

Each Party adheres to CITES voluntarily. Although CITES provides a framework, each Party must adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.<sup>88</sup>

## Levels of Protection

Under CITES, a species is listed in one of three levels of protection, each of which has different permit requirements.<sup>89</sup>

Appendix I includes approximately 1,000 species<sup>90</sup> threatened with extinction.<sup>91</sup> CITES prohibits the international trade of Appendix I animals or plants except where the purpose is non-commercial, such as the import of sport-hunted trophies or for scientific research,<sup>92</sup> in which case an import and an export permit is still required.

Appendix II includes approximately 35,000 species<sup>93</sup> not necessarily threatened with extinction, but still protected under trade controls to avoid threatening current population numbers.<sup>94</sup> CITES authorizes international trade in Appendix II species via export permits or re-export certificates.<sup>95</sup> Article IV stipulates that such permits and certificates may only be granted if “trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.”<sup>96</sup>

Finally, Appendix III includes approximately 150 species<sup>97</sup> that receive protection in at least one country that has asked the Parties for assistance in controlling trade to prevent exploitation.<sup>98</sup>

Since the conservation needs of a particular species may vary between populations located in different countries, CITES annotations may separate delineated populations into different Appendices. For example, some African countries have successfully “downlisted” their elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II. This is significant because commercial trade of species categorized in Appendix I is strictly prohibited and other trade, including hunting trophies and scientific research, is heavily regulated.<sup>99</sup> On the other hand, African countries that have successfully downlisted their elephant populations to Appendix II can be permitted to engage in trade more readily.

## Trophy Hunting and CITES

While CITES was designed to protect, through regulation, animal and plant species so that international demand does not threaten their survival in the wild,<sup>100</sup> there are numerous exemptions and various situations that allow for continued trade in imperiled—or CITES “listed”—species. Under CITES, the import of sport-hunted trophies is not considered “commercial trade.” This is particularly relevant for Appendix I<sup>101</sup> listed species, as to which commercial trade is banned but non-commercial trade (including the import of trophies) is allowed. Non-commercial trade in Appendix I species may continue so long as both the exporting and importing countries find that the taking of the animal is not detrimental to the survival of the population.<sup>102</sup> That said, Parties may institute stronger domestic measures than those called for by CITES, so a country could choose to ban the import of trophies of some or all Appendix I species

altogether. Imported trophies from Appendix II species only require that the exporting country make a non-detriment finding; however, in this situation as well, countries have the option of instituting domestic measures that are stricter than those of CITES, and could also require an import permit or ban the import altogether.

CITES Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP16) states that hunting trophies “be exempted as personal effects if both the countries of import and export implement the personal and household effects exemption for the species and the specimen at the time of import, export or re-export was worn, carried or included in personal baggage.”<sup>103</sup> The criteria to meet this exemption are narrowly drawn—including because most trophies are treated in-country and shipped later, not carried by the hunter when they return home—so few trophies are able to qualify for the exemption.

## Domestic Laws

Individual countries have the ability to pass and enforce laws regulating trophy hunting within their own borders. Such domestic activities fall outside the mandate of CITES, which only regulates international trade—i.e., trade between two or more countries. For example, some countries such as Botswana,<sup>104</sup> Brazil,<sup>105</sup> India,<sup>106</sup> and Kenya<sup>107</sup> prohibit trophy hunting of any native species, while other countries have passed laws to stop the trophy hunting of particular species or classes of species, such as big cats.

Countries that are Parties to CITES can also pass laws that go beyond the guidelines of CITES.<sup>108</sup> These are called “stricter domestic measures,” and can include, for example, the ability to ban or create stricter regulation on the import and export of all trophies, or trophies from certain species or countries.



# LAWS AND POLICIES CONTINUED

## Bans

Several countries have taken note of the detrimental effects trophy hunting can have on already decimated wildlife populations. This infographic highlights some existing trophy hunting bans around the world.

LOCATION	TROPHY HUNTING STATUS	EFFECTIVE DATE
Brazil	Except for the state of Rio Grande do Sul, commercial, sport, and recreational hunting of native species are prohibited	1967
India	Ban on hunting of any wild animal specified in Schedule I, II, III and IV of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 (with exceptions).	1972
Kenya	Ban on all trophy hunting	1977
Costa Rica	Ban on all sport hunting and trapping both inside and outside protected areas	December 2012
Botswana	Ban on trophy hunting	2013
Australia	Ban on all African lion trophy imports	March 2015
France	Ban on all lion trophy imports	November 2015
South Africa	Stopped issuing leopard hunting permits	January 25, 2016
China	Ban on the import of African elephant ivory acquired as hunting trophies	March 2016 to January 2020
Netherlands	Ban on importing Appendix I species and six Appendix II species (White Rhino ( <i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i> ), Hippo ( <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i> ), African elephant ( <i>Loxodonta africana</i> ), Argali/wild sheep ( <i>Ovis ammon</i> ), Lion ( <i>Panthera leo</i> ), Polar bear ( <i>Ursus maritimus</i> ))	April 2016



## SPOTLIGHT ON LIONS

The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced in December of 2015 that it finalized a ruling to provide protections for all lions under the ESA.<sup>109</sup> Other countries have followed African countries such as Botswana and Kenya, which ban all trophy hunting. In response to rampant canned hunting, Australian Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt announced a ban on the importation of lion trophies in Australia in 2015. And Ségolène Royal, French Minister of Ecology, banned the import of lion trophies into French territory, making France the first EU member state to do so.<sup>110</sup>

## SIDEBAR:

# BANS DECREASE OVERALL DEMAND: A SPOTLIGHT ON POLAR BEARS

Wild polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) only live in Canada, Greenland (Denmark), Norway, Russia, and the US. There are approximately 20,000 polar bears left in the wild, and the number is expected to decrease rapidly due to habitat loss from climate change in their Arctic home. Scientists have said that they believe two-thirds of the world's polar bears may be lost by mid-century.

Although there is almost no local fiscal benefit to continued killing of polar bears for trophy hunting in most communities that engage in this practice,<sup>111</sup> Canada still allows international commercial sale of hides of polar bears killed by indigenous hunters and is the only country that allows polar bear hunting by foreigners for sport. The number of polar bears hunted for trophy purposes in Canada increased from a yearly average of four in 1970–1981 to 96 in 1995–2008.<sup>112</sup> This growth is attributed to a change in US law that allowed US hunters to import polar bear trophies.<sup>113</sup> The US Marine Mammal Protection Act, passed in 1972, generally prohibits the import of products from marine mammals, such as whales, dolphins, seals, and polar bears.<sup>114</sup> But in 1994, Congress amended the law to allow American sport hunters to bring home polar bear trophies from Canada. From 2002–2005, American hunters received 252 import permits.<sup>115</sup>

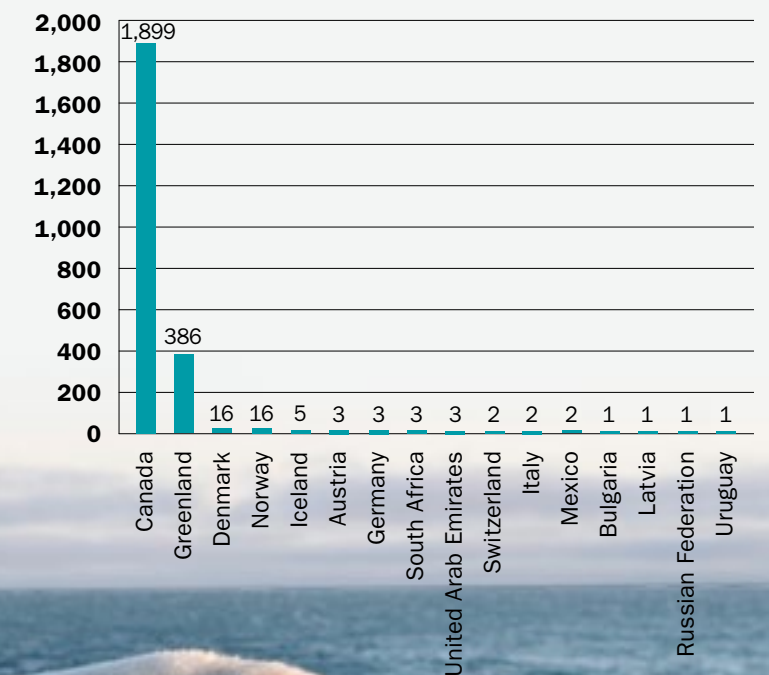
In 2008, the US banned polar bear trophy imports once again when the species was listed as Threatened under the ESA, thereby triggering a provision in the US Marine Mammal Protection Act that resulted in a ban on the import of all polar bear parts. While this does not prevent Americans from killing polar bears while in Canada, it does mean imports of polar bear trophies to the US are prohibited.

US hunters made up the vast majority of polar bear hunters prior to 2008. With the implementation of the ban, there were predictions made from some quarters that non-US nationals,

such as Europeans and the Chinese, would fill the market,<sup>116</sup> or that US hunters would continue killing polar bears for sport even if they could not bring back the trophies.

However, there is evidence that single-country bans save animals by decreasing demand overall. Fewer polar bears have been killed for trophies since the US 2008 ban.<sup>117</sup> Prior to the US ban, from 2004 to 2008 an average total of 361.2 polar bears were trophy hunted annually in Canada, whereas from 2009 to 2012 an average of 210.5 polar bears were trophy hunted annually, a 41.7 percent decrease. While there are other variables that may have factored into this sharp decline, it is likely that the US ban on imports contributed to reducing the demand for polar bear trophy hunts.

Number of exported hunting trophies from Polar Bears between 2004 and 2014 per exporting country



# GLOBAL IMPORT AND EXPORT DATA ANALYSES

Trophy hunting affects people, animals, and habitat worldwide. Because demand drives the industry, analysis of data is imperative to understanding the global impacts of trophy hunting and informing policy decisions. It is important to keep in mind, though, that the CITES database only reflects international trade and not domestic hunting. Therefore, the numbers stated in this report are incomplete estimations of total wild animals hunted for trophies worldwide.

## The CITES Trade Database

The CITES Trade Database,<sup>118</sup> managed by the United Nations Environmental Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on behalf of the CITES Secretariat,<sup>119</sup> is unique and holds more than 13 million wildlife trade records. More than 34,000 scientific taxa names are listed in the CITES Appendices.<sup>120</sup> Approximately one million trade records of CITES-listed wildlife species are reported annually and these data are entered into the CITES Trade Database by UNEP-WCMC.<sup>121</sup> CITES annual reports are the only available means of monitoring the implementation of the Convention and the level of international trade in specimens of species included in the CITES Appendices.<sup>122</sup> Therefore, the accuracy and quality of the database are subject to the quality of the data reported by the CITES Parties.

## Methodology

### Criteria for Selecting Hunting Trophies

In this report, an item was counted as a hunting trophy from threatened taxa (“CITES hunting trophy”) only if it was recorded in the CITES trade database as meeting all of the following criteria:<sup>123</sup>

1. An individual biological item;
2. Belonging to one of the following “source” categories: captive bred; born in captivity; confiscated/seized; ranched; taken from the wild; taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any state; or unknown sources;
3. Belonging to one of the following “purpose” categories: “hunting trophy”, “personal”, or “commercial” (in this case only if marked as trophies in the trade terms);
4. Belonging to one of the “trade terms” categories: “bodies,” “horns,” “skins,” “skulls,” “tusks,” “trophies,” or “unspecified”;
5. Measured in quantity of items and not by weight, and

6. Belonging to taxa normally hunted using a firearm or hunting bow and arrow, and the end result of the hunt is likely to be intact enough to be mounted as a trophy.<sup>124</sup>

Neither trophy fishing nor pre-convention trophies were included in the criteria for selecting hunting trophies in this report.

Depending on which CITES Appendix or EU Wildlife Trade Regulation Annex a taxon falls under, an export permit from the country of origin may or may not require an import permit from the country of destination. Therefore, import and export figures are not always the same because items could have been rejected at ports of entry or been re-classified as something other than a hunting trophy. For this reason, only import data have been included in this report and the data points should be considered a conservative minimum estimation of actual trophy trade numbers.

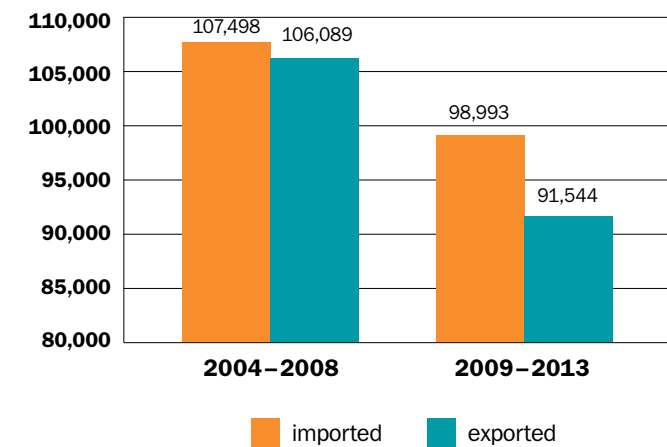
### CITES Database Discrepancies and Notes

There are inherent limitations in our use of the CITES database for this survey. For example, the CITES database only catalogs trade between nations, and therefore any hunting trophy traded within a nation (including trade within the EU) is not recorded. Additionally, a CITES hunting trophy may be a whole animal or a part or parts of an animal. Therefore, it cannot be assumed that the number of trophies equates to the number of animals killed, as one hunted animal may have been reported to CITES as several trophies. In addition, the actual number of hunting trophies traded or created is, of course, more than the number of CITES hunting trophies, because the CITES database only includes threatened species. Moreover, trophies would not be captured in the CITES database if they were not reported to the authorities or if the authorities failed to report them to CITES.

There are also delays or discrepancies in reporting of import and export data from our standard data set of 2004 to 2014. In order to balance the need for the most up-to-date information with accurate data, different time frames were sometimes used for different purposes in this report. For example if a specific country had not submitted any data for the past two years, we may have had to look further back for a full dataset. However,

when analyzing large data sets we frequently went with the most up-to-date information from 2004 to 2014, even if some countries had not yet submitted their information, resulting in more conservative numbers where the actual number of hunted trophies is likely to be much higher once the rest of the reports are submitted.

**Number of imported and exported hunting trophies of threatened taxa from 2004 to 2013**



## Global Prevalence

The trophy hunting industry is driven by demand, and there is strong demand for animal trophies worldwide. Based on the CITES data reviewed for this report, we estimate that 1.7 million hunting trophies were traded between nations between 2004 and 2014. Of those, at least 200,000 belonged to threatened taxa.

## Top Importing and Exporting Countries

One hundred and seven different nations (104 importing nations and 106 exporting nations) participated in the trophy hunting trade between 2004 and 2014. However, although there is worldwide demand for animal trophies, according to the CITES database, 97 percent of trade comes from the top 20 countries. Amongst those, the US (71 percent, or about 15 times more import than the next highest nation), Germany (5 percent), and Spain (5 percent), are the top three demand countries, making up 81 percent of the overall overseas trophy trades over the surveyed time period.

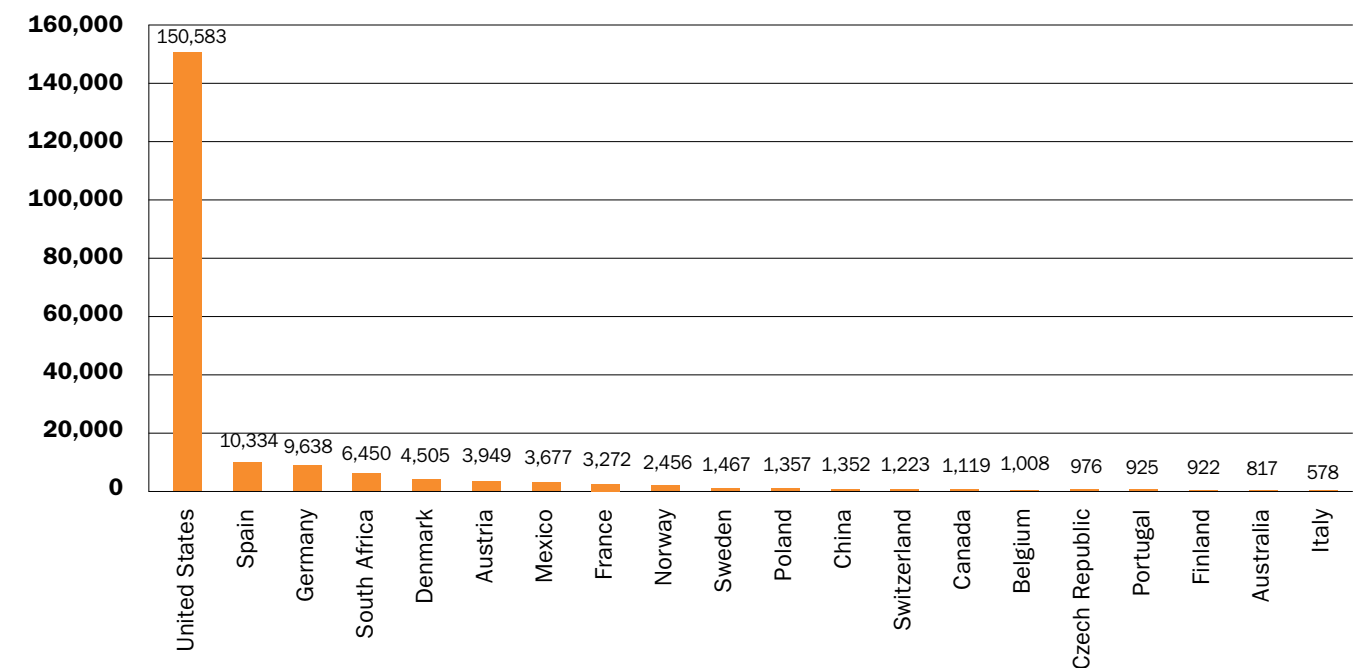
These top 20 importing countries are killing and importing their trophies mainly from Canada (35 percent), South Africa (23 percent), and Namibia (11 percent). The most common trade of threatened taxa trophies come from Canada to the US, followed by trophy trade from African nations to the US.

Only the US, Canada, Mexico, and South Africa are both top importers and exporters of hunting trophies from threatened taxa.

## World Overview

From 2004 to 2014, at least 200,000 hunted threatened taxa trophies were traded between nations, or more than 20,000 trophies per year. The maps on page 24–25 indicate the extent of trophy hunting’s popularity worldwide, outlining the total number of imported and exported hunted trophies and the top imported threatened taxa.

**Top 20 nations with the highest imports of hunting trophies from threatened taxa from 2004 to 2014**



# WHICH ANIMALS ARE MOST SOUGHT AFTER?

Scholars of the trophy hunting industry have observed that the most sought after trophy hunted animals generally tend to have notable characteristics, particularly horns, tusks, and overall body size of mature males. The rarer, more exotic, and larger the animal, the more the animal is desired for the kill because for a hunter these qualities can represent his or her skill and success.<sup>125</sup>

## Trophy Hunted Taxa

Many different species of animals are hunted for trophies, including mammals, birds, and reptiles. In addition to the most commonly hunted taxa there are also very rare species which have occasionally made it into the CITES database as hunting trophies, such as fishing cats, Siamese crocodiles, black rhinoceroses, tigers, lowland anoas, douc langurs, vicugna, Grevy's zebras, gharials, and gorillas.

At least 451 threatened taxa were traded as hunted trophies from 2004 to 2014. 90 percent of these trades came from the top 20 most traded threatened taxa. 90 percent of these top 20 most traded threatened taxa are mammals, including 44 percent carnivores, 27 percent ungulates, 22 percent primates, and 6 percent pachyderms. 65 percent of these top 20 most traded threatened taxa are African taxa,

## Top 20 threatened taxa with the highest number of imported hunting trophies from 2004 to 2014

COMMON NAME	TAXA	IMPORTS	
American Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	93,322	44%
Hartmann's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>	12,892	6%
Leopard, Panther	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	10,299	5%
African Elephant, African Savannah Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	10,294	5%
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	9,504	4%
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	8,231	4%
Common Wolf, Grey Wolf, Timber Wolf, Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	6,534	3%
Brown Bear, Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	6,482	3%
Hippopotamus, Large Hippo	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	5,812	3%
African Crocodile, Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	4,693	2%
Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>	4,601	2%
African Caracal, Asian Caracal, Caracal, Desert Lynx	<i>Caracal caracal</i>	4,108	2%
Blackbuck, Sasin	<i>Antelope cervicapra</i>	3,238	2%
Cougar, Deer Tiger, Mountain Lion, Puma, Red Tiger	<i>Puma concolor</i>	2,303	1%
Hamadryas Baboon	<i>Papio hamadryas</i>	1,813	1%
Argali, Asian Wild Sheep, Marco Polo Sheep	<i>Ovis ammon</i>	1,691	1%
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	1,534	1%
Grivet Monkey, Savanna Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus aethiops</i>	1,410	1%
Blesbok, Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus pygargus</i>	1,348	1%
American Lynx, Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	1,276	1%

30 percent are American taxa, and up to 25 percent are Eurasian taxa. In terms of actual number of traded items from these top 20 most traded threatened taxa, 58 percent of the traded items are from American taxa, 40 percent from African taxa, and up to 9 percent from Eurasian taxa when examining taxa by geographic area.<sup>126</sup>

The threatened animals most commonly traded between nations as hunting trophies over the 2004 to 2014 time period were American carnivores (in particular, the American black bear) followed by African ungulates.

Since 2004, the African lion, vervet monkey, chacma baboon, African elephant, hippopotamus, African crocodile, lechwe, and bontebok have been hunted as trophies at an increasing rate. By contrast, the rate of trophy hunting of grivet monkey, polar bear, hamadryas baboon, American lynx, American black bear, argali, cougar, brown bear, and common wolf has declined. Trends in popularly hunted trophies depend a great deal on a number of factors including cost, abundance, required hunting skills, applicable rules and regulations, and motivation to kill specific taxa for inclusion in hunting record books and competitions (e.g. SCI's Grand Slam).

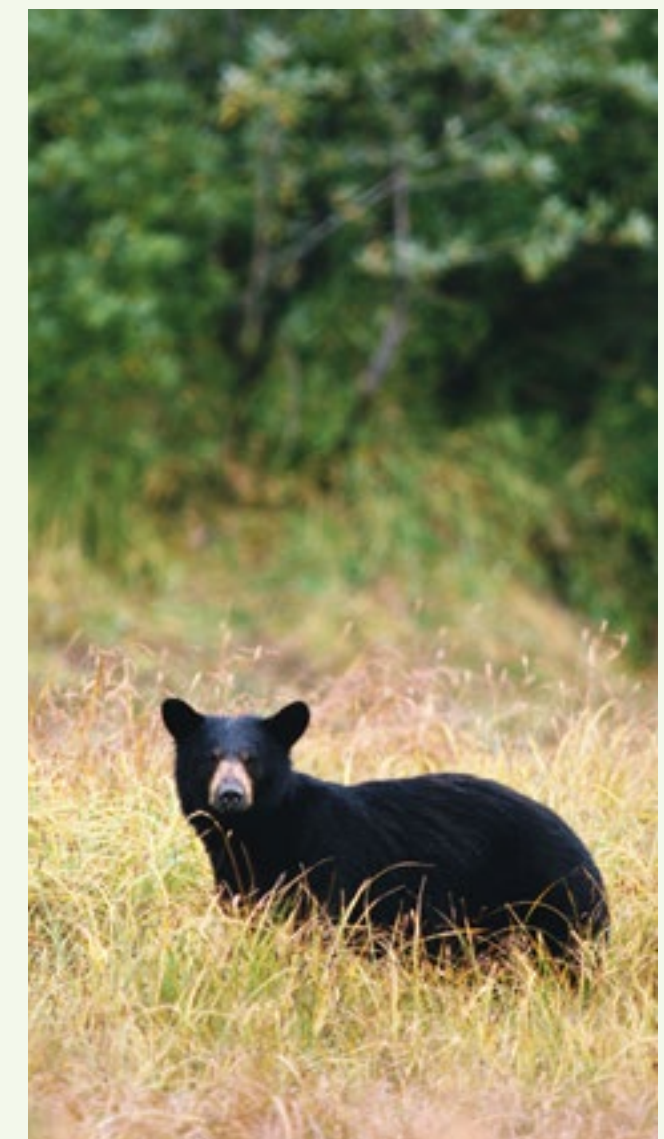
## SIDEBAR:

## AMERICAN BLACK BEARS

The study of CITES data on trophy trade of threatened species found that the American black bear (*Ursus americanus*) stands out as the top traded species, 7 times more than the second species on the list. Although there seems to be a slight decline of trade over the last five years compared with the previous five, more than 93,000 hunting trophies from American black bears have been traded between nations since 2004, with an unknown number traded within the US or Canada (as the CITES database only includes international trade). The CITES data show that most of the international trade in American black bear hunting trophies comes from Canada (over 99 percent), with most trophies entering through the US (93 percent).

American black bears are found in Canada, the US, and northern Mexico.<sup>127</sup> Historically, black bears occupied the majority of North America's forested regions. Today, however, they are primarily limited to sparsely settled, forested areas.<sup>128</sup>

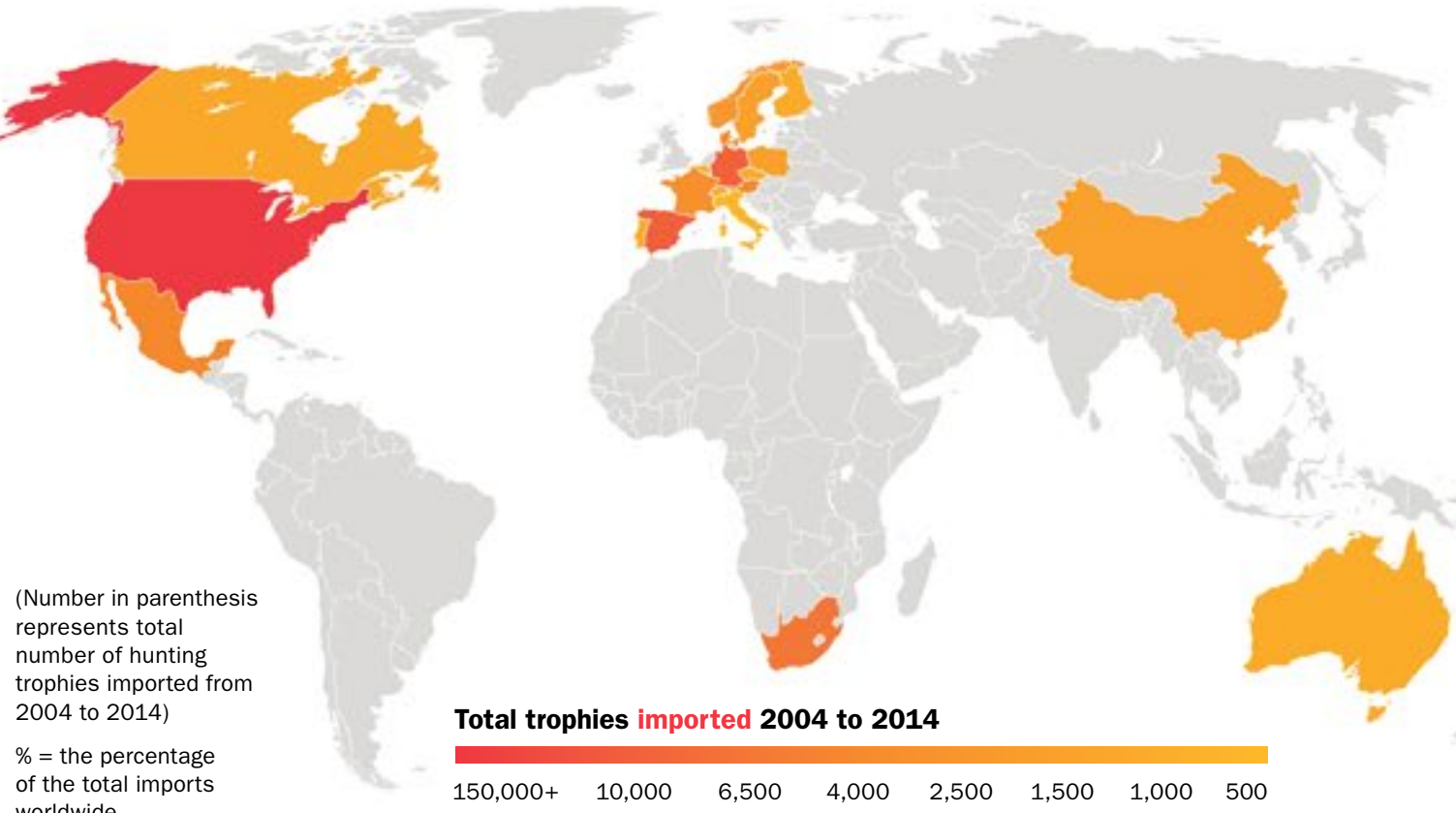
Although the American black bear's IUCN conservation status has been categorized as 'least concern' since 1992, all American black bears have been listed in Appendix II of CITES under the similarity of appearance provision (Article II, para 2b). This listing stipulates that documentation of legal harvest is necessary for the import and export of body parts in order to prevent these from being confused as parts from illegally obtained bears. In Mexico, all hunting seasons for American black bears have been closed since 1985, and the species is considered nationally endangered.<sup>129</sup> The Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*), a subspecies of the American black bear, was listed as threatened under the ESA in 1992 because of severe loss and fragmentation of its habitat combined with unsustainable human-caused mortality.<sup>130</sup> In British Columbia, much conservation attention has been directed toward the Kermode subspecies (*Ursus americanus kermodei*).<sup>131</sup>



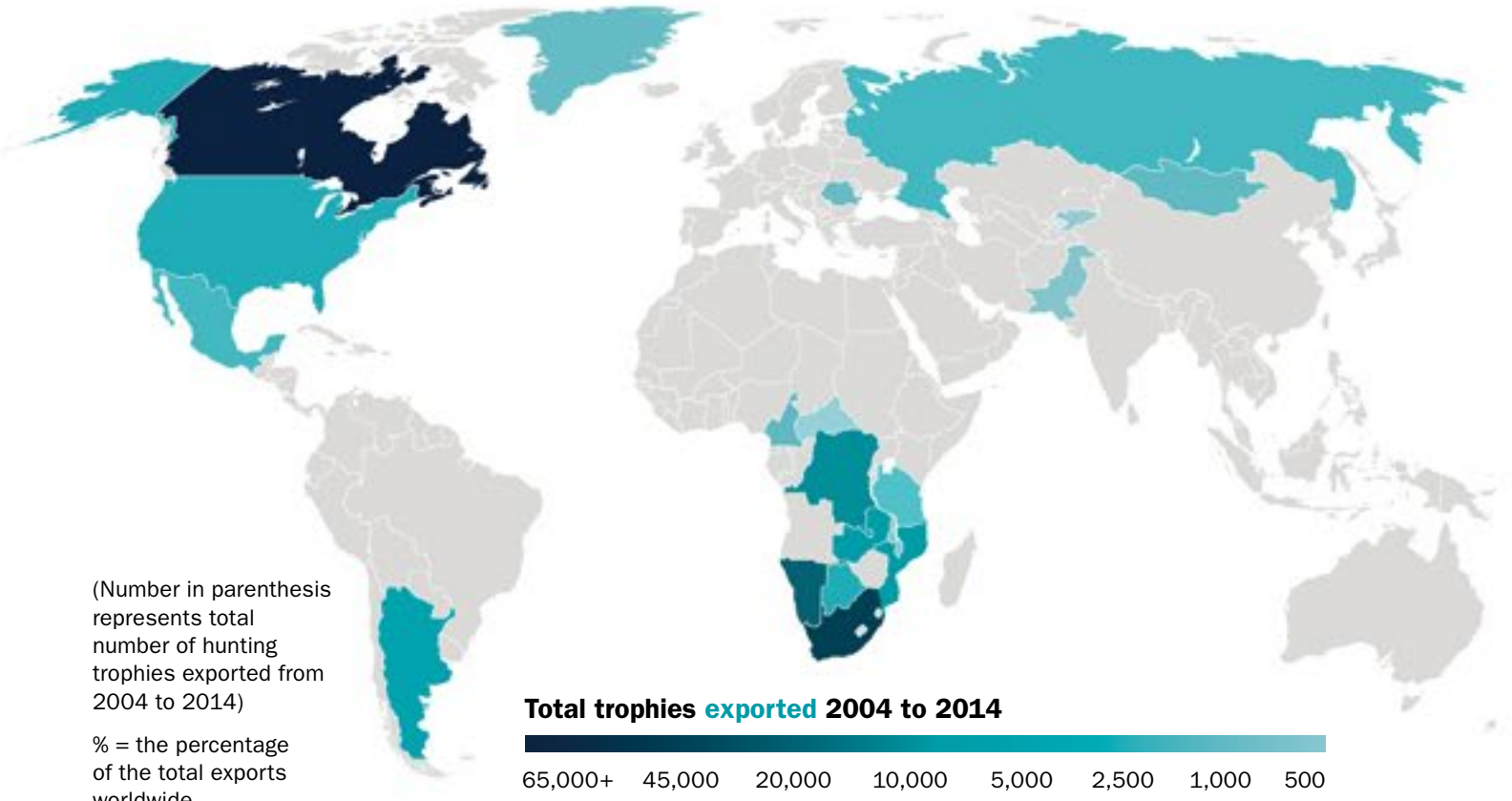
**TOP 20 IMPORTING COUNTRIES**  
2004 to 2014

# TROPHY HUNTING AROUND THE WORLD

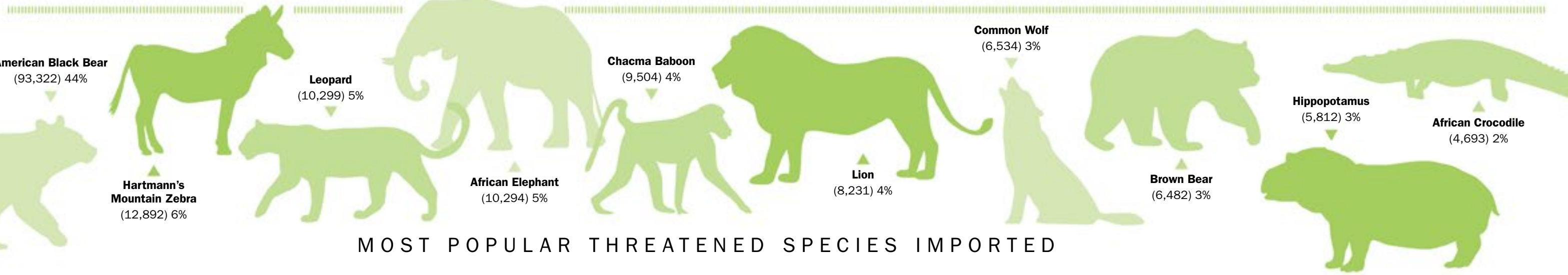
**TOP 20 EXPORTING COUNTRIES**  
2004 to 2014



<b>United States</b> (150,583) 70.9%	<b>Denmark</b> (4,505) 2.1%	<b>Norway</b> (2,456) 1.2%	<b>Switzerland</b> (1,223) 0.6%	<b>Portugal</b> (925) 0.4%
<b>Spain</b> (10,334) 4.9%	<b>Austria</b> (3,949) 1.9%	<b>Sweden</b> (1,467) 0.7%	<b>Canada</b> (1,119) 0.5%	<b>Finland</b> (922) 0.4%
<b>Germany</b> (9,638) 4.5%	<b>Mexico</b> (3,677) 1.7%	<b>Poland</b> (1,357) 0.6%	<b>Belgium</b> (1,008) 0.5%	<b>Australia</b> (817) 0.4%
<b>South Africa</b> (6,450) 3.0%	<b>France</b> (3,272) 1.5%	<b>China</b> (1,352) 0.6%	<b>Czech Republic</b> (976) 0.5%	<b>Italy</b> (578) 0.3%



<b>Canada</b> (68,899) 34.8%	<b>Zambia</b> (6,909) 3.5%	<b>Russian Federation</b> (4,743) 2.4%	<b>Romania</b> (1,394) 0.7%	<b>Mongolia</b> (762) 0.4%
<b>South Africa</b> (44,700) 22.6%	<b>Mozambique</b> (6,757) 3.4%	<b>Argentina</b> (4,562) 2.3%	<b>Cameroon</b> (1,191) 0.6%	<b>Kyrgyzstan</b> (429) 0.2%
<b>Namibia</b> (22,394) 11.3%	<b>Mexico</b> (5,603) 2.8%	<b>United States</b> (3,099) 1.6%	<b>Greenland</b> (1,125) 0.6%	<b>Malawi</b> (418) 0.2%
<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b> (12,195) 6.2%	<b>Tanzania</b> (4,755) 2.4%	<b>Botswana</b> (2,396) 1.2%	<b>Central African Republic</b> (985) 0.5%	<b>Pakistan</b> (411) 0.2%



# WHICH ANIMALS ARE MOST SOUGHT AFTER?

## CONTINUED



### Africa Big Five

The so-called “Africa Big Five” are amongst the most popular and sought after game.<sup>132</sup> The Africa Big Five are the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), the Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*), the Southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*)—which, together with the black rhino, count as one of the Africa Big Five - the African lion (*Panthera leo*), the African leopard (*Panthera pardus*), and the African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*).<sup>133</sup> Our analysis of the CITES database showed that three (African elephant, African leopard, and African lion) of the four threatened taxa from the Africa Big Five are among the top six most traded of imperiled taxon (as Cape buffalo are not listed, they would not show up in the data).

Of the Africa Big Five, lions are perhaps the most romanticized and coveted by the trophy hunting community. Of the top 20 threatened taxa, African lions have seen the strongest statistically significant increase of trophy hunting trade since 2004. At least 11,000 lion trophies have been traded worldwide from 2004 to 2013. It is thus not surprising that it was the infamous killing of Zimbabwe’s celebrated Cecil the Lion that brought trophy hunting dramatically into the public eye in 2015.<sup>134</sup> Additionally, lions are the most traded captive hunting trophy species, with more than 5,000 captive lion hunting trophies exported from 2004 to 2014. In 2015, the USFWS announced that African lions would receive additional protections against unsustainable lion trophy imports under the ESA,<sup>135</sup> a significant change given that US hunters are responsible for more than half of all lions killed for sport.

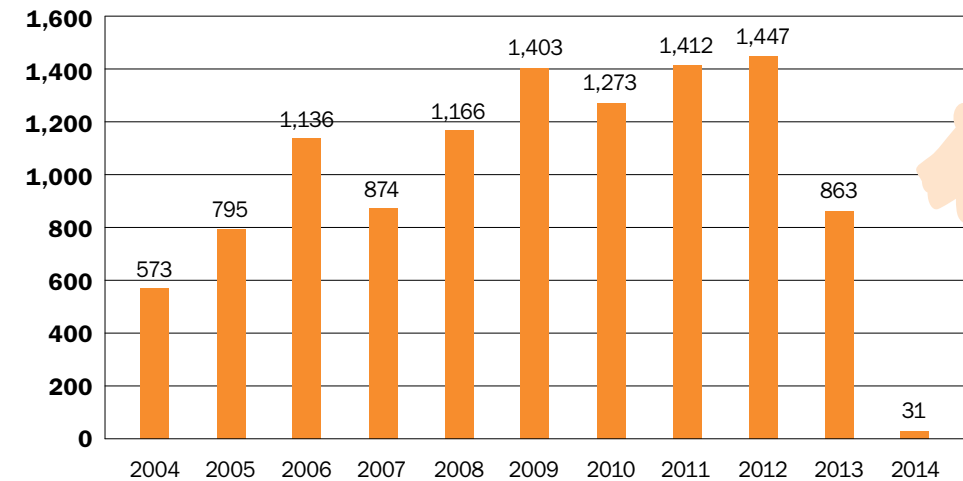
Other Africa Big Five species are also popular with trophy hunters, with over 10,000 African elephant trophies and over 10,000 African leopard trophies legally traded

worldwide between 2004 and 2014. Like African lions, the trophy hunting trade of African elephants has increased since 2004. By contrast, leopard trophy hunting numbers rose for several years after 2004, but have since decreased. In 2014, the USFWS suspended the import of hunted elephant trophies from Zimbabwe.<sup>136</sup> Initially the suspension was for elephant trophies taken on or after April 4, 2014, but an extension was made for the suspension to be instated indefinitely.<sup>137</sup> Elephant trophies from Tanzania were also suspended by the USFWS for the 2015 calendar year.<sup>138</sup> Moreover, in 2015 the EU suspended African elephant trophies from Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia<sup>139</sup> The Zambia prohibition was later lifted.<sup>140</sup>

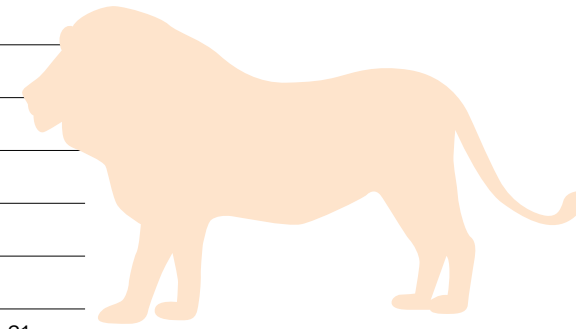
While it is difficult to obtain a permit to legally hunt black rhinos (listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN), it is still feasible. This is exemplified by Corey Knowlton’s \$350K winning auction bid for permission to kill a black rhino in Namibia in 2014 and the subsequent import permit granted by the USFWS for Knowlton and another hunter, issued despite the Endangered listing for the rhino under the ESA.<sup>141</sup> The southern white rhino (listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN) is Threatened under the ESA and permits for these trophy imports are much easier to attain than for the black rhino.<sup>142</sup> The EU now requires an import permit for both black and southern white rhino trophies.

The African buffalo has the highest population of any of the Africa Big Five species. There are nearly 900,000 African buffalo on the continent, with about three-quarters in protected areas.<sup>143</sup> Americans imported more than 4,200 trophies from 1995 to 2005.<sup>144</sup> Since the species is not listed on any of the CITES Appendices, data on their global import/export is not part of this report.

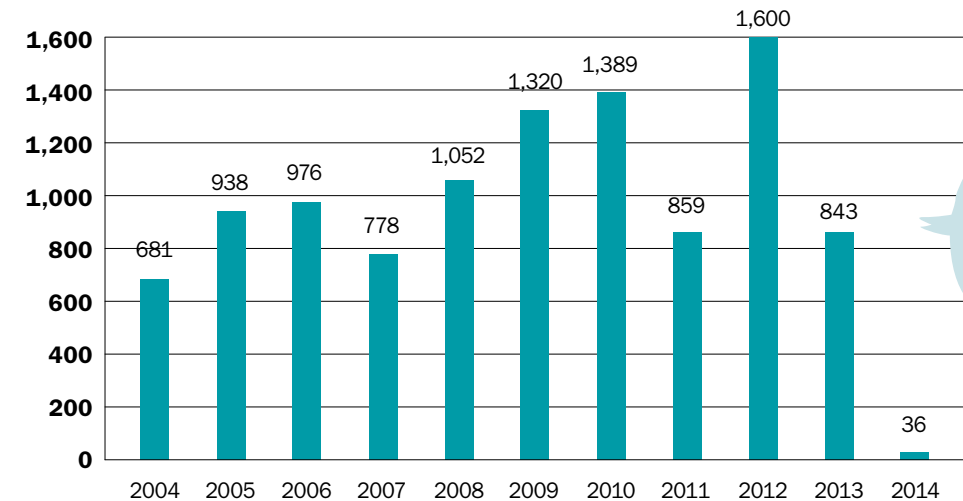
Annual trade of hunting trophies of African lion



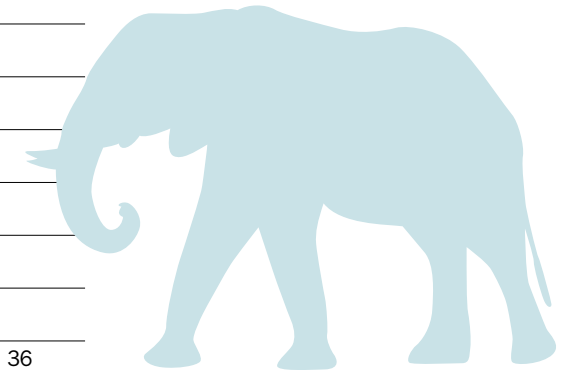
Pearson’s Correlation Coefficient (2004–2012) 0.908698365 \*CITES data from 2013 and 2014 is incomplete and does not reflect the total number of lion trade in those respective years



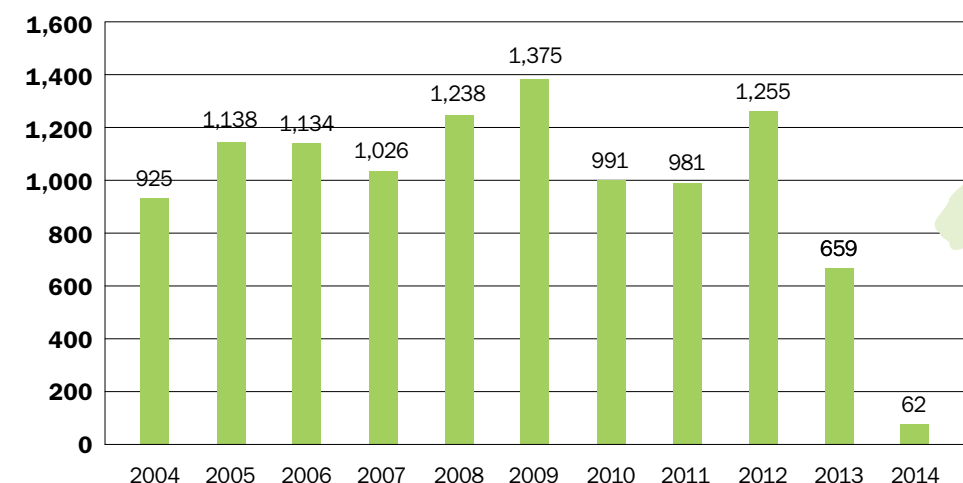
Annual trade of hunting trophies of African elephant



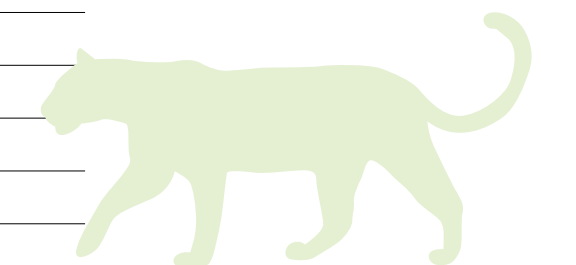
Pearson’s Correlation Coefficient (2004-2012) 0.715299398 \*CITES data from 2013 and 2014 is incomplete and does not reflect the total number of elephant trade in those respective years



Annual trade of hunting trophies of Leopard



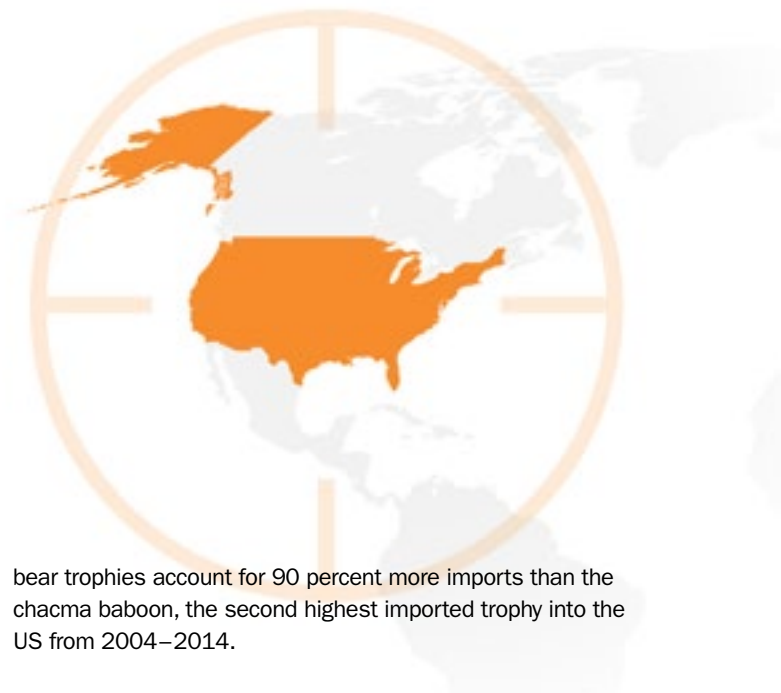
Pearson’s Correlation Coefficient (2004-2012) 0.27713973 \*CITES data from 2013 and 2014 is incomplete and does not reflect the total number of leopard trade in those respective years





**COUNTRY  
SPECIFIC  
CASE  
STUDIES**

# UNITED STATES



## Gross imports

The US imports more hunting trophies than any other nation in the world, by a large margin. Approximately 150,000 hunting trophies were imported from 2004–2013. The majority of hunting trophies imported into the US came from Canada, followed by trophies from African nations. Hunting imports to the US have decreased over time since 2004.

## Species Imported

The American black bear makes up the majority of hunting trophies both imported to and exported from the US. Black

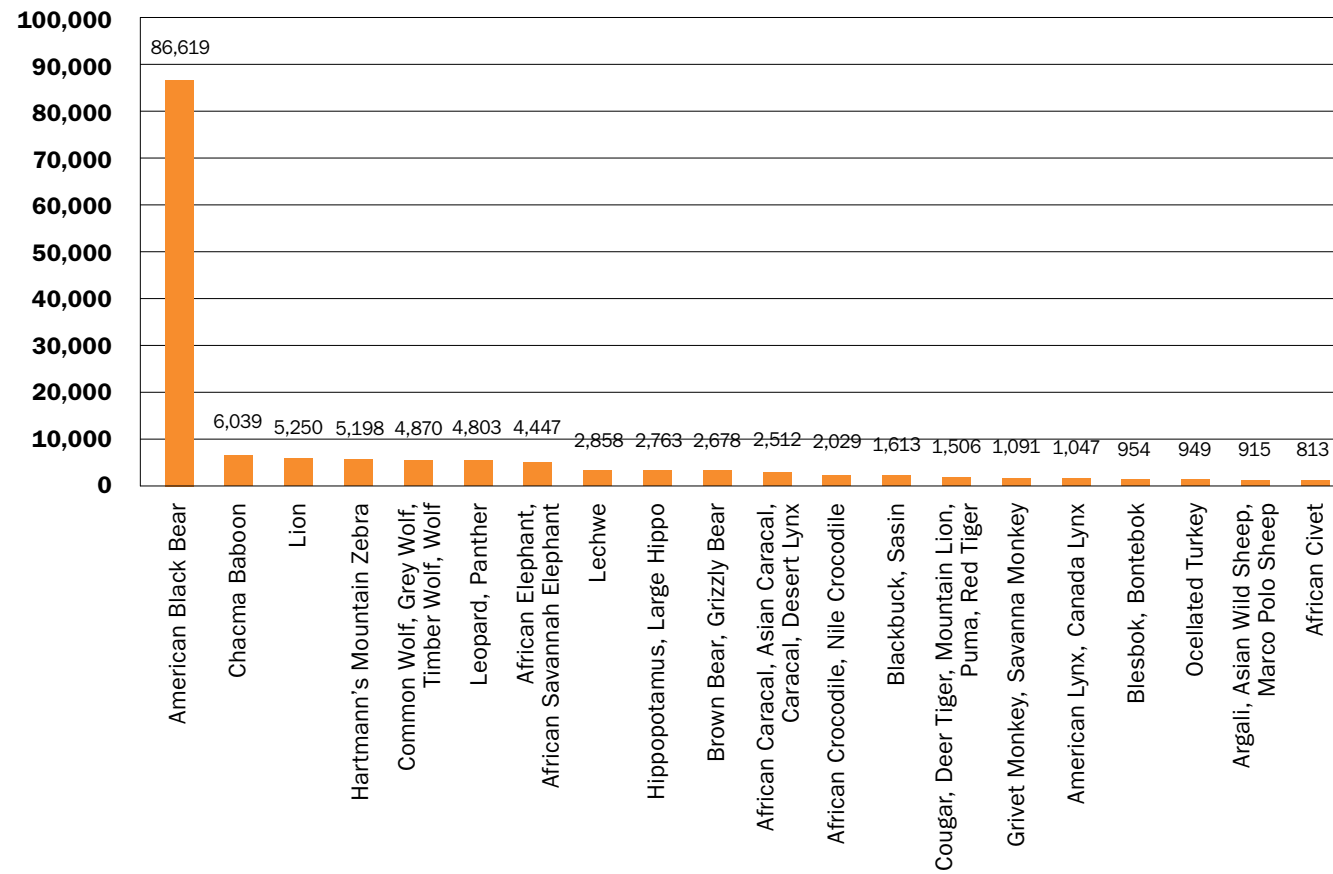
bear trophies account for 90 percent more imports than the chacma baboon, the second highest imported trophy into the US from 2004–2014.

Total Number of CITES-Listed US Trophies Imported Per Year, and Percentage of Total Global Imports

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	SUM	AVR	STDEV
16,568	17,903	17,291	14,988	13,424	16,272	13,730	13,695	13,965	12,747	893	150,583	15,058.30	1,815.54
78%	76%	75%	73%	71%	70%	70%	72%	70%	75%	68%		0.72	0.03

Pearson's Correlation Coefficient (2004-2012) -0.765211388

Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to the United States



## Spotlight on Lions

In December of 2015, the US Fish and Wildlife listed African lions under the ESA (with *Panthera leo leo* listed as Endangered and *Panthera leo melanochaita* as threatened), providing protections for African lions under US law.<sup>145</sup> While the listing cannot address all threats to lions, the most important restriction it carries is related to the import of lion trophies. The listing requires strict scrutiny of applications for permits for the import of sport-hunted lion trophies, which can only be issued for conservation purpose, after USFWS evaluate whether the lions originated from a country with a scientifically sound management plan for the species. This is significant, because approximately 600 lions are killed every year on trophy hunts and the US is responsible for importing more than half of these lions.<sup>146</sup>

## Canned Hunting

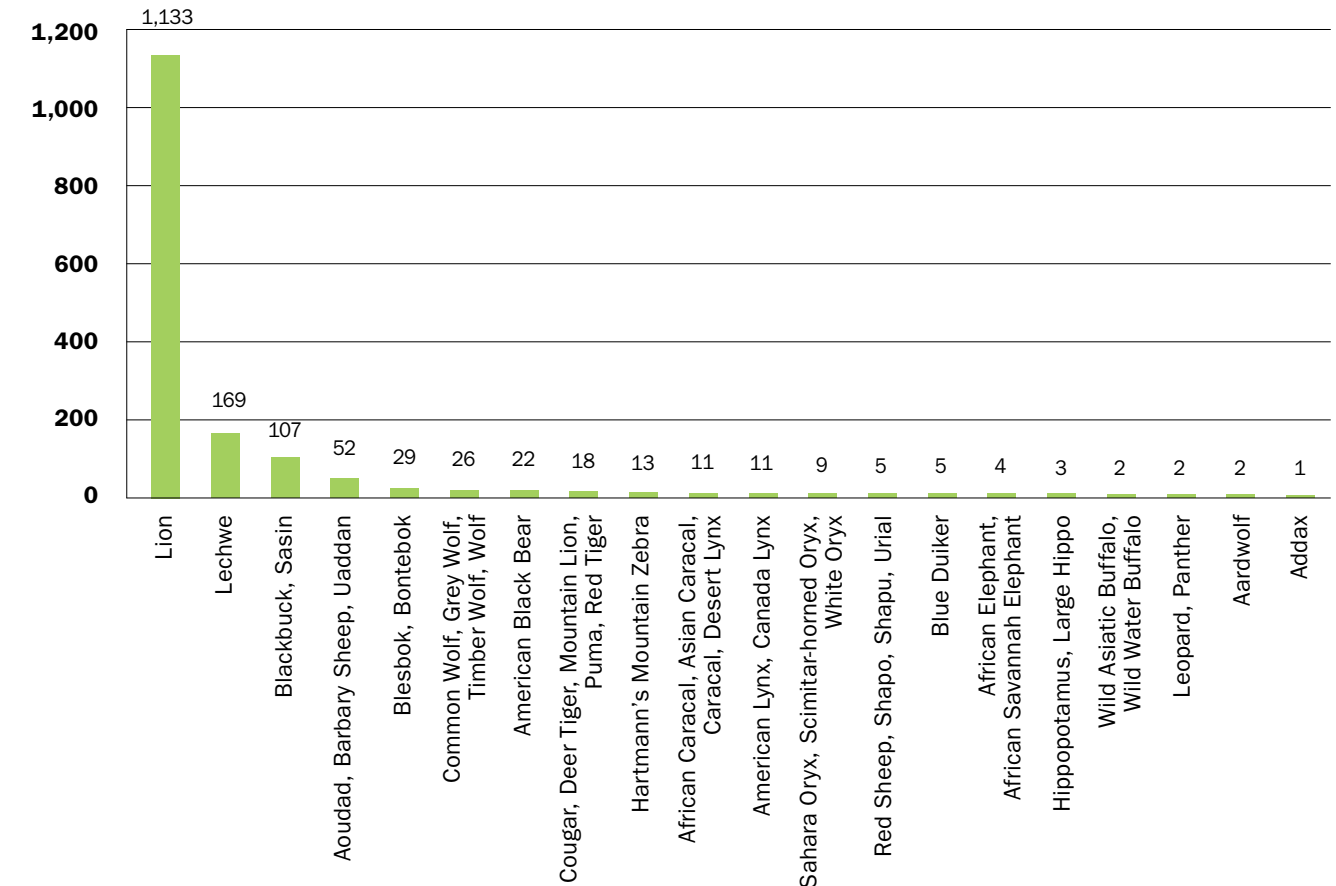
The US is also responsible for the majority of trophy-hunted captive animals, importing 2.5 times as many captive animals as the second highest importing country, Spain, during the same time period.

The number one most imported captive animal into the US from 2004 to 2014 is the lion, 85 percent more than the second most imported animal, the lechwe.

## BANS

Effective May 26, 2016, New Jersey will ban the import, transport, export, procession, sale, offer for sale, or shipment of parts of all Big Five species as well as other any species or subspecies of elephant, rhinoceros, tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, pangolin, marine turtle, or ray listed under CITES Appendix I or II or listed as critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable by the IUCN, with some exceptions.<sup>147</sup>

Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies from CAPTIVE ANIMALS (2004 to 2014) to the United States







# AUSTRALIA

## Species Imported

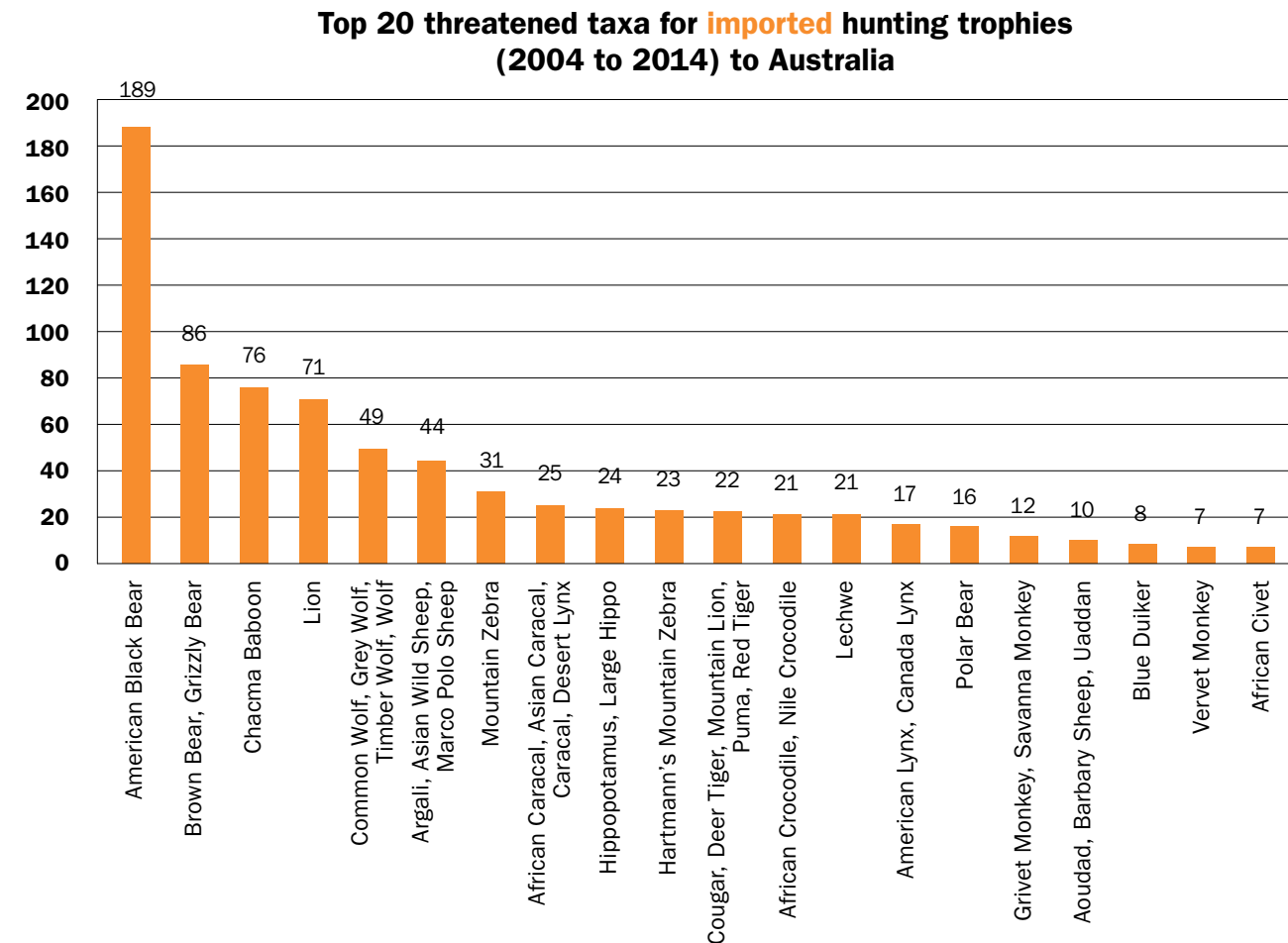
The top imported threatened taxa into Australia between 2004 and 2014 are the American black bear, the grizzly bear, and the chacma baboon.

## Species Exported

The most exported threatened taxon out of Australia is the blackbuck (*Antilope cervicapra*), with the highest demand for the species coming from the US. The blackbuck is native to parts of India, Pakistan and Nepal, but was originally illegally introduced to Australia about a century ago with the intention of hunting them.<sup>151</sup> According to the Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation study, “antelope were first introduced into Western Australia in the early 1900s (Allison 1970)... *A. cervicapra* is a popular target for hunting and a small number were released (illegally) on a Cape York grazing property in the late 1980s or early 1990s for sport”.<sup>152</sup> Although blackbucks are no longer wild in Australia, they can legally be hunted.

## Gross Imports

Australia is an importing country, with an average country rank<sup>148</sup> of 16.4 of the top trophy hunting importing countries from 2004–2013. According to the Sydney Herald, the overall number of imported hunted trophies into Australia has gradually risen since 1978.<sup>149</sup> This rise has been attributed to a number of factors including higher incomes, more affordable transportation costs, and the strong Australian dollar.<sup>150</sup>



## LIONS

Lions are the fourth most imported taxa, after the American black bear, grizzly bear, and chacma baboon, into Australia. From the CITES database survey, it is estimated that at least 71 lions were imported to Australia over the 2004–2014 period. However, those numbers are expected to decrease because, in response to exposure of inhumane canned hunting conditions, Australia's federal environment minister Greg Hunt announced a ban on importation of African lion trophies in March 2015.<sup>153</sup>

## CROCODILES

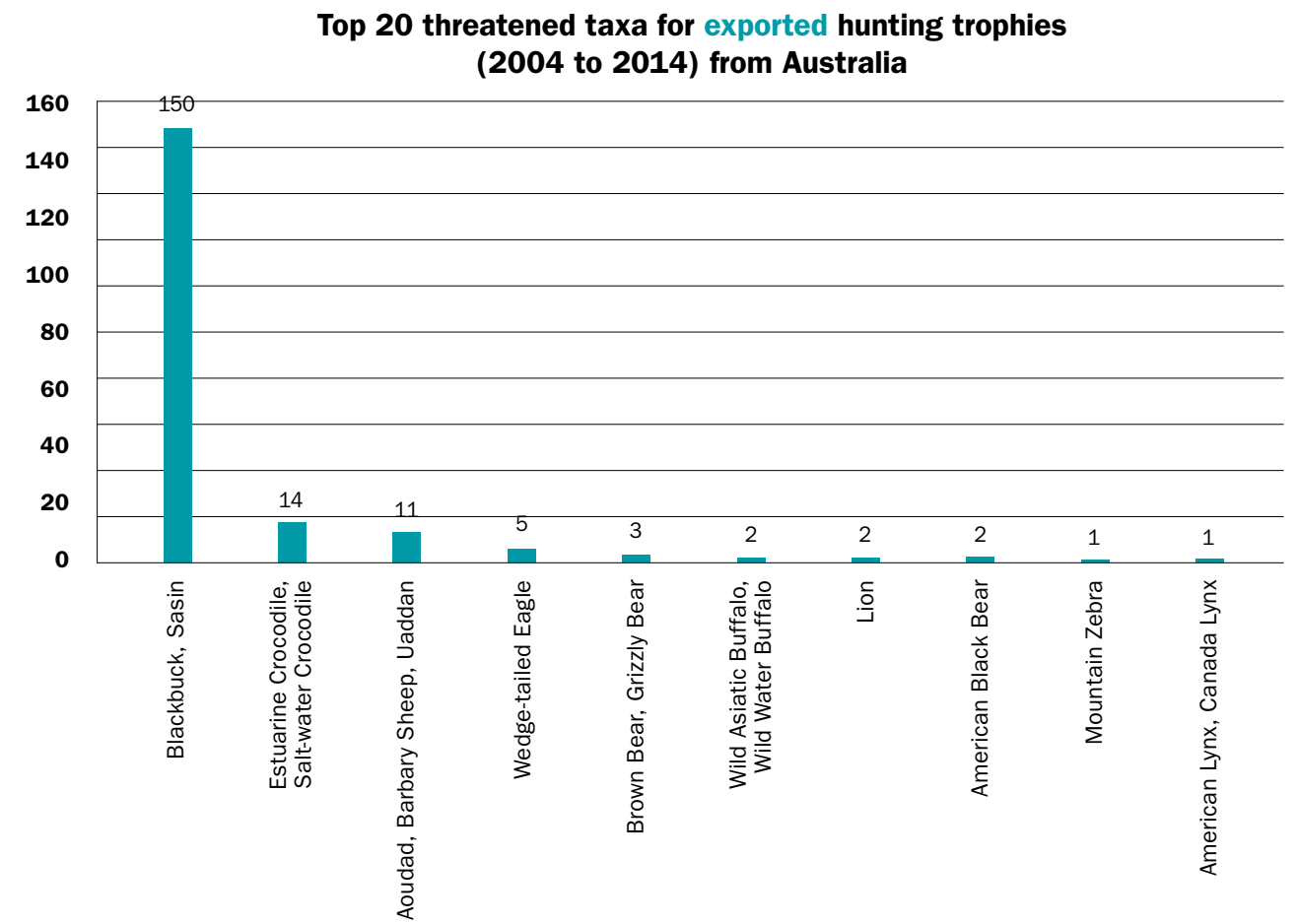
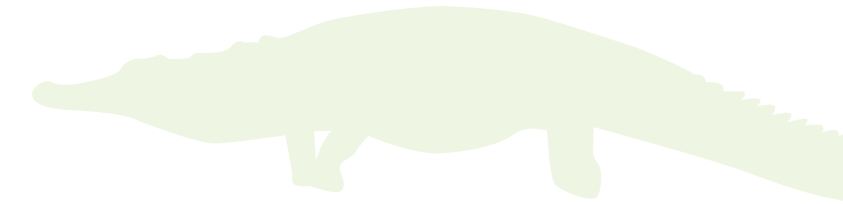
Although trophy hunting of saltwater crocodiles has been banned in Australia since 1971 and Indigenous Affairs minister Nigel Scullion is opposed to crocodile hunting due to potential inhumane treatment, he recently announced that Australia might allow trophy hunting of saltwater crocodiles to bring financial support to aboriginal communities.<sup>154</sup>

## ELEPHANTS

Australia regulates stricter elephant trade than required under CITES. The domestic measure (December 2002) declares all elephants as Appendix I.<sup>155</sup> According to the Australian government “no elephant items may be brought in and out of Australia unless they come with a pre-CITES certificate.”<sup>156</sup>

## RHINOS

Similar to elephants, Australia also further restricts rhino trade, including rhino horn hunting trophies.<sup>157</sup> These measures prevent the import of southern white rhinos, disallow rhino hunting trophies as personal and household effects, and conclusive radiocarbon dating proof is required to export vintage horn.<sup>158</sup>





# CANADA

## Gross Import

Canada is mainly an exporting country, importing 52 times less than it exports. Of the top 20 countries that import hunting trophies, Canada has an average rank of 12.3 from the years 2004 to 2013.

## Exported Species

Not only does Canada export more hunting trophies than it imports, it has the highest hunted trophy exports from threatened taxa from 2004–2011. During this period, Canada had a gross export of 68,899 hunted trophies, or an average of 6,263.5 per year. The top 10 exported hunting trophies were (in descending order) the American black bear, timber wolf, grizzly bear, cougar, polar bear, Canadian lynx, narwhal, bobcat, and the walrus. The American black bear

was traded more than 7 times more than the next most exported threatened taxon, the timber wolf.<sup>159</sup> The most common threatened taxa trophy hunt trade between nations is the trade from Canada to the US.

Trophy hunting occurs widely within Canada. The overall trophy hunting industry is estimated to have an annual economic impact of \$1 billion.<sup>160</sup> There has been an increase in British Columbia hunting licenses for grizzly bears and black bears over the last ten years. According to information gathered from a freedom of information request, the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations issued 1,699 resident hunting licenses for grizzly bears in the 2013–2014 hunting season, or 58 percent more since the 2005–2006 hunting season.<sup>161</sup> British Columbia has seen a similar upward trend with black-bear hunting 21,836 black bear licenses allotted in 2013–2014, 52 percent more than from 2005–2006.<sup>162</sup>

And although trophy hunting in Canada is widespread, there is also considerable opposition to it from Canadian citizens. A 2015 poll found that 91 percent of British Columbians and 84% of Albertans were opposed to trophy hunting.<sup>163</sup>

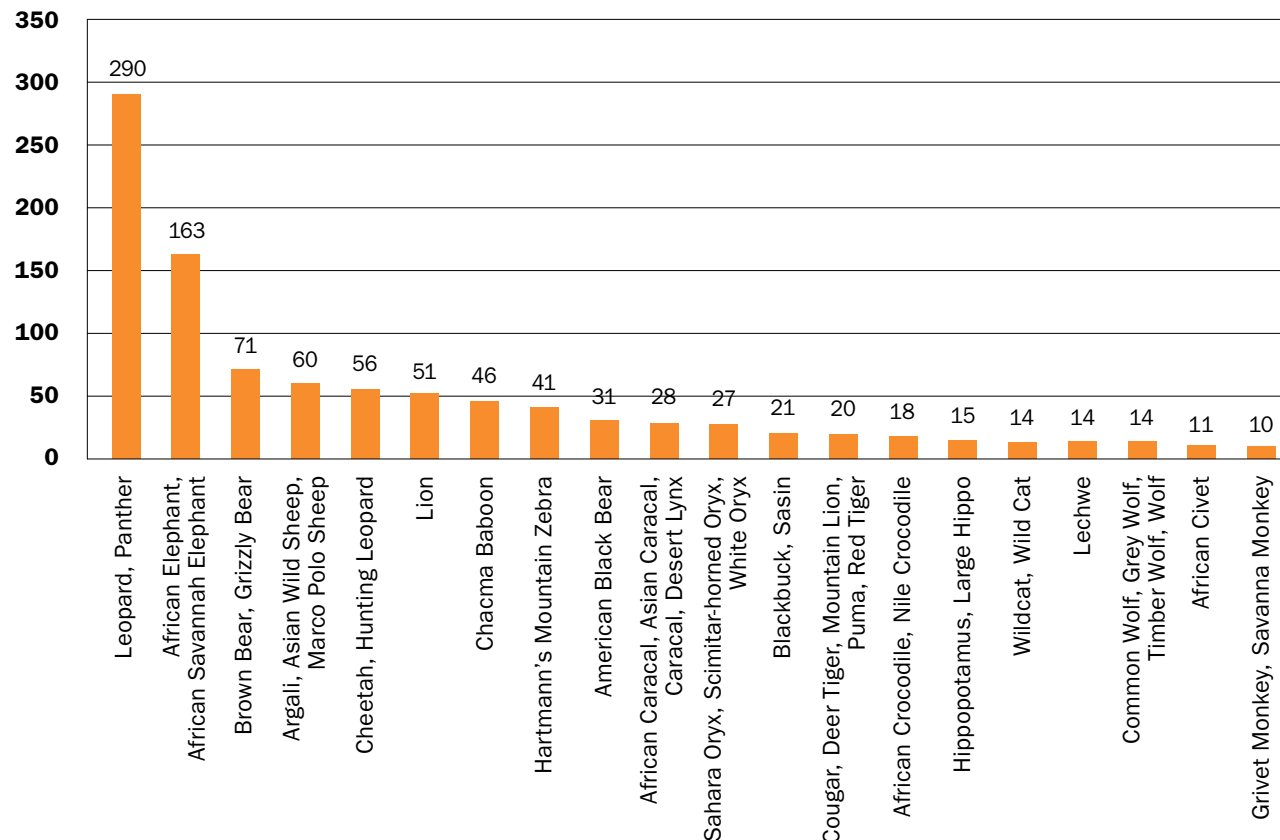


## POLAR BEARS

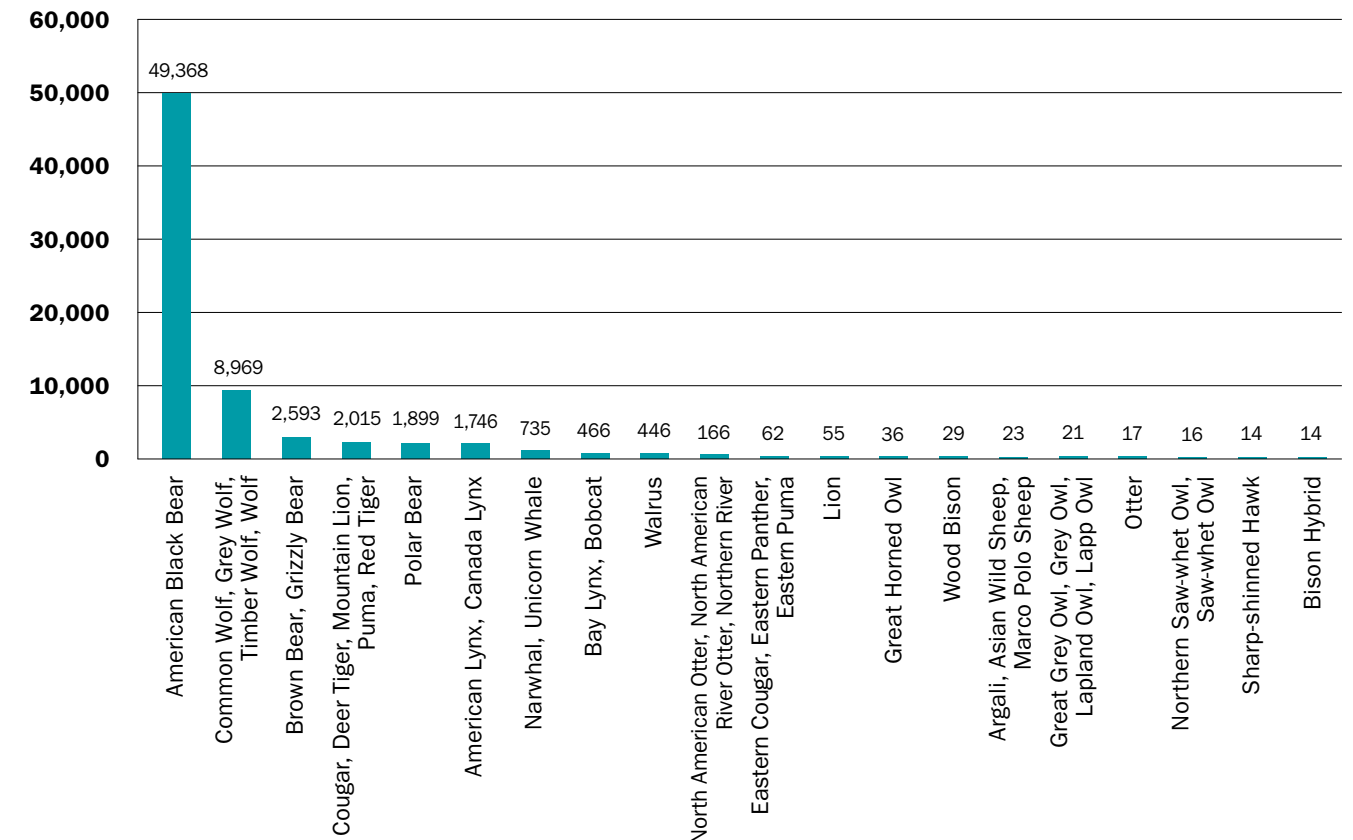
Polar Bears, the fifth most exported taxon in Canada, can be legally hunted under co-management by various federal, provincial, territorial, and aboriginal management authorities.<sup>164</sup> An average of 573 polar bears were killed each year from 2006–2013.<sup>165</sup>

Between 2005 and 2014, 667 polar bear hides and 564 skulls were exported from Canada as hunting trophies.<sup>166</sup> The hunting of denning bears or females with cubs is illegal<sup>167</sup>

**Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to Canada**



**Top 20 threatened taxa for exported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) from Canada**



# CHINA

## AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

The top threatened taxon imported into China is the African elephant, primarily because of the demand for ivory. The data show that 96 percent of African elephant trophies imported to China come from Zimbabwe. It has been reported that “Zimbabwe is recruiting trophy hunters from China and Russia to keep an important revenue source flowing following U.S. restrictions and bans on lion and elephant trophies... Zimbabwe’s answer: bring in hunters from China and Russia.”<sup>169</sup> In March of 2016, China extended a 2015 moratorium on imports of African elephant ivory obtained for trophy purposes through December of 2019.<sup>170</sup>



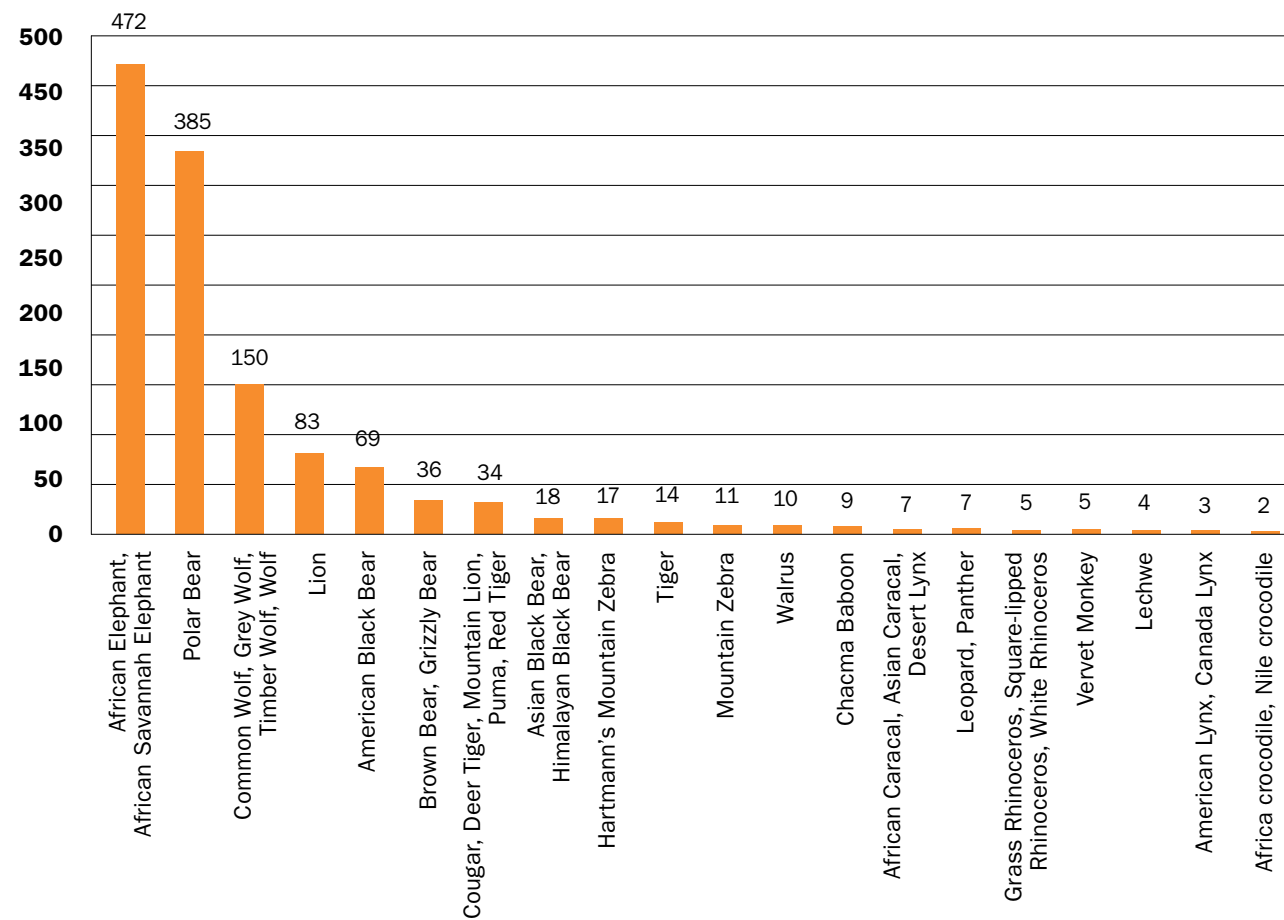
## AFRICAN IVORY TRADE

China is making big steps to end the illegal ivory trade. In addition to the moratorium on imports of African elephant ivory obtained for trophy purposes, following meetings between Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Obama, the US White House announced that the “United States and China [would] commit to enact nearly complete bans on ivory import and export, including significant and timely restrictions on the import of ivory as hunting trophies, and to take significant and timely steps to halt the domestic commercial trade of ivory”.<sup>171</sup>

## Gross Imports

At present, exporting trophies from China is illegal, with the exception of a few approved hunting grounds.<sup>168</sup> China is therefore solely an importing country. The gross imports of threatened taxa have dramatically increased since 2004, making China rank at an average of 13 out of the top 20 importing trophy hunting countries from 2004 to 2013.

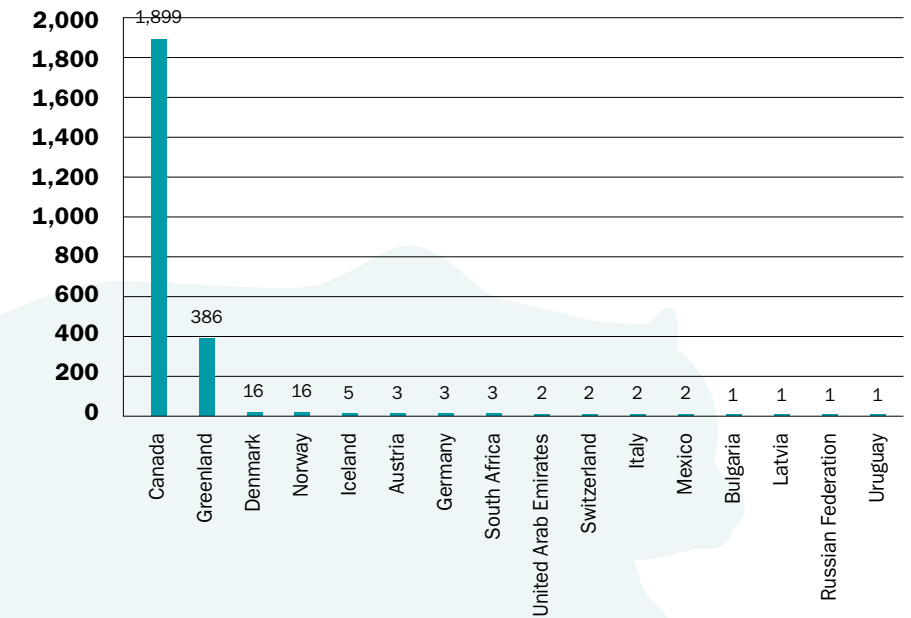
**Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to China**



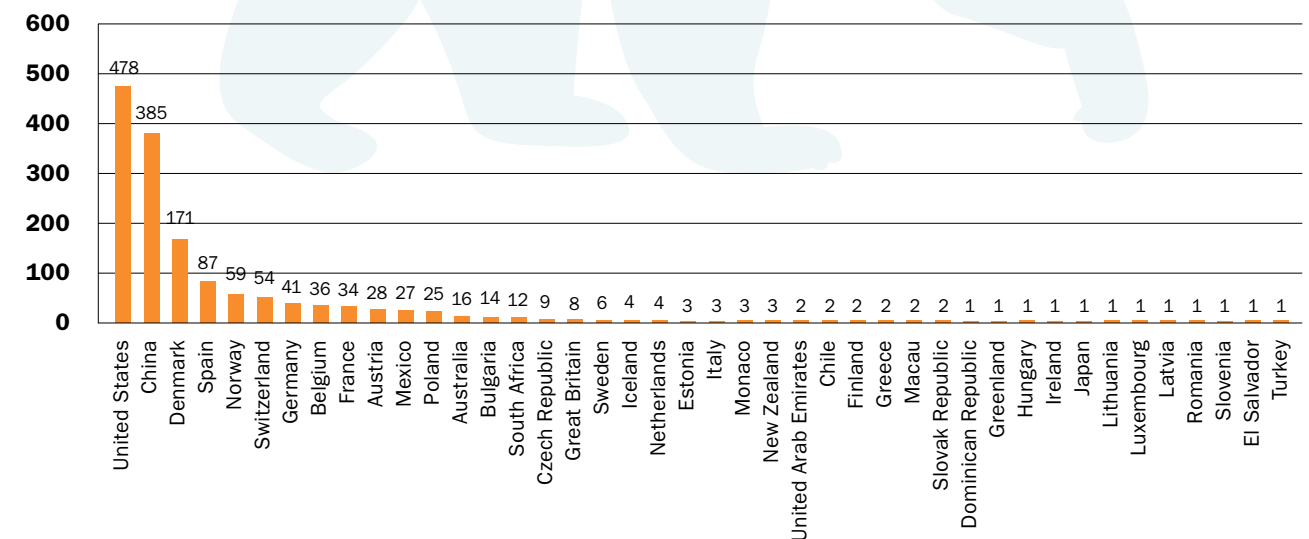
## POLAR BEARS

The second most imported threatened taxon is the polar bear. Although only Canada allows trophy hunts by foreigners of their polar bears, polar bear trophies can legally move from country to country generating an import and export record with each trade. This is an example of how difficult it is to capture the actual number of polar bears killed from the total number of traded trophies.

**Number of exported hunting trophies from Polar Bears between 2004 and 2014 per exporting country**



**Number of imported hunting trophies from Polar Bears between 2004 and 2014 per exporting country**



# EUROPEAN UNION

## Gross Imports

The European Union (EU) is made up of 28 member countries.<sup>172</sup> From 2004 to 2013, Germany, Spain, Denmark, France and Austria have consistently had the highest imports of hunting trophies from threatened taxa. The Western EU nations as a whole (with the exception of Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom) have a relatively higher incidence of importing hunting trophies of threatened taxa than do the Eastern EU nations. The import of hunting trophies of threatened taxa seem to have increased over time since 2004 in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Czech Republic, Finland, and the Slovak Republic.

Most of the trophies imported into the EU come from Namibia (24 percent), South Africa (17 percent), Canada (15 percent), Democratic Republic of the Congo (8 percent), Tanzania (7 percent), Russian Federation (5 percent), Argentina (5 percent) and Zambia (4 percent).

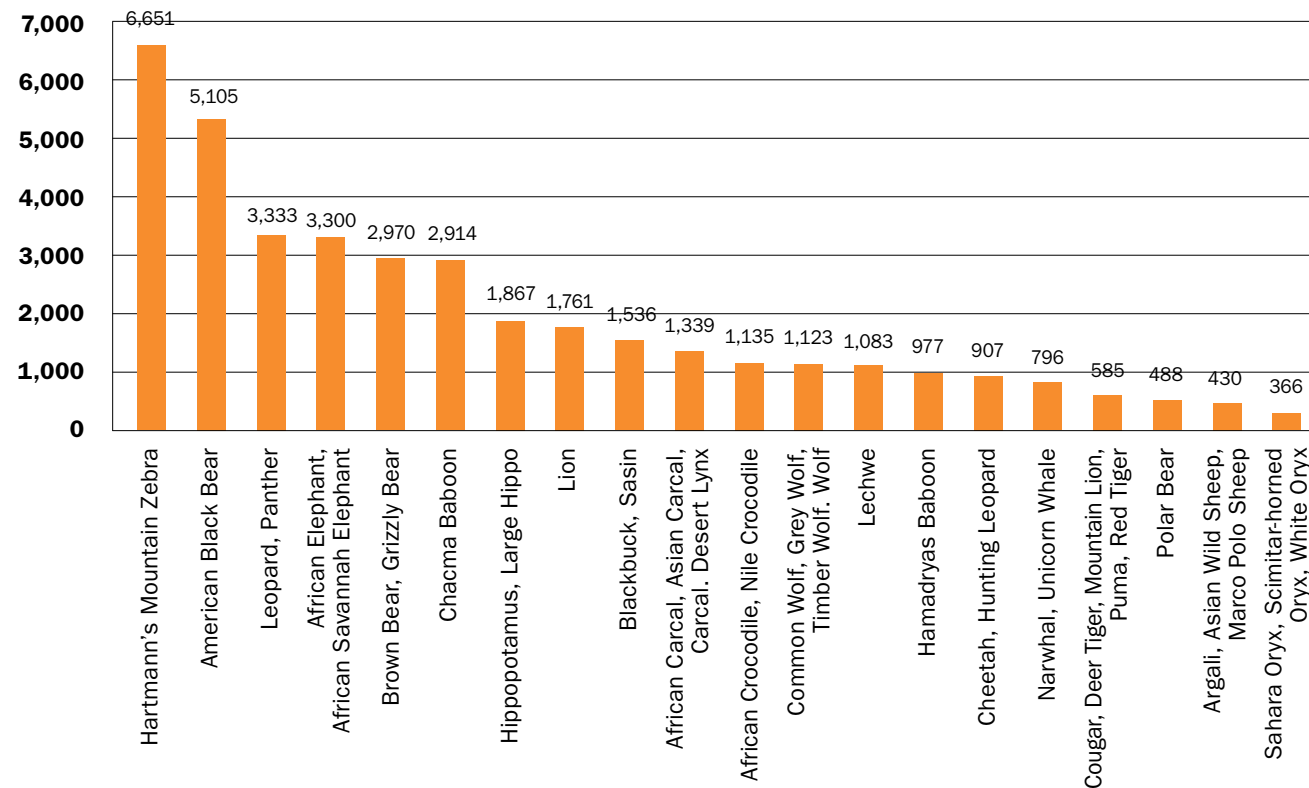
## Species Imported

The two threatened taxa with the highest imports into the EU are the Hartmann's mountain zebra and the American black bear, which come mainly from Namibia and Canada respectively.

## Species Exported

The EU's top hunted trophy export is the brown bear by a great margin, 90 percent more than the next most exported taxon, the common wolf. Trophies from the EU are exported to the US (12 percent), the Russian Federation (9 percent), Switzerland (5 percent), South Africa (4 percent), Norway (3 percent), and the United Arab Emirates (3 percent).

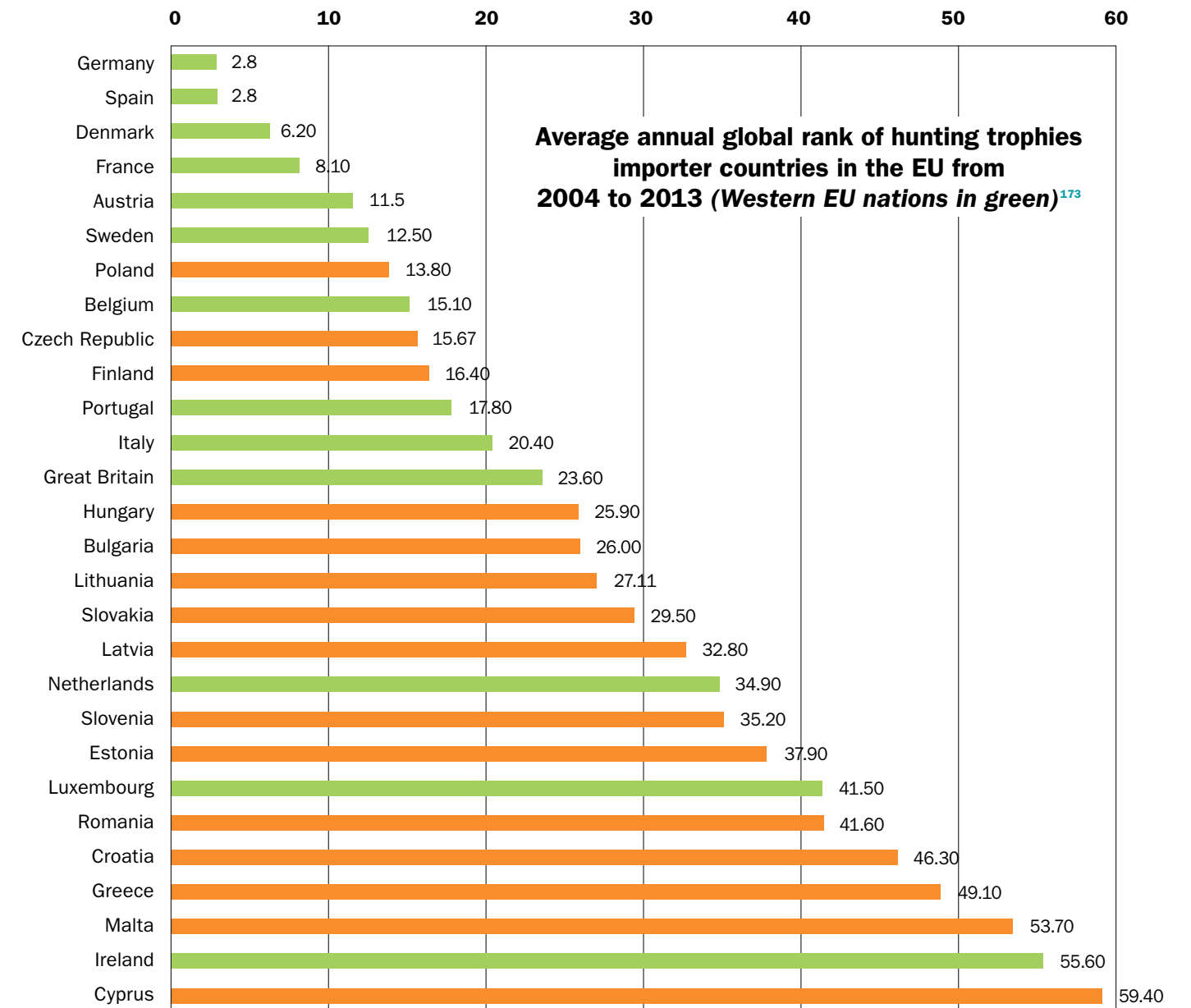
**Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to the European Union**



**Total Number of CITES-listed EU Trophies Imported per year, and Percentage of total global Imports**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	SUM	AVR	STDEV
Total Number of CITES-listed EU Trophies Imported per year	3,513	4,315	4,213	4,522	4,277	4,767	4,129	3,730	3,862	3,266	1,367	4,0594	4,059.40	463.24
Percentage of total global Imports	17%	20%	20%	21%	20%	23%	20%	18%	18%	15%	6%		18%	4%

Pearson's Correlation Coefficient (2004-2012) -0.03280095



## BANS

Over the past few years, the EU has increased restrictions on hunting trophy imports. For example, the EU suspended lion trophy imports from Benin, Burkina Faso and Cameroon in early 2015.<sup>174</sup> And due to rapid declines in elephant numbers due to poaching, the EU banned import of elephant trophies from Tanzania and Mozambique in 2015.<sup>175</sup> Previously, both Tanzania and Mozambique were permitted to take tusks from 100 elephants per year into the EU as hunting trophies.<sup>176</sup> Conversely, in September 2015, the EU lifted a ban on

elephant trophies imported from Zambia.<sup>177</sup> EU initiatives to limit or ban trade in trophies are increasing. British MEP Neena Gill tabled a Written Declaration in the European Parliament calling for a prohibition on imports of hunting trophies to the EU on trophy hunting imports into the European Union. Although lacking the needed majority, the written declaration received 134 votes from Members of Parliament.<sup>178</sup> The Netherlands also announced in April of 2016 that imports of trophies from over 200 species are now prohibited.<sup>179</sup> Moreover, in May of 2016 the EU proposed important new ways to increase scrutiny for trophy trade under CITES.<sup>180</sup>

# FRANCE



## Gross Imports

France has consistently been one of the top five nations with the highest imports of hunting trophies from threatened taxa from 2004 to 2013. The top threatened taxa imported into France are African elephants and leopards.

## Imported Species

The most imported threatened taxon, by a great margin, is the African elephant. Forty percent of elephant imports come from Tanzania, 26 percent from Cameroon, 9 percent from Democratic Republic of the Congo, 8 percent from Mozambique, and the rest from 10 other countries.

Leopards are the second most imported threatened taxon into France, with 45 percent of the imported leopards coming from Tanzania, 14 percent from Central African Republic, 9 percent from Democratic Republic of the Congo, 8 percent from Namibia, and the remaining from 5 different countries.

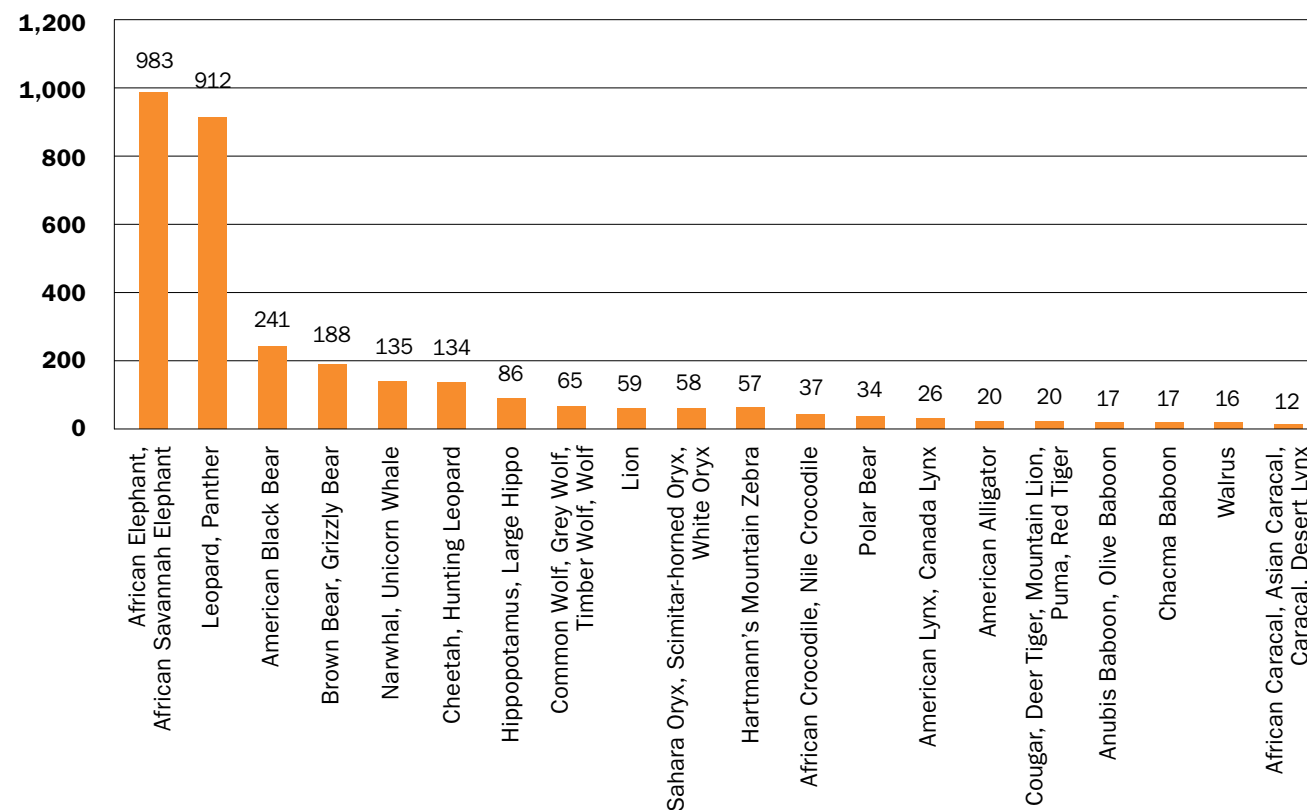
From 2008 to 2012, 1,438 lion trophies were imported to Europe with 1,000 coming from breeding lion facilities

in South Africa, 395 coming from wild lions of which 63 were taken from West African populations. 80 percent of these western African hunting trophies of endangered lion species were imported to France.<sup>181</sup>

## BANS

In January 2015, all re-exports of raw ivory from France were banned.<sup>182</sup> And in February of the same year, the EU integrated new rules on the import of hunting trophies of six endangered species including the African lion, the African elephant, polar bear, white rhino, hippopotamus and argali sheep.<sup>183</sup> In November 2015, France became the first EU member state to take full protective steps for lions when Ségolène Royal, French Minister of Ecology banned the import of lion trophies into French territory.<sup>184</sup>

**Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to France**



# GERMANY



## Gross Imports

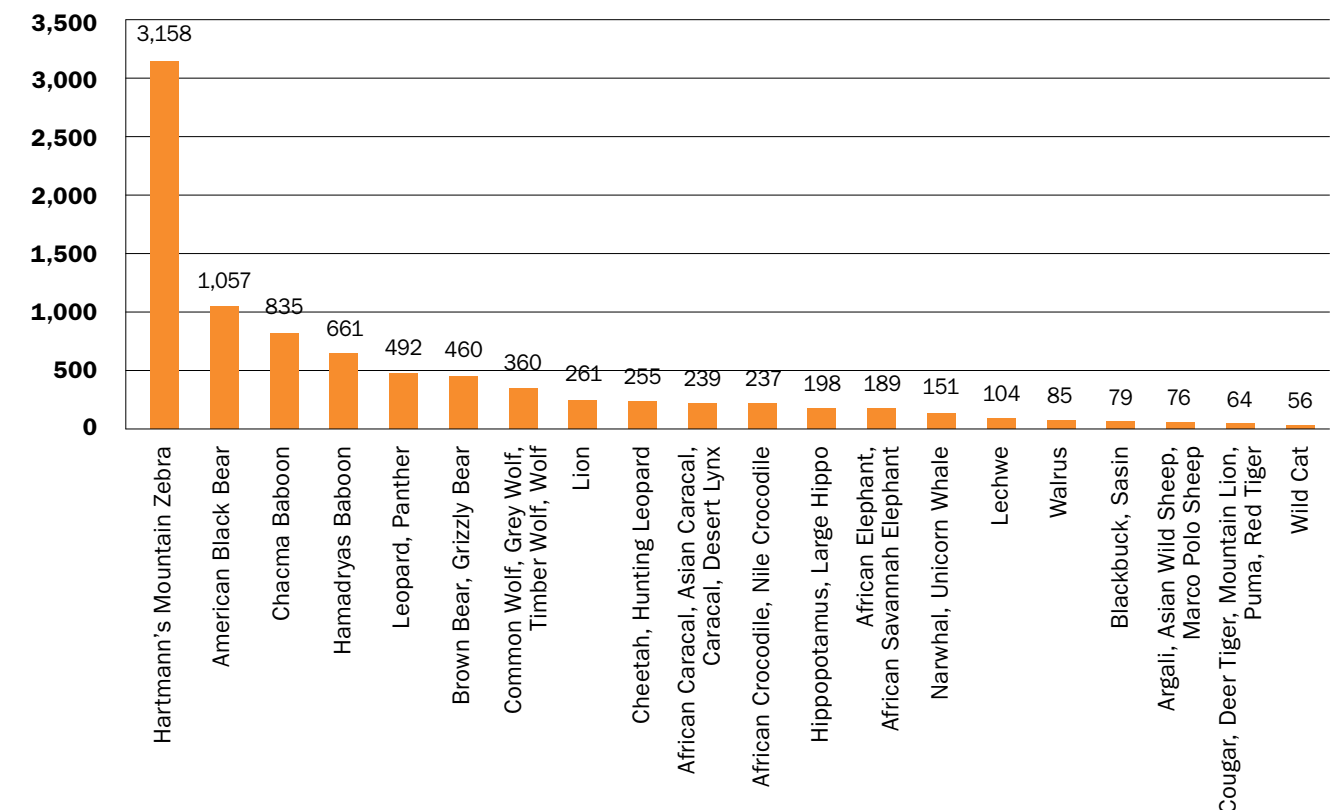
Germany is a top importer of trophies from threatened taxa. From 2004 to 2013, Germany and Spain have both frequently been in second place, following the US, for the most trophy imports from threatened taxa. Germany has also consistently been one of the top five EU countries to import threatened taxa trophies.

## Importing Species

Germany is a top trophy importing country, importing Hartmann's mountain zebra more than any other threatened taxa by a great margin. 98 percent of the imports come from Namibia, with the remaining 1.7 percent from South Africa and 0.3 percent from Switzerland. In addition to local Namibian farmers considering the Hartmann's mountain zebra a pest and the Namibian government encouraging hunting of this species,<sup>185</sup> the demand for Hartmann's mountain zebra by Germans is rooted in history. Namibia

became a German Colony in 1884 and South Africa occupied the colony in 1915 after defeating the German force during World War I.<sup>186</sup> After a long war, Namibia became independent in 1990.<sup>187</sup> Up until 1990, English, German, and Afrikaans were official languages.<sup>188</sup> This German language connection also helps reveal why there is a large number of Hartmann's mountain zebra trophy imports in other German-speaking countries such as Austria and Switzerland.

**Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to Germany**



# RUSSIA



## Gross Imports

Although Russia is predominantly an exporting country, it does import some trophies from threatened taxa. Most of the trophies imported in the Russian Federation come from Namibia (24 percent), Tanzania (23 percent), Democratic Republic of the Congo (17 percent), South Africa (13 percent), and Cameroon (5 percent). The threatened taxon with the highest imports is the leopard, by a great margin, which comes mainly from Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Namibia.

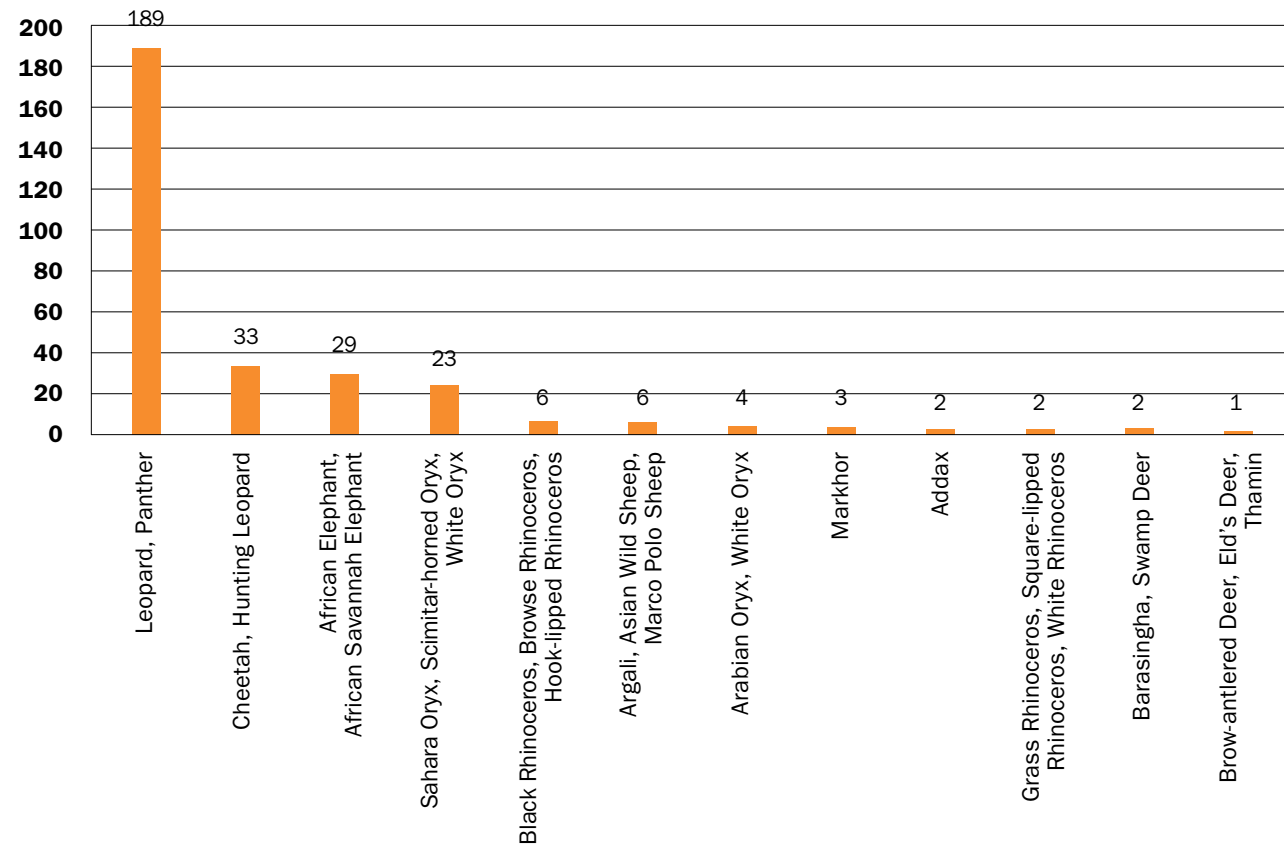
## Gross Exports

The majority of export trophies are sent to the US (28 percent), Germany (9 percent), Spain (7 percent), Malta (7 percent), and Poland (6 percent). The brown bear is by far the most exported taxon from Russia with the highest proportion (29 percent) exported to the US.

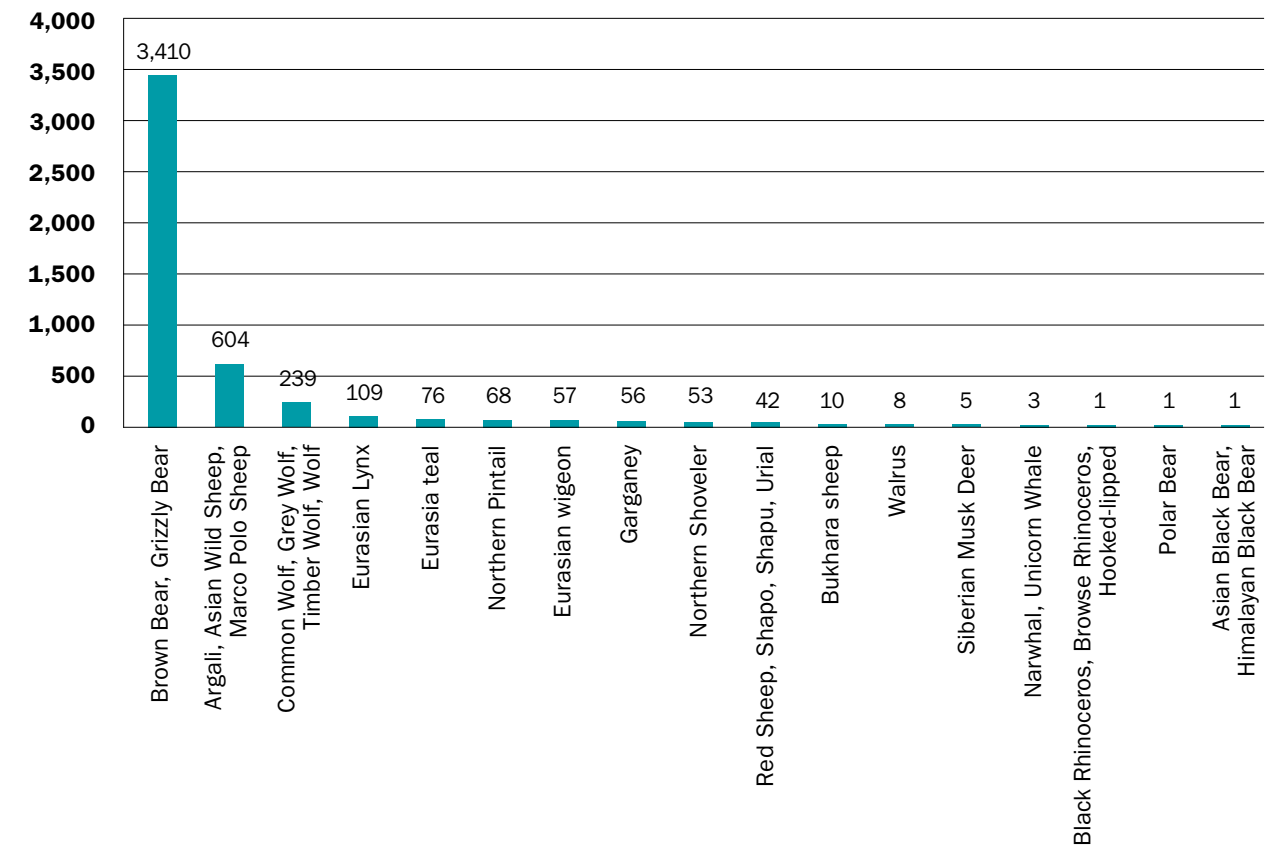


Trophy hunting has been debated recently by the Russian government. The Russian Ministry of Natural Resources has suggested delisting Argali sheep, the second most exported taxon from Russia, despite the rarity of this wild ungulate.<sup>189</sup> Additionally, although Russian banned the “sport” of shooting hibernating bears in 2012, there is debate over how effective the ban is, with thousands of cubs orphaned by the hunts each year.<sup>190</sup>

**Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to Russian Federation**



**Top 20 threatened taxa for exported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) from Russian Federation**



# SOUTH AFRICA



## Gross Imports

Although South Africa exports far more hunted trophies than it imports, it does import a wide variety of taxa as well. The top five imported threatened taxa are African crocodile, African elephant, leopard (panther), hippo, and Hartmann's mountain zebra. Of the major exporting countries, South Africa has the highest proportion of imported trophies (but still exports seven times more than it imports). The top countries from which trophies enter into South Africa are Democratic Republic of the Congo (22 percent), Namibia (21 percent), Mozambique (14 percent), Botswana (13 percent), Zambia (12 percent), and Tanzania (11 percent).

## Gross Exports and Exporting Species

South Africa is the top African exporting nation and its exports increased since 2004. The top exported taxa are the lion, caracal, chacma baboon, lechwe, and Hartmann's mountain zebra.

## GREEN HUNTING

Green hunting, also commonly known as catch-and-release hunting or darting safaris, is the act of "catching" a wild animal, for example, with a dart gun rather than a potentially deadly bow or shotgun, with the intention of releasing the animal back into the wild.<sup>191</sup>

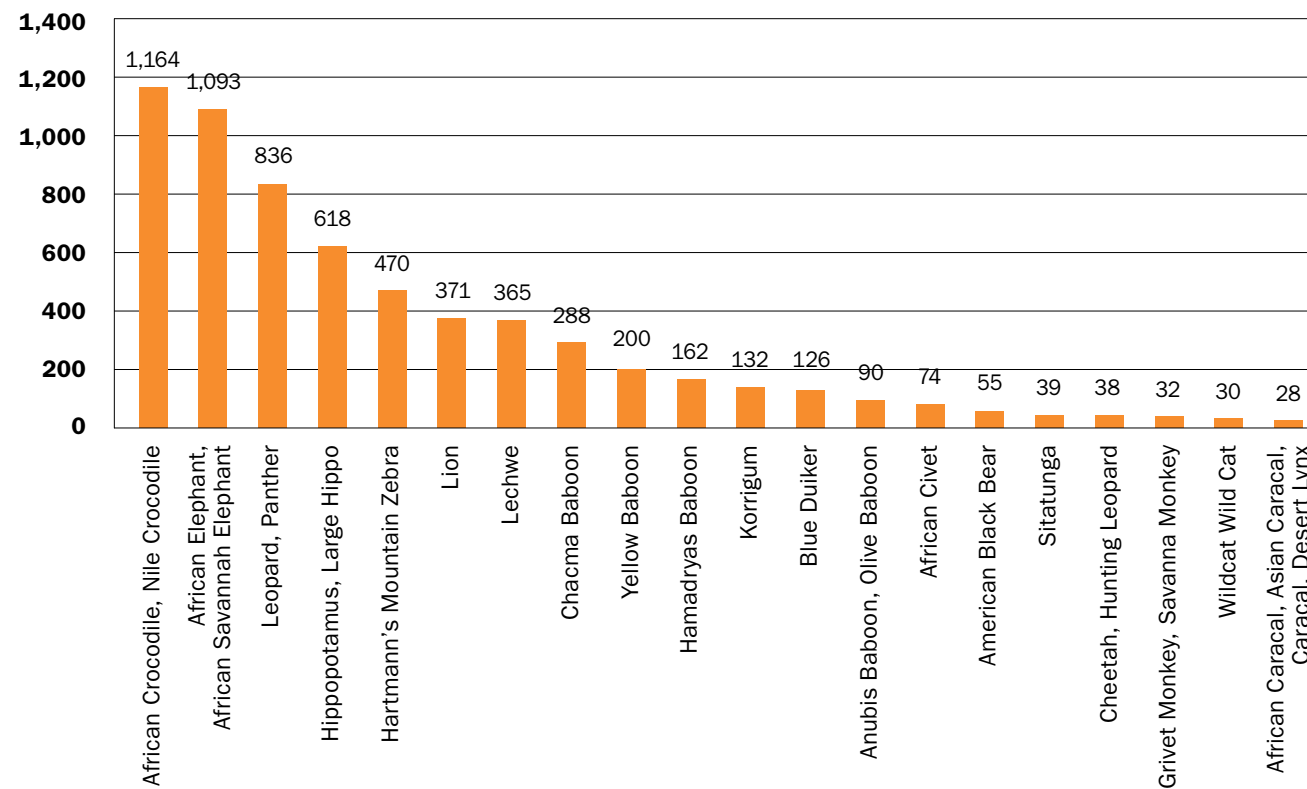
Since a catch-and-release hunt does not have the intention to kill, some hunters argue that it serves as an alternative to trophy hunting. However, there have been complaints that green hunting ignores animal

welfare concerns and continues the presumption that wild animals can be used for human entertainment, even if non-lethal. Additionally, darted animals can suffer from stress, injury, or death.<sup>192</sup> According to National Geographic, "green hunts were briefly popular in South Africa and Namibia, but fell out of favor around 2011...[as] Authorities were concerned that darted rhinos could injure themselves by falling off cliffs or drowning in ponds, or simply by overheating when running on a hot day".<sup>193</sup>

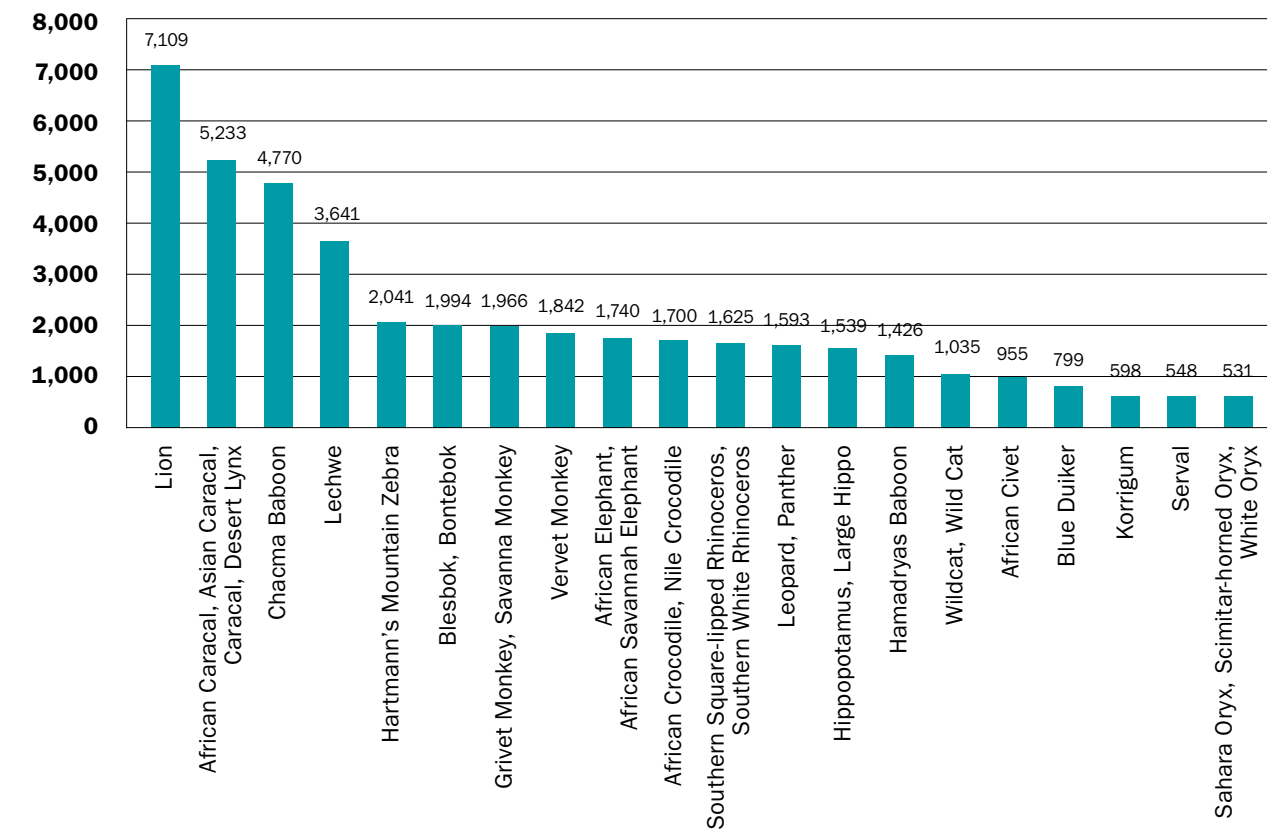
Total Number of CITES-listed South Africa Trophies Exported per year, and Percentage of Total Global Exports

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	SUM	AVR	STDEV
3,749	3,858	4,948	3,913	4,762	5,578	4,895	7,122	5,875	44,700	4,966.67	1,101.91
19%	17%	22%	21%	21%	25%	22%	31%	35%		19.3%	

Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to South Africa



Top 20 threatened taxa for exported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) from South Africa



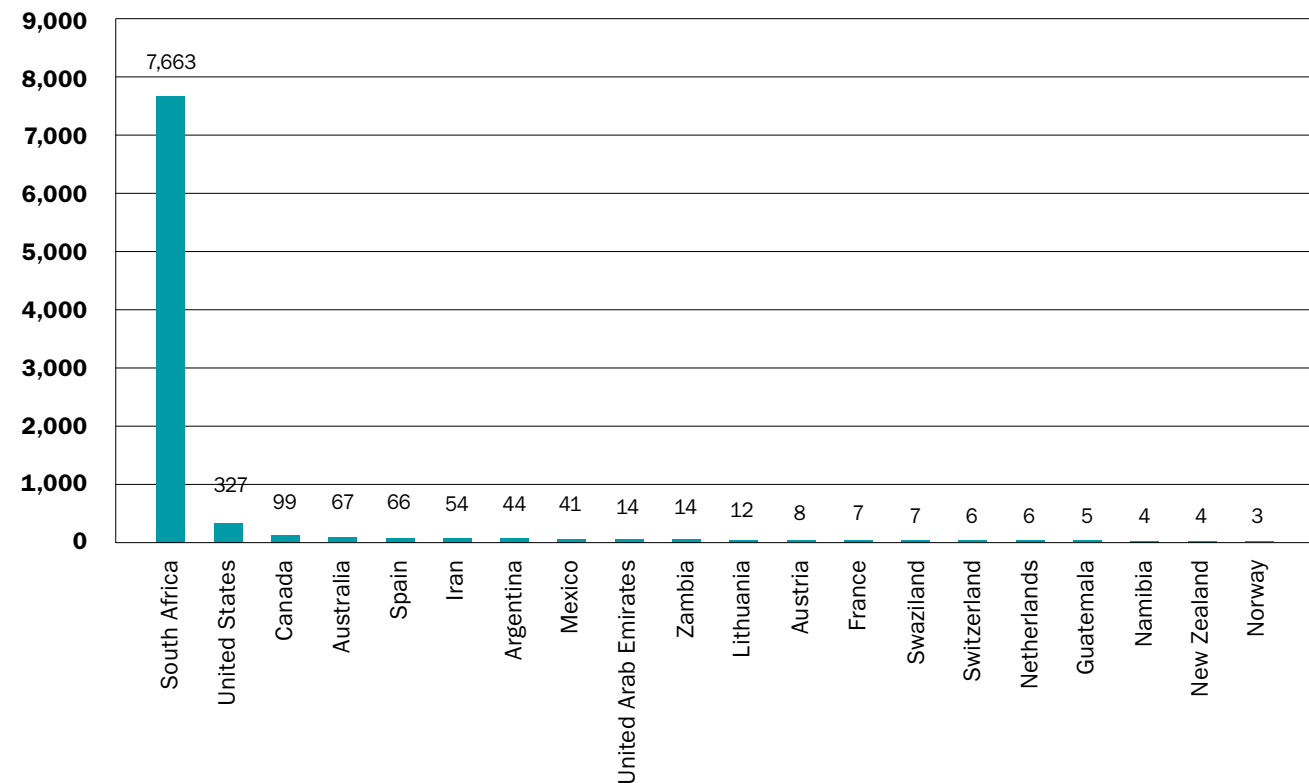
## CANNED HUNTING

The number one exporter of captive threatened taxa is South Africa, with the US as its number one importer. However, the US is also ranked the number two exporter, but well below South Africa, which exports 96 percent more trophies from captive animals from threatened taxa than the US from 2004 to 2014. Over that same period, South Africa exported 79 percent more trophies from captive lions than the second most exported captive taxon, lechwe.

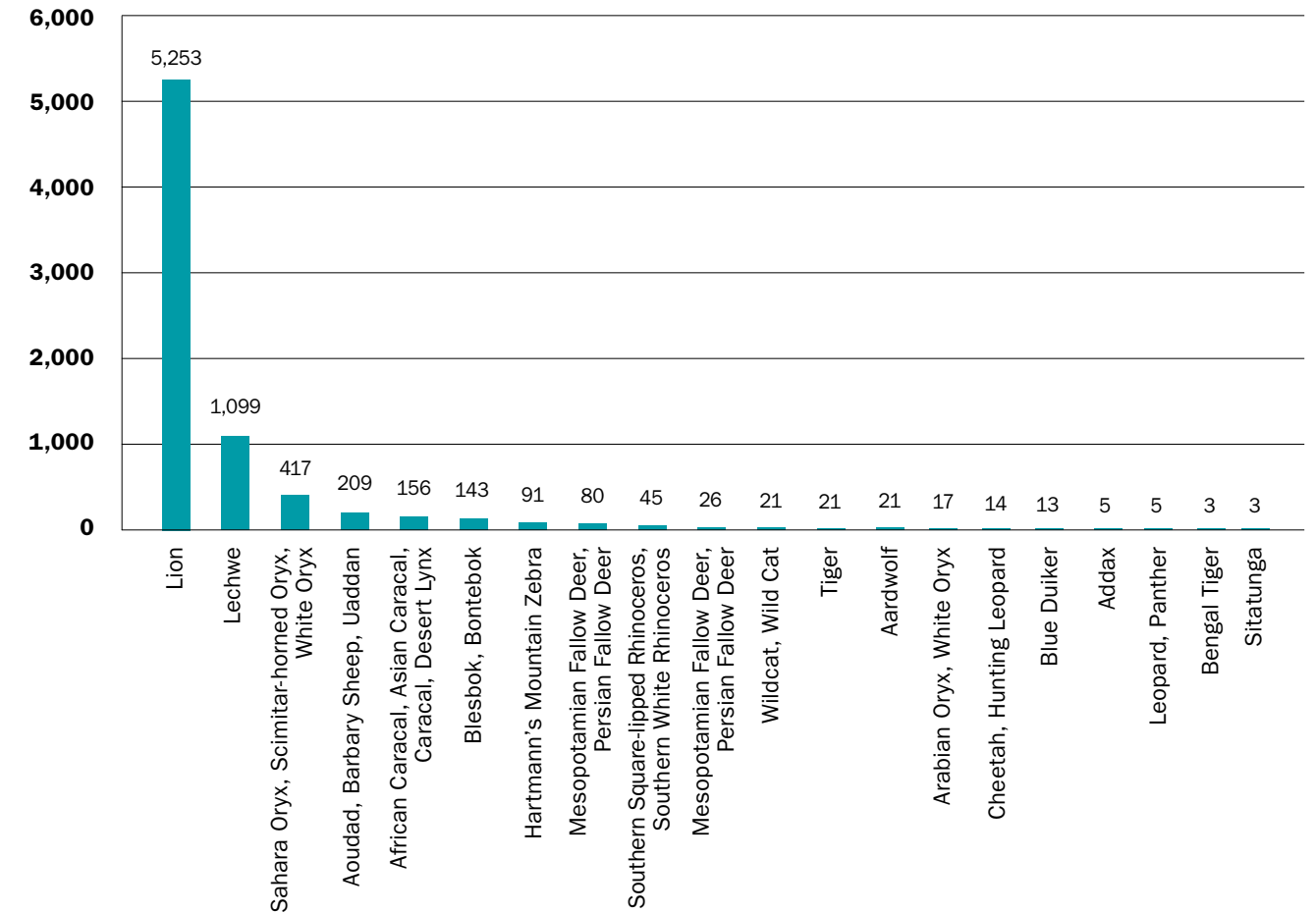
According to South Africa's African Lion Biodiversity Management Plan, there are approximately 200 lion breeding facilities in South Africa that house approximately 6,000 lions, although some reports indicate the number is closer to 8,000.<sup>194,195</sup> These lions are used for breeding, hunting, petting tourism and walking with lions. These numbers contrast with approximately 2,300 wild lions living in South Africa's

protected areas.<sup>196</sup> According to The Guardian, there are more than 160 canned hunting farms legally breeding big cats in South Africa: "[T]here are now more lions held in captivity (upwards of 5,000) in the country than live wild (about 2,000)... Five years ago, the South African government effectively banned canned hunting by requiring an animal to roam free for two years before it could be hunted, severely restricting breeders and hunters' profitability. But lion breeders challenged the policy in South Africa's courts and a high court judge eventually ruled that such restrictions were "not rational." The number of trophy hunted animals has since soared. In the five years leading up to 2006, 1,830 lion trophies were exported from South Africa. In the five years up to 2011, 4,062 were exported—a 122 percent increase, with the vast majority being captive-bred animals."<sup>197</sup>

Top 20 nations with the highest exports of hunting trophies from CAPTIVE ANIMALS from threatened taxa from 2004 to 2014



Top 20 threatened taxa for exported hunting trophies from CAPTIVE ANIMALS (2004 to 2014) from South Africa



## BANS

In early 2016, South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs announced that no leopard hunts would be authorized in 2016.<sup>198</sup> This ban was in response to the finding by South Africa's Scientific Authority that trophy hunting and the illegal fur trades are the primary threat to the species' survival.<sup>199</sup>





# UNITED KINGDOM

## Imports and Exports

Both in terms of imports and exports, there is not much trade of trophy-hunted threatened species in the UK.<sup>200</sup> The UK had an average hunting trophy importing rank of 23.6 from 2004–2013, which is remarkably low compared to other Western European countries. The top five threatened taxa imported hunting trophies to UK are the lechwe, leopard (panther), African savannah elephant, common wolf (timber wolf), and brown bear (grizzly bear). The countries from where most of the trophies imported in the UK come are Zambia (37 percent), South Africa (21 percent), Canada (11 percent), Democratic Republic of the Congo (7 percent), Namibia (6 percent), US (5 percent), and the Russian Federation (5 percent). The two threatened taxa with the highest imports are the lechwe and the leopard, which come mostly from South Africa and Zimbabwe.

## Background

Although currently the UK is not a significant player in trophy hunting overseas, it could be argued that the concept of trophy hunting was invented by the British Empire during Victorian times.<sup>201</sup> The genesis of the hunting trophy had begun a few centuries earlier with Tudor England, when the monarchs and aristocrats were well known for their appetite for hunting as sport.<sup>202</sup> They often kept deer's antlers as displays in their palaces, which can still be seen in places such as the famous Henry VII's Hampton Court Palace. However, it was not until the development of taxidermy in the late 1700s and early



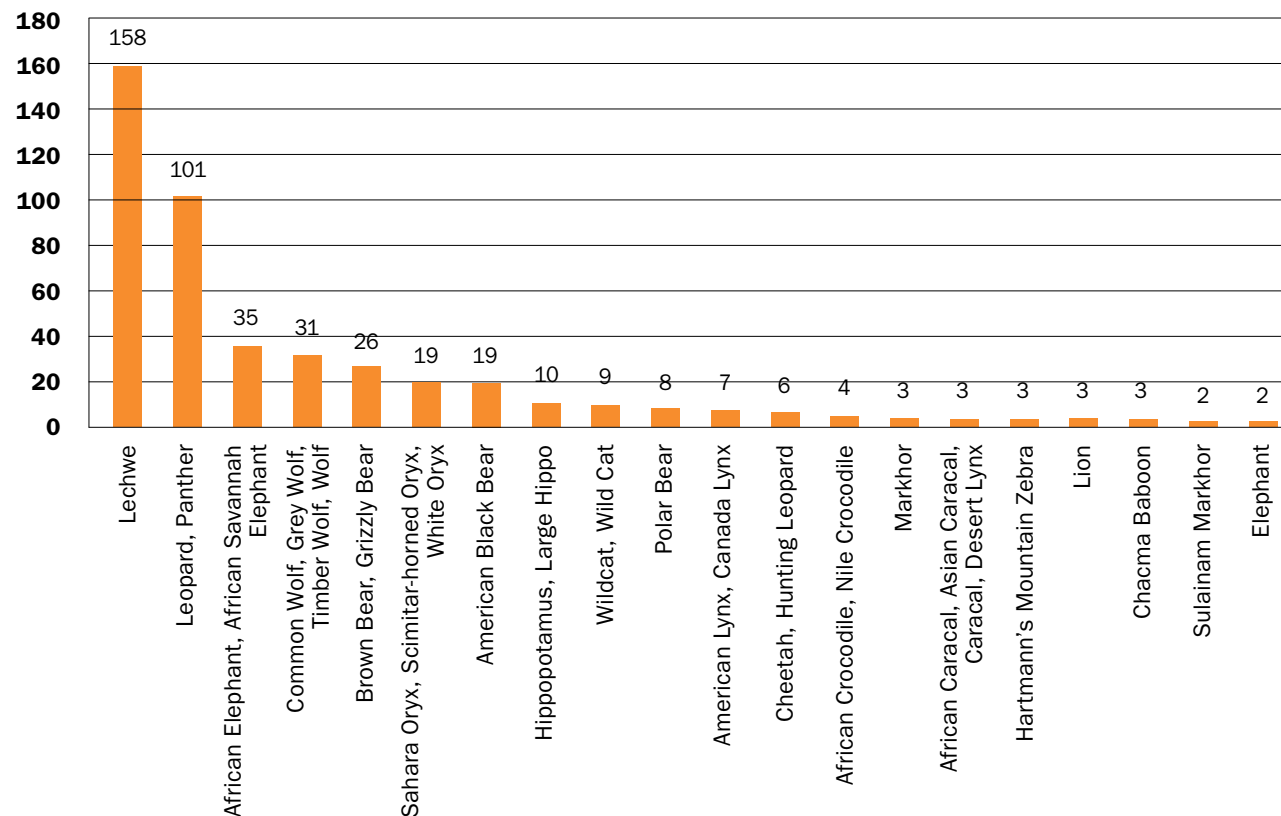
1800s that mounted animals became more common.<sup>203</sup> During this time, the hunting trophy became popular among Europeans, who had easy access to exotic animals in the colonies they ruled around the world. In 1885, the novelist H. Rider Haggard captured the imagination of Victorian England with the tale of a fearless hunter who ventured to Africa. Based on the famed big-game hunter Frederick Selous, Haggard's King Solomon's Mines novel popularized the figure of the 'white hunter', a colonial-minded, aristocratic Englishman who made his living shooting game and leading wealthy travellers on hunting safaris.<sup>204</sup>

Today, the culture of hunting is still kept alive by a minority of vocal people in the British countryside, in the form of different blood sports, which have gradually been banned over centuries on animal welfare grounds. One such sport is stag hunting (with packs of stag hounds), which is essentially a form of trophy hunting in which individual large males are chased by a pack of hounds for hours to ultimately be shot and their antlers and legs distributed as trophies among the participating hunters.

## BANS

The UK Government responded to the killing of Cecil the Lion by stating: "The government will ban the importation of [lion] trophies into Britain, unless we see very significant improvements in the performance of what's happening in Africa...We will be looking very closely at key indicators and those indicators include: age of lions, the latest scientific research is pushing that it should be over six. In the interim measure we will be looking very closely at quotas, we will also be looking closely at international verification".<sup>205</sup>

**Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to Great Britain**





# SPAIN

## Gross Imports

There is a strong trophy hunting culture in Spain. From 2004 to 2013, Spain and Germany took turns in the second position in rank after the US with the highest imports of threatened taxa hunting trophies. However, since 2007, Spain has seen a significant decline in gross imports. There is no one taxon that is imported significantly more than the others, with the top five threatened taxa imported trophies from 2004-2014 being the blackbuck (Sasin), African elephant, hippopotamus, lion, and chacma baboon. The CITES data show that 77 percent of all the imports come from South Africa (26 percent), Argentina (14 percent), Democratic Republic of the Congo (11 percent), Namibia (9 percent), Canada (9 percent), and Tanzania (8 percent).

## Export Species

The Aoudad (or Barbary sheep), a North African species that also inhabits the Iberian Peninsula, is the most exported threatened taxa out of Spain, by a great margin.

## Former King of Spain

Former King Juan Carlos of Spain was no stranger to hunting scandals. In 2006, it was alleged that the king had shot a Russian bear that had been given honey and vodka.<sup>206</sup>

Years later, he was caught in a tremendous backlash when news broke that he needed hip-replacement surgery after falling during a 2012 elephant trophy hunting trip in Botswana's Okavango Delta.<sup>207</sup> The media posted photographs of the monarch posing with dead elephants and African buffaloes, a rare move by the Spanish media, which usually refrains from vilifying the monarchy.<sup>208</sup> This was especially controversial for the then 74-year-old monarch, not only because he had gone on an expensive trophy hunting expedition during one of Spain's worst economic crises,<sup>209</sup> but also because he was associated with the Spanish branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) since its founding (then ADENA) in 1969.<sup>210</sup>

Almost 85,000 signatures calling for King Juan Carlos' resignation as honorary president of WWF Spain accumulated in the weeks after the news broke until the king issued his public apology.<sup>211</sup> The pressure led to 94 percent of the WWF Spain general meeting members present voting to remove him.<sup>212</sup>

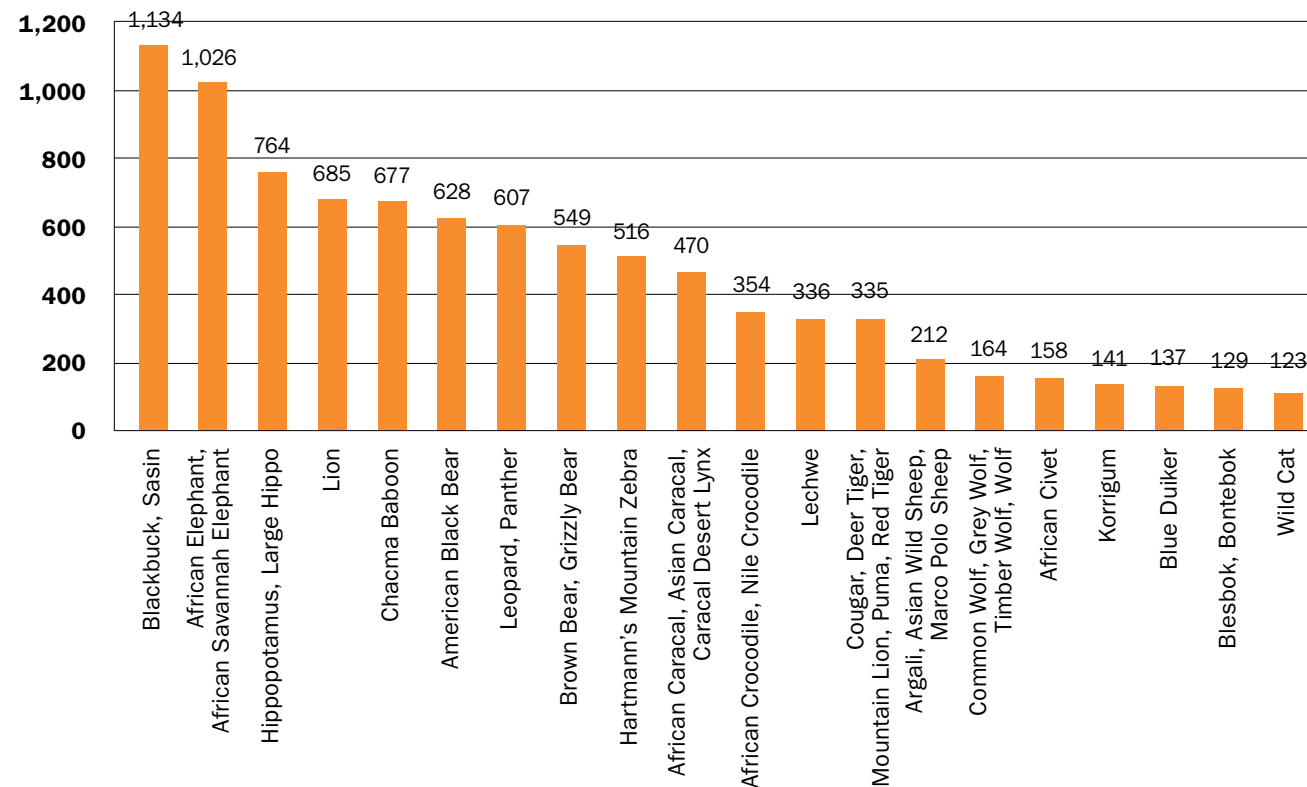
# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



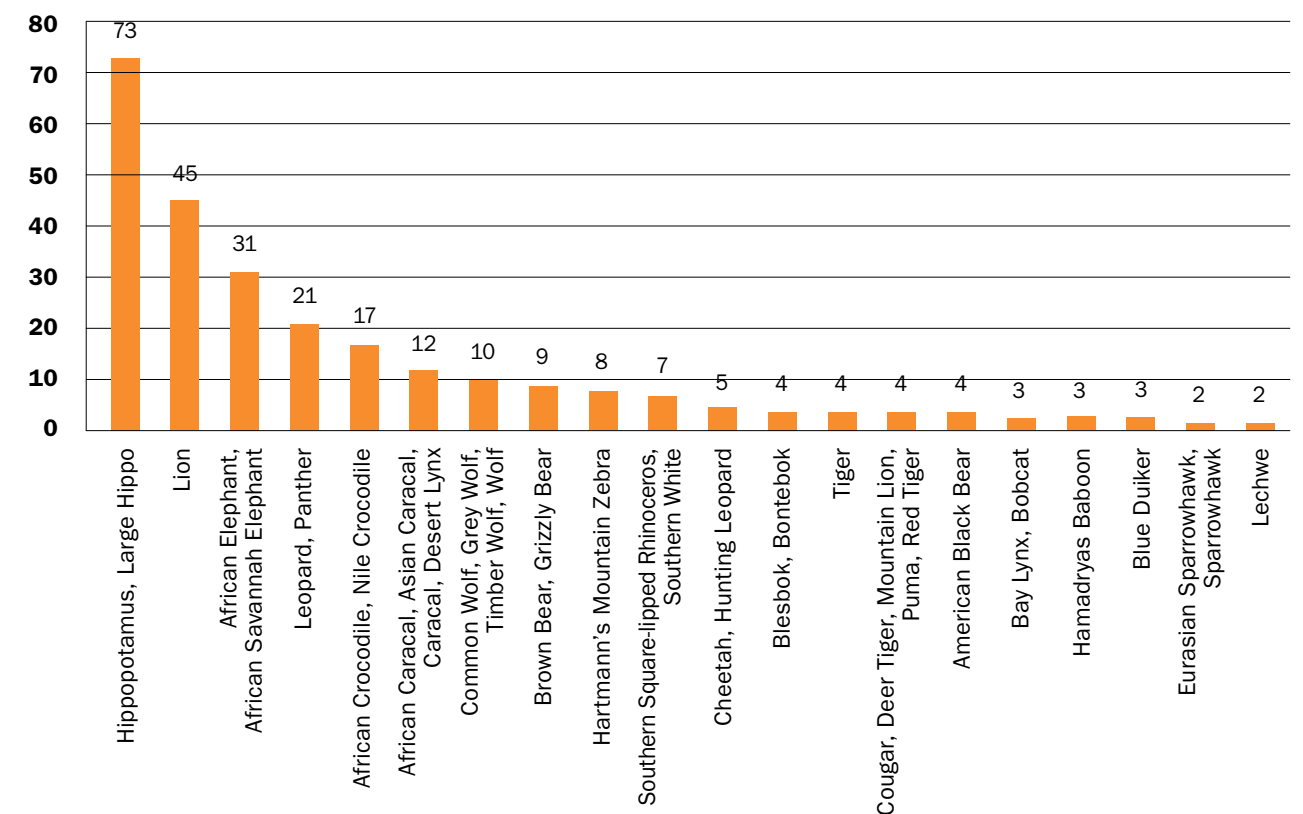
## Gross Imports

The import of hunting trophies in the UAE has increased since 2004, but the country still remains a relatively inactive importer of threatened taxa trophies. Most hunting trophies imported into the UAE come from South Africa (43 percent), Tanzania (19 percent), and Democratic Republic of the Congo (8 percent). The three threatened taxa that are imported most frequently are the hippo, lion, and African elephant, coming mostly from Tanzania and South Africa.

**Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to Spain**



**Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to United Arab Emirates**



# MEXICO



## Gross Imports

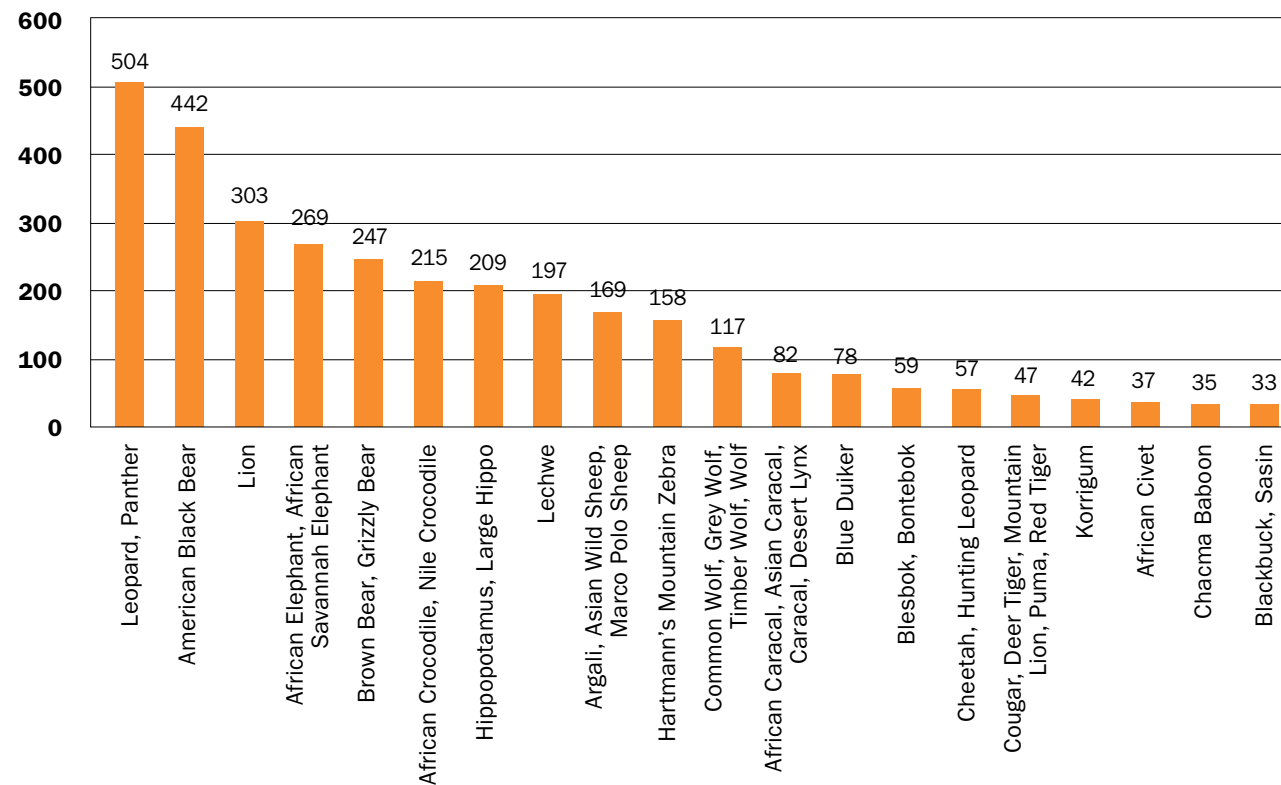
Based on our survey of the CITES data, Mexico is in the top five countries for both importing and exporting of threatened taxa trophies, and is most active as an exporting country. The top five threatened taxa imported into Mexico from 2004–2014 were the leopard (panther), American black bear, lion, African elephant, and grizzly bear (brown bear). No single taxon is imported significantly more than the others. 79 percent of all the imports come from Canada (17 percent), Tanzania (16 percent), South Africa (14 percent), Democratic Republic of the Congo (9 percent), US (9 percent), Namibia (7 percent), and Zambia (7 percent).

## Gross Exports

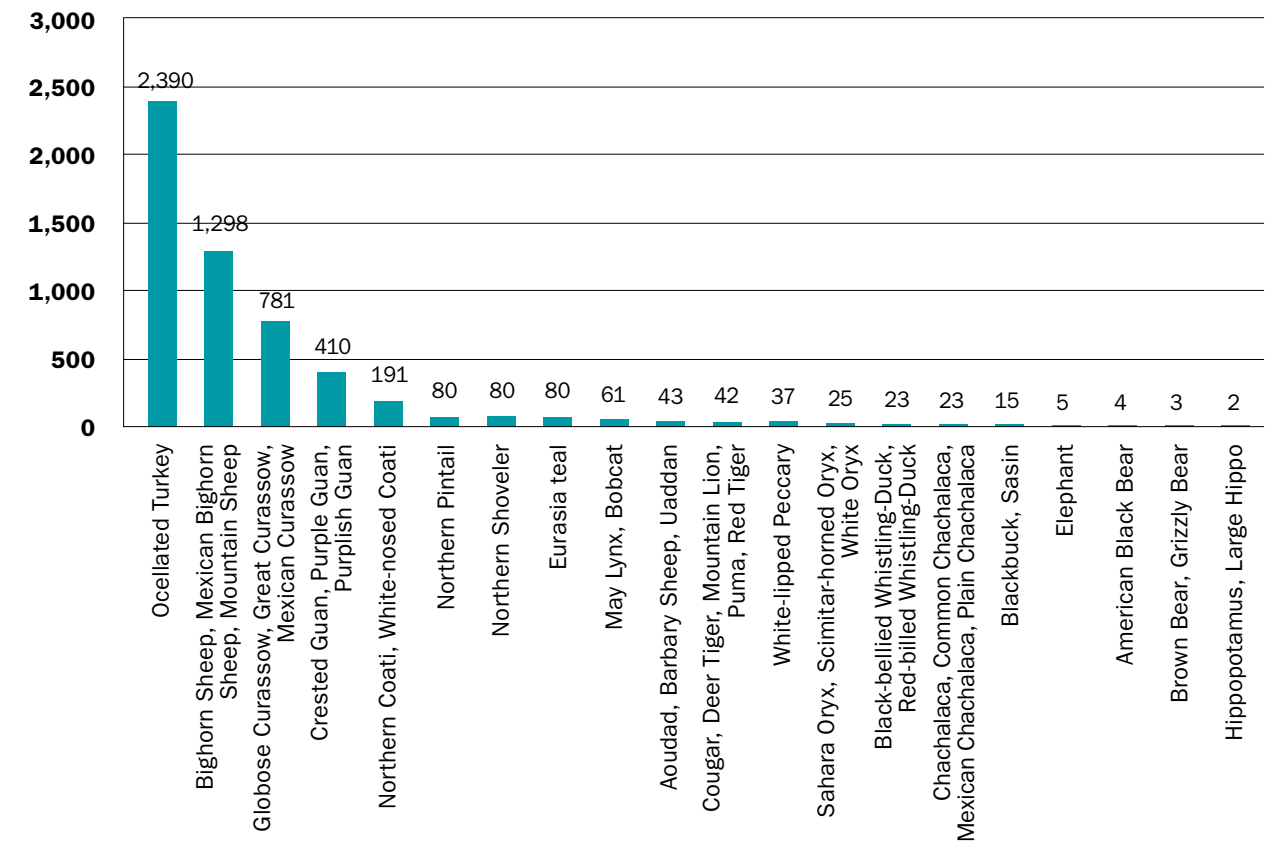
The top taxon exported as hunted trophies out of Mexico from 2004-2014 was the ocellated turkey, a native Mexican species that is listed as a CITES Appendix III species (UNEP-WCMC 2012)<sup>213</sup> and as near-threatened by the IUCN (BirdLife International 2011),<sup>214</sup> and that is a species of high concern to Partners in Flight.<sup>215</sup> Based on habitat loss, it is estimated that 50 percent or more of the Mexican ocellated turkey population has been lost over the last century.<sup>216</sup> 38 percent of the ocellated turkeys exported from Mexico go to the US.



**Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to Mexico**



**Top 20 threatened taxa for exported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) from Mexico**



# SCANDINAVIAN REGION

(DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN, FINLAND)



## Gross Imports

Scandinavia is mainly an importing region for threatened taxa trophies. For the purposes of this report, we have grouped Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland together due to their geographical proximity rather than for any political or cultural reasons. When viewed together as a group, these four Scandinavian nations are part of the top 20 highest importers of threatened taxa trophies based on the CITES data. The average hunting trophy importing rank of these four nations individually between 2004 and 2013 was on average 6.2 for Denmark, 8.8 for Norway, 12.5 for Sweden, and 16.4 for Finland. This region more than tripled its imported hunting trophies of threatened taxa from 2004 to 2010. These countries import their trophies from Canada (33 percent), South Africa (18 percent), Namibia (15 percent), Russian Federation (7 percent), Greenland (6 percent), and Democratic Republic of the Congo (6 percent).

## Imported Species

The top imported threatened taxon to the Scandinavian nations is the American black bear (2004 to 2014), at a rate 181 percent higher than the next most imported threatened taxon, Hartmann's mountain zebra.

## Exported Species

The top exported taxon is the brown bear, which mainly goes to other Scandinavian countries (mostly as trade between Norway and Sweden). Scandinavians also hunt polar bears, which is the second most exported taxon and the 11th most imported taxon in this region. Polar bear trophies are imported mainly from Greenland (formerly a province of Denmark) and Canada, and exported mainly amongst the Scandinavian nations themselves.

# NETHERLANDS



## Gross Imports

From 2004 to 2013, the Netherlands had a relatively low incidence of importing hunting trophies of threatened taxa compared with other Western EU nations. The Netherlands' average importing country rank is 34.9 from the span of 2004–2013.

## Importing Species

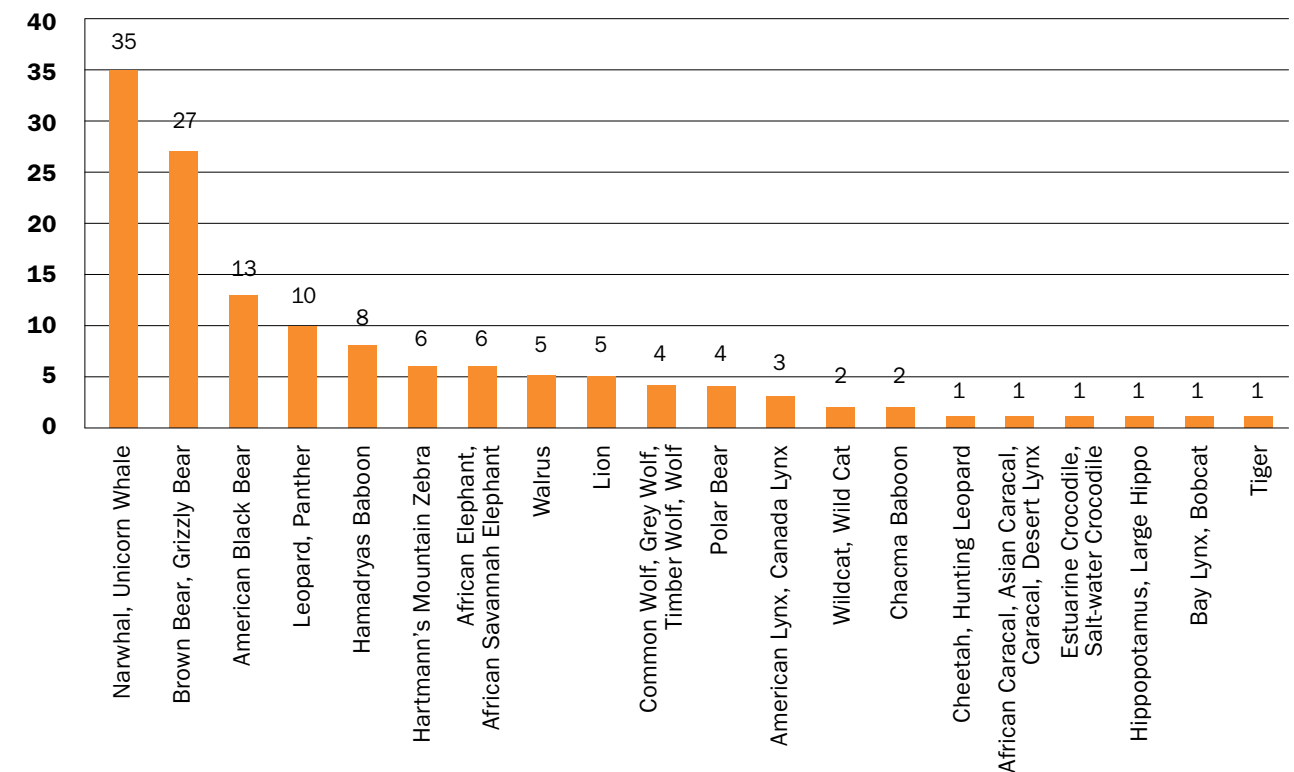
The top five threatened taxa imported to the Netherlands were the narwhal (unicorn whale), brown bear (grizzly bear), American black bear, leopard (panther), and Hamadryas baboon. Most of the Netherlands trophies originated from South Africa (42 percent), presumably due to the historical colonial connection and for ease in travel (with Afrikaans, a Dutch-based language, a commonly spoken language).

## BANS

According to the NL Times, the Dutch government is advocating for an international ban on trade in hunting trophy.<sup>217</sup> In April of 2016, State Secretary Martijn van Dam of Economic Affairs announced that the Netherlands would ban the import of 200 hunted trophy species, including white rhinos, elephants, hippos, cheetahs, polar bears, and lions.<sup>218</sup>



Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to Netherlands



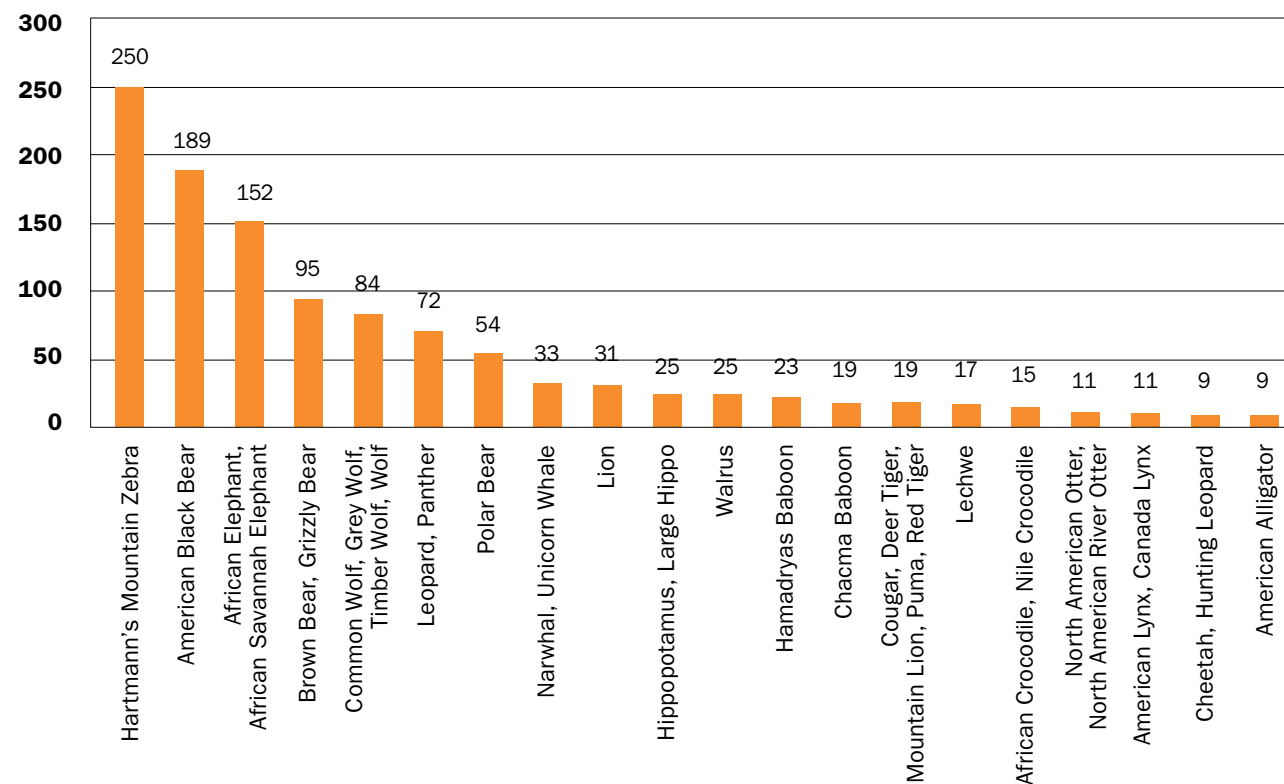
# SWITZERLAND



## Imports

According to the CITES data, Switzerland had an average rank of 12.8 as an importer of threatened taxa trophies over the time period 2004–2013. Like Germany, the top threatened taxon imported into Switzerland from 2004–2014 was the Hartmann's mountain zebra.

**Top 20 threatened taxa for imported hunting trophies (2004 to 2014) to Switzerland**



# LIST OF RELEVANT DEFINITIONS

**Africa Big 5** are some of the most popular and most sought after game including the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), the Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*), Southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*), the African lion (*Panthera leo*), the African leopard (*Panthera pardus*), and the African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*).

**Appendix I** includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.<sup>219</sup>

**Appendix II** includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.<sup>220</sup>

**Appendix III** includes all species which any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation, and as needing the cooperation of other Parties in the control of trade.<sup>221</sup>

**Canned hunting**, also referred to as captive hunting, is the act of "hunting" captive wildlife, usually in high-fenced killing grounds supplied by "breeder facilities."

**Fair Chase**, as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club, is the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild, native North American big game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper advantage over such animals.<sup>222</sup>

**Hunting** is the activity of chasing and killing wild animals or game, especially for food or sport.

**Hunting trophy** in the CITES context is a whole animal, or a readily recognizable part or derivative of an animal, specified on any accompanying CITES permit or certificate, that is raw, processed or manufactured; was legally obtained by the hunter through hunting for the hunter's personal use; and is being imported, exported or re-exported by or on behalf of the hunter, as part of the transfer from its country of origin, ultimately to the hunter's State of usual residence.<sup>223</sup>

**Listing** is the inclusion of a species in Appendix I, II or III of CITES.<sup>224</sup>

**Part** is defined as any part of an animal or plant (e.g. skin, shell, root) whether raw or processed in a simple way (e.g. preserved, polished, etc.).<sup>225</sup>

**Personal effect** in the CITES context is a specimen that is personally owned or possessed for non-commercial purposes; legally-acquired; and at the time of import, export or re-export either worn or carried or included in personal baggage; or part of a household move.<sup>226</sup>

**Poaching** is the illegal take of game.

**Pre-Convention specimen** is a specimen acquired before the provisions of the Convention applied to it. If a certificate to this effect is issued by a Management Authority, then no other permit or certificate is required under the Convention to authorize export, import or re-export.<sup>227</sup>

**Scandinavian regions** are defined, for purposes of this report, as including Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland due to their geographical proximity rather than because of any political or cultural reasons.

**Taxidermy** is the preparation, stuffing, and mounting of animal skins and especially vertebrates.<sup>228</sup>

**Taxon** is the name applied to a taxonomic group in a formal system of nomenclature (plural: taxa).<sup>229</sup>

**Trade** In the CITES context is any export, re-export, import and introduction from the sea.<sup>230</sup>

**United Kingdom (UK)** is synonymous with Great Britain in the CITES database. Therefore, for consistency, United Kingdom is used for purposes of this report.





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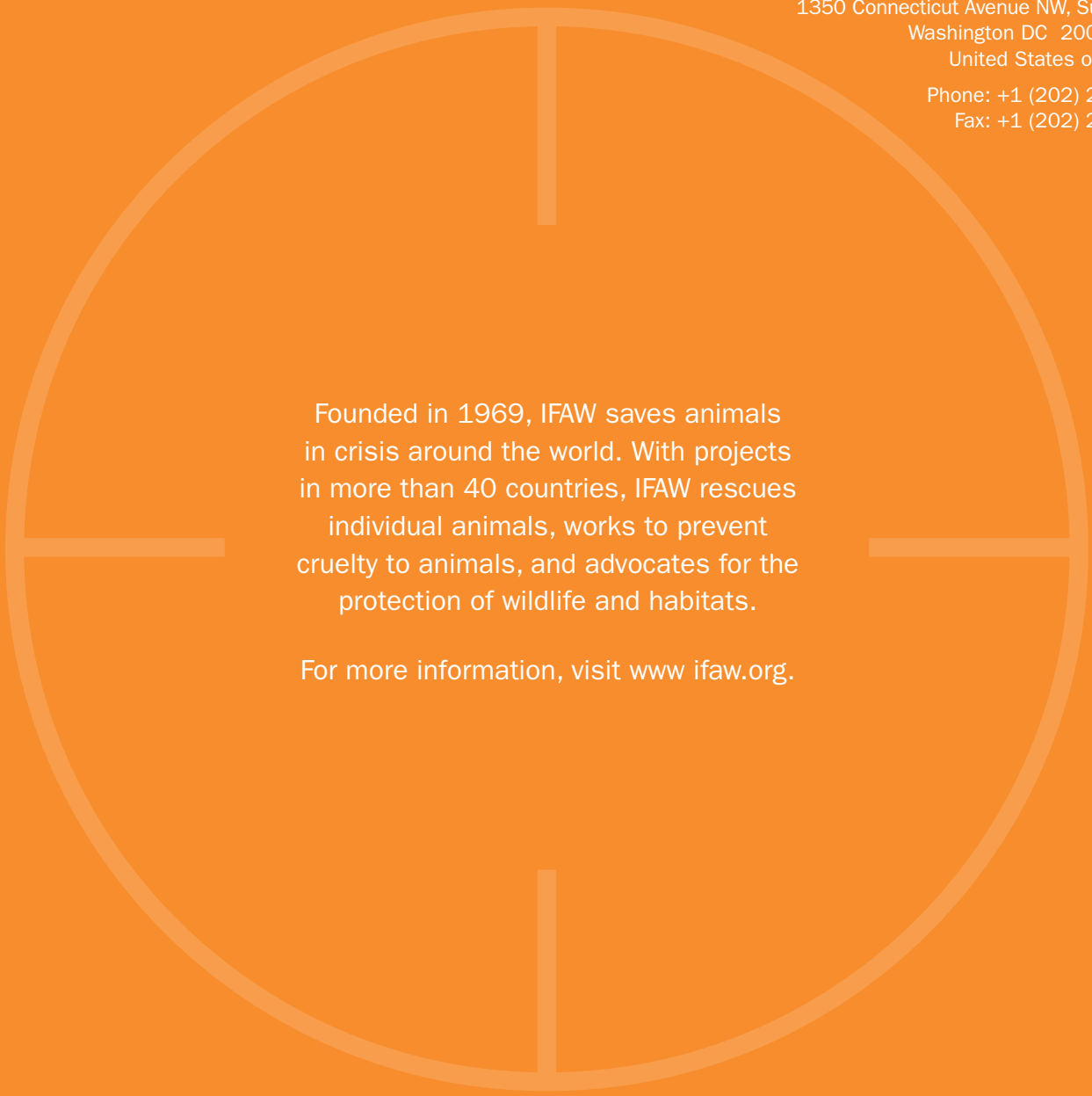


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Founded in 1969, IFAW saves animals in crisis around the world. With projects in more than 40 countries, IFAW rescues individual animals, works to prevent cruelty to animals, and advocates for the protection of wildlife and habitats.

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