

A League Against Cruel Sports investigation into how British travel companies enable sport hunters to slaughter some of the world's most threatened species

# Wild about Killing



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From the outside, it looks like a typical family run travel agency in one of the most picturesque towns of the lower Thames Valley. But this Berkshire based firm, Roxton Bailey Robinson, is at the centre of an international controversy involving the slaughter of hundreds of game animals and birds, including some the world's most threatened species.

Roxton Bailey Robinson is one of a growing number of specialist travel consultants that are offering wealthy British clients the opportunity to travel abroad to track and kill animals and birds of their choice as part of luxurious safari packages more typically associated with the great hunting trips of colonial times.

An investigation by the League Against Cruel Sports has revealed that lions, leopards, cheetahs, elephants, antelope, rhinos, baboons and grizzly bears are among the species British fee-paying trophy hunters can arrange to hunt for between \$4,000 and \$40,000. For an additional supplement, hunters can organise for their quarry to be stuffed, packaged and brought back to the UK as trophies to adorn their boardrooms and country retreats.



Adventure Northwest



Adrian Freire

The findings of this investigation will – for the first time – open up to scrutiny the activities of British companies which have outraged environmentalists struggling to conserve threatened species. The findings will also prove embarrassing to key players in the British shooting lobby who have been revealed as being at the centre of the controversial trophy hunting industry.

Trophy hunting is a multi-million pound international industry with dozens of travel firms offering fee-paying sport hunters the opportunity to hunt animals and birds in Canada, Alaska, South and Central America, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and the former USSR. It is in South Africa however that the pastime is most popular; there are believed to be in excess of 4,000 big game reserves catering for hunting in the region, with over 50 million acres devoted to game ranching. The activity brings in well over 6,000 foreign hunters a year. (1)

Despite a growing body of evidence suggesting an irreversible decline in some of the world's most threatened species (in particular lions and grizzly bears), and several African countries (including Kenya and Botswana) outlawing or strictly controlling trophy hunting, enthusiasts show no signs of curtailing their activities. In fact, recent years have witnessed a disturbing increase in the popularity of the activity amongst British thrill seekers. The number of trophy parts imported into the UK annually has increased fourfold according to figures obtained by the League. (2)

References: 1. *Independent On Sunday* 9th May 1999 / *Private correspondence* June 2003  
2. *Figures prepared by UK Division CITES* October 2003

The UK's largest trophy hunting organiser is the Mayfair based Holland and Holland (www.hollandandholland.com), the royal gunsmith best known for supplying shotguns to the well-heeled, including Madonna and husband Guy Ritchie. The company offers clients bird shooting in the UK and abroad, and trophy hunting opportunities at a number of camps operated on their behalf in Africa.



Adrian Freire

Posing as customers, League investigators were offered on different occasions by Holland and Holland staff the chance to hunt a range of game species at various hunting reserves, including buffalo, elephant, cheetah, crocodile, ostrich, civet cat, leopard, giraffe and lion. Some of the species offered, including the cheetah, are among the world's most threatened, and listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The cheetah and leopard are listed under Appendix I of CITES, which recognises that those species are the most endangered, potentially on the verge of extinction. Trade in these species is limited to a very few cases in which the primary trade consideration is not commercial interests. The lion is listed on appendices I, II, III, depending on regional considerations. (3)



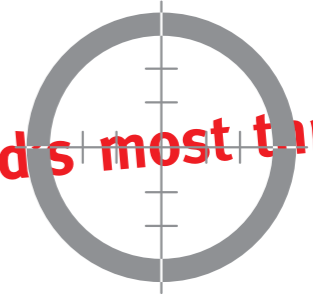
Phil Luker

Prices for the trophy hunting trips (typically between 7 and 21 days) in Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa start from \$240 per person, per night, including full board, airport transfers, safari fee, a licensed professional hunter, a tracker, skinning of trophies and government and other licensing fees. Excluded from the fee are all flights, additional hotel costs, trophy fees and the dipping, packaging and shipment of trophies to their destination. (4)

Holland and Holland currently charge \$10,000 as a trophy fee for a male elephant at their Matetsi camp in Botswana, with a cheetah setting a client back \$2,000, a crocodile \$2,000, a leopard \$2,500, a hippopotamus \$2,000 (listed under CITES Appendices II and III) and a lion \$4,500. Smaller game animals, such as the impala, oryx, honey badger, wildebeest, and bushpig, are offered for between \$200 and \$1,500. After shooting, trophy animals are shipped to South Africa, where they are stuffed, mounted and sent to the UK by their specialist taxidermist. (5)

Some of the species offered

are among the world's most threatened



In common with its UK game bird shooting trips, which include opportunities to shoot with the prestigious Molland outfit in Devon, Holland and Holland's trophy hunting packages cater for only the wealthiest clients: the total price quoted for a two week hunt in Botswana exceeded \$45,000 with a Zimbabwe package totalling over \$24,500. (6)

The company boasts of being 'synonymous' with African hunting, stating that "in the last one hundred years it is probable that more game has been shot in Africa by visiting sportsmen and professional hunters using Holland and Holland rifles than any other make." The company's brochures detail the special characteristics of the different game hunting camps promoted, promising clients 'sport at its best.' (7)

Describing its Matetsi camp in Zimbabwe, operated on Holland and Holland's behalf by the African based HHK safaris, the company says "the hunting is excellent, particularly for buffalo... each year heavy maned lion are taken, along with the famous huge sable

(well over 40 inches)... the area will not disappoint the hunter. The camp is very comfortable and is comprised of thatched chalets all with en-suite bathrooms. Electricity is provided by a generator and in warmer months a swimming pool provides [...] welcome relief." (8)



The company says that its Kihurumira camp in Tanzania "is one of the most luxurious camps found in Africa. The game and the professional hunters here

ensure that you have the best opportunity possible for an extremely successful hunt, particularly for elephant, buffalo, big black-maned lion, leopard and kudu... due to the abundance of game and the massive area that is seldom reached by hunting parties, quotas for certain animals are generous, [...] and trophy fees are generally lower." (9)

References: 3. CITES species database www.cites.org October 2003  
 4. Holland and Holland online brochure, www.hollandandholland.com October 2003  
 5. Holland and Holland online brochure, www.hollandandholland.com October 2003  
 6. The Observer, October 12th 2003  
 7. Holland and Holland hunt Africa brochure, 2003  
 8. Holland and Holland online brochure, www.hollandandholland.com October 2003  
 9. Holland and Holland online brochure, www.hollandandholland.com October 2003

Another outfit offering bird shooting in the UK and abroad and trophy hunting overseas is the Hungerford based Roxton Bailey Robinson. The luxury travel operator specialises in bird shooting, with packages offering British hunters the chance to shoot in regions as far afield as Morocco, Argentina, Iran, Iceland, Spain and Africa.

The company brochure describes various packages in a similar fashion to Holland and Holland: "Shooting is not just about grouse, partridges, and pheasants with all their incumbent traditions, it is also about experiencing the unforgettable; dawn duck flights, jinking turtle doves and sand grouse, wily yellow necked spur fowl and starbursting coveys of partridges. There is so much about shooting around the world that is different, exciting and challenging." (10)



Officially, Roxton Bailey Robinson denies organising trophy hunting. During the course of League investigations, a journalist from a national newspaper telephoned the company and was told they were not involved in organising trophy hunts. Its website, [www.rbrww.com](http://www.rbrww.com), makes no reference to the



activity, going out of its way to present itself as a typical travel outfit offering traditional safari packages.

**What is CITES?**

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between Governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

**What is the IUCN - The World Conservation Union?**

IUCN is a unique Union. Its members from some 140 countries include over 70 States, 100 government agencies, and 750-plus NGOs. More than 10,000 internationally-recognised scientists and experts from more than 180 countries volunteer their services to its six global commissions. Its 1000 staff members in offices around the world are working on some 500 projects. For more than 50 years this 'Green Web' of partnerships has generated environmental conventions, global standards, scientific knowledge and innovative leadership.

**Roxton Bailey Robinson – specialists in conservation mismanagement?**

Roxton Bailey Robinson, based in Hungerford, Berkshire, are one of the UK's leading specialist travel outfits, offering sport shooting both in the UK and abroad. The company offers safaris, fishing holidays and packages at some of the world's most luxury resorts. But investigations by the League have established that the company can arrange for clients to travel to British Columbia in Canada to track and kill up to six grizzly bears, listed as vulnerable to exploitation under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, for the animals trophy parts.



Not surprisingly, the company makes no mention of this activity on its main website or in its brochures.

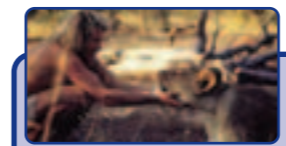
One Roxton founder and director is George Stephenson, a trustee of Save The Rhino, a London based organisation battling to prevent the species becoming extinct. The disclosure that a Save The Rhino trustee founded and now co-directs a company that arranges hunting packages that could contribute towards the decline of another vulnerable species, the grizzly bear, could prove embarrassing to all parties concerned.

The League has also established that another Roxton co-director, is Mark Firth, the chairman of Foresight, the Countryside Alliance shooting campaign. In this role Mr Firth promotes shooting as a conservation activity through his involvement with the Code of Good Shooting Conduct, a voluntary initiative detailing 'good practice' within the UK shooting industry

Roxton Bailey Robinson sells shooting at a number of the UK's most prestigious game bird shoots, including the Oakford shoot in Devon. Earlier this year, the gamekeeper at the Oakford shoot, Alan Hetherington, narrowly avoided prison after an investigation revealed that he had laced dead pheasants with illegal poisons to kill predators that attacked the birds he bred for shooting parties.



According to the successful prosecution case, Hetherington poisoned the dead pheasants because he knew badgers, foxes and birds of prey, particularly buzzards, would eat them. Police and animal agencies including the RSPCA, the RSPB and DEFRA, raided the land at dawn and confiscated poisons and syringes. One wildlife liaison officer present said: "The most abiding memory for me was the smell of poison and death. It was awful, horrendous "It wasn't just a danger to birds of prey and animals because these poisons can kill human beings...I remember seeing dead badgers piled up."



**From the front line**

To me, the shooting of lions (and other animals) is simply abhorrent, morally wrong. As a single murder in our society deeply effects the family of the deceased, so it is with lion society. I believe it is just as wrong to murder a lion as it is to murder a human.

"Trophy hunting of lions occurs because there are those - the client hunters - who will pay a great deal of money to satisfy an urge, a yearning for what they seemingly perceive to be a masculine performance. In turn there are those - the hunting operators - who earn their money by supplying the service that allows such people to satisfy this yearning. The most extreme form of quenching this yearning and offering the service for it is 'canned lion' hunting, the killing of captive bred lions.

"Thirty years ago, that philosophical carnivore George Schaller wrote: '...to cause unspeakable pain to another creature, to kill it without purpose, not for food, not for protection, for nothing except enjoyment, is a form of sadism. More and more people are renouncing carnage for contemplation, and therein lies a hope for man's fate'."

**Gareth Patterson**

*From 'Dying to be Free - the South African Canned Lion' Hunting Scandal', Viking 1998. Reprinted in Wild About Killing with permission of the author.*

**United Kingdom imports of hunting trophies between 1996 and 2002 (as reported by the UK in Annual Reports to CITES)**

Taxon	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total
African elephant ( <i>Loxodonta africana</i> )		1		25	6	5	3	40
Leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> )			4	4	1	10	13	32
American Black Bear ( <i>Ursus americanus</i> )	3	7	1	5	5	1	4	26
Polar bear ( <i>Ursus maritimus</i> )	1				2	10	5	18
Cougar ( <i>Puma concolor</i> )		5	1	2	1	7		16
Grizzly bear ( <i>Ursus arctos</i> )				2		1	7	10
Baboon ( <i>Papio hamadryas ursinus</i> )		2	4	1			2	9
Cheetah ( <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i> )		1					6	7
Lion ( <i>Panthera leo</i> )	2					4		6
Hartmann's Mountain Zebra ( <i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i> )	2						4	6
Hippopotamus ( <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i> )		1				1	4	6

data for species totalling 5 or more

**European Community imports of hunting trophies between 1996 and 2002 (as reported by the EC in Annual Reports to CITES)**

Taxon	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total
American Black Bear ( <i>Ursus americanus</i> )	880	1235	923	1001	1580	716	483	6818
African elephant ( <i>Loxodonta africana</i> )	601	734	596	508	744	458	171	3812
Leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> )	390	424	460	352	455	382	160	2623
Hartmann's Mountain Zebra ( <i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i> )	251	326	369	375	357	423	317	2418
Hippopotamus ( <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i> )	423	410	322	295	449	306	64	2269
Grizzly bear ( <i>Ursus arctos</i> )	229	308	401	327	362	287	205	2119
Baboon ( <i>Papio hamadryas ssp.</i> )	243	310	340	346	339	267	163	2008
Lion ( <i>Panthera leo</i> )	297	274	299	288	320	156	42	1676
Wolf ( <i>Canis lupus</i> )	112	147	159	194	212	172	70	1066
Cougar ( <i>Puma concolor</i> )	101	75	84	78	91	72	41	542
Cheetah ( <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i> )	45	49	81	91	66	95	112	539
Topi ( <i>Damaliscus lunatus</i> )	88	51	82	110	106	60	22	519
Lechwe ( <i>Kobus lechwe</i> )	37	49	90	92	79	49	22	418
African caracal ( <i>Caracal caracal</i> )	25	42	92	60	52	81	57	409
Polar bear ( <i>Ursus maritimus</i> )	93	58	49	33	43	43	42	361

data for species totalling 300 or more

**Criteria for CITES appendices**

Appendix I - Species here are recognised as the most endangered, potentially on the verge of extinction. Trade in these species is limited to a very few cases in which the primary trade consideration is not commercial interests. For example, elephants in this category could be traded if the purpose of their trade was scientific research (i.e., elephants going to certain zoos for care and reproductive research.)

Appendix II - Species here are recognised as 'potentially' endangered and are subject to monitored or managed trade. In this category, commercial interests may be a primary factor for trade. In many instances, trade is commonly restricted to species coming from specific geographical regions and/or a quota on their trade is put into place. So, for example, the placing of elephants on this list means that the ivory trade can continue providing that the trade meets certain requirements.

Appendix III - Article II (3) defines this category as "all species which any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation, and as needing the co-operation of other Parties in the control of trade". Generally only a trade permit and compliance with the domestic laws of the trading states is required. See www.cites.org for further information.

However, a second website, www.roxtons.com, lists in some detail the shooting packages available in the UK and abroad (11). Although the words trophy hunting never appear, the e-mail address, shooting@roxtons.com, gives visitors an idea what to expect, as does the comment: "The world is now small enough, that a long shooting weekend in east Africa is not only feasible but also actually restful."

Far from focusing on non-predatory safaris, the League has established that Roxton Bailey Robinson organises travel arrangements for virtually all Holland and Holland's trophy hunting trips to Africa, as well as independently selling trophy hunting packages to its own clients.

Posing as a customer interested in booking a hunting trip as a surprise for a family celebration, a League investigator visited the company's Hungerford offices and was offered trophy hunting as part of a luxury holiday package staying at the Ant's Nest game reserve in South Africa's Northern Province.

The trophy fee for a baboon is listed at \$70

Roxton employee Colette Ingledew was secretly filmed as she described how the company could arrange the trip, which was "price wise, amazing value for money", for as little as £180 per person, per night: "Ant's Nest is really beautiful, malaria free. What is nice about it, there

are two little lodges on the reserve and it is brilliant for non-hunters. When [your mother's] husband wants, at this time of the year, to go off and do some game hunting, [she can go] walking, horse riding." (12)

She described how hunters would get up "really early" to track and kill game animals for either trophy purposes or culling: "What they have there is a trophy fee and a game management fee... two separate fees, which is quite nice, because you don't want everything to be the trophy, you might just want the stalking." (13)

The League has established that trophy hunters at the Ant's Nest game reserve can choose to track and kill a range of species, either by stalking with a rifle on foot or with a rifle or bow on horseback, including baboon, eland, oryx, impala, waterbuck, jackal, warthog and zebra (14). The trophy fee for a zebra is listed at \$950, for a baboon \$70, warthog \$250 and waterbuck \$1,300. The baboon is listed under CITES Appendix II. (15)

References: 10. Roxton Bailey Robinson online brochure, www.roxtons.com October 2003  
 11. www.roxtons.com  
 12. Transcript lifted from video footage obtained by League investigators, October 2003  
 13. Transcript lifted from video footage obtained by League investigators, October 2003  
 14. Holland and Holland online brochure, October 2003  
 15. CITES species database www.cites.org October 2003



Investigations have also established that Roxton Bailey Robinson can arrange trophy hunting trips to Canada and Alaska to track and kill grizzly bears, listed (for that region) under CITES Appendix III (16). Posing as a customer, an investigator was referred to the firm by Holland and Holland, and offered the opportunity to shoot up to six grizzlies.

A Roxton employee described how a bear would first be spotted, before hunters are delivered to a location where they could follow it on horseback or on foot. Each bear shot would command a ‘harvest fee’ of around \$5,000 whilst the ‘expedition cost’ of a grizzly hunt could rise to above \$10,000. (17)

The disclosure that Roxton Bailey Robinson can arrange for British trophy hunters to track and kill such a vulnerable species could prove embarrassing for other organisations connected to the company’s directors.

One Roxton director is George Stephenson, a trustee of Save The Rhino, a pressure group battling to save the rhino from extinction, although his more blood thirsty interests may have been revealed during the fundraising events he has held for Save The Rhino and the Game Conservancy Trust, a pro-shooting lobbying organisation, on his sporting estate in Wiltshire.

Another Roxton director, Mark Firth, is chairman of Foresight, the Countryside Alliance’s shooting campaign. Apparently he sees no inconsistency between organising holidays for wealthy tourists to kill endangered species and his statement that: “We must ensure that the case is constantly put for safe and responsible shooters, and the contribution they make to society **and the environment.**” (18) Roxton, perhaps due to Mr Stephenson’s interest in protecting one species, does not offer trophy hunts for rhinos, but Sportingagent.com (www.sportingagent.com), does. The Bristol-based travel operator ‘specialising in good value sporting trips in the UK and worldwide’ is happy to arrange for British hunters to track and kill rhinoceros, one of world’s most endangered species.

**And some call this sport... an account of a typical bear hunt from www.huntingnet.com**

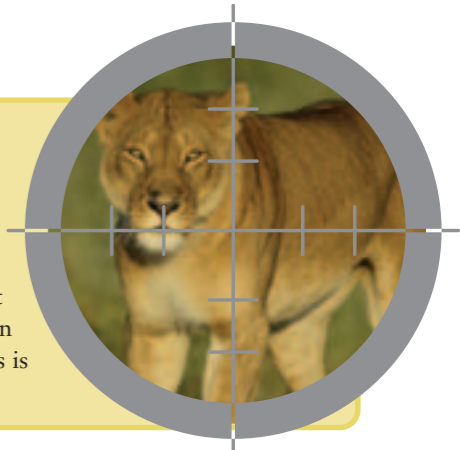
“... Suddenly the bear stood, and for some reason I still can’t fathom, looked right at me. The sight of my face did not make him happy. Immediately he started swinging his massive head from side to side, popping his teeth, and bunching his shoulders. His first two steps were slow and deliberate, and I carefully let go of the bowstring and found the trigger of the .338 I was packing ‘just in case’. At 15 steps he took a large bound at me. My reaction was a mixture of self-defence and fear. I threw the rifle up like a shotgun, squeezed the trigger, and dropped into the foetal position in preparation for the mauling I knew was seconds away. Nothing happened. I lay rolled up like a frightened armadillo for what seemed like eternity before risking a peek. Nothing. I slowly sat up, racked another cartridge in, and looked around. Nothing. Standing, I saw the bear’s unmoving back just above the grass top. When I got the courage up to creep over to him, I found that by some miracle the 250-grain Nosler Partition had gone right through his throat and broken his neck. He was graveyard dead.”



Ian McAllister

**Species under threat: African Lion (Panthera leo)**

The African lion is found throughout the south Sahara desert and in parts of southern and eastern Africa and has an estimated lifespan of 15 years in the wild. Since the early 1950s, the lion population in Africa has been reduced by half. Today fewer than 21,000 remain in all of Africa. Within the National Parks, populations tend to be fairly stable but outside they fluctuate due to human intervention and food supplies. Because lions live on the plains and in large, open spaces, they are easy targets for sport hunters. The species is currently listed under Appendix I, II and III of CITES.



Sportingagent.com salesman Mark Curtis offered a League investigator the opportunity to hunt and kill a rhino in the cape area of South Africa for around £40,000, as part of a package hunting the ‘big five’ – rhino, buffalo, leopard, lion and elephant. (19)

Curtis told the investigator there would be no problem organising a trip for January, with rhino costing the hunter about £40,000, lion and leopard £7,500, buffalo £6,999 and elephant £10,000 upwards. He offered the investigator a package for shooting eland and four other species for £3,999. These prices would be in addition to basic daily costs and airline fees. (20) Although Curtis did not specify which species of rhino was being offered for hunting, all are listed under either Appendix I or Appendix II of CITES. (21)

For sport shooters on a tighter budget, there are a range of options offered by a clutch of less prestigious travel outfits; the London based Umlilo Safaris (www.umlilosafaris.co.za) promises the opportunity to hunt “more than 30 different species” in South Africa’s Eastern Cape. For under \$2000, clients can participate in a nine day hunt tracking and killing kudu, impala, blesbuck, cape springbuck and grey duiker. (22)

Under \$5,000 buys clients the opportunity to hunt ten species – including blue wildebeest, oryx, cape bushbuck and warthog. League investigators were offered a special deal for children accompanying adult hunters: an Umlilo ‘junior hunting package’ for the under 12’s promises the opportunity to hunt and kill cape rock hyrax, scrub hare, spring hare, vervet monkey and cape fox over a five day period. (23)



Adrian Freire

Hunt Africa

References: 16. CITES species database www.cites.org October 2003  
 17. Transcript of League investigator v RBR conversation, Sunday Times May 11th 2003, Red Pepper magazine, June 2003  
 18. www.countryside-alliance.org  
 19. Transcript of dialogue between League investigator and company salesman, November 2003  
 20. Transcript of dialogue between League investigator and company salesman, November 2003  
 21. CITES species database www.cites.org October 2003  
 22. www.umlilosafaris.co.za  
 23. www.umlilosafaris.co.za

For trophy hunters looking for a package outside of Africa, the Arctic Discovery outfit ([www.articdiscovery.com](http://www.articdiscovery.com)), based in Cumbria, offers the opportunity to track and kill moose in Lapland. The company promises hunting in the “beautiful unspoilt wilderness with ancient forests, big mountains, high fells and crystal clear rivers... the supply of game is very good.” (24) Arctic Discovery hunts are carried out with unleashed dogs controlled by a handler. Once a moose has been located and bolted, hunters take aim and shoot the animal with rifles.

The London based Pemba Adventures ([www.pemba-adventures.com](http://www.pemba-adventures.com)) specialises in providing tailor-made sporting holidays to New Mexico and the American South West to hunt elk, mule deer, coyote, bobcat and antelope. In addition to the more standard trophy hunting opportunities, the League has established that the company can arrange for British clients to participate in hunting the mountain lion with hounds. In a similar fashion to fox hunting in the UK, clients can choose whether to pursue their quarry on horseback or on foot.

## January is the best time of the year to hunt mountain lion

Pemba salesman Rupert Mayhew told an undercover League investigator that mountain lion hunting is “very exciting”, and that the animals “are hunted with hounds on horseback or on foot, up in the mountains.” (25)

Mayhew stated: “January is the best time of the year to hunt mountain lion, the hunters use the snow in the mountains to track the cats. It is much easier to hunt on horseback as the mountain lions tend to cover difficult country and horses are the best way to follow them... if your father is not an experienced horse rider he should be fine on this horse, as they are used to the mountainous terrain and would mainly be walking. If he absolutely did not want to ride then we can arrange for him to hunt on foot. Either way it is an exhilarating experience.” (26)

Mayhew assured the investigator that the company would help arrange for a mountain lion trophy, either the head or the entire animal, to be mounted and shipped back to the UK, but emphasised that the process could take anything up to nine months. (27)

In addition to mountain lions, listed under CITES Appendixes I and II (27a), Pemba Adventures literature boasts of being able to arrange the hunting of black bear with hounds: “The black bear, which are active during the warmer months of the year, weigh more than 300 pounds and measure more than six feet when standing upright. Their long thick fur ranges in colour from black to brown. Many black bears possess remarkable homing abilities and are often able to return home after being transported many miles.” The American Black Bear is listed under Appendix II of CITES. (28) Pemba Adventures is believed to be the only outfit in the UK offering trophy hunting with hounds.

### Species under threat: Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*)

The polar bear is a large, stocky animal well known for its thick, whitish fur. Underneath this fur, their skin is actually black. Adult males can weigh between 300 and 800 kg and can reach 2.5 metres in length from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. Females are slightly smaller weighing 150 – 300kg and measuring around 1.8 metres in length. They range throughout the Arctic region surrounding the North Pole and have been reported as far south as the Southern tips of Iceland and Greenland. Six different populations are recognised and these are: Wrangel Island and western Alaska, northern Alaska, the Canadian Arctic archipelago, Greenland, Svalbard-Franz Josef Land and Central Siberia.



The estimated lifespan for polar bears in the wild is between 25 and 30 years but sadly, many do not live to this age due to a number of threats, including global warming and hunting for their fur, meat or trophies. Commercial and sport hunting of polar bears has increased over the years as the price of pelts is understood to have reached upwards of \$3000. Apart from other polar bears, humans are the only predators of *Ursus Maritimus*. Polar bears are listed under CITES Appendix II and III and they are categorised as being Lower Risk by the IUCN. This is because most populations are currently ‘stable’.

### If you want to hunt a polar bear...

Try Adventure Northwest, only the click of a mouse away at [www.adventurenw.com](http://www.adventurenw.com). According to the company’s literature: “With more than 30 years of outfitting experience in Canada’s north, Adventure Northwest is excited to offer a full complement of hunting packages to our clients. Our partnerships with the Aboriginal and Inuit people of the north will put you in the care of several generations of people who have the experience of living off the land. We invite you to take advantage of their expertise while you hunt for a variety of northern animals, including caribou, muskox, wolf, grizzly and polar bear.

“ At Adventure Northwest, we like to think that no one looks after their clients like we do. From the time you make your first inquiry until the time you return home, we will ensure that you’ve left with great memories and the trophies you so desired when you first arrived.”

Describing the polar bear hunting opportunities: “This is a 16-day; 1X2 hunt with 14 full days of hunting. The local Hunters and Trappers committee operates this hunt. Adventure Northwest is the booking agent for these communities. We do not operate this hunt and therefore only act as your agent when dealing with the community. On occasion hunts do not work out exactly as the hunter thinks they should. This must be resolved with the community before the hunter leaves his hunt.

“Hunting is done from outpost camps in prime areas, which may be up to 100 miles from the nearest Inuit community. This hunt could be considered ‘the toughest hunt left in North America’ and likely in the world. Mentally, physically and environmentally you will be challenged to your limits. 10 to 14 days living on the ‘Top of the World’ with nothing between you and the elements than what your are wearing. Your accommodation is a light 12 oz canvas tent. This can only be described as tough.

“ Still the majority of our hunters succeed in having the opportunity to take a trophy home. With 10 tags of Importable bears available to us in 2002, six of our hunters took bears and two others passed up on ones they saw. We consider this an 80% success rate on importable bears. We sent two hunters after non-importable bears and both were successful, one of the bears measured nine foot eight inches!



Adventure Northwest

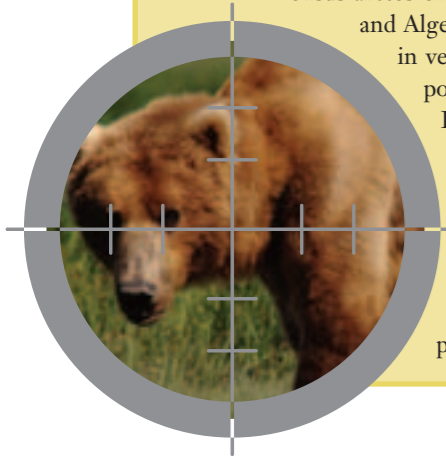
“Trophy fee for a polar bear is \$750.00. This fee must be paid in Canadian currency at the wildlife office in the community. Adventure Northwest highly encourages hunters to buy trip cancellation insurance. If the hunter does not know where to purchase this we can assist in obtaining it.”

### Species under threat: Brown Bear/Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

Grizzly or brown bears are large predators and can stretch a huge 2.5 metres tall when standing upright on their hind legs. Males usually weigh more than 300kg while females average just over 200kg. Despite their size, brown bears are extremely agile and are fast runners. They have human-level hearing, an excellent sense of smell but relatively poor eyesight. Their fur colour ranges from a dark cream to almost black in some individuals and they have long, sharp claws which are about the same length as a human finger.

*Ursus arctos* once ranged throughout northern and central Europe, Asia, the Atlas Mountains of Morocco and Algeria, and western North America as far south as Mexico. They are now found in Eurasia and in very small numbers from Western Europe to eastern Siberia and the Himalayan region. It is possible that there are also small populations in the Atlas Mountains of northwest Africa and Hokkaido. Populations in western Canada and Alaska are relatively stable, although there are only thought to be 800–1020 brown bears surviving in the lower 48 states.

Brown bears have been persecuted by hunters for many years and are classed under CITES Appendix I, II and III. The status of the brown bear depends on the population in question. Certain populations are higher in number and are therefore not necessarily classed as endangered – they will generally be classified as either Appendix II or Appendix III. Other populations are lower in number and will be classed under Appendix I.



The League has established that the trophy hunting industry is expanding internationally, with increasing numbers of specialist travel outfits springing up to cater for an increasing army of trophy hunters, particularly from the US and European Union. Many are operating over the Internet, enabling clients from across the globe to book hunting packages in minutes simply with a click of the mouse and a credit card.

In parts of South Africa, trophy hunting now represents almost 70% of the annual revenue brought in from foreign tourism. In the Limpopo region, regarded as one of the world's trophy hunting centres, over 1800 registered commercial game hunting establishments are now operating, with professional hunting associations estimating that a similar number are operating unofficially. (29)



Rodney Wilson Jr



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In 2002, more than 2,060 foreign trophy hunters from 42 countries visited the region and killed more than 14,000 animals. In the Eastern Cape region, 9,780 animals were registered as being killed in the same period. In the whole of South Africa, 34,000 animals were slaughtered in the 12-month period. (30)

It is believed that the industry in Limpopo now employs as many as 2,050 people as professional hunters, outfitters and trackers (31). Many have switched from cattle ranching to game ranching, the latter, according to hunting associations, proving far more profitable.

Figures obtained by the League further illustrate the growing popularity of trophy hunting in Africa, the US and Canada amongst hunters from the European Union. Between 1996 and 2002, Europeans hunters imported the trophies of over 6,500 North American black bears, 3,812 African elephants, 2,623 leopards, 2,119 grizzly bears, 2,008 baboons, 1,676 lions, 539 cheetahs and 361 polar bears. (32)

British trophy hunters accounted for 40 African elephants, 32 leopards, 26 American black bears, 18 polar bears, 16 cougars, 10 grizzly bears, 7 cheetahs, 6 lions and 6 hippopotami in the same period. These figures are based on data compiled from analysis of a system of permits required to import trophy parts from animals listed under CITES. (33)

Trophy hunters maintain that their pastime is sustainable and humane and claim that it poses no threat to endangered species. They say that the activity benefits the local communities in which they operate, providing revenue, jobs and protection to wildlife from poaching. Evidence is emerging, however, from several regions, including Africa and Canada, where sport hunting takes place, which questions the credibility of such claims.



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- References: 24. [www.articdiscovery.com](http://www.articdiscovery.com)  
25. Transcript of conversation between League investigator and company salesman, November 2003  
26. Transcript of conversation between League investigator and company salesman, November 2003  
27. Transcript of conversation between League investigator and company salesman, November 2003  
27a. CITES species database, [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org) November 2003  
28. CITES species database, [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org) November 2003  
29. *Business Day (South Africa)* 30th June 2003  
30. *Business Day (South Africa)* 30th June 2003  
31. Private correspondence  
32. Figures compiled by UK CITES division, October 2003  
33. Figures compiled by UK CITES division, October 2003

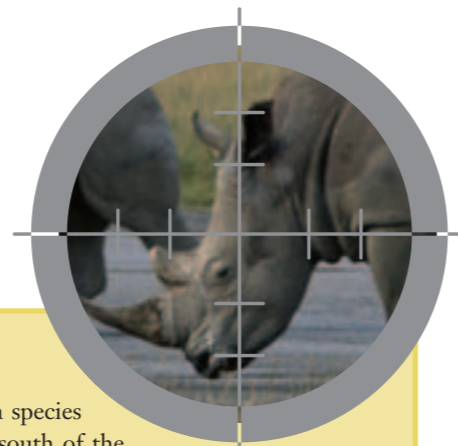


Most recently, research carried out by the Oxford University Wildlife Conservation Unit in Zimbabwe has revealed that the sport hunting of lions is having a potentially irreversible impact on the region's lion population. The research, carried out in the Hwange National Park region, acknowledges the growing popularity of trophy hunting but suggests that the socio-ecology of lions makes the species susceptible to exploitation by trophy hunters:

“Because large trophy males are especially sought after by sport hunters, commercial hunting is a selective force with impact on social behaviour and demographics. In a natural situation mature male lions compete for groups of females, the fittest males dominate, passing on their genes. (34)

“If excessive cropping of these mature males occurs, younger less experienced males, or males that do not normally have access to females, may be able to take over prides. Without the effect of natural selection a situation where sub-optimal genes are incorporated into the population might occur. (35)

“Although lion populations can recover rapidly from one-off harvest, continuous removal of excessive numbers of males may affect lion ecology and social behaviour and threaten populations.” (36)



### Species under threat: Rhinoceros

There are five species of rhinoceros — two African and three Asian. The African species are the white and black rhinos. Both species have two horns and live in Africa, south of the Sahara. Asian rhinos are the Indian and the Javan, each with one horn, and the Sumatran, with two horns. These live in south central Asia. The white rhino is the second largest land mammal next to the elephant. The five species range in weight from 340 to 3630kg and stand anywhere from 1.4 to 1.9 metres tall.

A combination of habitat loss and hunting has reduced rhino numbers significantly in the past 30 years from around 500,000 to less than 18,000. This has left all species of rhino extremely endangered. Humans have hunted rhinos extensively because nearly all parts of the animal have been used in folk medicine. The most prized part of the rhino is its horn, which has been used as an aphrodisiac, fever-reducing drug, dagger handle, and as a potion for detecting poison. Rhinos rank among the most endangered species in the world. Below are estimated numbers of each species of rhino left with their CITES category.

Black Rhino ( <i>Diceros bicornis</i> ): - 3,100	CITES Appendix I and II
White Rhino ( <i>Ceratotherium simum</i> ): - 11,700	CITES Appendix I and II
Sumatran Rhino ( <i>Dicerorhinus sumatrensis</i> ): - 300	CITES Appendix I
Javan Rhino ( <i>Rhinoceros sondaicus</i> ): - 60	CITES Appendix I
Indian Rhino ( <i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i> ): - 2,400	CITES Appendix I

The researchers acknowledge that trophy hunters bring in revenue to the region but suggest that revenue can also be generated by ‘alternative uses of wildlife’ including photographic tourism. Such activities, the researchers suggest, “can contribute substantially to the economy and have the benefit of sustainability.” (37)

The researchers point out that although the survey centred on the Hwange region of Zimbabwe, the findings can be applied to other, geographically and socio-economically similar, regions in South Africa.

On the other side of the Atlantic, in Canada, scientific research has recently increased pressure on the Canadian authorities to suspend the trophy hunting of grizzly bears in British Columbia and led to an unprecedented EU ultimatum threatening to outlaw all imports of grizzly hunting trophies unless specific grizzly protection measures are put in place.

Earlier this year all 15-member states – including Britain – of the EU Committee on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora agreed that European hunters would be forbidden to import grizzly trophies from December this year unless they receive 'credible evidence of progress' by the BC Government in protecting the species (38). The move followed intense lobbying by environmental pressure groups citing scientific research that suggests that the grizzly bear hunt is unsustainable.

According to biologists, Canada's total grizzly population is less than 25,000, with some estimates suggesting there could be as few as 5,000 bears left in BC. Grizzlies are the slowest reproducing land mammal in North America, with females producing young every two to four years, many of which die before reaching breeding age of six to seven. Scientists – including those on the BC Government’s own advisory panel – argue that this means the species is slow to recover from depletion and thus acutely vulnerable to over-hunting. (39)

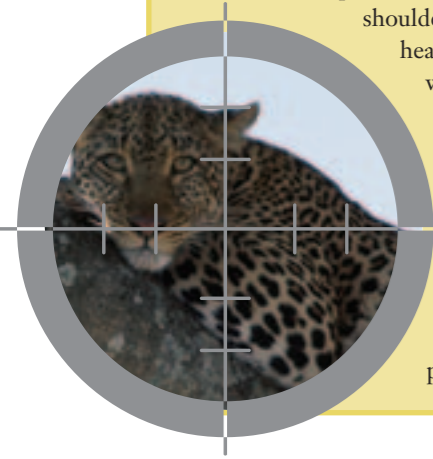
Research such as this depletes the integrity of trophy hunters’ arguments and provides compelling enough reason why the practice should be immediately banned where endangered, threatened or vulnerable species are concerned. However, the League Against Cruel Sports believes that the shooting of wild animals by amateur sports shooters poses welfare as well as conservation concerns.

References: 34. [www.wildcru.org/bwangelions](http://www.wildcru.org/bwangelions)  
 35. [www.wildcru.org/bwangelions](http://www.wildcru.org/bwangelions)  
 36. [www.wildcru.org/bwangelions](http://www.wildcru.org/bwangelions)  
 37. [www.wildcru.org/bwangelions](http://www.wildcru.org/bwangelions)  
 38. Red Pepper; [www.redpepper.org.uk](http://www.redpepper.org.uk) June 2003  
 39. Red Pepper; [www.redpepper.org.uk](http://www.redpepper.org.uk) June 2003

## Species under threat: Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

Leopards are medium-sized cats found in a range of colours from pale yellow to grey to chestnut. A leopard's shoulders, upper arms, back and haunches are marked with dark spots in a rosette pattern, while the head, chest and throat are marked with small black spots. Large black spots cover the leopard's white belly. Black, or melanistic, leopards are common, especially in dense forests as this colour acts as a camouflage. At one time, leopards were found ranging from the British Isles to Japan and through most of Asia.

Today, they are still found in some parts of Africa and Asia. They are rare in Asia and in western and northern Africa but more common in eastern and central Africa. The expected lifespan of the leopard in the wild ranges anywhere from seven to 20 years. Leopards are classed as endangered by the IUCN and are listed under CITES Appendix I due to their low population numbers. Habitat destruction and trophy and fur hunting have contributed to pushing this species in to this category.



Evidence suggests that amateurs (as most trophy hunters are) are less able to shoot accurately than professionals and therefore more likely to wound in a way that will cause unnecessary suffering to the animals concerned. This seemingly obvious theory appears corroborated by scientific evidence.

In the paper 'Survey of permanent wound tracts in the carcasses of culled wild red deer in Scotland', Urquhart and McCendrick, published in the April 19, 2003 edition of *The Veterinary Record*, analyse this issue. Counting the wounds on shot deer, they found that 17.9% of adult male carcasses had been shot more than once compared to 10.2% of female and juvenile carcasses. The paper suggests that a "contributory factor may be that the adult males are predominantly culled by sporting tenants or by the landowners and their guests whereas most of the females and calves are culled by full-time, professional stalkers." The paper quotes sources to justify its analysis of the differing methods of culling for each group. (40)

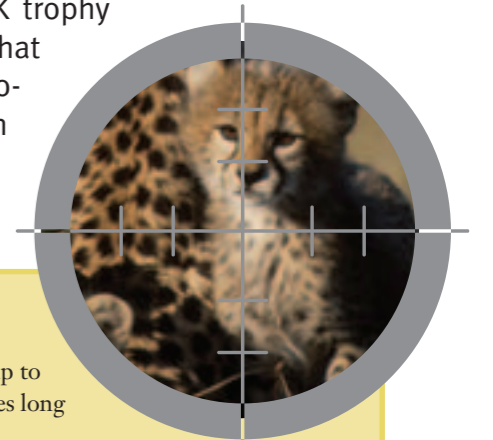
In the context of trophy shooting abroad, it can therefore be concluded that amateur shooters are less likely to kill their targets with a clean shot, and more likely to wound and thus cause unnecessary suffering to the animal concerned.

Such scientific research, combined with the clear common sense notion that hunting the world's most threatened species for sport is unsustainable, provide those campaigning against trophy hunting with powerful ammunition.

References: 40. *Survey of permanent wound tracts in the carcasses of culled wild red deer in Scotland*, Urquhart and McCendrick, April 19, 2003 edition of *The Veterinary Record*

It is with such ammunition that Robert Evans MEP, Vice President of the League Against Cruel Sports and Chair of the European Parliament Cross Party Animal Welfare Group, will be calling on the EU Commissioner for the Environment, Margot Wallström, to look at ways of tackling the growing trade in trophy parts within European boundaries.

This investigation is only the beginning. It has provided an overview of the issue internationally but concentrated predominantly on examining the UK trophy hunting market. This report should act as the foundation for what will evolve into a sustained international campaign to target trophy hunting; in the shorter term, stamping out the vile trade in trophy parts within the EU, in the longer term, putting an end to the whole bloody business.



## Species under threat: Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)

The cheetah is the fastest terrestrial mammal on earth and is able to reach speeds of up to 114km per hour. The cheetah is smaller than other big cats, measuring 1.1 to 1.3 metres long with a tail length of 66 to 84 centimetres. Cheetahs usually weigh 50 to 63kg.

Once found throughout Africa and Asia, cheetahs are now confined to parts of eastern and southwestern Africa and found in open and partially open savannas. Population estimates are somewhere between 2,000 and 15,000 and lifespan ranges between seven and 14 years in the wild. Cheetahs have been hunted for many years for their fur and other trophies and for the pet trade and as such, are listed under CITES Appendix I and classed as vulnerable by the IUCN.

SUGGESTED WORDING:

### What you can do

1. E-mail the UK companies (web addresses are detailed in the report) who organise trophy hunting and politely explain why you are disgusted with their activities and will be encouraging as many people as possible to boycott their services.
2. Contact the EU Environment Commissioner, Margot Wallström and demand EU action to stop the importation of trophy parts.

Or e-mail her via our website [www.bloodybusiness.com](http://www.bloodybusiness.com)

3. Remember to e-mail the League Against Cruel Sports with any responses you receive as a result of the actions detailed above: [trophyhunting@league.uk.com](mailto:trophyhunting@league.uk.com)
4. Support the League Against Cruel Sports campaign by sending us a donation to enable us to continue to investigate and expose the international trophy hunting industry. You can donate on-line at [www.bloodybusiness.com](http://www.bloodybusiness.com) or by sending a cheque to 83-87 Union Street, London SE1 1SG.

**Margot Wallström**  
Commissioner for the Environment  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Dear Ms Wallström,

I am appalled to learn from the League Against Cruel Sports that tens of thousands of endangered animals have been shot by European hunters and imported into the EU in the past five years. This retail slaughter of hundreds of animals includes 2,623 highly at risk leopards, more than 9,000 bears, nearly 4,000 elephants and thousands of zebras, lions and hippopotami – all imported as 'trophy parts', all listed by the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as endangered or threatened. I urge you to put forward legislation to ban the importation of any CITES-listed species into the EU and request that you contact me to inform me what steps are required to initiate such a ban.

Yours sincerely,



J Balog



Photo © Andy Hollingworth

**“Trophy hunting is an abomination, an obscene anachronism that is unjustifiable and intolerable.”**

**- Alexei Sayle, patron of [www.bloodybusiness.com](http://www.bloodybusiness.com)**