

NCONGO

NGAMILAND COUNCIL OF
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Building better communities

BOTSWANA COMMUNITIES REACTION TO ADAM CRUISE REPORT TITLE: "TROPHY HUNTING IN BOTSWANA: A TALE OF DECLINING WILDLIFE, CORRUPTION, EXPLOITATION, AND IMPOVERISHMENT"

On September 4th, Adam Cruise published a paper lobbying the UK government to remove a special exemption to the import of hunting trophies, titled "Trophy Hunting in Botswana: A Tale of Declining Wildlife, Corruption, Exploitation, and Impoverishment." This paper used trophy hunting in Botswana as a case study to argue that the profits from trophy hunting do not support livelihoods or contribute to wider conservation efforts.

As direct representatives and members of the communities mentioned in this report, we wish to offer a strong rebuttal to these claims. Broadly stating that there are no livelihoods or conservation benefits to trophy hunting is overly simplistic and, most importantly, it ignores the voices of the communities we serve. The Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) system grants concession ownership to the communities who have lived in these wildlife areas for generations. Unfortunately, this report overlooks the valuable insights of these community voices – a lapse that, at best, reflects paternalism and, at worst, suggests something more insidious.

It also overlooks the gains by communities which have over the years undertook reinvestment of hunting revenues into other photographic tourism activities e.g. CECT, Mababe, Sankoyo, Khwai etc.

As community members, we fully acknowledge that there have been shortcomings in ensuring equitable benefits through CBNRM systems and hunting offtake. However, as trusts, members of the communities mentioned, and wider stakeholders, we are committed to rectifying these issues and ensuring that our villages benefit from the proceeds of hunting offtake. CBNRM is an active process with clear processes to hold trust management accountable, while at the same time enabling our communities to learn, grow and develop governance and auditing skills. Claiming that trophy hunting has no community benefits without directly engaging with the communities involved reflects an arrogance that has no place in our shared commitment to ensure the future conservation of our planet.

We stand united in our dedication to both the welfare of our communities and the preservation of our precious natural resources.



SIGNED BY

Ngamiland Council of NGOs: Gosalamang Xaa (Board Chairperson)
Ngamiland Council of NGOs: Siyoka Simasiku (Executive Director)
Mababe Zokotsama Community Development Trust (Vusi Khumalo - Trust Manager)
Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust (Poniso Shamukuni – Trust Chairperson)
Sankoyo Tshwaragano Management Trust (Samakata Nkgololang -Trust Manager)
Xhauxhwatubi Development Trust (Daniel Motshepe -Trust Board Chairperson)
Qangwa Trust (Tshiamo Lekgowa-Trust manager)
Qcgae Qcgae Trust (Gloria Tuvare-Trust manager)
Tsau Semboyo Makakung Management Trust (Baliki Lixzn Gaothobogwe-Board Chairperson)
Lake Ngami Trust (Moses Hikuama -Trust Board Chairperson)
Paleka Trust (Gabriel Musindo-Board Chairperson)
Tcheku Community Trust (Alex Senyemba-Trust Manager)
Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust (Seikaneng Moepedi-Trust Manager)



@director@ncongo.org | www.ncongo.org

+267 686 2851/
2

