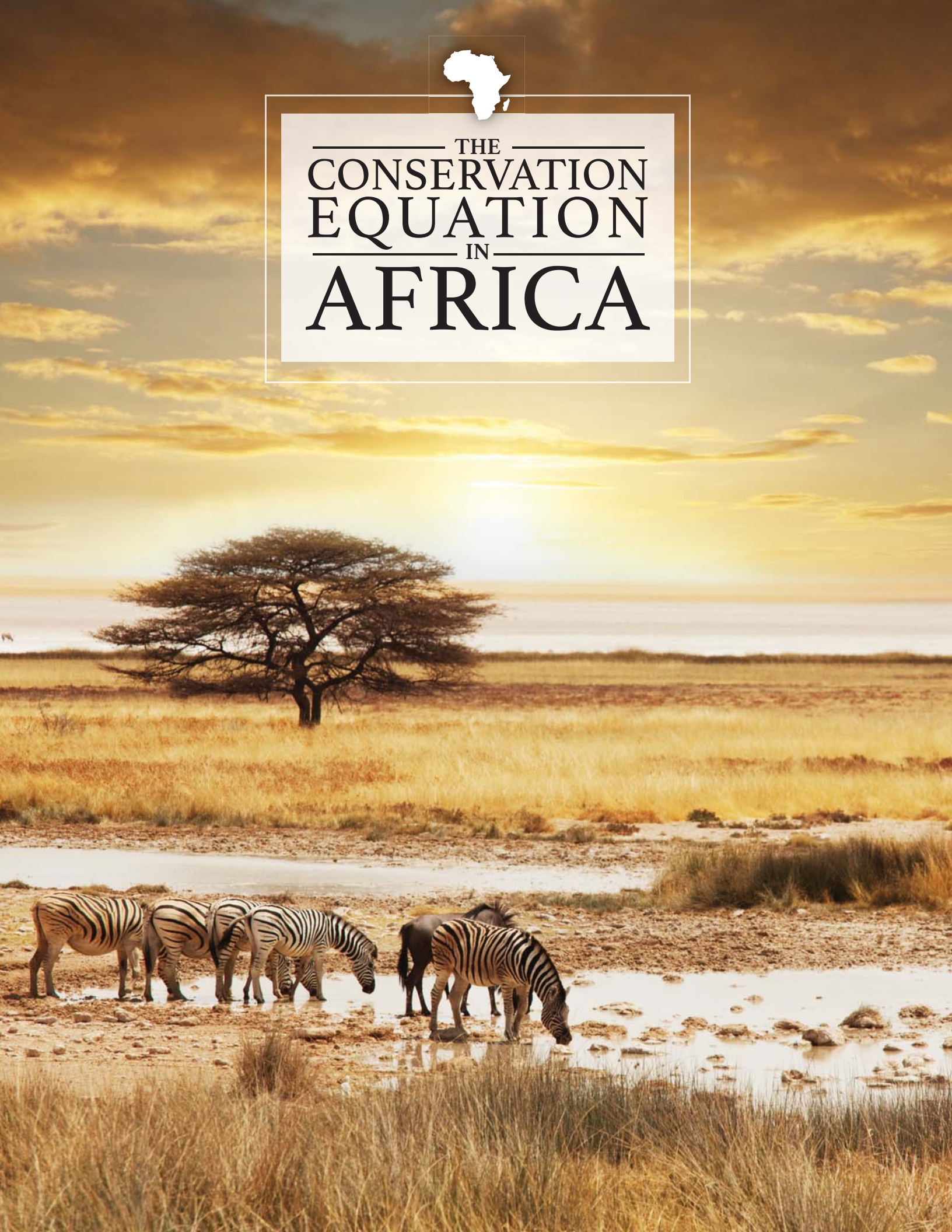




THE
CONSERVATION
EQUATION
IN
AFRICA





As long as rural villagers consider wild animals as a liability, habitat destruction and reprisal killings of marauding animals will continue unabated; indeed, will likely increase. On the other hand, when wild animals are seen as an asset, local communities then have the incentive to adopt practices that sustain and enhance wildlife populations and their natural habitats.

Beauty... or the Beast

As the safari truck quietly coasted to a halt, the tour guide reminded everyone onboard to remain seated and to hold their voices to a whisper. Not 20 minutes later, the tourists' patience was rewarded. Backlit by the late afternoon sun, a pride of lions emerged from the tall grass and gathered not 50 yards away in the shade cast by an Acacia tree. While some snapped shot after shot, others in the group simply sat back and admired these majestic animals. Back at camp that evening, everyone agreed that this up close and personal encounter with the lions had been the highlight of their African photo safari.

Not many miles from the tourist camp, in a village that bordered the national park, a young man left his hut and made his way to stand guard by the stockade that held the village's goats and sheep. As darkness fell, he fervently hoped that no lions would make an appearance. He well knew that if he had an up close and personal encounter with a big cat, his chances of survival would be slim.

Those of us living in countries with advanced economic systems have, if you will, the luxury of an aesthetic appreciation for wildlife. Wild animals pose little threat to our lives or livelihoods. Whether birdwatcher, hunter, or both, we have long recognized the importance of being responsible stewards of our natural resources.

In the United States, for example, science-based wildlife management programs, largely funded through sportsmen's dollars, have over the past 75 years helped to return many native species to healthy and abundant numbers while also providing millions of acres of critical habitat for game and non-game species alike.



A typical hunter visiting Africa spends

US\$7,500

on travel-related expenses such as



Souvenirs



Entertainment



Lodging & meals



In just these eight countries, the economic impact of hunting-related tourism is:

- Direct spending: **US\$326 mil**
- Contribution to GDP: **US\$428 mil**
- Jobs supported: **53,000**

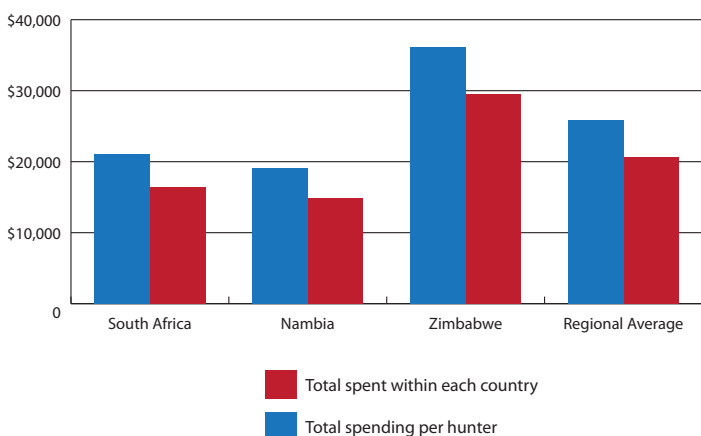
HUNTING EQUALS CONSERVATION

As quoted in an August 10, 2015 article in the New York Times by Norimitsu Onishi, Rosie Coonie, a zoologist who is the chairwoman of the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, makes the point that, “There are only two places on earth where wildlife at a large scale has actually increased in the 20th century, and those are North America and southern Africa. Both those models have been built around hunting.”

By contrast, sub-Saharan countries that have banned regulated hunting have seen sharp decreases in wildlife populations and increases

in human-animal conflicts. According to conservation estimates, Kenya, which banned hunting in 1977, has lost between 60 and 70 percent of its large animals in good measure because of poaching and loss of natural habitat due to increased farming and livestock operations. Lion numbers in Kenya have fallen from over 20,000 to just 2,000 in this no-hunting period. Botswana, which banned hunting two years ago, has seen a sharp rise in human-animal conflicts as well as poaching. According to the country’s Department of Wildlife’s problem animal control unit, such conflicts have risen from 4,361 in 2012 to 6,770 in 2014.

HOW MUCH DOES A HUNTER SPEND?



INTERNATIONAL HUNTER POPULATION AND ESTIMATED TOTAL VISITING HUNTER SPENDING (\$US)

Country	Visiting hunter population	Total hunter spending within each country
Botswana	350	\$7,210,737
Ethiopia	21	\$432,644
Mozambique	428	\$8,817,701
Namibia	7,076	\$105,007,764
South Africa	8,387	\$141,197,113
Tanzania	794	\$16,358,071
Zambia	398	\$8,199,638
Zimbabwe	1,361	\$39,276,470
Total	18,815	\$326,500,138

In other parts of the world, such as sub-Saharan Africa, the view toward wild animals is, by necessity, quite different. While Africans have an ancestral reverence for certain wild animal species, this deep respect does not trump the hard reality of their day-to-day existence.

For the large number of African villagers who depend on farming and herding, many wild animals pose a significant threat not only to their lives but to their resources as well. Lions and leopards kill their cattle, sheep and goats. Elephants trample their fields of maize and melons and have, on occasion, stampeded through a village itself. According to the FAO, in areas close to the Kakum Conservation area in Ghana, 500 households annually lose 70 percent of their crops to elephant raids.

Villagers guarding livestock and crops stand in fear throughout the night. In Zimbabwe alone, according to the country’s National Parks and Wildlife Authority, 27 people were killed by wild animals during the first quarter of 2015. In revenge attacks, villagers killed 12 elephants and five lions during the same period.

Appreciating this starkly different perception of wild animals—in essence, seeing the beauty, or the beast - is the first step in gaining a better understanding of what the future might hold for Africa’s wildlife. When communities experience wildlife as a positive resource, and not as a threat or something to be unsustainably exploited, the future for wildlife becomes secure. As stated by Hon. Minister Willem Konjore on behalf of Namibia’s President Pohamba, it is “proven that sustainable use has brought positive conservation results, when communities no longer regard wildlife as nuisance and of no economic value.”

A Value Proposition

A discussion of assets and liabilities typically takes place in the world of finance. These two words, however, also aptly describe the crux of understanding the dynamics of wildlife conservation in sub-Saharan Africa.

Habitat is the food, water, shelter and living space needed by all wildlife species. From aardvark to zebra, all species require habitat in sufficient quantity and quality to sustain their populations in the wild.

Sub-Saharan Africa's population is currently at some 800 million people—more than twice as many as in the U.S.—and is projected to almost double in the next 35 years. Many people in this region are doing well. However, according to the Africa Agricultural Report of 2014, 80 percent of all farms in the sub-Saharan region represent small-scale, low-yield subsistence agriculture, while some 25 percent of the region's people are considered undernourished.

With a rapidly expanding population more and more of the region's natural habitat is being converted into cropland, pastures for livestock, or being timbered for housing and fuel. Even range and forest land previously considered unsuitable for production is falling to the axe and plow. To minimize losses, big game animals that raid crops or livestock are poisoned, trapped or snared. As a swelling population continues to encroach on natural areas, conflicts between humans and animals are increasing as well.

As long as rural villagers consider wild animals as a liability, habitat destruction and reprisal killings of marauding animals will continue unabated; indeed, will likely increase. On the other hand, when wild animals are seen as an asset, local communities then have the incentive adopt practices that sustain and enhance wildlife populations and their natural habitats.





The Asset Equation

In sub-Saharan Africa, both photo safaris and traditional, regulated, hunting safaris have demonstrated that wildlife can become an asset, a valuable community resource that provides significant and sustainable economic benefits while, at the same time, encouraging good conservation practices.

Photo safaris, or eco-tourism, and regulated hunting should not be viewed as conflicting but, rather, as complimentary activities. While catering to different customer segments in different locales, both generate considerable and much needed revenue for rural communities.

Photo safaris are feasible, of course, only in national parks and game reserves that, together, represent only a small fraction of the vast land area of sub-Saharan Africa. Most areas in this region are unsuitable for photo safaris because of the lack of animal density or diversity, the absence of tourist infrastructure, or landscapes of thick bush that limit wildlife viewing and photography. Understandably, photo tourists are unwilling to spend days in the bush with only a limited chance of viewing or photographing a wide variety of species, especially Africa's iconic "Big Five."

Hunters, however, are happy to travel to Africa's more remote, less accessible regions, areas that are ill-suited to photo-tourism but serve well for hunting safaris. Hunting safaris generate high revenues from a low volume of individuals and, with small parties in the field, do so with minimal impact on natural resources. Notably, regulated hunting takes place in many locales where other economic opportunities are very limited, or virtually non-existent. And, most all hunting operators in Africa



THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE HUNTER

The typical hunter spends about \$7,500 just on travel-related expenses such as transportation, meals, lodging, and more. As businesses and individuals re-spend these monies, the impact generated per hunter multiplies. Considering the average per-capita income for Zimbabwe is \$424 annually, according to the United Nation's Development Programme, the average in-country spending by just one hunter on travel-related items alone equals the annual income for 17 individuals.

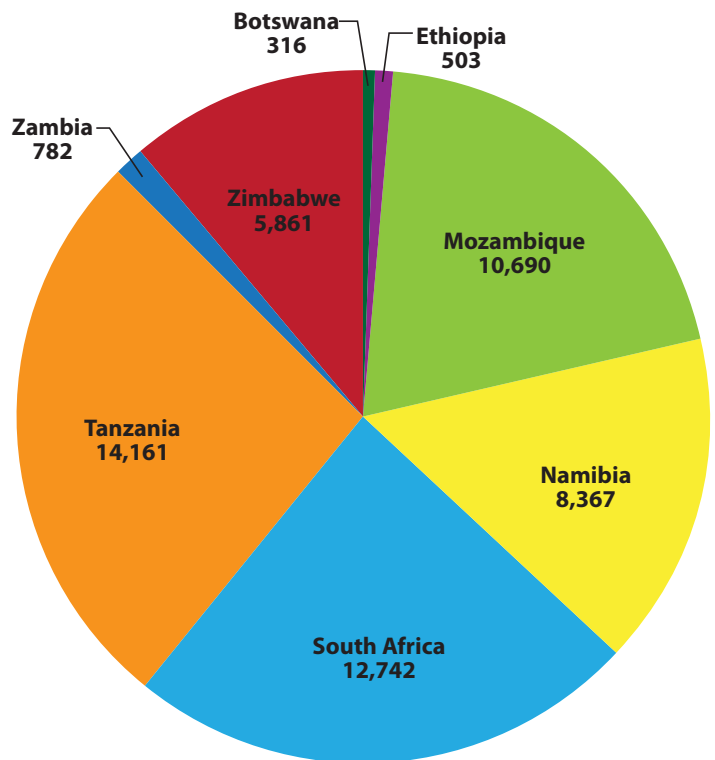


are largely based in Africa, maximizing the in-country benefit of the revenue stream created by visiting hunters.

A recent study conducted for SCI Foundation by Southwick Associates, "The Economic Contributions of Hunting-related Tourism in Southern Africa," measures the size of hunting-related tourism's contributions to local, national, and regional economies of southern Africa. Encompassing eight sub-Saharan countries (Botswana, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe), the study reveals that in-country spending per hunter averages \$20,600 during the, on average, 11 day hunting trip. This translates into \$326 million of direct spending in these eight countries and, when the impact resulting as these expenditures exchange hands within the economies being studied, the spending total climbs to \$426 million. Of note, hunting-related tourism has created over 53,000 jobs in the studied region.

At the country level, these dollars not only boost the economy, they also provide critical funding for wildlife conservation and law enforcement efforts by national wildlife agencies. Every visiting hunter provides funds via hunting licenses and permits, land access fees and more.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS SUPPORTED BY HUNTERS?



“If hunting tourism is suspended, instead of having legal hunting, there will be illegal hunting.”

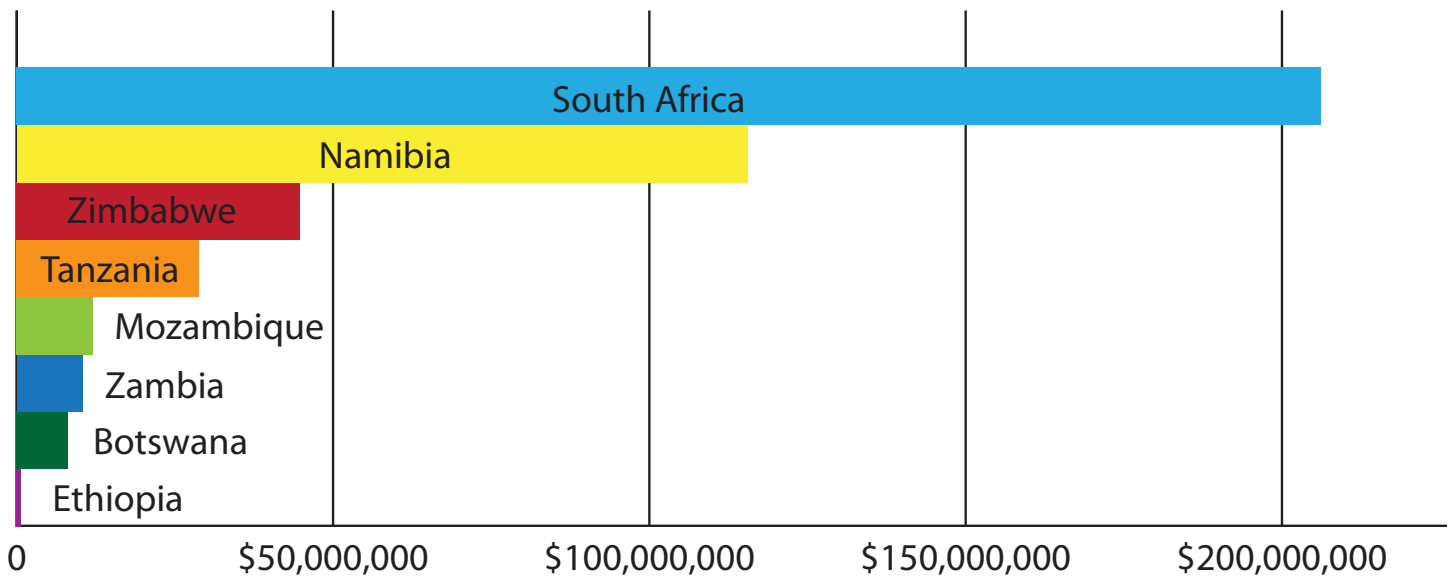
—Dr. Adelhelm Meru, Tanzania's Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism

THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT

How does hunting convert into economic opportunity? By purchasing hunting packages, accommodations, travel services and more, hunters import significant dollars, Euros and other funds into their destination countries. Hunting is a labor-intensive

activity, with many trackers, ranch hands, drivers, cooks, professional hunters and others support each hunter and receiving paychecks in return. As these individuals re-spend their pay locally and in near-by cities, hunters' spending them reaches and benefits all corners of the African economy.

HUNTING'S CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC GROWTH (GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT)



The dollars brought into Zimbabwe by hunters place hunting as this nation's eighth largest export.

Without these funding mechanisms, many sub-Saharan nations would be unable to protect wildlife and habitat. "If hunting tourism is suspended instead of having legal hunting there will be illegal hunting," advises Dr. Adelhelm Meru, Tanzania's Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

At the local level, income generated from hunting safaris has made a major difference in improving conditions both for villagers, and for wildlife, especially in those areas where rural Africans have gained the right to manage—and thus benefit—from a wide range of game species on their communal lands.

For communities, these earnings have translated into improved medical, sanitary and educational facilities, as well as jobs. For wildlife, these earnings have resulted in the protection and improvement of critical habitat, the strengthening of anti-poaching efforts, and a significant reduction in the reprisal killing of marauding wild animals.



Community Based Conservation

In addition to government efforts, conservation success also occurs when local communities are able to gain a financial return from the wildlife in their communal areas. The Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) in Zimbabwe is an excellent example. Today, districts and communities in the CAMPFIRE program protect over 12 million acres of wildlife habitat and 25 percent of all households in Zimbabwe are benefiting from resources developed by the program, \$21.5 million between 1994 and 2012. Year after year, regulated hunting safaris provide 90 percent of the programs nationwide revenue.

Recognizing the benefits regulated hunting returns to their communities, CAMPFIRE participants are working to expand and improve habitat by restricting logging and livestock grazing and have developed management initiatives to survey and monitor wildlife populations. With wildlife viewed as a communal asset, poaching is widely discouraged among community residents. Additionally, CAMPFIRE income is used to train local game scouts and mount active anti-poaching patrols. The Zimbabwean Save Valley Conservancy, for example, uses hunting revenue to now employ 150 anti-poaching game scouts.

Namibia's Communal Wildlife Conservancies are similar to Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE program in that they allow local villages to manage and benefit from wildlife on communal land. Currently, 82 Namibian conservancies encompass 40 million acres of wildlife habitat, well over 20 percent of the country's total land area. Since 1996, fees from hunting concessions have provided a major source of funding to set aside wildlife habitat, mount effective anti-poaching efforts and mitigate human-wildlife conflicts.

With the growth of Namibian conservancies, elephant populations in the country have climbed from



“History has shown us that there has never been poaching in hunting blocks managed by hunting operators in Tanzania.”

—Dr. Adelhelm Meru, Tanzania’s Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism



The direct spending by visiting hunters in Mozambique is greater than the nation’s export of ships and boats.

7,500 in 1995 to 20,000 in 2013. The free-roaming lion population outside of the national parks has increased—at times exceeding 20 percent annual growth—and reclaimed large portions of their former range. The Hartmann’s Mountain Zebra recovered from less than 100 zebra in the 1980’s to over 20,000 in 2013. The black rhino has come back from near extinction to being one of the most secure populations in the world with almost 2,000 animals. According to Namibia’s Honorable Minister for Environment and Tourism, Ms. H.N. Nandi Ndaitwah, Namibia “encourages the formation of conservancies with the primary objective of benefiting communities through sustainable utilization of natural resources. Thirty one registered conservancies have hunting concessions and rely on wildlife utilization for their livelihood. Wildlife population on state land outside protected areas has increased significantly.”

Aiding in these conservation success stories have been conservancy programs to compensate farmers for losses to livestock caused by large predators. Some areas

TYPICAL SPENDING FOR AN AFRICA HUNTING TRIP

	South Africa	Namibia	Zimbabwe	Other Regional Nations*
Hunting Package	\$9,066	\$9,781	\$18,875	\$12,921
Spending at home	\$3,434	\$3,413	\$5,115	\$3,963
Spending in country	\$3,534	\$2,330	\$5,794	\$3,766
Trip-related	\$879	\$632	\$1,244	\$1,000
Hunting related	\$2,228	\$1,290	\$4,134	\$2,355
Professional hunter fees & outfit	\$1,103	\$770	\$1,965	\$1,176
License and/or permit	\$41	\$133	\$294	\$133
Hunting expenses	\$1,040	\$366	\$1,705	\$941
Conservation fees	\$45	\$20	\$170	\$104
Other items	\$426	\$408	\$416	\$411
Total taxidermy & export	\$5,042	\$3,545	\$6,348	\$5,152
In-country portion of taxidermy	\$4,235	\$2,730	\$4,190	\$3,916
Total spending per hunter	\$21,076	\$19,068	\$36,131	\$25,803
In-country spending per hunter				
Package, in-country and taxidermy	\$16,835	\$14,840	\$28,859	\$20,602

*Botswana, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia

pay in cash for such losses, others use their conservancy funds to replace livestock from communal breeding stations. To reduce conflicts with elephants, some conservancies have built and manage water stations situated away from village locations. To monitor wildlife populations and suppress poaching, Namibian communal conservancies now employ 531 game guards. None of these efforts would be possible without the conservancy revenues generated both by hunting and photo safaris.

In South Africa, where private ownership of wildlife is legal, many areas that were degraded through overgrazing by livestock have been returned to native habitat and now serve as game ranches. A wide range of native species have been re-introduced to these natural landscapes resulting in very significant increases in wildlife populations including species whose future was dim. The southern white rhino population, at one time reduced to 30 animals on a single South African reserve, has now grown to nearly 21,000. This is one of the most remarkable species recoveries ever documented and is directly attributable to incentives from regulated hunting in South Africa.

The Path Forward

Both eco-tourism and traditional hunting safaris serve as effective counterbalances to the environmental impacts caused by the needs of Africa's fast growing sub-Saharan population. Both have a proven track record of giving communities and landowners the financial incentive to preserve habitat and promote effective wildlife conservation. In turn, the significant revenues from these activities have helped to improve the lives and living conditions of many Africans, especially those in the region's rural areas.

Any discussion of wildlife conservation should be practical, not ideological. In short, wildlife policies need to consider what works, and what does not. In this regard, traditional hunting safaris, which alone brings in at least US\$326 million to sub-Saharan African nations, millions of dollars more for conservation and supports over 53,000 jobs, has shown it is a critical driving force in providing an economically viable and environmentally sustainable future for Africa's wild animals and wild places.





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