



Campion School MUN

2018

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## Forensics Junior Group Discussion

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### COMBATING TROPHY HUNTING

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**International  
Community**

**Memorable  
Experience**

**Challenges  
Skills**



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# PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Esteemed delegates,

My name is Fragkiski Fragkiskatou and I have the honour to serve as a co-chair of the Forensics Group Discussion Committee of the 5th CSMUN conference. This will be my 5th MUN Conference. In October I will be a sophomore (Year 11) student of Rizareios Parochial High School.

MUN is a really engrossing activity that I find enthralling and I hope that all the newcomers will feel the same way after this conference. It will be my first time serving as a chair and I am beyond excited to work with all of you. I believe our collaboration and mutual interest on the topics will create an unforgettable experience for all of us.

This study guide will provide you with all the information needed to give you an insight into the topic of "Combating trophy hunting". However, I find it a matter of paramount importance to do your own research, regarding your country's policy.

For any other questions on the topic or the committee work don't hesitate to contact me via email at [Phrap38@gmail.com](mailto:Phrap38@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

**Fragkiski Fragkiskatou**



# INTRODUCTION

Trophy Hunting is considered a hobby for a great number of people since some find it exciting to keep as a trophy a whole or some parts of animals they have hunted and killed. Usually they display a taxidermic trophy to gloat over the success of the hunt. Mainly impressive and rare species are the sought-after game, especially those with large teeth, horns or distinctive fur. Most of the times only parts of the animals are kept, and the carcasses are used as food but there are also times the whole game is embalmed.

Usually trophies are displayed in special rooms called trophy or game rooms while there are also the so-called gun rooms where the weapons are kept. We also can find game trophies at the hunter's house or office.

Trophy Hunting is a very controversial issue, since the question of the morality of this action is posed and the biodiversity in a lot of these areas is in danger. A lot of actions have been taken in order to change this situation, but this issue has not been addressed effectively.

But while hunting the so-called big five in Africa and the other hunted animals, for instance bears, crocodiles, alligators, deer and foxes, as trophies, more and more the financial implications of this issue come to the forefront. This "sport" has strong opponents, especially when the hunted animal is not a mere animal but a beloved symbol as in the example of Cecil the Lion.

At this point it is important to highlight the difference between hunting, so as to secure some barter for sustenance and trophy hunting which is a recreational activity. One cannot deny the crucial role hunting played in human evolution, but trophy hunting is a highly questionable activity on moral and ethical grounds. Nevertheless, there are many arguments in favor of it being a necessary evil.



## DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

- **Combat**

to try to stop something unpleasant or harmful from happening or increasing<sup>1</sup>

- **Game**

wild animals and birds that are hunted for food or sport<sup>2</sup>

- **Trophy**

something used as a symbol of success from hunting or war<sup>3</sup>

- **Trophy Hunting**

the activity of hunting and killing animals in order to display part or all of their bodies as trophies<sup>4</sup>

- **Poaching**

Any to catch and kill animals without permission on someone else's land<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/combat#dataset-american-english>

<sup>2</sup> <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/game>

<sup>3</sup> <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/trophy>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/trophy-hunting>

<sup>5</sup> <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/poach?q=poaching>



- **Wildlife**

animals and plants that grow independently of people, usually in natural conditions<sup>6</sup>

- **Biodiversity**

the number and types of plants and animals that exist in a particular area or in the world generally, or the problem of protecting this<sup>7</sup>

- **CITES**

(also known as the Washington Convention) is an international agreement that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The CITES Secretariat is administered by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)<sup>8</sup>

- **Free range**

relating to or produced by farm animals that are allowed to move around outside and are not kept in cages<sup>9</sup>

- **Big-five game**

Lions, leopards, rhinoceros (black and white), elephants and Cape buffalo. These animals are characterized so from the big game hunters in Africa. They are sometimes simply called "The Big Five".<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wildlife>

<sup>7</sup> <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/biodiversity>

<sup>8</sup> <http://ask.un.org/faq/88717>

<sup>9</sup> <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/free-range>

<sup>10</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big\\_five\\_game](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_five_game)



## TIMELINE

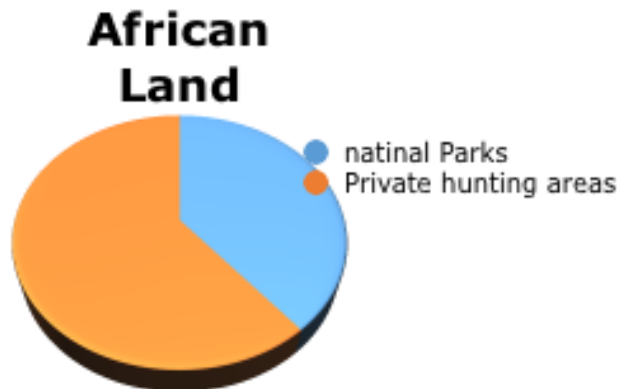
Date	Description of Event
1887	Creation of Boone and Crockett Club
1934	Creation of East African Professional Hunters' Association
1973	Creation of CITES
1977	Kenya banned trophy hunting outright
2008-2011	United States of America gained \$75 million from trophies fees
2010	Creation of International Consortium on Combating Wildlife crime
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="305 972 1081 1003">• New York Times determines lions as endangered species</li><li data-bbox="305 1014 1101 1045">• EU Parliament adopts a resolution against Trophy Hunting</li></ul>
2018	President Trump establishes the IWCC

## TOPIC DISCUSSION

Hunting is usually characterized as a sport, a recreational activity which however is coming more and more under heavy criticism in More Economically Developed States (MEDCs). That is because sports have rules and a referee that ensures that “fair play” stipulations are observed while in hunting the prey is at an overwhelming disadvantage and sometimes not even basic ethical rules are followed.

A counterargument used by a great number of hunting associations is that when they kill free-range animals and they obey the relevant laws their act isn't illegal. Thus, hunting to their mind is not wrong and they consider it a “fair chase”. However, very often we see such groups supporting the use of weapons against animals that no animal can survive from.

According to a recent study trophy hunting is the larger source of income in Africa (in US\$ 200 million.). Research has shown that private hunting areas control 22% more land than the national parks. As a result, working with hunters has proved more economically effective.



*Wilmington Delaware hunts since he was 12 years old and believes that he is a conservationist and collector.*



A man shot his rhino with a tranquilizer dart in 2010 in South Africa and he blindfolded its eyes in order to keep them moisturized. So, he had the thrill of hunting but without actually killing any animal.

While hunting a single elephant for 14 days, the rate goes up to \$80,000. In Nyae Nyae, a Conservation Park in northeast Namibia, the hunt limit of five elephants per year has made a difference. Parts of the



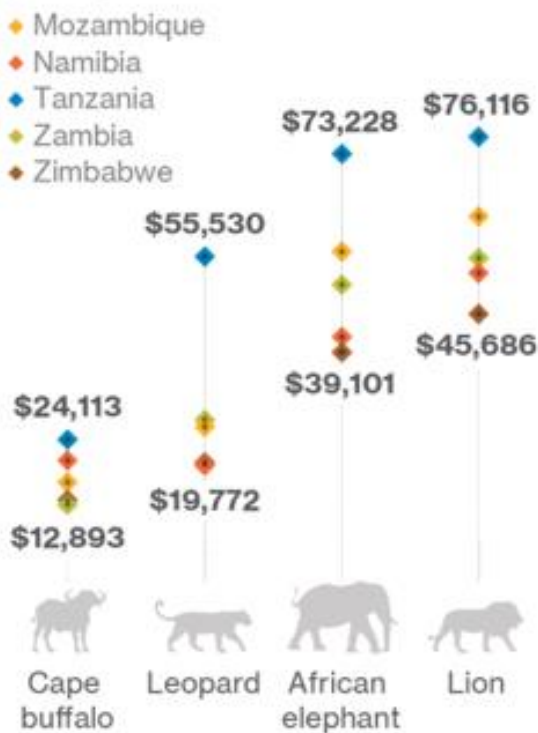


fees are paid to community members and fund conservation projects. As for the elephant trophies, the client takes the trucks and the meat is distributed to the members of the nearest community. Some hunters claim that by this way (giving portions of the money gained by trophy hunting to conservation projects) they actually save the rest population of this species.

Trophy hunting has generated a lot of revenue for a number of corrupted African governments (1.000.000.000\$ per year). In some North African countries trophy hunting is allowed with great transparency and strict quotas regarding the number for each species that can be killed annually. For instance, in South Africa hunting leopards is considered illegal. Kenya has banned trophy hunting outright since 1977.

Although the issue remains complicated with some animal populations flourishing in trophy hunting private areas, biologists claim that hunting big games including elephants is really dangerous. Furthermore, the high demand for all trophies especially in Asia has led to extensive poaching.

Minimum price for trophy hunting packages in 2011 (in U.S. dollars)



In 2013 New York Times included lions in the endangered species category and made it even more difficult for Americans to hunt them. For instance, Alexander Songorwa stated that in a 21days safari, the local government was paid large fees (\$10.000) and as a result gained \$75 million from 2008 to 2011.

In Nyae Nyae, a Conservation Park in northeast Namibia, in 2016 a German hunter shot a kudu (Tragelaphus imberbis, of eastern Africa) and later on he killed an old bull elephant claiming that by this way he does not harm the species and that's something that comes in contrast to what Joycy Poole, an eminent biologist who has founded an NGO to save elephants, supports that the older elephants are role models for the younger ones and thus younger elephants lack positive role models to emulate.

A further argument advocate of trophy hunting use is that hunters have funded the construction of a lot of facilities, for example schools, health clinics and water wells, in Africa. According to the United Nations World Tourism

Organization (UNWTO) about 35, 5 million tourists have visited the sub-Saharan countries and spent more than \$24.5 billion.

It is worth noting some praiseworthy conservation efforts on the part of hunting enthusiasts. Teddy Roosevelt set up the Boone and Crockett Club in 1887, which is group of American hunters who were concerned about their country's wildlife and they helped a lot in establishing the US National Park System.

Similarly, a group of white hunters founded the East African Professional Hunters' Association at the Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya in 1934. They had a special honor code and laws, among them not



shooting female animals. In this group they not only worked to conserve the species but also to advocate game quotas hunted.

Except for the Big Five that are threatened by trophy hunting, crocodiles in Africa, alligators in America, foxes and bears in Russia and the rest Slavic countries and of course panda bears in China are also imperiled animals.



A lot of hunters state that “if it pays it stays”. This phrase can be interpreted to describe how money has changed the way people, even in rural areas, think. It is a usual phenomenon to see animals destroying crops, property or attacking humans. In retaliation, villagers shoot or poison such animals without thinking if it is morally correct.

In Africa, not all the countries have the same policies pertaining to trophy hunting. While Namibia leaves it to the local governments/councils, Tanzania owns and leases the hunting areas. Unfortunately, it is also common practice all over the continent when funds are needed the hunting quotas to change regardless the animals’ population numbers with grave results in many areas. That’s why 40% of Tanzania’s hunting regions lost all of their animals the last decades.

A lot of trophy hunters claim that it is unfair to blame them. They just do their sport. They do not set the fees or the quotas. Some others state that they help the conservation of the environment as they contribute to the population control of overpopulated species.

For instance, Kevin Reid owns a big-game farm in Texas and he collects endangered African animals, not only for the sport but also to return those animals to their natural habitat when the “overhunting problem” in Africa comes to an end.



## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Admittedly trophy hunting constitutes a highly complex issue with far reaching implications and thus it is not surprising that past efforts have not been as fruitful as one would hope. At this point it is worth pointing out that any proposed solution should also address the root causes of the phenomenon as well as the conditions that make this disturbing phenomenon persist. In other words, no solution would be comprehensive enough if it does not address the need to raise public awareness, the need to tackle corruption and greed. If the public grasped the extend of the problem and its long-term repercussions it would have the incentive to spring to action. There are still a lot of people that do not even know that trophy hunting exists today. Public awareness campaigns could make a difference.

Another step that could be taken is for the states that face this phenomenon, mostly African countries, is to implement changes in their legislation banning trophy hunting or heavily regulate it. Thus, any illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products coming from these animals would be considered illegal and heavily penalized. A zero-tolerance policy regarding trophy hunting in MEDCs would cease demand and thus supply.

Moreover, Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) that consider trophy hunting a revenue source ought to diversify their economy, search for alternatives consistent with sustainable economic growth and assume responsibility of the detrimental effect trophy hunting has on their societies and economies. In that milieu, international organizations, NGOs and regional organizations can lend their expertise and resources so as those countries to implement the necessary legislative and regulatory changes. Furthermore, tangible assistance in the form of expert personnel that could train local game keepers for example would show local communities that conservationists and opponents of trophy hunting are not aiming at leading them to economic annihilation but are allies in their effort to sustainable economic growth.

Additionally, you could suggest the penalization for the wildlife trafficking. Organized crime groups, especially those with smuggling capabilities, find it attractive, because of the lack of law enforcement capacity and implementation and because of high profits and weak penalties.

It is really important to address the issue through the introduction of an international legal framework that would ban or greatly limit the trophy hunting.

Lastly, I want you all to do your own research and brainstorm in order to find new, effective and enduring solutions.



# MAJOR COUNTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

## Organizations

### International Wildlife Conservation Council (IWCC)

The IWCC agenda is prejudiced. They strive to “raise public awareness” about trophy hunting, ensure that the national programs maintain hunting, help US citizens import animal trophies, change the relevant legislation about trophy hunting in contrast to both the Endangered Species Act and the CITES. Something even more shocking for this committee is that all the sixteen members support all types of hunting, even against endangered species. This committee may be brand new but the one thing it emerges is that it will be catastrophic for a wide range of endangered species. Last but not least its philosophy is against all principles of sportsmanship, environment conservation and American values.

### World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Generally, WWF disapproves any actions that may harm animal species or their natural habitat. But in some special cases (only when conservation AND community benefits are expressed) WWF believes that trophy hunting can be proven effective for the conservation of the particular species. It condones it, under very specific and strict restrictions as a necessary evil.

### Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

WCS doesn't oppose trophy hunting unless it may harm the species or their natural habitat. The WCS cooperates with local agencies and tries to keep track of the killed animals in order for animal populations to remain sustainable.

### Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is a multinational agreement that strives to ensure that the worldwide trade on any wild flora or fauna species will not pose a grave threat to their existence. The CITES Secretariat has been appointed by the UN Environment Program (UNEP) to monitor the situation and to devise effective action plans. In that milieu, the past few years they have tried to eliminate trophy hunting with many resolutions and conferences while they still persevere with their efforts.

## Countries



## Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, especially in the Matetsi Safari Area, trophy hunting has gone out of control. The animals' population rates are decreasing in an alarming rate and this phenomenon harms the biodiversity in the region. With such a problem everyone would expect the government to ban trophy hunting. Instead they prefer to just make some minor changes in the annually quota settings. After the virtual collapse of the state the problem has been exacerbated in the National Parks and other conservation areas. The same condition exists in the rest African countries as well.

## Russia

In Russia big game hunters can find a wide range of wildlife in their natural habitat. Depending on the season there are multiple types of hunting. This has become an “industry” of truism for Russia since it attracts a lot of visitors. The most common types of hunting are the Brown Bear Hunting, Wolf Hunting, Red Deer Hunting and Wild Boar Hunting. The example of multiple photos of the head of the Russian Federation Mr. Putin proudly posing next to killed game he has hunted himself illustrates the persisting view of trophy hunting as a sign of machismo.

## United States America (USA)

In November 2018 President Trump announced that elephant and lion trophies are now allowed to be imported in the States from Zambia and Zimbabwe. The same week he decided to create a special committee the IWCC so as to help him boost international trophy hunting. As a result, now instead of hunting in a nation-by-nation basis people start hunting in a case-by-case basis which actually is more dangerous for the hunted animals. After a while President Trump tweeted that he is planning to reverse this decision, but he would be “very hard pressed to change my mind that this horror show in any way helps conservation of elephants or any other animal.”





## UN INVOLVEMENT: Relevant Resolutions & Treaties

### Previous attempts to solve the issue Attempts made by the United Nations

The United Nations have taken significant actions to tackle this phenomenon. Mostly the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) has taken steps to fight this situation but the GA (General Assembly) has also contributed a lot.

More specifically, in 2010, the UNODC and 4 other international bodies formed an International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime to collaborate with experts in order to combat similar cases. The other organizations are the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (of Wild Fauna and Flora) (CITES) Secretariat, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

The UN GA has voted two important resolutions. The 69/314, “Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife” - , adopted 30 July 2015 and the 68/205, “World Wildlife Day” - adopted 20 December 2013.

Moreover during the 68th and 69th sessions of the General Assembly, Gabon and Germany collaborated and organized two side events, namely: “Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking” ,on 26 September 2014, with its main theme being: Towards Joint Action by the International Community (A/69/430) while the other one on 26 September 2013 had as its main theme Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking with A Multidimensional Crime and a Growing Challenge to the International Community (A/68/553) . In addition, a high-level side event was held at the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015 (A/CONF.222/17).

Several UN programs and offices have focused on the problem of wildlife poaching and trafficking including the UN Development Programme (UNDP): Combating Poaching and Wildlife Trafficking, the UN Environment Programme, including the (UNEP) and the UN Environment Assembly and the (UNEA) Illegal Trade in Wildlife with its first session held from 23 to 27 June 2014 (A/69/25) and a Ministerial dialogue on Illegal Trade in Wildlife on 26 June 2014 and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): Wildlife and Forest Crime.

### Attempts made by other organizations or countries

CITES has submitted two resolutions aiming to putting a stop to illegal slaughtering of animal. In the Conference 10.10 they voted for the Rev.CoP17 with title “Trade in elephant specimens” which suggested measures that would curb the illegal killing of elephants. The other one voted in the Conference 13.5, Rev.CoP14, named “Establishment of export quotas for black rhinoceros hunting trophies” in tandem with the Rev. CoP13 from the Conf. 9.21 suggested how to reduce the hunting of the black rhinoceros.

The EU has taken action on this issue especially with the resolution of the EU Parliament in 2013 on the wildlife crime advocating the cooperation and co-ordination of joint efforts of the EU Council, the Commission, the CITES secretariat, Interpol, Europol, UNODC, the World Bank and the World Customs Organizations and it proposed multilateral efforts and actions within the EU to be taken. As a result, in Nyae Nyae there has been a limitation of five elephants per year for trophy hunting.



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