IUCN Guidelines for THOPHY HUNTING to promote conservation

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Dushanbe, NOV. 2016

TROPHY HUNTING IS THE HUNTING OF WILD ANIMALS, SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF SYMMETRY AND LARGE SIZE OF HORNS/ANTLERS/TUSKS

PROs

- may have a very low demographic impact
- may generate revenues for conservation

WRONG ASSUMPTIONS

- males with large horns/tusks/antlers suffer high natural mortality as consequence of greater mating effort, thus being the most disposable sex/age class (**INVALID**: *e.g.* Bonenfant *et al.* 2009: WILD SHEEP; Toigo *et al.* 2013: IBEX)

- males with large horns/tusks/antlers are past their prime (**INVALID,** they are **not** surplus animals, *e.g.* Geist 1966: WILD SHEEP; Clutton Brock *et al.* 1982: RED DEER);

- in polygynous species, one male can serve a number of females – (**PARTLY TRUE**, ***but a young reproducer is an uncertain investment and natural selection should not favour him***. Pemberton *et al.* 1992: RED DEER; Coltman *et al.* 2001: WILD SHEEP)

DOES **SELECTIVE HUNTING…** SELECT ?

Mammal Review

in press

ISSN 0305-1838

PERSPECTIVE

When does selective hunting select, how can we tell, and what should we do about it?

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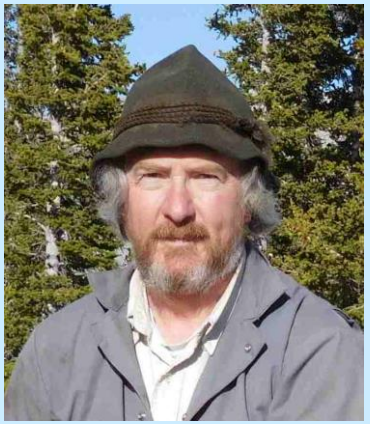

Table 1. Ecological and management variables that increase the probability that selective hunting for male mammals with large tusks, horns or antlers will lead to an evolutionary change in horn, tusk or antler size

Ecology
Strong heritability of horn, tusk or antler size
Males become 'trophies' at a young age, before large horns, tusks or antlers increase their mating success
No or little compensatory growth: large-horned young males become large-horned mature males
Horn, tusk or antler size has a strong positive effect on male mating success
Males are gregarious: hunters can select the male with the largest horns, tusks or antlers in a group
Horns or tusks grow substantially over multiple years, with limited environmental effects on yearly growth
Horns, tusks or antlers subject to selective harvest in both sexes
Management
Legislated definition of minimum horn, tusk or antler size for males that can be harvested, based on shape, size, or number of tines
Intense selective pressure: no or very generous quotas, high proportion of trophy males are shot
Intense selective hunting persists over decades, affecting multiple generations
The hunt covers a large area, with spatially consistently high harvest pressure on 'trophy' males, so that genetic rescue is unlikely
Sources of unselected males for genetic rescue are unavailable or ineffective
Would-be genetic rescuers from protected areas are shot during the hunting season

IUCN

IUCN SSC Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting as a Tool for Creating Conservation Incentives.

VERSION 1.0

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International Union for Conservation of Nature

SSC
Species Survival Commission

IUCN SSC
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IUCN SSC Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting as a Tool for Creating Conservation Incentives

Ver. 1.0 (09 August 2012)

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

https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/29197

TROPHY HUNTING CAN SERVE AS A CONSERVATION TOOL WHEN IT:

1. does not contribute to long-term population declines of the hunted species or of other species sharing its habitat;

2. does not substantially alter processes of natural selection and ecosystem function; that is, it maintains "*wild populations of indigenous species with adaptive gene pools*"*.This generally requires that hunting offtake produces only minor alterations to natural demographic structure. It should also avoid manipulations of population-genetic characteristics of hunted species, inconsistent with natural selection;

3. prevents poaching and illegal trade of wildlife;

4. does not manipulate ecosystems and their elements in ways incompatible with the support of the full range of native biodiversity.

* from Principle 4 of the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity

continued

6. is part of a governance system supporting conservation.

7. is accepted/co-managed by most members of the local community;

8. is based on appropriate resource assessment (for example, animal counts) and monitoring of hunting through quotas and hunting plans, ideally in cooperation with local communities;

9. hunting plans should be in line with previous resource assessments;

10. monitors hunting to verify that quotas and sex/age restrictions of harvested animals are being met;

11. allocates clear management responsibilities;

12. provides revenues in a transparent manner and distributes them to local communities;

13. takes all necessary steps to eliminate corruption.

IUCN Caprinae Specialist Group

Position Statement on Trophy Hunting – December 2000

http://marco.recherche.usherbrooke.ca/thunt.htm; http://www.fao.org/3/a-aj114e/aj114e05.pdf

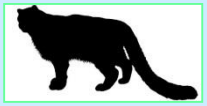
Hunting, and in particular **trophy hunting**, can play a major role in conservation.

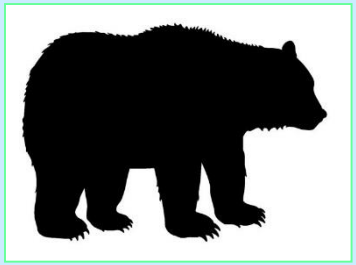
A population that produces mature males (aged 6-12 years, depending on the species) and therefore provides trophy hunting opportunities, should be reasonably healthy.

females → young → subadults → young adults → mature males → old males

TROPHY MALES !

In Caprinae, trophy hunting is aimed to fully mature males, thus having several convergent goals with those of **IUCN-CSG**. This may not be the case with other animal groups, for example **large carnivores**, because trophy hunting is not as selective for mature males, or has negative consequences by disrupting social structure.





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The IUCN-CSG does not support the following practices, sometimes associated with trophy hunting

1. Trophy hunting of Caprinae for purely economic goals, where revenues go into general government funds or are absorbed only by international outfitters.

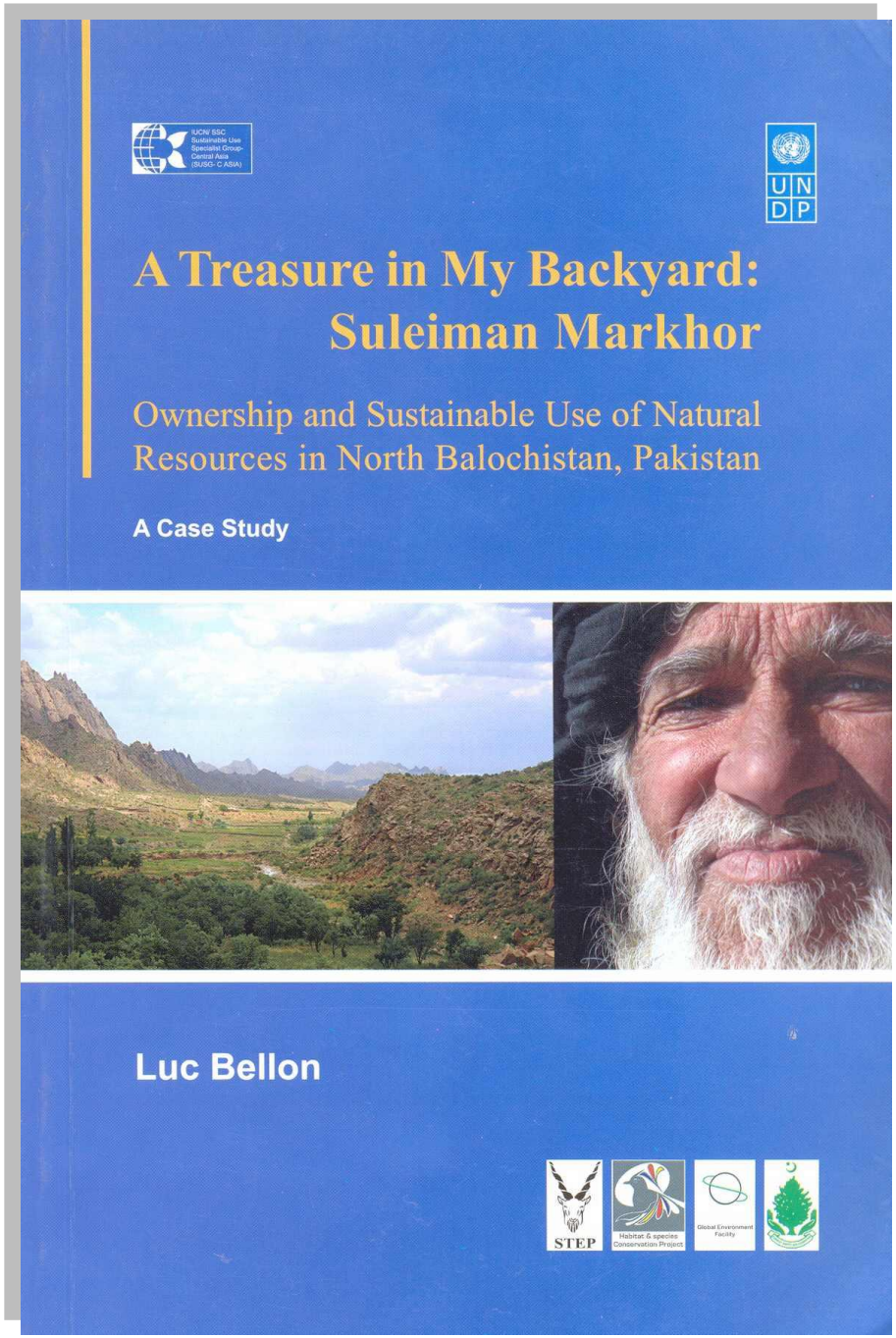
2. Alienation of local communities to favour foreign trophy hunters. Support of local communities is essential for the success of conservation programmes.

3. Predator control with the goal of increasing the availability of trophy males.

4. Artificial feeding to increase horn growth.

5. Selective hunting with the goal of affecting horn morphology, or artificial introductions of individuals thought to have genetically larger horns.

6. Hunting regulations which allow outfitters to overharvest an area and then move to different areas.



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