BENEFITS OF LEGAL INTERNATIONAL HUNTING TO CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE IN ZAMBIA

INTRODUCTION

Zambia recognizes the benefits of both consumptive and non-consumptive tourism to natural resources management and the potential that both can contribute to the national economy. The national policy therefore is to develop consumptive tourism (hunting) in Game management areas and non-consumptive tourism in National Parks. The approach is that tourism is to be facilitated and regulated by government but driven by the private sector

The strategy of government therefore, is to develop an environment that attracts investment and ensures that the environment is conducive for the private sector to thrive in their business but in a sustainable manner. The principal focus is to improve livelihoods of rural communities by ensuring participation in conservation and benefit sharing. The public and local communities are at the core of governments efforts to develop sustainable tourism

In GMAs, natural resources are managed in conjunction with local communities who are organized through Community Resources Boards (CRBs). Community Resources Boards are legally recognized entities under the Wildlife Act No. 14, of 2015 and constitute a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer who are elected from the community. The Chief of the area is the Patron. The CRBs have sub-committees, which oversee different aspects of the community in relation to management of natural resources and management of benefits accruing from them.

Benefits accrued from hunting of wildlife in their area is shared as explained above and from the community share, the CRB is expected to employ youths in the area as community scouts for enforcement of wildlife protection. Remuneration for these scouts is handled from the hunting share.

The principle is that communities that protect and manage resources well will have more animals and in turn will raise more revenue that goes to improve their livelihood. It is expected and hoped that communities will link the conservation of wildlife to the improved livelihood and its sustenance thereof. Conversely, communities that do not conserve their resources well will have few animals and earn little from wildlife. In this way, conservation of wildlife becomes the driver for the local economies. Therefore, conservation of wildlife and related natural resources is expected to be self-driven.

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This paper highlights the benefits of international hunting to conservation of wildlife in Zambia.

HUNTING CONCESSIONS

In Zambia, there are 42 hunting areas classified as:

- Prime hunting areas
- Secondary hunting areas
- Understocked areas
- Depleted areas

This classification is based on species diversity and abundance. No hunting takes place in understocked and depleted areas. They are however available to be allocated to the private sector on long leases of more than 25 years term.

Prime Hunting areas

These are areas that have diverse and abundant animal species where lion, Leopard, Buffalo, Roan, Sable and sometimes elephant can be hunted .

Secondary hunting areas

Are those where almost all the species found in Prime areas are found but in less numbers and hunting therefore, is with much effort.

ALLOCATION OF HUNTING AREAS TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Hunting areas are allocated to outfitters through concession Agreements which are legal documents involving government, local communities and the Outfitter. This tripartite arrangement runs for the number of years of the Agreement and is responsible for the management of the hunting area (Hunting Block)

The Agreement specifies the roles and responsibilities of each party. The Outfitter usually drives the process of ensuring that the area is well protected and animals are secured for sport hunting.

Community Obligations

- Engage youths as community Scouts for the protection and management of wildlife in the Hunting Block
- Community members are expected to be vigilant about the protection of the hunting block and live according to the guidelines provided in the General Management Plan (GMP) of the GMA/hunting block.
- Cooperate and support the outfitter in protecting the hunting area

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Hunting Outfitter Obligations

- Support government and local communities in the enforcement of the Law
- Fulfill community pledges
- Market the hunting block and the country internationally and organize hunts with clients.
- Support government and local community in the management of habitats
- Engage at least 80% of its required labour from the local community in the GMA
- Distribute to local community members in the GMA at least 50% of the edible meat
- Work with communities and government to set quotas for the next hunting season

Government Obligations

- Protect wildlife in the GMA
- Provide rules and regulations that will make business operations run smoothly
- Provide infrastructure, roads, camps etc that will make it easy for operations in protecting the hunting block and conducting hunting
- Develop wildlife management Plans and programmes that will ensure that the operations of the hunting block are conducted smoothly
- Facilitate the export of trophies through the established International regulations
- Send Regular government scouts to lead anti-poaching patrols
- Facilitate the clearance of fire arms to be used for hunting in the coming hunting season
- Provide animal quotas promptly for hunting operations not to be affected
- Conduct research in the GMA and provide information to the operator for more informed operations

THE MARKET SHARE

The major countries that are involved with international Legal hunting in order of frequency and numbers are: USA, UK, Italy, Germany, Spain, Canada, and Portugal. The USA is by far the largest market. The most preferred animal species are Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Buffalo, Roan, Sable, Sitatunga and Hartebeest as draw card species.

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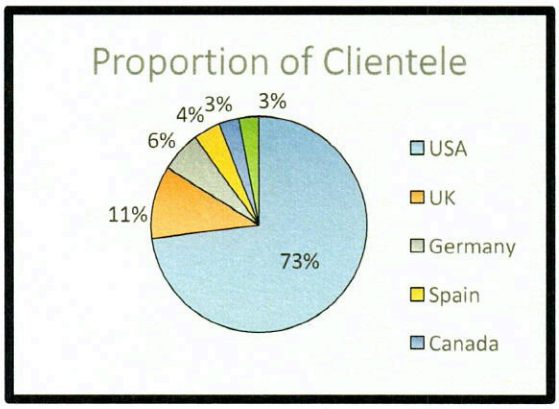
Origin of client	Proportion of Clientele
USA	73
UK	11
Germany	6
Spain	4
Canada	3
Others	3



SHARING OF REVENUE FROM HUNTING

In Zambia, community based conservation of natural resources dates back to the late 1980's during the ADMADE times when it was agreed with communities that 35% of the revenues generated from Wildlife would be given to communities; 65% would go to government through the Department of National Park and Wildlife Service.

These ratios were later revised in 2002 to 50:50 between communities and government. The community share (50%) would be split between the chief who is the Patron 5%, and (45%) treated as a whole (100%) is split as follows ;

- 20% for administration of the CRB;
- 45% for resource protection; and
- 35% for community development projects.

The share that goes to government (50%) is used for natural resource management in the wildlife estate as a whole. In effect adding the revenue that goes to government for natural resource management and the proportion of community contribution to natural resource protection, 70.25% of what is earned from international hunting goes into conservation of wildlife.

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TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE HUNTING:

Hunting in Zambia is practiced with a lot of caution knowing the consequences of consumption without replacement or recruitment for animal species. Four tools are utilized to ensure sustainability of consumptive use and these are:

1. Maximum sustainable yield

   Zambia follows the principle of maximum sustainable yield in determining its quotas (Which is the maximum number of animals that can be hunted without negatively affecting the viability of a population).

2. Cautious quotas; below the rate of increase
   - Quotas are set far below the growth rates of animal species. This means that even if hunting takes place, animal populations are not only safeguarded but also can continue to grow.
   - For some species like leopard, and elephant, quotas are prefixed according to agreements with CITES. Leopard is 300/year and elephant is 80 tusks/year. Considering the available populations and distribution, these quotas are far less than .01%
   - The annual quota for Lion is 24. Prime hunting areas can hunt up to a maximum of two lions per hunting season. Secondary areas can only hunt 1 lion per season.
   - Lion aging is used for controlling quotas.
3. Management guidelines
   - Management guidelines for lion and elephant; these regulate the hunting of the species.
   - Zambia is in the process of establishing management guidelines for leopard
4. Consistent research and monitoring
   - Animal quotas are based on established animal population estimates which are determined through ground and aerial surveys
   - There is constant use indices of the *trophy sizes, hunting effort* and *hunting success* as for monitoring animal populations. All the stakeholders are involved in monitoring the animal populations.

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BENEFITS OF LEGAL INTERNATIONAL HUNTING ON:

1. WILDLIFE
    a. Conservation is attained by patrols in most remote areas where non-consumptive would never take place in the next twenty years or more
    b. There is value placed on wildlife because of the earnings. This brings about more care for the animals and their habitats
    c. Retaliatory killings of animals like lions and Leopards are reduced to a minimum as communities learn to weigh the benefits. There is more tolerance for animals
    d. There is reduced poaching in wildlife areas
    e. Because whole ecosystems are conserved, there is increased wildlife species diversity due to immigration and also increased abundance of animals
2. HABITAT CONSERVATION
    a. Animal habitats are conserved; land conversion is minimized
    b. Fire is more controlled. Most times late fires are avoided. Communities usually learn to practice early burning for reasons of domestic animals and also avoiding destruction of habitats for the animals. In Zambia(Musalangu area, there is now a Community Based Fire Management Plan. The fire Plan was developed with full participation of community members and they are the ones implementing it
    c. Land clearing is avoided in planned wildlife areas. Land use plans are adhered to. Encroachment into designated wildlife areas is avoided by communities themselves.
    d. There is better conservation of habitats as there are more players in conservation: the private sector, communities, and government. Civil society have usually come to the aid government agencies for better results of conservation.
    e. Biodiversity is conserved and enhanced because whole ecosystems are conserved

3. LOCAL COMMUNITIES
    a. Local people benefit through employment in the sector; the private sector employs more than 80% of their workforce from the local communities; Community Resources Boards also employ

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Community scouts. More Employment is created as the local wildlife economy is diversified; community shops, curio trade, Tannery, etc.

b. Development is induced in communities, as the private sector and government engage into the needs of communities to facilitate conservation and enhancement of business. In some areas where government has failed to reach, communities have constructed roads, clinics, schools, and provided water for the common citizen.
c. Malnutrition is reduced as protein is provided; more than 50% of the meat of the edible hunted animals is distributed to local communities.
d. Income is generated for communities as the local wildlife economy is diversified through use of animal products.
e. Increased household income through increased employment opportunities, community developments, provision of protein, lead to improved livelihoods of local people
f. There is exchange of cultures and exposure to the outside world through exchange programmes. Like there are a lot of exchange programmes between Zambia and the neighboring countries in an effort to cross pollinate ideas concerning community involvement in conservation brought about by legal international hunting.
g. There is increased community participation in conservation; in planning, resource protection. The Wildlife Act No. 14 of 2015 empowers communities to declare part of their area (Open areas) into a new category of Protected Area: *Community Partnership Parks.* In this category of a PA, communities can harvest resources sustainably and still earn foreign exchange on their own without the involvement of government. This becomes like a training ground for devolution of authority to manage wildlife and other natural resources to communities.

4. WILDLIFE TRACFFICKING

a. Zambia is a member state of Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). This convention is particularly concerned about trade in species that are endangered (IUCN category of vulnerability of flora and fauna). Its primary focus is prevention of extinction of species through unregulated trade.
b. The international Trade in live and dead specimens has brought about

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i. collaboration of nations in combating illegal wildlife trade
ii. Awareness of illegal trade that could otherwise have been misunderstood and underestimated

c. International hunting has led to formation of the Lusaka Agreement which is principally meant to bring about cooperation among nations to combat illegal trade (Member states are; *Congo*, *Tanzania*, *Uganda* and *Kenya*)
d. Zambia has also collaborated with other Southern African States, which are not members of the Lusaka Agreement Task force to combat poaching and illegal trade thereof.
e. Countries have also become more vigilant about illicit trade. There is usually exchange of culprits who are involved in illegal trade of animal products among nationals
f. International Wildlife hunting has also led to the formation of organization such as TRAFFIC, which gathers information and alerts countries about the state of wildlife crimes.

5. ANTI-POACHING

a. Areas without International wildlife trade operations have more poaching than those with operations. These areas are being depleted continuously; examples are ; the West Lunga complex of Game Management Areas(GMAs), Tondwa, Kaputa, Upper West Zambezi, Upper Luano, Mumbwa East, Musalangu East. These areas require investment as soon as possible so that the negative trends can be reversed.
b. Legal international hunting benefits anti-poaching as 45% of the earned income from hunting by communities is used for resource protection and other forms of wildlife management. The 50% that goes to government also goes for resources management.
c. The Private sector have usually provided rations, fuel, and most times even vehicles for patrols in the hunting blocks where they operate. This has led to increased anti-poaching patrols in GMAs

The principle is therefore, that areas that produce more will receive even more resources for conservation and more benefits resulting in improving livelihoods for the local people. Therefore, with good controls International hunting can be sustainable and bring about effective conservation and lay a solid base for a sustainable local economy. Communities should be able to conserve their own resources and sustainably depend

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upon them. Wildlife can be a driver of the local economy when international hunting is well regulated.

CONCLUSION

It cannot be doubted that International legal hunting of wildlife has tremendous benefits to the conservation of natural resources conservation and ultimately enhances biodiversity. As has been mentioned before more than 70% of the revenue earned from international hunting in Zambia is used for conservation. The share that goes to communities goes a long way in building the conservation constituency; it persuades people to be tolerant to wildlife especially those that come into conflict with them. Without these benefits, wildlife in most areas would be exterminated. The success of hunting and the international clientele to be attracted to a country, certain species are critical; Cats, Elephant, and certain ungulates like Sable and Roan are key to its success. Central to the success of international hunting is the marketing of what is hunted. Closing up the market for animal species that come into conflict with humans does not lead to conserving them but speeds up their extermination.

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