



A Market Approach to Wildlife Conservation in Africa

THE HOME OF
FREE MARKET
ENVIRONMENTALISM

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Overview

- Habitat loss
- Changing economic and political environments present new challenges to conservation
- Chinese influence and lack of environmental concern
- The role of the United States
 - Conservation as an aspect of international diplomacy
 - The importance of hunting markets for conservation
- Room for improvement

Major Threat: Habitat Loss



The African Continent

- 54 countries
- 1.2 billion people
- Food insecurity
- Lack of electricity and clean water
- Very real threats to survival
- Need ways to make wildlife an asset and a part of development



A Changing Continent

- Rapid economic growth
- Agriculture, Infrastructure, Mining, and Energy
- Competition for land use
- How do we go from wildlife vs. development to wildlife as a part of development?



International Influence: China

- China is Africa's largest trade partner
- Investment in pipelines, rail lines, ports, and infrastructure to transport to and from China
- Lack of concern for environment
- Bad for wildlife and long-term growth



Koukoutamba Dam and Chimpanzees



How we do development matters for wildlife

United States Involvement

- Combine conservation and international development goals
- Prosper Africa strategy
- The role of hunting markets
- A market approach that makes wildlife a local asset

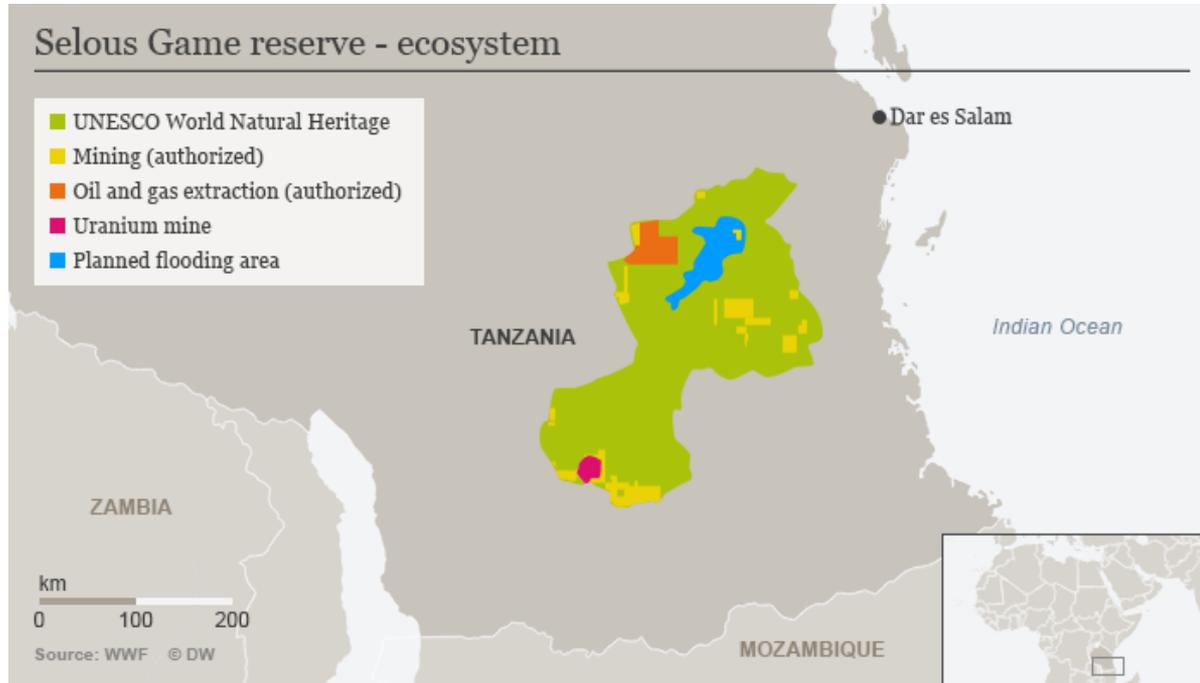


United States Policy: Room for Improvement

US import bans on wildlife trophies are changing the value of wildlife in Africa



Selous Game Reserve: Impact of Trophy Bans



- Professional hunting operators are surrendering their land
- Hydroelectric dam being built with Chinese support
- Land has lost value as habitat and is now valued for development
- Loss of local income from wildlife
- Dismantled anti-poaching forces

Trophy Import Bans -> Loss of Wildlife Economic Value -> Alternative Development

The United States can improve on both conservation and international development goals by expanding opportunities for international hunting markets



1. Update the US Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking

- Remove language that identifies limiting elephant trophy imports as necessary for combating wildlife trafficking
- Update the strategy to recognize rural communities as a choke point in wildlife trafficking supply chains
- Update the strategy to recognize international hunting as a tool for conservation
- Explicitly recognize the value of market-based approaches to wildlife conservation

2. Lift de facto and de jure federal bans on trophy imports

- Obstacles to trophy importation have had severe negative impacts on the ability of African nations to conserve wildlife habitat and counter illicit wildlife trafficking
- US Fish and Wildlife Service should work with sister agencies to remove these obstacles

3. Pursue improvements to the Endangered Species Act

- Improve the Endangered Species Act to streamline the permitting process for trophy imports
- Potential Option: When a trophy is exported under a range nation's CITES quota, US permits should be give to the importer on a “shall issue” basis, unless compelling evidence shows the trophy was acquired illegally

Incentives matter in wildlife conservation



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