

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-ninth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2017

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE TO PROMOTE BEST MANAGEMENT HUNTING PRACTICES
FOR CERTAIN CITES SPECIES IN THE CONTEXT OF
ARTICLE 4 OF THE REGULATION (EC) 338/97

This document has been submitted by Spain at the request of the Spanish Scientific Authority in relation to agenda items 29 on *Non-detriment findings* and 16 on *Quotas for leopard*^{*}.

^{*} *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Technical guidance to promote best management hunting practices for certain CITES species in the context of Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) 338/97

1. Background

Trophy hunting faces increasing restrictions or even suspensions globally¹, as a consequence of the increasing concern about its sustainability for certain species (African lions and elephants for example)².

In the EU in particular, action 9 of the EU action Plan against wildlife trafficking expects, as a result: “the implementation of EU rules on importing hunting trophies in the EU proactively monitored, to ensure that such trophies are of legal and sustainable origin³”. As expressed in the Commission Staff working document accompanying the mentioned EU Action Plan, the sustainability (and ecological consequences) of offtake from populations subject to trophy hunting is sometimes questionable and concerns have therefore been raised and new rules had been recently established (2015); as in particular the need for to issue import permits for relevant Annex B species⁴ before these species can be imported. That way, like for Annex A species, since 2015 the management authority of the importing country issues an import permit for the mentioned six Annex B species, on a case by case basis, only if its CITES scientific authority issues a positive opinion stating such trophy was harvested in a sustainable⁵ manner.

In the line of the specific EU guidance for rhino horns⁶, the EU action plan against wildlife trafficking has identified hunting trophies imports as a main specific issue to undertake. As first EU importer of hunting trophies Spanish Scientific Authority has an special responsibility in applying action 9 of the EU action Plan against wildlife trafficking.

However, strict control shouldn't be seen as more obstacles to hunting activity but to stimulate best practices. Good examples of trophy hunting have proven to be a sustainable activity which guarantees the conservation of the hunting species as well as their habitats and it provides additional benefits for rural communities (CoP17 CITES Com. I. 3)⁷. In this context, there are specific considerations to promote best practices by international conservation

¹ Recently The Netherlands have extended the list of banned hunting trophies and France announced the same for lion trophies; USA has included lions and elephants on its Endangered Species Act and increased notably the restrictions for trophy hunting imports (<https://www.fws.gov/International/permits/by-activity/sport-hunted-trophies.html>).

² IUCN 2016. Informing decisions on trophy hunting. A Briefing Paper for European Union Decision-makers regarding potential plans for restriction of imports of hunting trophies. IUCN Gland

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking . COM (2016) 87 Final.

⁴ The species concerned are the African lion (*Panthera leo*), the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*), the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), the Southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*), the hippo (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) and the argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*).

⁵ Analysis and Evidence in support of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, (Staff Working document). Accompanying the document. EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking.

⁶ Guidance document: export, re-export, import and intra-Union trade of rhinoceros horns (2016/C 15/02). [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016XC0116\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016XC0116(01)&from=EN)

⁷ https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/Com_I/E-CoP17-Com-I-03.pdf

organizations⁸, and the value of the sustainable hunting is recognized in the framework of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking⁹.

In certain regions trophy hunting is the main income source which provides resources for biodiversity conservation and an efficient tool to fight against illegal traffic and poaching of wildlife. Therefore an increasingly hunting trophy restriction approach could play just the opposite effect of that initially pursued¹⁰. EU is a main importer of trophy hunting items globally (UNEP-WCMC. 2013, 2014) and within this context, trophy import restrictions by key importing countries, such as of the EU, can make trophy hunting programs economically unviable at the local level, particularly where the restrictions affect “high value” iconic species. Removing the incentives and revenues provided by hunting could cause serious declines of populations of a number of threatened or iconic species; for example, the recovery of some populations of African elephant, black rhino, white rhino, Hartmann’s mountain zebra, cheetah and lion in Africa and more importantly, populations of threatened species that are not hunted e.g. African wild dog, could also be negatively impacted (UICN 2016).

Making the option of trophy hunting unviable through import restrictions would lead to some indigenous and local communities losing cash income from hunting concessions on their land, as well as reduces access to meat, and loss of employment. In this sense the UICN (2016) has recommended that, rather than bans on trophy hunting, poor practices could be improved by sustained engagement to improve governance frameworks and on-the-ground management.

Many of the most popular hunting species imported into the EU are listed in Annex-A and in Annex-B of the Regulation (EC) 338/1997.

For Annex-A species the issuance of each import permits is object of a strict control according to two complementary requirements included in article 4.1. On one side, article 4.1 (a) (i), indicates, that the import country must assure that: “*importation would not have a harmful effect on the conservation status of the species or on the extent of the territory occupied by the relevant population of the species*”. In this context, the EU/CITES Scientific Authorities (SA) and the Scientific Review Group (SRG), have approved guidelines¹¹, which provide recommendations for checking whether an import not have a harmful effect on species or population. It recommends, when appropriate, to elaborate, non-detriment findings reports (NDF) according to the Resolution Conf. 16.7. Complementary the other requirement expressed in article 4.1 (a) (ii) restricts these exceptional authorizations to certain defined purposes including “*other purposes which are not detrimental to the conservation of the species*”. However, as it is mentioned in the SRG guidelines⁷ “*there are no specific resolutions on the subject and no specific guidance within the Regulation*”. Also within this context, the mentioned guidelines has expressed that

⁸ IUCN 2012. IUCN SSC Guiding principles on trophy hunting as a tool for creating conservation incentives. Ver. 1.0. IUCN, Gland.

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/WAP_EN_WEB.PDF

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/larger-elephants-inputs-eu-strategic-approach-wildlife-conservation-africa-synthesis-1_en

¹⁰ Bouche et al 2016. Embargo on Lion Hunting Trophies from West Africa: An Effective Measure or a Threat to Lion Conservation? PloS one, 11(5), e0155763.

¹¹ Duties of the CITES Scientific Authorities and Scientific Review Group under Regulations (EC) 338/97 and (EC) 865/2006: Hunting Trophies rules (page 9). (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/srg/guidelines.pdf>).

“the only obvious case of an importation not being detrimental to the survival of the species is if it is clearly beneficial to its survival, i.e. if it produces significant and tangible conservation benefits for the species, or, in exceptional cases, if it is clearly benign but also produces wider benefits to society”, and for the specific purpose of hunting trophies (code H), it is recommended that “...trophy hunting should be part of a careful species Management Plan, which fulfilled the following conditions.

- *be based on sound biological data collected from the **target population(s)***
- *clearly demonstrate that **harvest levels are sustainable***
- *be monitored by **professional** biologists*
- *be **promptly modified** if necessary to maintain the conservation aims*
- *demonstrate that **illegal activities** are under control*
- *produce significant and tangible conservation **benefits for the species***
- *provide **benefits** to, and be in co-operation with, the **local people** who share the area with or suffer by the species concerned”*

In summary, for the specific cases of Annex-A hunting trophies it must be demonstrated (in addition to article 4.1. (a) (i) requirement of non harmful effect), that they have been obtained on the base of the implementation of a biological-based Management Plan fulfilling a number of conditions which provide benefits for both species-habitat conservation and local communities. These provisions are in the line of the recent Resolution Conf 17.9¹² proposed by the EU and South Africa, which extends elements of the EU approach to overall CITES convention and urges exporting countries to take active task within this matter in cooperation with importing authorities.

On other side, for the specific cases of Annex B hunting trophies it must be demonstrated (article 4.2. (a)) that the import wouldn't have a harmful effect on the conservation status of the species or on the extent of the territory occupied by the relevant population of the species. In this context the SRG Guidelines consider in the Attachment A of the Annex XII, that the non-detriment finding (NDF) should be based on proportionate resource assessment methodologies outlined in Resolution Conf. 16.7, which may include, but are not limited to, consideration of the next 8 items:

- species characteristics
- biological and conservation status
- harvest characteristics
- management regime
- conservation benefits
- threats
- monitoring programmes and
- current or expected anticipated trade levels

Additionally it has been already mentioned how Annex-B species included in Annex XIII of the Regulation 865/2006 require a case by case statement by the competent EU SA as requirement for import permit issuing.

¹² <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/document/E-Res-17-09.pdf>

In this context the SA in the framework of the SRG, and the SRG itself, take decisions on the compliance of the above articles, based on its own information, information coming from the UNEP-WCMC¹³ and/or IUCN, on quotas of the exporting countries supervised by CITES (Rev. CoP15), on other member states' reports and on information of the competent authorities of the exporting countries, all of it resulting in an opinion-formulation process of species/country combinations which remains valid for subsequent requests. E.g. for the seven most concerned African species there are 42 species/country combinations with opinions and 49 species/country combinations with quota (see Table 1); although in some cases it is considered a population hunting area /country/species approach -instead of country/species approach in general-, e.g. in Mozambique *Panthera leo* has a positive and negative decisions which depends on the area considered -SRG 76 Soc-.

In addition, these formulated opinions are subject to reviews to see if the conditions have changed or not and whether or not the opinion is maintained. Over the time the number of negative opinions and suspensions has been increasing.

Within this context some SA, as Germany's Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, have developed specific criteria and a position statement which go beyond the current standards of most SA and SRG¹⁴.

As it has been mentioned there is an increasing concern about the EU policies on trophy hunting imports and a TRAFFIC report¹⁵ have elaborated recommendations for EU MS and the SRG, in order to improve its consistency in dealing with import applications, that:

- *“aims to obtain information addressing each criteria listed in Annex B(4) of the Guidelines for Scientific Authorities before authorizing imports of Annex A-listed trophies”;*
- *“assess imports of Annex A-listed species, on a case-by-case basis, based on import applications containing concrete information on the species and its management”*
- *“help range States providing assistance and advice in the drafting of management plans, to improve the management of trophy hunting programs to ensure they benefit the species”*

These means that a great level of detail about the species population status and management is needed to assess whether an import application satisfies all the criteria. In consequence, EU Scientific Authorities have to outline a number of points in the process of assessing Annex A and B for the 6 species in Annex XIII of Regulation 2015/870 hunting trophies (see Figure 1). Such a decision making approach is a complex and non-uniform process (i.e. frequently exporting countries badly attend requested information in due time and proper form), and it is often difficult to obtain enough information to address all the criteria listed in the SRG Guidelines, which usually leads to delay the processing of the import requests and to impose import prohibitions for certain species¹⁶.

¹³ UNEP-WCMC. 2014. *Review of trophy hunting in selected species*. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge.

¹⁴ Grimm, U. (2008). Trophy hunting for endangered species. Best practices in Sustainable Hunting. A Guide to Best Practices from Around the World. CIC Technical Series Publication, (1), 17-19.

¹⁵ Knapp, A. 2007. A review of the European Union's import policies for hunting trophies. Traffic Europe report for the European Commission.

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) 2015/736 prohibiting the introduction into the Union of specimens of certain species of wild fauna and flora.

As example of this problematic and following-up on which took place in the SRG in relation with the negative opinion to the majority of the countries where the SRG have formed No Opinion (ii) or (iii) (see Table 1).

As it has been mentioned during the recent CITES/COP17 an important Resolution on this matter has been approved (Resolution Conf.17.9)¹⁷. Proposed by the EU and South Africa as co-chairs it has the view of establishing a clear framework to guarantee the sustainable and legal origin of hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II, to ensure that trophy hunting is sustainably managed, does not undermine the conservation of target species and, as appropriate, provides benefits to local communities, in coherence with the EU SRG Guidelines. In this context and in relation to the preparatory document 39.1 of the above Resolution 17.9, the European Council adopted an Statement to develop additional species-specific guidance on measures to augment the general conditions set out where this is considered necessary¹⁸. This new resolution and the EU statement are a great opportunity for resolve above mentioned problems, while an unsuitable implementation in practice could imply again additional requirements to the SA-verification workload which could slow down even more the procedures of decisions.

On the previous analysis, external evaluations¹⁹ and own experience as scientific authority, it could be summarized and concluded that currently it is being difficult to assure the compliance with the article 4 (and the new COP17 Resolution), in an effective manner. A potential solution to comply with these obligations could be complementing current procedures with a voluntary implementation of a **Best Management Practices Recognition scheme** (it could be named as a Label) for hunting areas that somehow would provide in advance information to SAs and so it allows SA the verification the verification related to trophy imports on an efficient manner; in accordance with articles 4.1a (i) and (ii) and 4.2. (a). Although it has not effectively been developed in practice for the moment such approach has been repeatedly proposed by experts and hunting sector itself (see Baldus & Cauldwell 2005, Packer 2005, Lindsey et al.2007, Child & Wall 2006, Brink et al. 2011 di Minin et al.2016, Macdonald 2016).

A somehow similar approach is used by the SRG for other species (i.e. *Pericopsis elata*) where only certain forestry concessions are authorized on the basis of management inventories submitted by the concessioner companies to the national forestry administration²⁰.

¹⁷ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/document/S-Res-17-09.pdf>

¹⁸ Council of the EU. Document ST 5605 2017 INIT 23 February 2017. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 17) (Johannesburg, South Africa, 24 September - 5 October 2016) - Compilation of statements

¹⁹ Knapp, A (2007). *A review of the European Union's import policies for hunting trophies*. A TRAFFIC Europe Report for the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

²⁰ Note for the attention of the EU Scientific Authorities in the EU Member States. Application of Article 4 of Regulation 338/97 Afrormosia (*Pericopsis elata*) from DRC. European Commission. April 2017.

2. Principles and contents of the Best Management Hunting Practices label.

2.1. Explanation

- The evaluation of hunting trophies will continue as now, and the SA will have to gather information and elaborate the corresponding opinion or NDF in relation to articles 4.1 (a) (i) & (ii) and 4.2 (a) of the Regulation EC 338/97 and the Resolution COP17.9; and it won't exist a negative prejudgment about their compliance with the regulations or legal origin. The label would only suppose for SAs a tool to gather information to check quickly, and of an effective manner, the accomplishment with mentioned legal provisions (it won't be necessary to collect additional information from exporting country and e.g. WCMC, IUCN etc., for article 4.1 (a) (ii) of the Regulation EC 338/97 and the Resolution COP.17.9 verification).
- In addition to the advantages in terms of credibility and transparency, it would desirable this approach imply not too much extra volume of workload for the SA and EU/SRG, which in any case always would supervise the process.
- The label option could be added to the Attachment A and B of the Annex XII of SRG Guidelines in relation with importing hunting trophies. For the applicants the label option will be a voluntary option, which in that case would have to follow its specific prescriptions.

2.2. What?

- The label would be oriented to verify the accomplishment of the main basic criteria behind the SGR guidelines for species Annex A and B above mentioned (non-detrimental finding and conservation and local benefits) for authorizing hunting trophies imports; that is, to demonstrate that the specific trophy has been obtained in the framework of a sustainable management plan implementation with specific measures to guaranty a sustainable harvesting, as well as, when appropriate, proved benefits for the species conservation and the local people who share the area with wildlife.
- The label process would be aimed to verify if above criteria are being implemented at the hunting area where the trophy was obtained; just in the line of the mentioned *Afrormosia* concessions approach.
- The label would be focused on articles 4.1 (a) and 4.2. (a) -Annex XIII regulation 865/2006- for hunting trophies and so it would fulfill NDF reports aimed to comply with Not having a harmful effect and when appropriate conservation and local benefits.
- The SA, in consultation with the SRG, will evaluate if the management (i.e. *Afrormosia approach*) of each hunting area is coherent with the proposed standards (see Annex as a first proposal). The analysis of the compliance with the proposed standards will be developed on the basis of an independent report written by an independent

expert/consultant. This report will also include information about the adherence to national legislation and quotas and other potential particular-species requirements, i.e. for sex, age and minimum size of trophies, etc.; as well as the opinion of the respective wildlife authority of the respective export countries

- In principle, the element to label will be the hunting area, understanding this is the management unit where the hunting practice is authorized and regulated by the competent authorities of the export country, regardless of land tenure. However complementary options must be analyzed to take in account the variety of potential situations: for example adjacent hunting blocks grouped in a superior unit but all of them sharing the same species population (which is considered the upper biological limit in terms of guaranteeing sustainable hunting).
- In a first stage it would be applied to the cases of hunting trophies imports of the species of Annex A/B for which more concerns exist, i.e. *Loxodonta africana*, *Hippopotamus amphibius*, *Panthera leo*, *Panthera pardus*, *Acinonyx jubatus*, *Ceratotherium simum*, *Diceros bicornis*, *Ovis ammon*, *Lynx lynx*, *Ursus arctos*, *Ursus maritimus* and *Canis lupus*.
- The label will include standards and indicators developed in consultation with relevant experts, for sustainable hunting programs, including specific measures for the above species, and for species-habitat and for local communities benefit, and will be as few as possible and with metrics easily verifiable and measurable to monitor the standards compliance. It could be desirable to develop a previous pilot project to check for the feasibility of the standards and indicators in practice (see Annex for a first proposal).
- As voluntary scheme the owner of the hunting area will have to show its interest in being evaluated for labeling. The expert/consultants must be of recognized prestige and the SA could support the financing of expert work, asking for the support of the EU.
- The label will consider the accomplishment of the EU Regulations and particularly the recommendations of the SRG Guidelines in relation to hunting trophies, i.e.: a sustainable hunting at the field level and when appropriate, ensuring the other two main principles: the benefits from hunting are redounding in benefit for the species conservation (at the local scale) and, where appropriate, in benefit for the people living in the field (landholder and local communities).
- The label will include the adherence to national legislation, quotas and when it would be feasible other potential requirements, i.e. for sex, age and minimum size of trophies.

2.3. Who?

- The labeling authority will be any of the Scientific Authorities of EU MS interested in using this mechanism. The hunting areas recognized as applying best management practices as well as the report of the independent expert consultants will be submitted also to the SGR to inform the rest of the countries and a common decision would have to be adopted in order

to adopt a harmonized decision, and a list of hunting areas recognized at the EU level could be proposed.

- The label will be granted to the hunting area (see standards).
- The label will take in account the opinion of the wildlife competent authority of the exporting countries²¹ but in any case its consideration in the issuing of a particular import permit will follow the corresponding export permit of the corresponding country.

2.4. How?

- Land tenure of the hunting area would submit an expert/consultant their interest in labeling adherence²², a first draft of clauses for including standards requirements in the contract, as well as relevant documentation for inspection, including management plan or related information, i.e. annual work plans (if available).
- Land tenure of the hunting area, considering the feedback from the expert includes labeling-clauses in the contract with the concessioner or hunting manager; and communicates it to the SA of the export country.
- The expert/consultant would develop a first field visit to the area to evaluate the feasibility of implementation of the labeling-related clauses and the capacity of both the land tenure and the concessioner to comply with the mentioned clauses; and submit the report to the SA for the decision on labeling. The SA consults the SRG for a potential common decision.
- Once the hunting area is labeled, the implementation of the label-related clauses would have to be periodically monitored. Additional field visits, conducted by the expert consultant for assessing the management activities of the hunting area against established clauses, will be required. Additional SRG member could develop verification missions to check in situ standards adherence.
- The label validity will be limited, i.e. 5 years, and renewal will be conditional on the results of periodical monitoring.

2.5. Utilization

- The information on label recognition for a hunting area could be used by the SA when evaluating an importation permit previously requested, as complementary information in relation to the accomplishment of articles 4.1 and 4.2 of the Regulation EC 338/97 and the Resolution Conf.17.XX (Figure 1).

²¹ https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/Com_I/E-CoP17-Com-I-03.pdf

²² The independent expert must be of recognized prestige and the SA could establish agreements with relevant institutions (i.e. the IUCN) to cofinance the labour of inspections and looking for the support of the EU.

A list of labelled hunting areas and their corresponding expert/consultants will be elaborated for internal use of the EU SA.

- In the case of country/species combination with positive or no opinions of the EU/SRG, the certificate could be used as warranty that the trophy it has been obtained in accomplishment of the article 4. and the CITES Resolution Conf.17.9. In the cases of country/species combination with negative opinions of the EU/SRG, it could be possible, as it has already happened (e.g. *P.leo* in Mozambique SRG 76), to use the label recognized areas, as the population reference to apply a scheme of population/country/species combination, and use it as warranty that the trophy has been obtained in accomplishment of the article 4 of the Regulation EC 338/97 and the Resolution Conf.17.XX. There are similar precedent approaches for other species (i.e. *Pericopsis elata*)²³.
- As a consequence and in theory, it would improve the certainty for SA and the terms for decisions would be shortened. So once a hunting area is label recognized, their trophies will have a positive judgment. It would also allow for safeguarding the activity of hunting managers who are developing a great conservation effort in the context on countries with strong difficulties to safeguard wildlife.
- The label can be used by exporting countries as a conservation measure to be included in their respective species management plans at national level; as well as, independently of the national plans, as a specific conservation measure for specific areas.
- The EU SAs together, adopt the label scheme in the form of SRG guidelines, but it is each SA which uses the scheme and communicates the SRG about the labeled hunting areas. A list of labeled hunting areas will be elaborated for internal use of the EU SA.

ANNEX. Proposal of standards to assess the granting of Best Management Hunting Practices (“label” distinction) to hunting area of certain CITES species.

Applications must contain information about the geographical and administrative characteristics of the hunting area: location and size; human settlements in or nearby; administrative information (concession, hunting block, game reserve, the outfitter, landholder, years of concession, etc.).

Key element for label will be the requirement of a public-certified copy of the label-related clauses included in the contract to sign between the land tenure and the concessioner or hunting manager of the hunting area. These clauses will contain accurate articles demanding the concessioner to develop a sustainable hunting project and, when appropriate, species-habitat conservation activities and social benefits activities.

This information will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

²³ https://www.speciesplus.net/#!/taxon_concepts/18339/legal

A. Sustainable Trophy hunting program²⁴.

Principle: harvesting must be based on some kind of quantitative information about the target species presence in the hunting area (*Annex A and Annex B included in Annex XIII of the Regulation 865/2006*). It can be useful to rely upon information on:

- Hunting statistics from previous 3 years, including information on trophy quality and age of harvested animals. A combination of decreasing trophy quality (e.g. horn size, tusk weight) and age (only mature animals can be hunted) can indicate that the trophy population is being overhunted. Trophies will be measured using either of the two well-known and recognized methods of measuring trophies, i.e. the Safari Club International and Rowland Ward²⁵. They use simple measures like length in the case of horns, weight in the case of ivory, age and body length in the case of i.e. lions and leopards.
- The current population estimate of target species in the hunting area and the methodology used.
- Information about approved and purchased quotas and if the quota has been used for other purposes than trophy hunting, to problem animal control; cropping; to translocation/live sales; culling and local hunting, etc.
- There is relevant literature on sustainable hunting best practices which can be used at this point (see Booth 2005; Barnett & Paterson 2005; IUCN, 2012; Chardonnet & Booth 2015).

Criteria for label:

- **Sustainable quota. The contract clause specifies the particular quota established for the hunting area** which must be respected by the concessioner or the hunting manager; including, when appropriate, the corresponding annual update. This quota must consider the possibility of adjusting upwards and downwards for the species depending on their population trends and without biologically damaging the population. Compliance with quotas established at national level or CITES requirements (when they are available) will also be required.

²⁴ The hunting program can also include species-specific hunting measures established on the basis of a previous agreement between species experts, stakeholders and competent authorities. For example, for lions, this is an initial compilation of measures proposed (Lindsey et al. 2012, 2013, Hunter et al. 2013, Creel et al. 2016; Miller et al. 2016, Loveridge et al. 2016):

- agreed adaptive quota schemes < 5% of the population (including illegal mortality);
- only males and with supposed ages not affecting pride structure;
- supposed nomadic males conditioned to clear identification guarantees;
- coherence with referencing non harmful harvest: 1 unit/2000 km² (for lower densities) or 1 unit/1000 km² (for higher densities) or <1000 km² equivalent ratio;
- no animals coming from breeding in captivity.

²⁵ <http://member.scifirstforhunters.org/static/RB/Methods/>

<http://www.rowlandward.com/content/default.aspx?pid=21&MainPage=2&SubPage=2>

B. Conservation and social benefits (when appropriate).

Principle: In the context of the EU/CITES perspective, trophy hunting of the mentioned target species is usually a no commercial-purpose activity allowed on the basis of the potential benefits if provide both for the species conservation and for the economy (including their habitats) of the local people, and based on the rational use of wildlife in contrast to alternative land use excluding wildlife²⁶.

Criteria for label:

- **Anti-poaching activities:** Poaching in the hunting area must be under control, and so at a level which doesn't endanger wildlife species conservation in the area. The contract must include a specific requirement for the concessioner providing enough human and material resources (sufficient and demonstrable) for this issue which is considered the key element of this label scheme. This imply the creation of jobs and the provision of suitable training and equipment to fight against poaching and wildlife trafficking.
- **Other potential conservation actions:** providing the poaching is under control other conservation action can be positively valued. Target species in certain hunting areas could require proactive-enhancement actions. Examples include habitat management and restoration (i.e. creation and maintenance of water points, reintroduction or population reinforcement, restoration of wildlife habitat and populations, removal of livestock; total or partial conversion of large areas of land from livestock and cropping back to wildlife etc.). In such cases, land tenure will provide guarantees for the implementation of such activities, either through including the enhancement action(s) in the contract with the concessioner (when appropriate) or by means its own commitment.
- **Social benefit activities.** When it is appropriate (communities living inside the hunting area or its buffer zone -i.e hunting animals impacting on infrastructures, agricultural or livestock raising-), the land tenure will include in the contract with the concessioner specific provisions for developing social-related activities. The activities to include must assure a rational and equitable distribution of the net benefits of the hunting activities and will be based on a previous diagnosis of priorities in dialogue with local representatives. Some example of potential activities to consider (but not limited to) are:
 - Provision of regular hunting meat to the local communities of the hunting area.
 - Preventive measures to avoid or minimize damage from hunted species (to bomas, etc.) and compensation (non-monetary) for any damages (to

²⁶ [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/Com I/E-CoP17-Com-I-03.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/Com%20I/E-CoP17-Com-I-03.pdf)
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/srg/guidelines.pdf>

croplands, livestock, infrastructure, etc.) caused by hunted species in the hunting area and surroundings.

- Creation of jobs and provision for local people of game scouts and personnel to accompany hunting safaris.
- Socio-sanitary assistance and primary education, road and airstrip building, schools, water supply, health programs.
- Cooperation with neighbouring land owners/communities to develop above mentioned actions in a coordinated manner.
- Cooperation with neighbouring land owners/communities to form nature conservancies.

References

- Baldus, R., & Cauldwell, A. (2005). Safari hunting certification. *African Indaba*, 3, 3:12-13.
- Barnett, R. and Patterson, C. (2005). Sport Hunting in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region: An overview. TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa. Johannesburg, South Africa
- Booth, V. (2005). International and regional best practices and lessons applicable to sport and recreational hunting in South Africa. Pretoria, South Africa.
- Bouché, P., Crosmary, W., Kafando, P., Doamba, B., Kidjo, F. C., Vermeulen, C., & Chardonnet, P. (2016). Embargo on Lion Hunting Trophies from West Africa: An Effective Measure or a Threat to Lion Conservation?. *PloS one*, 11(5), e0155763.
- Brink, M., Cameron, M., Coetzee, K., Currie, B., Fabricius, C., Hattingh, S. & Watson, L. (2011). Sustainable management through improved governance in the game industry. *South African Journal of Wildlife Research*, 41(1), 110-119.
- Chardonnet, P. & V. Booth. 2015. Guidelines for improving the administration of sustainable hunting in sub-Saharan Africa. FAO sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa.
- Child, B., & Wall, B. (2009). The application of certification to hunting: a case for simplicity. *Recreational hunting, conservation and rural livelihoods*, 341-360.
- Creel, S., M'soka, J., Dröge, E., Rosenblatt, E., Becker, M. S., Matandiko, W., & Simpamba, T. (2016). Assessing the sustainability of African lion trophy hunting, with recommendations for policy. *Ecological Applications*, 26(7), 2347-2357.
- Di Minin, E., Leader-Williams, N., & Bradshaw, C. J. (2016). Banning trophy hunting will exacerbate biodiversity loss. *Trends in ecology & evolution*, 31(2), 99-102.
- Grimm, U. (2008). Trophy hunting for endangered species. *Best practices in Sustainable*

Hunting. A Guide to Best Practices from Around the World. CIC Technical Series Publication, (1), 17-19.

IUCN SSC (2012). IUCN SSC Guiding principles on trophy hunting as a tool for creating conservation incentives. Ver. 1.0. IUCN, Gland.

IUCN (2016). Informing decisions on trophy hunting. A Briefing Paper for European Union Decision-makers regarding potential plans for restriction of imports of hunting trophies. IUCN Gland

Knapp, A (2007). A review of the European Union's import policies for hunting trophies. A TRAFFIC Europe Report for the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium.

Lindsey, P. A., Alexander, R., Frank, L. G., Mathieson, A., & Romanach, S. S. (2006). Potential of trophy hunting to create incentives for wildlife conservation in Africa where alternative wildlife based land uses may not be viable. *Animal Conservation*, 9(3), 283-291.

Lindsey, P. A., Frank, L. G., Alexander, R., Mathieson, A., & Romanach, S. S. (2007). Trophy hunting and conservation in Africa: problems and one potential solution. *Conservation biology*, 21(3), 880-883.

Lindsey, P., Alexander, R., Balme, G., Midlane, N., & Craig, J. (2012). Possible relationships between the South African captive-bred lion hunting industry and the hunting and conservation of lions elsewhere in Africa. *South African Journal of Wildlife Research*, 42(1), 11-22.

Lindsey, P. A., Balme, G. A., Booth, V. R., & Midlane, N. (2012). The significance of African lions for the financial viability of trophy hunting and the maintenance of wild land. *PloS one*, 7(1), e29332.

Lindsey, P. A., Balme, G. A., Funston, P., Henschel, P., Hunter, L., Madzikanda, H. & Nyirenda, V. (2013). The trophy hunting of African lions: scale, current management practices and factors undermining sustainability. *Plos One*, 8(9), e73808.

Loveridge, A. J., Valeix, M., Chapron, G., Davidson, Z., Mtare, G., & Macdonald, D. W. (2016). Conservation of large predator populations: Demographic and spatial responses of African lions to the intensity of trophy hunting. *Biological Conservation*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2016.10.024>.

Macdonald, D.W. (2016). Report on Lion Conservation with Particular Respect to the Issue of Trophy Hunting. Wildlife Conservation Research Unit. Oxford University. UK

Miller, J. R., Balme, G., Lindsey, P. A., Loveridge, A. J., Becker, M. S., Begg, C., & Macdonald, D. W. (2016). Aging traits and sustainable trophy hunting of African lions. *Biological Conservation*, 201, 160-168.

Packer, C. 2005. Savannas Forever: A certification program for lion trophy hunting. African Indaba 3, 3:7-8.

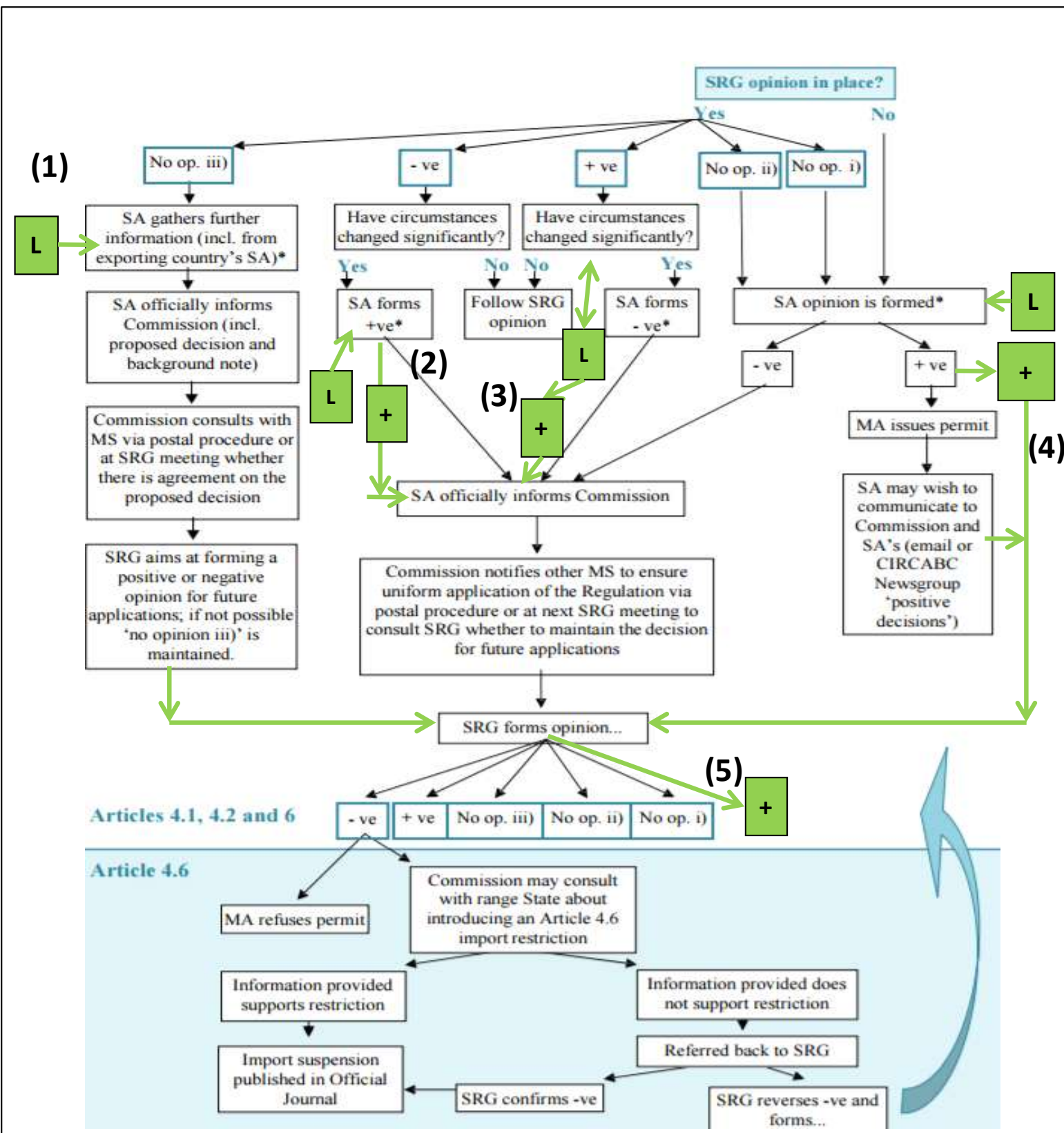
UNEP-WCMC (2014). Overview of current opinions for species for which the introduction of hunting trophies is due to be subject to the provisions of Article 4 of Reg. (EC) No 338/97. SRG 67/8. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge.

UNEP-WCMC (2014). Review of trophy hunting in selected species. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge

DRAFT

Table 1. EU decisions (SRG) and quota (CITES) in species/country combination for selected African species. No op= no opinion; Q 0= Quota 0; - = negative; + = positive; Sus = Suspension; blank box for a range country of an species means there is not decision formulated for that combination species/country.

COUNTRY	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	<i>Panthera leo</i>	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>
Angola	Q 0	No op iii)					
Benin	Q 0	No op	-				
Botswana	+ Q 0		No op i)		Q		
Burkina Faso	Q 0		-				
Burundi		No op iii)					
Cameroon	Sus (a) Q	- Q	-				
Central African Republic	Q 0	No op iii)	No op iii)				
Chad	Q 0	No op iii)					
Côte d'Ivoire		No op iii)					
Democratic Republic of Congo	Q 0	No op iii)		Q			
Equatorial Guinea	Q 0	No op iii)					
Eritrea	Q 0	No op iii)					
Ethiopia	No op i) Q 0	No op Q	Q Sus (b)	Q			
Gabón	Q 0						
Gambia		No op iii)					
Ghana	Q 0	No op iii)					
Guinea	Q 0						
Guinea Bissau	Q 0	No op iii)					
Kenia	Q 0						
Liberia	Q 0						
Malawi	Q 0	No op iii)					
Mali	Q 0						
Mozambique	- Q 0	Sus (b)	Q - (exc Niassa)	Q			
Namibia	+ Q 0	+	+	+Q	+ Q	+	Q
Niger	Q 0	No op iii)					
Nigeria	Q 0	No op iii)					
Rwanda	Q 0						
Senegal	Q 0	No op iii)					
Sierra Leone	Q 0	No op iii)					
Somalia	Q 0						
South Africa	+ Q	+	+	+		+	Q
South Sudan	Q 0						
Sudan	Q 0						
Togo		No op iii)	No op iii)				
Uganda	Q 0						
Tanzania	- Q 0	+ Q	+	Q			
Zambia	+ Q 0	+	+ Q	Q			
Zimbabwe	+ Q 0	+	+	Q	Q		



Integration of the labelling proposal in the Import permit – process, figure 1 of the SRG Guidelines

Hunting Area Labelling is a public recognition made by both export and import country conservation authorities of Best Management Practices implementation and so is can be used by SA (cases 2, 3 and 4) or SRG directly (1) in their respective processes of opinion formulation. If positive, it is only valid for the respective hunting area and if it was assumed by SRG (5) it would imply a recognition at the European level.

(3). For the cases of current + opinions, it would be necessary to revise them in the near future to see their compliance with recent CoP17 CITES Com. I. 3.; and so benefits for species conservation and local people would have to be verified.

Duties of the CITES Scientific Authorities and Scientific Review Group under Regulations (EC) 338/97 and (EC) 865/2006 .