

# COMMUNITY STATEMENT

***Botswana  
Communities'  
Response to the SKI  
Foundation Press  
Release on London &  
Europe Visit of the  
Former President***



The working visit of the former President to London, which includes advocating for a ban on trophy hunting and promoting animal welfare, has elicited a strong reaction from the Botswana communities. The communities are deeply concerned about the potential implications of such a ban on their sustainable benefits from wildlife conservation efforts.

The communities view the former President's lobbying efforts to persuade the British government to enact a bill banning trophy hunting as a misguided and counterproductive approach. They argue that the proposed ban overlooks the complex dynamics of wildlife conservation in Botswana and fails to take into account the perspectives and needs of the local communities who have been actively involved in conserving wildlife for years.

It is the belief of the Botswana communities that enforcing a blanket ban on trophy hunting is not a panacea for conservation but rather a threat to the sustainable benefits they derive from wildlife. They argue that such a ban could have detrimental effects on their livelihoods, as many communities living alongside wildlife already face challenges such as crop degradation, loss of life, and competition for essential resources like water holes.

Furthermore, the communities express concerns that a ban on trophy hunting could exacerbate existing tensions between humans and wildlife, potentially leading to negative perceptions towards wildlife conservation. Such negative perceptions could undermine Botswana's efforts to achieve sustainable development goals, particularly if the hunting

trophies (import Prohibition) bill is passed without considering the local communities' perspectives.

The communities fear that the lobbying efforts of the former President could undo the progress made by Botswana communities, the government, conservation experts from the University of Botswana, and international organizations in promoting sustainable wildlife management practices. They urge for a more inclusive and balanced approach to wildlife conservation that takes into account the needs and perspectives of local communities who are directly impacted by conservation policies and decisions.

In our united stance, we firmly assert that dismissing the potential community benefits of trophy hunting without directly engaging with the communities involved reflects an attitude of superiority that contradicts the shared commitment to ensuring the future conservation of the planet. We stand united in our dedication to both the welfare of our communities and the preservation of our invaluable natural resources.

Signed by:

- Ngamiland Council of NGOs (NCONGO): Siyoka Simasiku (Executive Director)
- Mababe Zokotsama Community Development Trust: Vusi Khumalo (Trust Manager)
- Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust (CECT): Poniso Shamukuni (Trust Board Chairperson)
- Sankoyo Tshwaragano Management Trust: Samakata Nkgololang (Trust Manager)
- Xhauhwatubi 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: (Trust Board Chairperson)
- Lake Ngami Trust: Moses Hikuama (Trust Board Chairperson)
- Paleka Trust: Gabriel Musindo (Trust Board Chairperson)
- Tcheku Community Trust: Alex Senyemba (Trust Chairperson)
- Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust: Seikaneng Moepedi (Trust Manager)
- Tsodilo Development Trust: Gloria Porake (Trust Chairperson)
- Trust for Okavango Cultural and Development Initiatives (TOCaDI): Splash Moronga (Trust Chairperson)
- Teemashane Community Trust
- Okavango Community Trust: Botshelo Sesinyi (Trust Manager)
- Okavango Jakotsha Community Trust: Kandondi Kandondi (Trust Manager)
- Khwai Development Trust

## Contact Us

- 📞 +267 686 28 51/2
- 👤 @Executive Director
- ✉️ director@ncongo.org
- 🌐 www.ncongo.org

# Building Better Communities

Along Sir Seretse Khama Road, Newtown,   
Maun, Botswana