



TANZANIA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER

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Ref No: **CDF: 219/517/02/45**

Date: **15 July 2019**

Hon. Raul Grijalva,
Chairman of Natural Resource Committee,
United States House of Representatives,
1324 Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: TAWA's Concerns over the "H.R. 2245 - 116th Congress: CECIL Act"

Hon. Raul Grijalva

Allow me to introduce myself as the Conservation Commissioner of the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) which is the Government Agency responsible for the conservation of wildlife in areas whose the main land use is trophy hunting totaling around 304,000 Sq.km. of the Tanzanian land surface. Tanzania ranks first in the world in terms of lion and leopard population and has the third largest population of free ranging elephants in the world. It has one of the most updated Non Detrimental Findings for Lion and Elephant. The NDF shows that a harvest quota of 200 lions and 50 elephants is not detrimental to the survival of these species but rather contributes to conservation and rural livelihood.

Hon. Raul Grijalva, I am writing to you to express my agency's opinion to the Bill **H.R. 2245 - 116th Congress: CECIL Act** tabled for consideration of the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit import and export of nay species listed or proposed to be listed under such act as threatened species or endangered species and the other purposes. My understanding is that this bill is considering a ban on the import of hunted trophies from Elephant and Lion into the United States of America.

“Notwithstanding sections 9(b) and 9(c)(2), no permit may be issued by the Secretary for the import of a sport-hunted trophy of an elephant or lion taken in Tanzania, Zimbabwe, or Zambia”.

It is evident that the USA is exercising its mandate pursuant to Article XIV(1) of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna; instituting stricter domestic measures. However, Resolution Conf. 6.7 (1) (a) entails that;

“each Party intending to take stricter domestic measures pursuant to Article XIV, paragraph 1, of the Convention regarding trade in specimens of non-indigenous species included in the Appendices make every reasonable effort to notify the range States of the species concerned at as early a stage as possible prior to the adoption of such measures, and consult with those range States that express a wish to confer on the matter”

Despite the fact that Tanzania was not consulted anyhow to express her wishes on the proposed bill, please note the following:

The United States of America is the major market for tourism hunting in Tanzania and the majority of hunters from the USA prefers iconic African species such as Elephant and Lion. Records show that these species generates a tune of US **2.6 million** per year as value for permits and game fees. Total ban of importation of trophies from these species will counter intuitively compromise the hunting industry in Tanzania.

The biodiversity in these vast areas whose land use is primarily tourism hunting is conserved through the revenues generated by a very limited and sustainable off take of huntable wildlife species. This very limited and in biological terms negligible off take allows TAWA to perform crucial conservation activities such as anti-poaching, general wildlife conservation through sustainable management and community development. As such, TAWA is using tourism hunting as a way to counteract the negative effects of growing human population, increased human wildlife conflict and destructive land use practices such as uncontrolled grazing and agriculture. Should any importing country halt import of hunted trophies, the consequence on biodiversity will have no resources to safeguard wildlife and its habitat as this land will be transformed into other competitive forms of land use.

Furthermore, tourism hunting is providing direct and tangible benefits to our poor and marginalized rural community and in this respect, Tanzania has a long standing program named Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) where by rural communities are receiving a share of the revenues derived from tourism hunting to improve their livelihoods and wellbeing. In the period between 2010/2011 to 2017/2018 a total of **USD 2,624,542.17** has been disbursed to 15 WMAs as their share from Tourist hunting to support conservation and community development projects. I would like to inform you that very recently, the regulations on Wildlife Management Areas have been revised and the revenue share for rural communities has been increased significantly. Without regulated hunting and the attached revenue, these rural communities will turn a blind eye to poaching as a way to sustain their livelihood.

Hon. Raul Grijalva, **regulated and legal hunting is one of the most powerful tool to achieve sustainable biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement in many parts of rural Africa and Tanzania is no exception.** It is our humble opinion that discussions about trophy hunting are mostly guided by emotions and ideologies, but facts about the importance of this undertaking to conservation and livelihood are understated. We understand that international co-operation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade. However, it should be understood that peoples and States are and should be the best protectors of their own wild fauna and flora

We reiterate that the ban on trophy hunting will not resolve the extinction on of wildlife but rather exacerbate the problem.

Hon. Raul Grijalva, we thank your for your kind attention.



Dr. James V Wakibara
CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER