

Operators and Professional Hunters Associations of Southern Africa

November 6, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking Co-Chairmen:

We represent the international safari hunting industry of Africa that strives for the empowerment of the African people, their communities and organisations through participation in environmental education and capacity building. As stewards of African wildlife, we harness our skills, experience and knowledge of the African environment to ensure that all international efforts and obligations are undertaken in respect for Africa's environmental policies and principals. It is in this capacity that we are writing regarding President Barack Obama's July 1, 2013 Executive Order Combatting Wildlife Trafficking.

We beg you to take our important role in wildlife conservation into account as you consider recommendations from the Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking and in your recommendations as the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking. In that role, we respectfully request the Advisory Council include a member from the African professional hunting industry, or the Safari Club International Foundation as our representative, to protect our indispensable benefits to the people and wildlife of Africa. We are very concerned that the current membership of the Advisory Council lacks an understanding of the role of the professional hunter in combatting poaching. The Foundation has long demonstrated competence in its knowledge of our industry and our positive impacts to wildlife conservation.

From a safari hunting point of view, it is the international trophy hunters who play a critical role in the protection of wildlife in Africa. These hunters, primarily American, bring the responsible and ethical hunting standards that result in environmental sustainability. This in turn contributes to job creation, food security, and a better quality of life for all Africans in rural areas and communities. In Africa, trophy hunting lessens the burden of poverty and uplifts human dignity. In addition, the millions of dollars that hunters spend to come to Africa

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each year help finance our Wildlife Management Authorities, our National Parks, Game Management Areas, the Citizen Recourse Boards, the Chiefdoms, local communities and conservation efforts in our rapidly growing countries. As representatives of the safari hunting industry in Africa, we are encouraged that the President of the United States has taken this important step to bring international attention to the serious issues surrounding poaching. We acknowledge his offer of assistance to foreign nations experiencing trafficking of protected wildlife. Furthermore, we support the Executive Order's recognition that the United States will continue to allow legal and legitimate trade of wildlife.

We would like to draw your attention to the importance of the international hunting fraternity not only for the survival of African rural communities, but also to the fact that hunters are the first line of defense when it comes to the poaching crisis in these areas. In Africa, we represent an industry that is key to the livelihoods of local communities which depend heavily on the income from safari hunting. It is because of this sustainable utilization of our wildlife that our wildlife has economic value. If, in Africa, wildlife has no value to the people there will neither be reason nor will to manage and grow wildlife populations.

For example, in Zambia, income from safari hunting is divided into the following support systems for the local communities: Community Resource Board - 45%, Chiefs (Patrons) - 05%, Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) - 40% and Central Treasury - 10%. Zambian hunting concession fees from safari operators are divided as follows: Local Communities (CRB's) - 15%, Chiefs (Patrons) - 05% and ZAWA - 80%. Similar structures are in place in other countries where local Communities are expected to utilise these public funds for locally agreed upon socio-economic development projects such as schools, health centres and roads. Guidelines on the utilisation of community funds are in place. In addition, operators that have been awarded hunting concessions in Game Management Areas have made specific private pledges to develop their respective areas of operation for the benefit of local communities.

Without the international trophy hunter, these benefits would obviously disappear. However, it is the "boots on the ground" benefit of the trophy hunter that is most often overlooked. By having a consistent presence in the Game Management Units and in our concessions, and through collaboration with local wildlife management officials and local communities, we serve as the first line deterrent to poachers and the illegal take of wildlife. The hunting industry currently serves as the guardians, informants, and occasional enforcement against poachers.

Again, we applaud President Obama's efforts and concerns about the illegal trafficking of protected wildlife. As an existing network of stewards and guardians of that

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wildlife, we hope you will call upon us to play a significant role in the implementation of your President's Executive Order.

Respectfully,
Operators and Professional Hunters Associations of Southern Africa

Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa
Namibian Professional Hunting Association
Zimbabwe Professional Hunters and Guides Association
Safari Operators Association of Zimbabwe
Professional Hunters Association of Zambia
Safari Hunting Operators Association of Zambia
Botswana Wildlife Management Association
Tanzania Professional Hunters Association
Tanzania Hunting Operators Association
Association of Mozambican Safari Operators

cc: President Barack Obama
The Honorable Susan Rice
The Honorable Ben Rhodes
The Honorable Dan Ashe
The Honorable Michelle D. Gavin
The Honorable Douglas M. Griffiths
The Honorable Wanda L. Nesbitt
The Honorable Patrick Gaspard
The Honorable Alfonso E. Lenhardt
The Honorable Mark C. Storella
The Honorable Charles A. Ray
The Honorable Dr. Machivenyika Mapuranga
The Honorable Palan Mulonda
The Honorable Liberata Mulamula
The Honorable Ebrahim Rasool
The Honorable Martin Andjaba
The Honorable Amélia Matos Sumbana
The Honorable Dr. Tebelelo Mazile Seretse

c/o Adri Kitshoff, Secretary
Operators and Professional Hunters Associations of Southern Africa
POB 10264
Centurion, South Africa
0046
+27 (12) 667 2048