
15. HUNTING AND ITS BENEFITS: AN OVERVIEW OF HUNTING IN AFRICA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TANZANIA

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SUMMARY

This chapter presents an overview of hunting in Africa today. A comparison is given of the various hunting destinations and their comparative costs. Tanzania is the most satisfactory destination by most criteria but it is comparatively expensive, while South Africa is the cheapest, busiest (4,500 clients annually) and most accessible. Wildlife is plentiful in some country locations but is being poached mercilessly in others. Only through effective regulation will it be preserved and turned to the benefit of the countries and their communities. If local communities and landowners on whose land wildlife feeds do not benefit from wildlife, they will not conserve it. Tanzania is used as an example of the potential benefits to be gained from safari hunting because of the authors particular experience of that country. The Cullman Wildlife Project, a community based wildlife utilization scheme in Tanzania which is sponsored by donations from hunters, is described and the benefits to the communities outlined. This model can be applied elsewhere and has many of the features of the CAMPFIRE Project in Zimbabwe and the Madikwa Game Reserve in South Africa. Quotas and quota setting are critical to the maintenance of wildlife populations on government and communal lands. A case is made for

lifting the hunting ban in Kenya and re-introducing safari hunting, and possible charges and potential earnings are presented.

INTRODUCTION

Most people think of safari hunting as purely the trophy hunting of large male animals. This is misleading. Yes, the trophy is a most important part of a safari, but the hunting experience and adventure in the bush are also what attracts the client. There also has to be the feeling of a fair chase to the proper hunter "*One does not hunt in order to kill: on the contrary one kills in order to have hunted.*" (Jose Y Gasset, Spanish philosopher).

Safari hunting is taking a paying customer into the field for the purpose of sport hunting for hire and reward to the professional safari operator and the professional hunter. It is also to the benefit of the country or landowner selling the right by licence to hunt game. The client clearly understands that hunting is carefully regulated by law and that hunting, by its very nature, is the chance of the chase with no guarantee of success.

BACKGROUND

East Africa (Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda) was the traditional home of safari hunting up until the early 1970s when hunting was banned, first in Tanzania in 1973 and then in Kenya in 1977. This made both safari hunting clients and professional hunters look for hunting fields elsewhere in Africa, in Sudan, Zaire and the Central African Republic, which were relatively new destinations; and Zambia, South Africa, Namibia, Ethiopia and Botswana which already had fledgling safari hunting industries, and which boomed following the ban on hunting in Kenya and Tanzania. At the same time, Uganda became an unsafe destination because of political upheaval.

SAFARI HUNTING IN AFRICA TODAY

The principal specialised hunting countries in Africa today are:

BOTSWANA—Botswana offers hunts for the big cats, buffalo, sitatunga and plains game in attractive surroundings with good quality professional hunters, camps and scenery, such as the Okavango Swamps and the Kalahari desert.

CAMEROON—Cameroon is an interesting country consisting of rain forest in the south-east and savannah woodland in the north-west. It is popular for hunting of bongo, Lord Derby eland and roan antelope.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC—The Central African Republic is a wild and sparsely populated country containing Lord Derby eland and bongo but with the worst poaching problem in Africa.

ETHIOPIA—Ethiopia has recently opened hunting again and offers semi-desert, forest and plains game, including mountain nyala, giant forest hog and black leopard.

NAMIBIA—Namibia offers plains game and elephant hunting with good