



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**
AUSTRALIA

TROPHY HUNTING BY THE NUMBERS

**AUSTRALIA'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE
IN HUNTING TROPHIES**

TROPHY HUNTING BY THE NUMBERS:

AUSTRALIA'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN HUNTING TROPHIES

IMPORT OF HUNTING TROPHIES OF CITES-LISTED MAMMAL SPECIES BETWEEN 2014 AND 2021

Cite this report as: Ford, J. C. (2022) *Trophy Hunting by the Numbers: Australia's Role in International Trade in Hunting Trophies*. A report prepared for Humane Society International Australia Ltd, Sydney.

FRONT COVER IMAGE: MICHELLE RILEY / THE HSUS
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trophy hunting involves the killing of wildlife purely for the purpose of displaying parts of the animal – often the head or skin. Trophy hunting occurs worldwide and includes hunting for species threatened with extinction. Globally, imports of over 97,000 trophies of mammal species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) were recorded between 2014 and 2018. The conservation, ethical and welfare impacts from hunting are substantial.

Trophy hunting is unsustainable, often killing the strongest individuals, changing population structures, and reducing population viability. Trophy hunting also negatively impacts conservation through reinforcing the perception of animals as commodities. The advertising of trophy hunting and the sharing of trophy images on social media works against appreciation of animal sentience and respect for the intrinsic value of individual animals and species. Unethical and poor welfare practices by trophy hunting companies have been reported in Africa and Europe. Animals shot by trophy hunters are often seriously wounded and do not die immediately. Research suggests that the claimed benefits of trophy hunting, such as improved conservation outcomes or economic benefits for local communities, simply do not materialise.

This report investigated Australia's role in hunting of mammal species protected under CITES. The report finds that despite our small population size, Australians make a substantial contribution to the trade in trophy hunting. Using data from the CITES Trade Database and the Australian Government, this report has identified that Australia ranked tenth in the number of global trophy imports for 2014–2018 with 827 trophies from 40 different species. Of the 827 trophies imported, four were from one species currently listed as Endangered on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN Red List), 156 were from eight species in the Vulnerable category, and 62 were from three Near Threatened species.

The most common mammal species imported into Australia as trophies during the 2014–2018 period were the American black bear (*Ursus americanus*), chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*), Hartmann's mountain zebra (*Equus zebra hartmannae*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), and caracal (*Caracal caracal*). In 2019–2021, the vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*) became one of the top five mammal trophy species imported, and the giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), added to the list of species requiring reporting in 2019, became the seventh most imported mammal trophy species. Both the Hartmann's mountain zebra and giraffe are listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

The number of permits for mammal trophy imports into Australia shows an increasing trend over the last 20 years. This trend goes against broader public opinion on the issue of trophy hunting. The majority of the public in the top trophy importing countries oppose trophy hunting and recent polling in Australia has shown that over 65% of Australians aged over 18 oppose or strongly oppose trophy hunting, while only 15% supported the continuation of trophy hunting.

Public pressure has already seen prohibitions on trophy imports into Australia for African lions, southern white rhinoceros, and African elephants. However, many mammal species are still commonly imported as trophies. It is time to expand the current Australian prohibitions on trophy imports to other wildlife species at risk from hunting. The Government can act today and create a Declaration that requires priority species listed on Appendix II of CITES to be treated as if they were Appendix I listed species, thereby prohibiting trophy imports. The promised 2023 reform of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides the opportunity to fully implement a legislative ban on trophy hunting imports into Australia.

**RECENT POLLING IN AUSTRALIA HAS SHOWN
THAT OVER 65% OF AUSTRALIANS AGED OVER 18
OPPOSE OR STRONGLY OPPOSE TROPHY HUNTING**



IMAGE: MICHAEL SIMMONS

INTRODUCTION

The hunting of wildlife for trophies continues in a number of countries. It typically involves payment of a large fee for the experience of killing one or more animals from a selection of species on offer by a commercial hunting company. Canned hunting involves the captive breeding of lions and other game species for the purpose of hunting within an enclosed area enabling an easy kill for tourists, particularly those inexperienced at shooting. Trophy and canned hunters do not hunt for survival, meat or cultural purposes (Ghasemi, 2021). These activities are for the sole purpose of acquiring whole or parts of a body for display (e.g. head mounts, skins). The activity is considered sport or entertainment, and often involves competition with other trophy hunters to gain the largest trophy from the most impressive individual of the species. Species killed through trophy and canned hunting (collectively referred to as trophy hunting in this report) include endangered species.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is the key international agreement to ensure international trade of wild animals does not threaten the survival of the species. Species listed under Appendix I of CITES are threatened with extinction and prohibited from international trade, except for purposes such as scientific research. Species listed under Appendix II are not yet threatened with extinction but could become so unless international trade is strictly controlled.¹ International trade in specimens of Appendix II species may be authorised by the

granting of an export permit (or re-export certificate) and import permit. Each CITES country is required to submit annual data on their import and export of CITES listed species, including all product types such as mounted bodies, skins and skulls. These requirements allow for an investigation on the movement of hunting trophies across the globe.

Humane Society International (HSI) has reported on the import and export of wildlife trophies from CITES-listed mammal species for the period 2014–2018 for the United States of America (US), European Union (EU) and South Africa (SA). Globally, over 97,000 mammal trophies were imported during this period. The top five most common mammal species imported as trophies to the US were American black bears (*Ursus americanus*), chacma baboons (*Papio ursinus*), Hartmann's mountain zebras (*Equus zebra hartmannae*), gray wolves (*Canis lupus*), and African lions (*Panthera leo*) (HSI, In press). The top species imported into the EU as trophies were brown bears (*Ursus arctos*), African leopards (*Panthera pardus*), hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), Hartmann's mountain zebras, and grey wolves (HSI Europe, 2021a). Giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) were added to CITES Appendix II in 2019 and now require CITES permits for trade. This means giraffes are appearing in the data for trade in trophies for the first time.

This report investigates CITES and Australian Government data to gain an improved understanding of trade of hunting trophies into Australia.



IMAGE: NICOLAS HOIZEY

GIRAFFE (*GIRAFFE CAMELOPARDALIS*)

ABOUT

Giraffes, the gentle giants of the African savanna, are under threat. Giraffe populations have declined sharply over the past 30 years. This led to the species being classified as Vulnerable in 2016 (Muller et al. 2018), with some giraffe sub-species listed as Critically Endangered and Endangered, and being listed on Appendix II of CITES in 2019. Giraffe populations were last assessed by the IUCN in 2016 as decreasing (Muller et al., 2018).

Giraffes are found mainly in savannah or woodland habitat in a number of countries across Africa. They have a low reproductive output with a 15 month gestation and calves staying with their mothers for 22 months. This makes them susceptible to over-exploitation. The main threats to giraffes are habitat loss, civil unrest, illegal hunting (poaching), and ecological changes. Legal hunting occurs in parts of southern Africa.

Giraffes are generally easily killed due to their height and size, and their open plains habitat. Hunting typically uses safari style hunts where giraffes are spotted from a vehicle then tracked on foot and shot. A number of methods are used for the kill. One hunting website states: "We can accommodate all methods of hunting for giraffe including rifle, bow, black powder, crossbow or handguns".¹⁸ Another hunting website lists rifles, bows and stalking as methods, also mentioning that a giraffe's thick hides and huge bone structure can affect bullet penetration¹⁹ suggesting that animals are injured by bullets, suffering until they are killed outright. Crossbows can result in a high wounding rate, with animals not killed outright.

The threatened status, declining population, evidence of the degree that they are hunted commercially and for personal trophies, and cruel hunting methods that are allowed to be used, present a strong case for giraffe imports to be banned in Australia.

AUSTRALIAN TROPHY HUNTING IMPORT TRENDS

Giraffes are a popular species for trophy hunters. The giraffe was not listed on Appendix II of CITES until 2019, therefore there are no Australian import data available prior to 2019. According to the Australian Wildlife Trade Office, eight giraffe trophies were imported and a total of 12 separate Australian import permits were issued (with the first permit dated Dec 2019) for the period 2019–2021. Seven permits were for hunting wild giraffes in South Africa and five for hunting in Namibia. Only four of the 12 permits were acquitted at the time of writing, most likely due to the COVID 19 travel restrictions. Six permits were issued in 2021 that included giraffe specimens and one in early 2022. One permit was for five giraffe skulls. 'Trophies' consisted of rug mounts with skulls, and skull, cape, back skin leg bones and hooves. Individual skulls, skins and feet were also popular giraffe trophies.

Information from the Wildlife Trade Office also showed two large commercial import permits, totalling 250 bone sets, were granted in 2020. Only one had been acquitted at the time of this report. An analysis of US trade data revealed that between 2006 and 2015, 39,516 giraffe specimens were imported to the US for all purposes (i.e. including commercial), the equivalent of at least 3,751 individual giraffes²⁰ (Center for Biological Diversity et al., 2017). The most commonly imported items were bone carvings, bones, trophies, and skin pieces. It appears that giraffe bones are being used as a replacement for prohibited elephant ivory (HSI, 2018). Bone carvings and skin pieces were excluded from the trophy analysis in this report so the number of equivalent imports into Australia is unclear.



IMAGE: TROSENMEIER / FLIKR

HARTMANN'S MOUNTAIN ZEBRA (*EQUUS ZEBRA HARTMANNAE*)

ABOUT

The Hartmann's mountain zebra is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List (Gosling et al., 2019) with an increasing population trend. The Hartmann's mountain zebra is a sub-species of the mountain zebra found in Angola, Namibia and South Africa. Like other zebra species, their social structure is one of small family groups comprising an adult stallion and one to three mares and their foals, and bachelors groups (Penzhorn, 2013). The groups come together to form large herds and migrate according to the seasons.

Potentially a large proportion of the total population is found on commercial farms (where wildlife and livestock co-exist), but not all farmers report on these numbers when surveyed (Gosling et al., 2019). The key threats causing localised population decline are drought and other extreme weather (Gosling et al., 2019). Farming and ranching, hunting, and inter-species breeding, such as with plains zebras, also threaten the species.

The Hartmann's mountain zebra is a prized trophy for hunters due to their skins. Zebras are typically hunted by 'walk and stalk' then shooting with a rifle. Trophy hunting takes place on registered hunting farms, in commercial and communal conservancies and some National Parks (Gosling et al., 2019). Hunting of a stallion could cause great disruption to the social structure, and loss of a mare poses potential harm to her foals. In addition, the stalking and shooting of a member of the family group and herd could cause unavoidable distress to conspecifics (Gosling et al., 2019). With a lack of reporting of populations by farmers, the sustainability of populations and hunting methods used on their land are of concern. The number of Hartmann's mountain zebra killed illegally is not known.

AUSTRALIAN TROPHY HUNTING IMPORT TRENDS

According to data obtained from the CITES Trade Database, there were 78 wild Hartmann's mountain zebra trophies imported by Australians during 2014–2018 (averaging 16 annually), from Namibia (96%) and from South Africa (4%). The majority of specimens imported were skins (77%), and 21% were 'trophies'. According to data obtained from the Australian Wildlife Trade Office data (2019–2021), Hartmann's mountain zebra specimens were on 63 issued permits over the 2019–2021 period. This represents a potential increase in average yearly imports from 16 in 2014–2018 to over 21 for 2019–2021.²¹ Only 21 of the potential 62 trophies were imported, most likely due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

TROPHY HUNTING IMPACTS

Trophy hunting reflects a historic relationship with animals. For many, trophy hunting conveys a wealthy white male narrative (Kalof & Fitzgerald, 2003). This narrative is amplified by social media as hunters seek social status and prestige by posting pictures in which they pose next to their dead animal (Darimont et al., 2017).

Mainstream attitudes have significantly evolved away from one based on the use of animals as commodities, to that of respect for, and conservation of, wildlife. Today, outdated activities such as trophy hunting are broadly considered wrong from an ethical, animal welfare and conservation perspective.

In July 2022, a joint position paper on trophy hunting was signed by 137 organisations worldwide calling for legislative reform by all countries to ban trophy hunting.² It contains an extensive compilation of accounts of trophy hunting – clearly highlighting the inherent cruelty and other issues with the sport. Some of these issues are discussed in more detail below.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

Trophy hunting, especially of threatened and endangered species, is controversial (Sheikh & Bermejo, 2019; Dickman et al., 2019; Nowak et al., 2019; IUCN, 2016). One justification used to support trophy hunting is that it can provide a conservation benefit to the species. However, the argument of trophy hunting aiding population management for conservation is weak. The IUCN Ethics Specialist Group itself confirms that trophy hunting is incompatible with the mission of the IUCN to conserve nature and is inconsistent with the idea of ‘sustainable use’ (Bosselmann et al., 2019).

For the period 2014–2018, 9,000 trophies of species whose conservation status is classified in one of the threatened categories by the IUCN Red List were imported into the US alone. This included four Critically Endangered black rhino trophies, 1,153 trophies from six species listed as Endangered (87% of which were African elephant trophies), and 8,106 trophies from nine species listed as Vulnerable (HSI, In press). Trophy hunting not only has a direct impact on individual animals, populations and animal welfare but it also negatively impacts conservation through reinforcing the perception of animals as commodities. The advertising of trophy hunting and the sharing of trophy images on social media works against appreciation of animal sentience and respect for the intrinsic value of individuals and species.

Trophy hunting is unsustainable, often killing the strongest individuals, changing population structure, and reducing population viability (Joint Position on Trophy Hunting, 2022; Milner et al., 2007). For example, trophy hunting in Botswana has been reported to cause the decline of wild elephant populations (Cruise, 2022). Trade in CITES Appendix II listed species requires permits in an effort to ensure the sustainability of populations. Gathering data from the source countries can be very challenging (Sheikh & Bermejo, 2019). However, there is evidence of a lack of population management plans and a lack of active monitoring of populations to determine the impact of trophy hunting. For example, for the period 2014–2018, 68% of trophies from CITES-listed mammals exported from South Africa were from wild animals (HSI South Africa, 2021). During this period, trophies exported from South Africa included species with no national conservation management plan and where little is known about their wild populations (HSI South Africa, 2021).

In addition to a lack of monitoring of wild populations, importer and exporter data reported to CITES often does not align, raising questions about its accuracy. Despite the known limitations of the CITES Trade Database,³ it is widely accepted as the best source of international wildlife trade data, and it shows substantial ongoing movement of hunting trophies throughout the world.

IMAGE: THE HSUS



IMAGE: THE HSUS





IMAGE: THE HSUS

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Participation in trophy hunting costs a significant sum of money, varying from hundreds to hundreds of thousands of US dollars (USD). Hunting advocates try to justify trophy hunting activities by claiming economic benefits for rural communities, with associated positive conservation impacts in source countries. However, further scrutiny shows a lack of evidence to support these claims (Bosselmann et al., 2019; Murray, 2017; Economists at Large, 2013).

An independent report by Good Governance Africa (2022) on the role of trophy hunting as a conservation tool found very little evidence in the literature to support the realisation of broader economic benefits, with many papers noting the harm the activity causes. For example, trophy hunting contributes far less to the South African economy than non-consumptive tourism and comes at the cost of alternative, more sustainable forms of conservation-advancing revenue which engenders respect for wildlife (Economists at Large, 2013). A review by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust provided the example that an elephant trophy fee typically generates 20,000 to 40,000 USD, while an elephant which is allowed to live a full lifespan has been estimated to generate around 1,600,000 USD in tourism revenue (Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, 2014). It has also been reported that in eight key African countries, trophy hunters account for less than 0.1% of tourists, contribute at most 0.03% of gross domestic product (GDP) and at most 0.76% of overall tourism jobs (Murray, 2017). Trophy hunting in Botswana has been reported to further impoverish local communities (Cruise, 2022).

Trophy hunting also has links to criminal activity, such as poaching and corruption (IFAW, 2016), and links have been drawn between illegal wildlife trade more broadly and professional criminal groups involved in drug trafficking, human trafficking, terrorism, or other transnational offences (UNODC, 2016). The legal trade in trophies stimulates demand, driving illegal hunting, and offers a cover for illegal practices and the illegal trade in wildlife specimens (Joint Position on Trophy Hunting, 2022). Illegal or non-transparent behaviour makes gaining verifiable information on all species and quantities traded as trophies extremely difficult (IUCN, 2016). Many cases of poaching and illegal trade in trophies of CITES-listed species have been reported in the Central Asia (Mallon, 2013). Illegal hunting, in addition to legal trophy hunting, poses threats to both populations and animal welfare.

IMAGE: THE HSUS



ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Trophy hunting poses significant threats to animal welfare and is unjustified from an ethical standpoint. Bosselmann et al. (2019) question the ethics of placing monetary value on the life of an animal and the justification of killing an animal for fun. Mammals are widely recognised as sentient beings that experience both positive and negative emotions, including fear and distress. Many have high intelligence with complex social dynamics and should be treated with respect (Batavia et al., 2019). Despite this, hunting groups (such as Safari Club International) run competitions and offer awards for the quality, size and number of trophies obtained.

Unethical and poor welfare practices by trophy hunting companies have been reported in African countries and Europe (Fernholz, 2016; Masemann, 2018; France 24-The Observers, 2020). The IUCN (2016) acknowledges that poor trophy hunting practices occur and deserve scrutiny. Animals shot by trophy hunters are often seriously wounded, and do not die right away, extending their suffering. The use of extreme methods of killing including bows and arrows can result in a 50% wounding rate, with animals suffering and not killed outright (Ditchkoff et al., 1998). In South Africa alone, 29 different species can be legally hunted with bows (including zebra, giraffe, lions and antelope).⁴ Hunting packages are on offer which include killing one of a number of species with bows, such as the '4 Trophies Bow Hunt'.⁵ There are witness accounts of animals running around with arrows or bullets in them for many hours before being killed outright (APPG Trophy Hunting, 2022).

Although some hunters may be skilled and motivated to minimise the suffering of target animals, many are not. Promotional material for trophy hunting suggests wounding animals without killing them outright is common. One hunting website includes in the Terms for a hunt: "Wounded game that could not be retrieved after a thorough search has to be paid in full"⁶ and another website says "Trophy fees for the animals mentioned in the package - taken, wounded or lost".⁷ Trophy hunters may choose an inhumane method of killing an animal to minimise damage to a trophy, such as the head (Butterworth, 2018). Hunting companies also seem little concerned about the skills level of paying hunters: one website stating that they can accommodate hunters of any age and experience level.⁸ Trophy hunting is always to occur under the supervision of a qualified professional hunter however, how well this is regulated is unknown.

Hunting with hounds, baiting, spotlighting, and aerial hunting are also among some of the cruel hunting practices used. Animals can be chased by dogs to the point of exhaustion and then killed with methods that do not result in a quick or painless death (RSPCA Australia, 2020). Not just the target animal is negatively impacted by trophy hunting. Loss of individual animals also poses distress for remaining members of a social group, including young. Hunters can also kill other animals to use as bait to attract their target trophy animals.

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

Trophy hunting has attracted increasing public scrutiny which has largely resulted in condemnation of the objectification of wild animals (Prisner-Levyne, 2020). The disturbing case in 2015 of the famous lion 'Cecil' who was shot in Zimbabwe by an American tourist-trophy hunter brought the unethical nature of trophy hunting to the attention of the public around the world (Macdonald et al., 2016; Nelson et al., 2016). In response, Australia acted to prohibit the import of lion trophies into Australia.

The majority of the public in the top trophy importing countries oppose trophy hunting. The latest poll of Americans revealed that the majority of Americans oppose trophy hunting in the US and abroad: 76% of respondents opposed trophy hunting and 80% oppose wildlife killing contests (Remington Research Group, 2022), and over 80% of those in the EU oppose trophy hunting and want it to end (HSI Europe, 2021b). Even in South Africa, a country that is the second largest exporter of trophies, two thirds of those surveyed opposed trophy hunting (HSI South Africa, 2021).

Opinion polling conducted in September 2022 on behalf of HSI Australia showed that nearly 85% of Australians aged over 18, were unaware that Australia continues to permit the import of hunting trophies of species such as giraffes, zebras, gazelles and bears. Further, over 65% of Australians oppose or strongly oppose the practice of trophy hunting, while only 15% supported the continuation of trophy hunting (19% of respondents were neutral or unsure).

IMAGE: THE HSUS



TROPHY HUNTING IMPORTS

Globally, 97,102 trophies from CITES-listed mammals were imported over the period 2014–2018. The US is by far the largest importer of trophies, accounting for 75% of global imports for 2014–2018 (Table 1). A total of 72,617 hunting trophies were imported into the US, including over 9,000 from threatened or endangered species. Collectively, the EU was the second largest importer with 14,438 hunting trophies, 15% of the total, with the top EU importer country being Germany (accounting for 4%).

Despite its relatively small population, Australia was the tenth largest importer of wildlife trophies globally for 2014–2018 with a total of 827 trophies. In comparison, the United Kingdom (UK) are much less involved in importing trophies from abroad, coming in at 28th globally with a total of 153 trophies or an average of 31 imported per year. Canada was the largest exporter of wildlife trophies with 31% of the global total (46,605 trophies) with South Africa second at 26% (21,016 trophies).

**AUSTRALIA WAS THE
TENTH LARGEST IMPORTER
OF WILDLIFE TROPHIES
GLOBALLY FOR 2014–2018
WITH A TOTAL OF
827 TROPHIES**

TABLE 1: GLOBAL TROPHY IMPORTS FOR 2014–2018 (CITES-LISTED MAMMALS) (TOP 15)

Rank	Importing Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average per Year	Grand Total	Percent of Grand Total
1	United States	12,683	14,793	14,326	13,505	17,310	1,4524	72,617	75%
2	Germany	811	771	783	787	807	792	3,959	4%
3	South Africa	512	605	371	432	305	445	2,225	2%
4	Spain	367	397	394	436	525	424	2,119	2%
5	Mexico	581	345	357	398	379	412	2,060	2%
6	Denmark	303	231	393	334	409	334	1,670	2%
7	Austria	234	275	293	283	276	273	1,361	1%
8	Sweden	80	223	180	191	245	184	919	1%
9	Norway	270	123	175	148	115	167	831	1%
10	Australia	211	164	115	151	186	166	827	1%
11	France	136	180	144	97	195	151	752	1%
12	Poland	137	116	121	188	182	149	744	1%
13	China	226	289	88	109	28	148	740	1%
14	Switzerland	127	129	154	117	102	126	629	1%
15	Hungary	21	76	149	192	180	124	618	1%
	Others (60 countries)	977	1,069	934	902	1,149		5,031	5%
	Grand Total	17,676	19,786	18,977	18,270	22,393		97,102	

CALCULATING AUSTRALIA'S TROPHY IMPORTS (CITES-LISTED MAMMALS)

This section of the report considers the total number of mammals traded as trophies in to Australia, and which species are impacted. Data for this report were obtained from the CITES Trade Database website (available at <https://trade.cites.org>) on April 28, 2022. Australia had not submitted CITES annual reports for the years 2019–2021 at the time of developing this report.⁹ Therefore, data from the CITES Trade Database were analysed for the years 2014–2018, allowing an examination of the trade in mammal trophies over the most recent five-year period available. To examine data for the 2019–2021 period, data on imports in 2019–2021 of the top imported species was obtained directly from then Wildlife Trade Office, Federal Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Wildlife Trade Office).

METHODS: 2014–2018 DATA

Based on information provided in *A guide to using the CITES Trade Database* (CITES, 2013), the following rules were used to obtain information on mammals traded as trophies. Data represents an entire animal. Data were compiled by filtering only for mammal species (Class = 'Mammalia') and downloading Comparative Tabulations, with imports calculated based on Importer Reported Quantity, and exports calculated based on Exporter Reported Quantity (unless otherwise stated). Averages were rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Relevant data was identified by searching the CITES Trade Database for the Term 'trophies' for Purposes 'hunting trophy' and 'personal' with no unit value (if there is no unit value, the quantity shown by the search results represents the number of specimens) or a unit of 'Number of specimens', for all CITES-listed mammal species. Searches also included additional species-specific Terms based on the rules below. For the order Artiodactyla (e.g. giraffe, hippopotamus) the Terms bodies, horns, rug, skins, skulls, and trophies for Purpose 'hunting trophy' were included. The Terms teeth and tusks for hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) were also included, where both terms were combined into tusks and divided by two where unit was number of specimens, and by 5.25 kg (CITES, 2012; Andersson & Gibson, 2018) where the unit was 'kg', in order to calculate the number of hippopotamuses traded as trophies.

For the order Carnivora (e.g. bears, lions, caracal, cougar), the Terms bodies, rug, skeletons, skins, skulls, and trophies for Purpose 'hunting trophy' were included. The Terms tusks were included for walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) and divided by two where the unit was number of specimens, in order to calculate the number of walruses traded as trophies. For the order Cetacea, narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*) was the only species with trade, and the Terms trophies and tusks for Purpose 'hunting trophy' were included. For the order Perissodactyla (e.g. zebras, rhinoceros) the Terms bodies, horns, rug, skins, skulls, and trophies for Purpose 'hunting trophy' were included. 'Horns' were divided by two where the unit was number of specimens in order to calculate the number of rhinoceros traded as trophies. For the order Pholidota (i.e. pangolins), the Terms skins and trophies for Purpose 'hunting trophy' were included. For the order Primates (e.g. monkeys) the Terms bodies, skeletons, skins, skulls, and trophies for Purpose 'hunting trophy' were included. For the order Proboscidea (e.g. elephants), the Terms bodies, skins, skulls, trophies, and tusks for Purpose 'hunting trophy' were included. For tusks where the unit was number of specimens, the number of specimens was divided by two and where the unit was 'kg' the weight was divided by 6.6 kg (Wasser et al., 2008), in order to calculate the number of African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) traded as trophies. There were also two Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) trophies included in the dataset and the Term was 'trophies', a different conversion factor for tusks belonging to Asian elephants was not required. For the order Rodentia, the Terms bodies, skins, and trophies for Purpose 'hunting trophy' were included. For the above terms, where appropriate, quantities measured in the unit 'g' were converted to kilograms. In addition, values were rounded up to the nearest whole number since a fraction of an individual animal indicates that an entire animal was killed for those body parts.

IMAGE: THE HSUS





IMAGE: MICHAEL SIMMONS

LIMITATIONS OF DATA

The CITES Trade Database is widely accepted as the best source of international wildlife trade data, despite the following known and accepted limitations. First, it only includes CITES-listed species. Second, as with most large-scale databases with many different reporters, there are known inconsistencies within the CITES Trade Database. These may include misinterpretations with how data should be reported, inaccurate counts, or typographical errors. Despite some inaccuracies, data extracted from the CITES Trade Database are accepted as an accurate representation of wildlife trade. Third, due to some inconsistencies with reporting and incomplete data, interpretations can vary; especially since CITES does not set exact rules for the treatment of data. Therefore, this report has used conservative estimates based on *A guide to using the CITES Trade Database* (CITES, 2013) and only included data that were defined as trophies (either by the Term or Purpose) and represented an entire animal. The Comparative Tabulation reports were used since, according to *A guide to using the CITES Trade Database* (CITES, 2013), they provide the most comprehensive output and are less likely to overestimate trade levels. Finally, it is also important to note that the CITES Trade Database is continually updated, thus there may be differences between datasets that were downloaded on different dates.

**THE TOP FIVE EXPORTER
REPORTED QUANTITIES
DESTINED FOR AUSTRALIA
IN 2019-2020 WERE
AMERICAN BLACK BEAR,
CHACMA BABOON,
HARTMANN'S MOUNTAIN ZEBRA,
VERVET MONKEY,
AND GIRAFFE.**

METHODS: 2019–2021 DATA

Since Australia has not yet reported trade data to CITES for the 2019–2021 period, Australian reported imports were not available for these years. Therefore, a separate analysis was performed to assess the number of trophies imported from 2019 to 2021.

First, using the methods described above, the top five mammalian species imported as trophies into Australia were identified using exporter reported quantities from the CITES Trade Database for the period 2019 to 2020. The top five species identified were American black bear, chacma baboon, Hartmann's mountain zebra, vervet monkey, and giraffe.

Then, data on import permits (issued and acquitted) were obtained directly from the Wildlife Trade Office for seven focal species for 2019–2021. Permit data could only be obtained for 'all purposes'. However, the vast majority of permits were for the purpose 'personal' and only terms most likely to represent trophies (i.e. trophy, body, skins) were included in the data received (Wildlife Trade Office, pers. comm., 19 May 2022). The terms used by the Wildlife Trade Office are the same as those used in the CITES Trade Database. Those data were then subset to include the same terms used in the 2014–2018 analysis of trophy data from the CITES Trade Database in order to estimate the total number of trophies imported into the Australia for 2019–2021. Therefore the 2019–2021 dataset included terms that represented a single animal (body, rug, skin, skull, and trophy). This approach means the two datasets are comparable to the extent necessary to draw conclusions regarding the temporal trends of trophy imports.



IMAGE: MAURA FLAHERTY / THE HSUS

AMERICAN BLACK BEAR (*URSUS AMERICANUS*)

ABOUT

American black bears are found in North America in 32 states of the US and in the majority of provinces and territories of Canada. They are forest dwelling and the continent's smallest and most common bear. In the past they occupied the majority of forested areas but are now in more sparse forested areas. In 2016, the population was listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (Garshelis et al., 2016) with a population trend that is increasing. However, sub-species are listed as threatened in Louisiana and are of conservation concern in British Columbia (IFAW, 2016). In addition to the ongoing high numbers of this species hunted and traded internationally, there is also an unknown domestic trade within Canada and the US of bear trophies not recorded on the CITES Trade Database. Hence the full impact of hunting on current populations is not captured by data reported from the CITES Trade Database.

Hunting methods used include baiting, hunting with dogs, trapping, shooting with handguns, and shooting with bows or crossbows. Dogs are used to track and pursue bears. Frightened black bears seek refuge in trees where they are shot or are forced to engage in a physical fight with the dogs.

AUSTRALIAN TROPHY HUNTING IMPORT TRENDS

The American black bear import is the top traded CITES-listed mammal species globally. According to the CITES Trade Database (2014–2018), 184 wild American black bear trophies were imported into Australia over this period. The majority (59%) were 'trophies' with skins and skulls also individually imported. The origin of the American black bear trophies was Canada (87%) or the US (13%). According to the Australian Wildlife Trade Office (2019–2021), import permits for these years included at least 99 black bear trophies from hunting (75 permits), and 'trophies' primarily consist of rug mounts (or skins) with skulls. Only 55 trophies were imported into the country during this period (with 50% of permits acquitted), most likely due to the COVID 19 pandemic.



IMAGE: SPENCER77 / FLIKR

BROWN BEAR (*URSUS ARCTOS*)

ABOUT

Brown bears are found in Europe, North America and Asia. The brown bear is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (Huber, 2018) with a population trend that is stable (last assessed 2016). Although the species as a whole is not threatened, in the EU some small and isolated populations have been assessed as Near Threatened and Critically Endangered (Huber, 2018). The greatest threats for brown bears in Europe include habitat loss, disturbance, accidental mortality and persecution (McLellan et al., 2017; Huber, 2018). Due to loss of habitat and encroaching human habitation, bear and humans can conflict. Brown bears are very attracted to human food and rubbish and livestock, and their size and strength can cause people to fear them which can result in them being killed or injured (Huber, 2018). With the increasing human population and habitat loss, most of the threats to bear populations, and associated welfare impacts, are expected to increase in the future.

Brown bear populations are also threatened by both legal and illegal hunting. Estimating sustainable hunting levels is challenging due to difficulties in determining accurate population estimates, mortality rates, and reproductive output (McLellan et al., 2017). Europe has a long history of overexploiting brown bears. Brown bears are especially vulnerable due to social and reproductive factors, such as infanticide, reproductive suppression, slow population growth and long periods of cub dependency. In addition, hunting decisions for brown bears have been based on growth rates that are biologically unrealistic (Popescu et al., 2016).

Hunting methods include baiting, hunting with dogs, trapping, shooting with handguns, and shooting with bows or crossbows. Dogs are used to track and pursue bears. Hunting of adults of either sex has direct and indirect negative effects that lead to population impacts, such as decreased population growth rates (Gosselin et al., 2017; Swenson et al., 2017). Brown bears are typically solitary except during the mating season and when mothers have young. In some areas hunting of bears is allowed in the spring, when bears are still emerging from their long winter sleep, and therefore in a weakened state and hungry. Hunts can also take place when young are still dependent on their mother, so her removal threatens the survival of her offspring.

AUSTRALIAN TROPHY HUNTING IMPORT TRENDS

The brown bear is the second most hunted CITES-listed bear species for trophies. According to the CITES Trade Database, Australia imported 59 brown bear trophies for the 2014-2018 period (an average of 12 annually). The origin of wild brown bear trophies was the US (47%), Russia (25%), Canada (19%) and Croatia (8%). According to the Australian Wildlife Trade Office (2019–2021), brown bears were hunted mainly for 'trophies' (life size mounts or skins & heads) and their skulls/heads and skins. There were 23 Australian brown bear import permits issued from 2019–2021. Around half (or 14 trophies on 11 permits) were imported into the country during this period, with the smaller import number most likely due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

AUSTRALIA'S WILDLIFE TROPHY IMPORTS

CITES-LISTED MAMMALS 2014–2018 DATA

According to the CITES Trade Database, the 827 trophies imported into Australia during 2014–2018 included 40 different species, with 89% of trophies from wild populations. The majority of permits issued by the Wildlife Trade Office were for one specimen from a single species (such as whole skins or body mounts), but some were for between two and five specimens each (i.e. more than one trophy may have been imported under a single permit). An estimated average of 140 permits annually were issued for hunting trophies over 2014–18, ranging from 100–189 permits each year (Wildlife Trade Office, pers. comm. 19 May 2022). Of the 827 trophies imported, four were from one species currently listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, 156 were from eight species in the Vulnerable category, and 62 from three Near Threatened species (IUCN, 2021).

Table 2 shows import data (representing entire animals) calculated from the CITES Trade Database for the top 20 species imported into Australia from 2014–2018. Of these, five species are classified as Vulnerable and two are Near Threatened, according to the IUCN Red List (IUCN, 2021). The most common trophy species imported into Australia was the American black bear with 184 trophies imported. The next most common species were the chacma baboon (113), Hartmann's mountain zebra (78), brown bear (59) and caracal (47). The top three species mirror the top species imported in the US and four of the top five species were also in the top five imported into the EU (HSI, In press; HSI Europe, 2021a).

Further detail on the nature of trophies imported into Australia in 2014–2018 for the top imported species in provided in Appendix 1.

TABLE 2: AUSTRALIAN TROPHY IMPORTS FOR 2014–2018 (AUSTRALIA REPORTED) ACCORDING TO THE CITES TRADE DATABASE

	Species	IUCN Red List*	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average per Year	Grand Total	Percent of Grand Total
1	American black bear (<i>Ursus americanus</i>)	LC ▲	44	32	26	40	42	37	184	22%
2	Chacma baboon (<i>Papio ursinus</i>)	LC ▼	33	19	15	20	26	23	113	14%
3	Hartmann's mountain zebra (<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>)	Vu ▲	22	8	20	13	15	16	78	9%
4	Brown bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)	LC ►	14	11	8	6	20	12	59	7%
5	Caracal (<i>Caracal caracal</i>)	LC ?	4	8	9	15	11	9	47	6%
6	Red lechwe (<i>Kobus leche</i>)	NT ▼	11	12	7	8	7	9	45	5%
7	Cougar (<i>Puma concolor</i>)	LC ▼	11	11	3	6	10	9	41	5%
8	Lion (<i>Panthera leo</i>)	Vu ▼	22	7	-	-	-	-	29	4%
9	Vervet monkey (<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>)	LC ▼	4	8	0	8	7	6	27	3%
10	Grey wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>)	LC ►	8	9	1	2	6	6	26	3%
11	Hippopotamus (<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>)	Vu ►	12	2	1	1	3	4	19	2%
12	Siberian ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>)	NT ▼	0	3	2	1	9	3	15	2%
13	Blackbuck (<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>)	LC ?	0	4	1	5	4	3	14	2%
14	Blue duiker (<i>Philantomba monticola</i>)	LC ▼	0	7	1	1	3	3	12	1%
15	African civet (<i>Civettictis civetta</i>)	LC ?	0	6	2	1	2	3	11	1%
16	Polar bear (<i>Ursus maritimus</i>)	Vu ?	4	4	2	1	0	3	11	1%
17	Barbary sheep (<i>Ammotragus lervia</i>)	Vu ▼	5	2	0	1	2	2	10	1%
18	Marco Polo sheep (<i>Ovis polii</i>)	#	8	0	0	0	2	2	10	1%
19	Wildcat (<i>Felis silvestris</i>)	LC ▼	2	2	2	2	0	2	8	1%
20	Canada lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>)	LC ►	1	1	2	2	2	2	8	1%
	Other (20 species)		6	8	13	18	15	12	60	7%
	Grand Total		211	164	115	151	186		827	

*IUCN status at time of the report: Vu=Vulnerable, NT=Near Threatened, LC=Least Concern with symbols showing population trends of increasing (▲), decreasing (▼), stable (►), unknown (?), and # Not listed

2019–2021 DATA

The data on import permits obtained from the Wildlife Trade Office for the years 2019–2021 are shown in Table 3 and Table 4. Total permits consist of permits acquitted,¹⁰ permits not yet acquitted, and permits no longer needed.¹¹ For permits no longer needed, the quantity of specimens on the permits was not reported by the Wildlife Trade Office and are not counted in the total potential import quantities. Black bears, Hartmann's mountain zebras and chacma baboons continued to be the most common species that Australians wanted to import as trophies, according to the total permits issued (Table 3). However, the vervet monkey appears to have become a more popular trophy species, ranking fourth for permits, up from ninth in 2014–2108 (Table 3). Given the CITES reporting requirements for giraffes began in 2019, the giraffe appears in the reporting for the first time (having been imported previously but not recorded). The 2019–2021 period also represents the first reporting period where lion trophy hunting imports into Australia were banned.



IMAGE: TOM REICHNER

TABLE 3: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT PERMITS FOR 2019–2021 ACCORDING TO THE WILDLIFE TRADE OFFICE (7 FOCAL SPECIES ONLY)

	Species	IUCN Red List*	Permits acquitted	Permits not yet acquitted	Total	Permits no longer needed	Total permits issued#	Average total permits per year
1	American black bear (<i>Ursus americanus</i>)	LC ▲	38	37	75	13	88	29
2	Hartmann's mountain zebra (<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>)	Vu ▲	18	30	48	15	63	21
3	Chacma baboon (<i>Papio ursinus</i>)	LC ▼	41	14	55	5	60	20
4	Vervet monkey (<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>)	LC ▼	18	10	28	9	37	12
5	Caracal (<i>Caracal caracal</i>)	LC ?	8	7	15	4	19	6
6	Brown bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)	LC ►	11	7	18	5	23	8
7	Giraffe (<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>)	Vu ▼	4	8	12	0	12	4
	Totals (of 7 species)		138	113	251	51	302	

*IUCN status at time of the report: Vu=Vulnerable, NT=Near Threatened, LC=Least Concern with symbols showing population trends of increasing (▲), decreasing (▼), stable (►), and unknown (?) # Some permits cover more than one species

The beginning of 2020 marked the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic with federal travel restrictions implemented on overseas travel for a period of 18 months (from March 2020 to Nov 2022). Therefore, even though a potential hunter may have applied for and been granted a permit, the data shows that a number were not acquitted (i.e. travel to participate in the hunt and import did not occur). At the time of writing, about 45% of permits issued for 2019–2021 had not yet been acquitted, and an additional 51 permit holders had contacted the Wildlife Trade Office to advise that they no longer needed the permit (these permits are not represented in the data).

Actual imports that occurred (i.e. the permits were acquitted), are shown in Table 4. Of the total permits issued over this period, the percentage of imports that actually occurred varied from 29% (Hartmann's mountain zebra) to 68% (American black bear). It is reasonable to assume that a number of potential trophy hunters also refrained from applying for a permit due to the global pandemic. Therefore, if the years of 2020 and 2021 were 'normal'¹² years, it is assumed that both total permits issued and trophies actually imported into Australia would have been higher.

TABLE 4: AUSTRALIAN TROPHY IMPORTS FOR 2019–2021 ACCORDING TO THE WILDLIFE TRADE OFFICE

Species	IUCN Red List*	2019	2020	2021	Total	% of Total Imports	% of Permitted Imports that Occurred
Chacma baboon (<i>Papio ursinus</i>)	LC ▼	46	13	2	61	31%	68%
American black bear (<i>Ursus americanus</i>)	LC ▲	36	10	9	55	28%	63%
Vervet monkey (<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>)	LC ▼	14	12	2	28	14%	51%
Hartmann's mountain zebra (<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>)	Vu ▲	9	10	2	21	11%	29%
Brown bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)	LC ►	11	3	0	14	7%	48%
Caracal (<i>Caracal caracal</i>)	LC ?	6	2	1	9	5%	42%
Giraffe (<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>)	Vu ▼	0	2	6	8	4%	33%
Grand Total		122	52	22	196		

*IUCN status at time of the report: Vu=Vulnerable, NT=Near Threatened, LC=Least Concern with symbols showing population trends of increasing (▲), decreasing (▼), stable (►), and unknown (?)

AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS ON A GLOBAL SCALE

Australians have become more prominent trophy hunters globally over the years.¹³ Australia ranked as the tenth largest importer of wildlife trophies from CITES-listed mammals for 2014–2018, with 827 trophies imported over the five-year period (an average of 166 trophies per year). This is a substantial increase in annual average imports from the period 2004–2013, where Australia was reported as the 19th top trophy hunting country, with 817 trophies imported over the ten year period (an average of 82 per year) (IFAW, 2016). It should be noted that the methods used in this report did differ from those used by IFAW (2016). The latter included trophies for commercial purpose and filtered for different species, trade terms, and units. Therefore, the number of trophies reported by IFAW (2016) are likely much greater than the number that would be calculated using the same methodology from this report, indicating a potentially greater increase in Australia's trophy imports for the period 2014–2018.

TREND IN TROPHY IMPORTS 2004-2020

Unfortunately, Australia is not up-to-date with CITES reporting requirements so importer reported data can not be relied on to understand mammal trophy imports into Australia for the years 2019–2021. However, collating data from a number of sources, including exporter data from the CITES Trade Database and other reports (including IFAW, 2016), can assist in understanding trends in trophy imports. In order to gauge the trend in mammal trophy imports, the same methods used in this report were applied to importer data downloaded from the CITES Trade Database from 2004 to 2018 and exporter data from 2004 to 2020. Noting the limitations with this data identified previously, Figure 1 compares trophy data reported by importers into Australia and exports that were destined for Australia between 2004 and 2020. Even taking into account the data limitations, it is clear that there has been an increasing trend in trophies imported into Australia over the last two decades.

827 TROPHIES IMPORTED INTO AUSTRALIA DURING 2014–2018 INCLUDED 40 DIFFERENT SPECIES, WITH 89% OF TROPHIES FROM WILD POPULATIONS

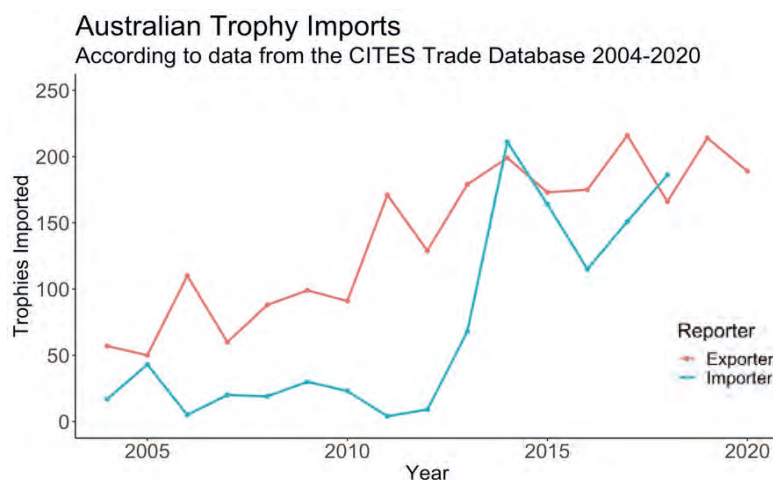


FIGURE 1: AUSTRALIAN MAMMAL TROPHY IMPORTS ACCORDING TO IMPORTER REPORTED QUANTITIES AND EXPORTER REPORTED QUANTITIES IN THE CITES TRADE DATABASE BETWEEN 2003 AND 2020.

GLOBAL TROPHY HUNTING MANAGEMENT

Worldwide, countries implement CITES requirements, including the import and export of hunting trophies, through domestic legislation. In addition to complying with CITES, several nations have implemented stronger bans on the import of hunting trophies, often due to conservation, ethical and animal welfare concerns, as well as public pressure. There has been a recent push to ban the import of hunting trophies in a number of jurisdictions.

In December 2021, the UK Government announced its intention to ban the import of trophies from thousands of endangered, threatened and near threatened species including lions, leopards, rhinos, zebra, elephants, and polar bears, stating it would be one of the toughest bans in the world.¹⁴ A huge 86% of the public support these tighter restrictions.¹⁵ Previous pressure had already resulted in bans on some species but not a complete ban. In June 2022, British MP Henry Smith introduced a government-backed Bill designed to make good on the commitment from the UK Government. A report has been presented to the UK Parliament calling for a total ban on trophy hunting *Trophy Hunting & Britain: The Case for a Ban: A report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Banning Trophy Hunting* (APPG Trophy Hunting, 2022).

The hunting of brown bears for trophies was banned in British Columbia in 2017. A government minister stated that “We have listened to what British Columbians have to say on this issue and it is abundantly clear that the grizzly hunt is not in line with their values”.¹⁶ In 2016, the Netherlands banned imports of hunting trophies from over 200 species, including white rhinoceros, hippopotamus, African elephant, lions and polar bears. In response to the revelations of the inhumane nature of canned hunting in 2015, France and Australia banned the importation of African lion trophies. A number of African nations have banned trophy hunting from occurring in their jurisdiction: Botswana in 2013 and Kenya back in 1977. The airline industry has also acted to distance themselves from this practice, with at least 45 airlines around the world banning the shipment of hunting trophies (IFAW, 2016).

AUSTRALIA

Australians are amongst tourists who travel to Canada, South Africa and other countries to hunt wildlife in order to bring home a trophy. As a Party to CITES, Australia must report all imports and exports of CITES-listed species. In addition to prohibiting trade of CITES Appendix I listed species, Australia has introduced trade bans on a number of species in Appendix II in recognition of the animal welfare and conservation impacts. The following Appendix II species are restricted as per Appendix I species which prevents imports and exports of trophies:

- African lions — introduced in response to public concern about ‘canned hunting’¹⁷
- Southern white rhinoceros
- African elephants.

Australia’s position in relation to the hunting of wildlife for trophies is also reflected in hunting laws and public consciousness of animal welfare issues. In Australia, hunting (including trophy hunting) is predominantly restricted to feral and pest species across all jurisdictions (i.e. wild boar, deer, buffalo, donkeys). The only native animals that can be shot for recreation purposes are some native game birds. The hunting of crocodiles for trophies has been banned in Australia since 1971. The ban has been maintained by successive federal environment ministers when there has been periodic consideration of the policy in the years since. A lack of support for trophy hunting was also shown by the Western Australia Government when a Parks and Wildlife employee was stood down after he posted photos after a hunt in Africa. The action was taken due to a lack of alignment of this activity with the values of the department (Smith, 2020).

A recent poll conducted by HSI Australia found that over 65% of Australians aged over 18 oppose or strongly oppose trophy hunting, while only 15% supported the continuation of trophy hunting. Further, over 58% of Australians aged over 18 support or strongly support a ban on the import of all hunting trophies into Australia. Only 22% of those polled opposed such a ban. Another report, prepared by Futureye (2018) for the then Australian Department of Agriculture, discussed the evolving expectations of the Australian public in relation to the welfare of farm animals. They found that concern for animal welfare was very high – 95% of people viewed farm animal welfare to be a concern and 91% wanted legislative reform to address it. This concern was due to an increased awareness of animal sentience, associated capabilities of animals (both in behaviour and feelings) and rights to freedom.

CHACMA BABOON (*PAPIO URSINUS*)

ABOUT

Chacma baboons are found in grasslands, forests and rocky areas across southern Africa. They are typically found in troops of 20 to 50 animals, but troops may total up to 130 individuals. An adult male is the troop leader and females have a hierarchy. The chacma baboon population is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (Sithaldeen, 2019) with a population trend that is decreasing (last assessed 2018). A key threat to populations is fragmentation from farming, with some local population extinctions.

Chacma baboons are Old World Monkeys. They have complex social structures and high social intelligence (Borgeaud et al., 2013). Old World Monkeys have also been shown to have similar general intelligence levels to the great apes (Schmitt et al., 2012). Monkeys, including baboons, can enter camps looking for food and be found raiding crops, which makes them easy and preferred targets.^{22 23}

Hunting typically involves spotting and stalking with rifles. The low welfare method of bow hunting is also often used. One hunting website states that baboons have the ability to know the difference between armed visitors and general ranch hands indicating they can detect when threats approach.²⁴

AUSTRALIAN TROPHY HUNTING IMPORT TRENDS

According to the CITES Trade Database (2014–2018), there were 113 chacma baboon trophies imported into Australia during this period (averaging 23 per year). The source of the baboons was predominantly wild (95%), originating from South Africa (48%), Zimbabwe (27%) and Namibia (26%). According to the Australian Wildlife Trade Office, there were 60 permits issued over the 2019–2021 period for over 86 specimens, an average of 20 annually. The skulls/heads were popular trophies, followed by general ‘trophies’ (typically whole bodies) and skins. Over two thirds (71%) of these imports proceeded.



IMAGE: ARNO MEINTJES WILDLIFE / FLIKR

VERVET MONKEYS (*CHLOROCEBUS PYGERYTHRUS*)

ABOUT

The vervet monkey occupies savanna, open woodland and forest-grassland of South-Eastern Africa. The species is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (Butynski & de Jong, 2019) with a population trend that is decreasing (last assessed 2016). Patchy distribution and small populations make them vulnerable to local decline or extinction (Isbell & Jaffe, 2013). The main threats to the species are human-caused habitat degradation, fragmentation and destruction (Butynski & de Jong, 2019). Hunting typically involves spotting and stalking with rifles. The low welfare method of bow hunting is also often used.



IMAGE: DOUG88888 / FLIKR

AUSTRALIAN TROPHY IMPORT HUNTING TRENDS

According to the CITES Trade Database (2014–2018), there were 27 wild vervet monkey trophies imported into Australia over this 5-year period, averaging five per year and representing the ninth top imported CITES-listed mammal species. Skulls were the most popular trophy over 2014–2018, followed by ‘trophies’ which were mainly full body mounts. However, according to data from the Australian Wildlife Trade Office (2019–2021), the number of specimens of these monkeys on import permits jumped for 2019–2021, to 37 permits (over 46 specimens), or an average of 15 per year and making them the fourth most common species hunted for that period. Some individual permits included from four to eight skulls. Over the three year period impacted by COVID 19, 18 (or 64%) of permits issued were used to import 24 trophies.

All vervet monkeys were hunted from wild populations, originating from South Africa (81%) and Zimbabwe (19%) over 2014–2018 and South Africa over 2019–2021.

IT'S TIME FOR AUSTRALIA TO ACT FURTHER ON TROPHY HUNTING

Australia has previously recognised the inappropriateness of trophy hunting and canned hunting by banning the import of trophies from the iconic species of rhinos, lions and elephants. Australia also does not generally allow trophy hunting of native wildlife. Now is the time to act for other wildlife species at risk.

The Australian Government can take immediate action to ban trophies for those mammals most at risk, particularly giraffes and Hartmann's mountain zebra, both of which are listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. The Environment Minister has the power to make a legal Declaration that applies stricter domestic measures to the protection of CITES listed species. The Minister can use her powers under Part 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) to declare that these species should be treated as if they were included in Appendix I to CITES, thus protecting them from being imported into Australia as trophies. HSI Australia recommends that the Environment Minister immediately implements stricter domestic measures to protect chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*), American black bear (*Ursus americanus*), vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*), Hartmann's mountain zebra (*Equus zebra hartmannae*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), caracal (*Caracal caracal*) and giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) from trophy hunting.

Longer term, the Australian Government can recognise the growing scientific evidence, ethical and animal welfare concerns regarding trophy hunting; and enact a total ban on the importation of wildlife trophies. The planned 2023 reforms to the EPBC Act can be used to prohibit the import of all wildlife trophies of CITES-listed species into Australia.



IMAGE: MICHAEL SIMMONS



IMAGE: TAMBAKO THE JAGUAR / FLIKR

CARACAL (CARACAL CARACAL)

ABOUT

The caracal is a relatively small wild cat species widely distributed across Africa, Central Asia, and south-west Asia. It is distinctive due to its large ears with prominent tufts on the ends. They are a nocturnal and skilled predator that are solitary when not mating. The caracal is listed as Least Concern (Avgan et al., 2016) with the population trend unknown (last assessed 2014). In Africa, the main source of trophies for this species, habitat destruction is a significant threat where caracals are naturally sparsely distributed (Ray et al., 2005). Persecution due to them preying on livestock is also a key threat to population.

Hunting methods used to kill caracals include rifles, bows and stalking. They can also be hunted with hounds. Caracals can be killed while they are hunting or eating their prey (usually small to medium sized mammals) with some hunters choosing to wait by killed prey for caracals to return. Given that the caracal is still a popular species for trophy hunters, and that current population estimates and status are unknown, continued hunting poses an unknown impact on wild populations.

AUSTRALIAN TROPHY HUNTING IMPORT TRENDS

According to the CITES Trade Database, there were 47 caracal trophies imported into Australia during 2014–2018, averaging nine per year making them the fifth top CITES-listed mammal species imported. The source of the caracal was wild animals originating from South Africa (87%) and Namibia (13%). The caracal was hunted mainly for ‘trophies’ (body mounts) and their skins. According to the Australian Wildlife Trade Office, there were 19 import permits during the 2019–2021 period, averaging six per year. Approximately half (nine permits) were actually used to import caracal specimens over the COVID 19 pandemic period.

APPENDIX 1 –

TROPHY IMPORTS INTO AUSTRALIA ACCORDING TO THE CITES TRADE DATABASE FOR 2014-2018

TABLE A1: AMERICAN BLACK BEAR

Term	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average per Year	Grand Total	Percent of Grand Total
Trophies	9	5	15	38	41	22	108	59%
Skulls	16	10	6	2	0	7	34	19%
Skins	17	11	5	0	0	7	33	18%
Bodies	2	6	0	0	0	2	8	4%
Grand Total	44	32	26	40	41		183	

TABLE A2: CHACMA BABOON

Term	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average per Year	Grand Total	Percent of Grand Total
Skulls	25	14	8	5	9	13	61	54%
Trophies	2	0	3	13	17	7	35	31%
Skins	4	2	1	2	0	2	9	8%
Bodies	2	3	3	0	0	2	8	7%
Grand Total	33	19	15	20	26	23	113	

TABLE A3: HARTMAN'S MOUNTAIN ZEBRA

Term	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average per Year	Grand Total	Percent of Grand Total
Skins	19	7	18	7	9	12	60	77%
Trophies	1	1	2	6	6	4	16	21%
Bodies	2	0	0	0	0	<1	2	3%
Grand Total	22	8	20	13	15		78	



IMAGE: JOS BAKKER

TABLE A4: BROWN BEAR

Term	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average per Year	Grand Total	Percent of Grand Total
Trophies	3	3	4	6	20	8	36	61%
Skulls	6	5	2	0	0	3	13	22%
Skins	2	2	2	0	0	2	6	10%
Bodies	3	1	0	0	0	1	4	7%
Grand Total	14	11	8	6	20		59	

TABLE A5: CARACAL

Term	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average per Year	Grand Total	Percent of Grand Total
Trophies	0	0	4	6	10	4	20	43%
Skins	0	6	1	9	1	4	17	36%
Skulls	2	1	4	0	0	2	7	15%
Bodies	2	1	0	0	0	<1	3	6%
Grand Total	4	8	9	15	11		47	

TABLE A6: VERVET MONKEY

Term	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average per Year	Grand Total	Percent of Grand Total
Trophies	0	0	0	8	7	3	15	56%
Skulls	2	6	0	0	0	2	8	30%
Skins	1	2	0	0	0	1	3	11%
Bodies	1	0	0	0	0	<1	1	4%
Grand Total	4	8	0	8	7		27	

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ENDNOTES

- 1 | <https://cites.org/eng/app/index.php>. The Appendices also include so-called “look-alike species”, i.e. species whose specimens in trade look like those of species protected for conservation reasons.
- 2 | Joint Position on Trophy Hunting available at: https://www.hsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Joint-NGO-position-on-trophy-hunting_final-Logos.pdf
- 3 | The CITES Trade Database is managed by the United Nations Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre on behalf of the CITES Secretariat.
- 4 | <https://huntinginafricasafaris.com/hunting-south-africa/bow-hunting-in-south-africa/list-of-animals-you-can-bow-hunt-in-south-africa/>
- 5 | <https://www.bookyourhunt.com/en/Tour/20942>
- 6 | <https://www.bookyourhunt.com/en/Tour/12903?SearchTerm=Caracal>
- 7 | <https://somerbysafaris.com/hunting-packages/leopard-hunting/>
- 8 | <https://africahuntlodge.com/hunting-packages/giraffe-hunt>
- 9 | Full data for 2019-2021 is due to be released by the end of 2022 (Wildlife Trade Office, pers. comm).
- 10 | Meaning the importer has acquitted their trade and confirmed the import quantities.
- 11 | It is assumed that for 2019-2021 period, the number of permits not acquitted is at least partly due to the COVID 19 travel restrictions.
- 12 | That is, no international events/restrictions that impact trophy hunting imports.
- 13 | <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/hunting-trophy-imports-to-australia-rise-as-global-trophy-imports-fall-20150807-giuagr.html>
- 14 | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/importing-of-hunting-trophies-banned-to-protect-worlds-threatened-species>
- 15 | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/importing-of-hunting-trophies-banned-to-protect-worlds-threatened-species>
- 16 | <https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/ndp-government-kills-plan-for-food-hunt-of-b-c-grizzly-bears>
- 17 | <https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/wildlife-trade/cites/stricter-measures/african-lion>
- 18 | <https://africahuntlodge.com/hunting-packages/giraffe-hunts>
- 19 | <https://www.bookyourhunt.com/en/giraffe-hunting#/methods>
- 20 | LEMIS data obtained from United States Fish and Wildlife Service through FOIA requests between 2006 and 2015, filtered for imports of *Giraffa camelopardalis* hunting trophies for all purposes.
- 21 | Figure determined after excluding the number of specimens on the permits that were no longer needed.
- 22 | <https://www.bookyourhunt.com/en/vervet-monkey-hunting>
- 23 | <https://www.africahuntlodge.com/vervet-monkey-hunts>
- 24 | <https://huntinginafricasafaris.com/african-game-animals-list-trophy-hunting-africa/hunting-baboons-in-south-africa/>



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