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RE: U.S. House of Natural Resource Committee, CECIL Act

NACSO, the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations, is a consortium of 9 member organisations who provide support services to conservancies through the national CBNRM programme, and as NACSO we fully support conservation hunting and the trophies derived from it. Namibia is internationally recognised for its conservation achievements and how conservation is based on the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of all Namibians, present and future.

NACSO notes that without hunting, conservation would be minimal in many conservancies which do not have tourism potential, and which solely depend for their income on hunting of selected animals for trophies. The legal wildlife use provides alternative income especially in remote arid areas.

The income derived from sustainable wildlife utilisation (conservation hunting) is used to pay for game guards who monitor natural resources in their respective areas and conduct anti-poaching patrols. Income derived from conservation hunting has been used for rural development thus uplifting the living standards in poorer rural communities.

The meat that is derived from the hunts goes back to the communities and this contributes to improved nutrition in these areas. Through legal wildlife use, incentives are created to keep wildlife on the land, reinforces traditional cultural values related to wildlife, and safeguards the indigenous knowledge about wildlife

A ban on importation of trophies to the United States would result in a radical decline of hunters visiting Namibia, with a comparable decline in income to conservancies and their members, which in turn is likely lead to an increase in wildlife crime. NACSO fully supports the sustainable use of wildlife under legally enforced and controlled conditions and wishes to bring to the attention of the international community that most conservancy committees with which it works, as well as ordinary conservancy members, are strongly against any ban on conservation hunting.

Maxi Pia Louis (Ms)

On behalf of NACSO Membership

www.nacso.org.na

for a full list of members, news updates and conservancy information