Evaluating key evidence and formulating regulatory alternatives regarding the UK's Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill

Abstract

Public policy addressing biodiversity loss is most likely to be effective when it is informed by appropriate evidence and considers potential unintended consequences. We evaluate key evidence relating to the UK's Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill. We characterize the UK's role in international hunting trophy trade by analyzing CITES trade data for 2000-2021 and 2015-2021. For CITES-listed species imported to/exported from the UK as hunting trophies in these periods we use data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species to determine whether hunting designated as "trophy hunting" is i) likely a major threat contributing to species being of elevated conservation concern, ii) likely or possibly causing localized declines, or iii) not a threat. We then use the Red List to determine whether legal hunting for trophies provides, or has potential to provide, benefits for species and/or people where it takes place. Finally, we evaluate the UK Government's impact assessment of the bill. In 2000-2021 an estimated 3494 hunting trophies from 73 CITES-listed species and subspecies were exported to the UK involving an estimated 2549 whole organism equivalents (WOEs), i.e., individual animals. Imports involved 158.86 ± 66.53 (mean ± SD) trophies/year (115.83 ± 32.27 WOEs/year). In 2015-2021, 79% of imports were from countries where populations of the hunted species were stable, increasing, or abundant. Legal hunting for trophies is not a major threat to any of the 73 species or subspecies imported to the UK, but it likely or possibly represents a local threat to 9 species. Conversely, this hunting does, or has potential to, benefit 20 species and subspecies. Among other concerns, the impact assessment fails to adequately consider the costs and benefits to local communities in countries where legal hunting for trophies occurs. Informed by these analyses we discuss more proportionate regulatory options.

1. Introduction

Public policy addressing biodiversity loss is most likely to be effective when it is informed by appropriate evidence, is context-specific, and considers potential unintended consequences (Sutherland *et al*. 2020, IPBES 2022). Inadequate consideration of these factors can result in regulatory failure, including perverse impacts and counter-productive policies (Grabosky 1995, Baldwin *et al.* 2012). Overexploitation is a key threat to biodiversity (IPBES 2022) but devising policies to mitigate this threat can be inherently challenging. There is a lack of knowledge of many species, including their population biology, size, and trends, the impact of offtake, and the ecological and evolutionary impacts of harvesting (Smith *et al.* 2011). The most appropriate policies to address overexploitation may also differ between contexts and scales related to ecological, economic, social, and/or governance factors (Cooney *et al.* 2015, IPBES 2022) meaning that identifying optimal solutions is not straightforward. Further complicating policy formulation regarding wildlife use are the frequently polarized views of diverse stakeholders, especially concerning sentient and charismatic species, with ethical, ideological, and scientific, arguments used to support or oppose potential options (Hammond *et al.* 2022, Mkono 2022). Yet with adequate knowledge of species and the social-ecological systems that they are part of, appropriate policies can be formulated to support species conservation, while simultaneously benefiting local people ('t Sas-Rolfes *et al.* 2022).

"Trophy hunting" – legal, low-offtake hunting, where hunters pay a high fee to hunt individual animals with particular characteristics (e.g., horn length) and retain all or part of the animal (IUCN 2012) – has emerged as a contemporary conservation policy debate, with widespread media coverage, particularly following the death of Cecil the lion in 2015 ('t Sas-Rolfes 2017, Yeomans *et al.* 2022). This has largely been due to special interest groups arguing that such hunting threatens wildlife populations, disregards animal welfare, is

morally reprehensible and should be further legislated against (Born Free *et al.* 2022). Conversely, evidence indicates that in diverse circumstances across several continents, legal and well-managed hunting for trophies can deliver benefits to local people and support conservation by ensuring that biodiversity is a competitive land use option (IUCN 2016a, Parker *et al.* 2023). Nevertheless, various governments have legislated against the trade in hunting trophies since 2015. Australia and France have banned imports of lion (*Panthera leo*) trophies, Finland has banned imports of trophies from species on Annex A and selected species on Annex B of the Wildlife Trade Regulations (WTRs), and the Netherlands has prohibited trophy imports from over 200 species (Ares 2019).

The United Kingdom (UK) is under pressure from lobby groups to tighten existing controls on the import and export of hunting trophies (Ares 2019). The WTRs and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (EUWTRs) in Northern Ireland list all CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and some non-CITES species in four Annexes (A–D). Under these regulations, imports of hunting trophies from wild species require an import and export permit for Annex A species and six species in Annex B: the white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*), common hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), argali (*Ovis ammon*), polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*), and lion. For other species in Annex B only an export permit is required, and hunting trophies are treated as personal effects. Import and export permits can only be granted based on positive non-detriment findings (NDFs), to ensure that trade is not detrimental to wild populations.

In 2019 the UK Government issued a call for evidence on the scale of hunting trophy imports and exports and associated impacts and held a consultation on further restricting this trade. In

June 2022, a Private Members' Bill – the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill (hereafter "the bill") – proposed to ban the import of hunting trophies to the UK. Following cross-party support in the House of Commons, the bill passed to the House of Lords in March 2023 but failed to pass the second committee stage. Had it been enacted the bill would have prohibited the import of hunting trophies from species listed in Annexes A and B of the WTRs, which the Government has stated would protect ~7000 species (UK Government 2021a). The rationale was to ensure that imports of hunting trophies to the UK are not placing additional pressure on species of conservation concern and, recognizing that "trophy hunting" is an issue that the British public feels strongly about, it is one the UK can address (DEFRA 2021). Although the bill failed, a similar Private Members' Bill was submitted in late 2023 with the first reading in the House of Commons in December 2023.

The rationale for an import ban asserts that legal hunting for trophies threatens many species, including those imported to the UK, but the evidence to support this is unclear. Here, we evaluate key evidence relating to the bill and the associated policymaking process. We focus on CITES-listed species because these have been deemed in need of international trade regulation to avoid overexploitation (CITES 1973). Import and export data are routinely collected for CITES-listed species in the UK but not for other species.

Specifically, we:

1) estimate the number of hunting trophies from CITES-listed species and the associated number of animals traded globally in the periods 2000-2021 and 2015-2021.
2) characterize the role of the UK in this trade considering the species involved, the number of trophies and individual animals traded, the source of trophies (e.g., wild vs. captive-bred), and importing and exporting countries. We focus on the period 2000-

2021 to provide historical context and the period 2015-2021, which broadly aligns with the UK Government's impact assessment (see DEFRA 2021) (Supp. Material 1).

3) determine the population status of CITES-listed species exported to the UK as hunting trophies in the period 2015-2021 and calculate the proportion of trade sourced from populations with different status.
4) Contextualize UK hunting trophy imports of CITES-listed animal species in overall UK trade in animal species listed under CITES and trade for commercial purposes and as pets.
5) use data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species (hereafter "Red List") to determine for CITES-listed species imported to/exported from the UK whether legal hunting for trophies (as defined) is i) likely a major threat contributing to species being of elevated conservation concern, ii) likely or possibly causing localized declines, or iii) not a threat, and additionally whether it provides, or has the potential to provide, benefits for species and/or local people where such hunting takes place.
6) use quality indicators from the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) to evaluate the UK Government's impact assessment of the bill in conservation terms.

Informed by these analyses, we discuss alternative policy options that UK policymakers may wish to consider in regulating international trade in hunting trophies of CITES-listed species. This article should be of interest to politicians and policymakers in the UK, the EU and other countries considering similar legislation, countries where legal hunting for trophies takes place, and practitioners, academics, and campaign groups in the UK and internationally.

2. Methods

2.1 International trade in CITES-listed species

To estimate the number of hunting trophies from CITES-listed species and associated number of animals traded globally, characterize the role of the UK in this trade, and compare UK trade in hunting trophies of CITES-listed species with animal species traded for commercial purposes and as pets, we used CITES trade data. In March-May 2023 we downloaded comparative tabulation reports from the CITES trade database for the period 2000-2021 (CITES Trade Database 2023) recognizing that the latest year of complete data is expected to be 2021, i.e., two years prior to the current year (CITES Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC 2022). For search terms used see Supp. Material 1. We summarized direct trade using pivot tables in MS Excel and used exporter-reported quantities because they are often more complete (CITES Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC 2022), recognizing that these quantities may refer to permits issued rather than quantities of specimens exported. For trade terms and units used see Supp. Material 1. As one animal may produce multiple trophies, the number of trophies does not equate to number of animals killed but converting trade volumes to whole organism equivalents (WOEs) enables estimates of the number of individual animals involved (Supp. Material 1). We therefore estimated WOEs for trade adapting the approach by Harfoot *et al.* (2018) (Supp. Material 1). We used RStudio Version 1.4.1717 to calculate means and standard deviations for trade in species and WOEs over time.

2.2 Population status

We determined the population status (e.g., increasing, decreasing, or stable) of each species exported to the UK as a hunting trophy in the period 2015-2021 by reviewing and collating the available information for each exporting country in the global IUCN Red List assessment for each taxon (using Red List version 2022-2) and/or regional assessments where they were

available. We then calculated the proportion of trade sourced from countries with populations of these species that are increasing or decreasing or similar respectively.

2.3 Legal hunting for trophies as a contributor to species being of elevated conservation concern and as a benefit provider

To determine whether legal hunting for trophies is i) likely a major threat contributing to species being of elevated conservation concern (i.e., to a species meeting, or approximating, the thresholds for listing in any of categories NT [Near Threatened], VU [Vulnerable], EN [Endangered], CR [Critically Endangered] or EW [Extinct in the Wild], as defined by IUCN), ii) likely or possibly causing localized declines, or iii) not a threat to species, we built a MS Excel database including data from Red List assessments (using version 2022-2) for species imported to/exported from the UK as hunting trophies in 2000-2021 (Supp. Material 1). Our approach to classifying species in the above three categories draws on a similar analysis published for international trade (Challender *et al*. 2023). We read the narrative text in the threats and justification fields of each assessment and interpreted this information with available information on coded threats for species (e.g., 5.1.1. [Hunting & collecting terrestrial animals → Intentional use [species being assessed is the target]]) (Supp. Material 1). We considered the timing (e.g., past), scope (e.g., minority of the population), and severity (e.g., causing rapid declines) of the threats (where these data were available), to assist in distinguishing between major and minor threats (IUCN 2016b). We read the Use and Trade field of assessments for additional context and used information on how species are used and/or traded to inform decision-making (Supp. Material 1).

We categorised legal hunting for trophies as a major threat contributing to species being of elevated conservation concern where the available evidence indicates that a species has

intentional use as a major threat (based on the threats narrative and/or coded threats, including timing, scope, and severity), and the threats narrative indicates that legal hunting for trophies (as defined) is currently a primary factor driving this threat. Where this was not the case, species were not considered to have legal hunting for trophies as a major threat. We then categorised these species based on whether there is evidence indicating that legal hunting for trophies is *likely* (i.e., probable) or *possibly* (i.e., stated but qualified as uncertain, e.g., "may be", "potentially" or similar) causing localized declines but is not a major threat, i.e., not contributing to elevated conservation concern. Species that did not meet either of these criteria were considered not to be threatened by legal hunting for trophies at any level. We determined based on available information in Red List assessments whether legal hunting for trophies does, or has the potential to, benefit the species and/or local people (Supp. Material 1).

We acknowledge that there are limitations to using Red List data to document whether species are used and/or traded, and whether species are threatened by use and/or trade. These limitations have been discussed elsewhere (Challender *et al.* 2022, 2023; Marsh *et al.* 2022), but include that assessments need updating and may omit information on use and trade of species. There may also be biases in taxonomic groups assessed for the Red List, although most species subject to legal hunting for trophies have been assessed.

2.4 Evaluating the UK Government's impact assessment of the bill

We used quality indicators from the RPC to evaluate the UK Government's impact assessment of the bill in conservation terms (Supp. Material 1). Regulatory proposals in the UK must be accompanied by an impact assessment which evaluates the likely risks, costs, and benefits of proposed regulation to businesses, the public and third sectors, and

individuals in the UK (Regulatory Policy Committee, n.d.; Supp Material 1). Guidance states that it is sometimes reasonable to consider people living outside of the UK, and that impacts on wildlife and the natural environment should be considered.

The RPC is an independent regulatory body, which assesses the quality of evidence and analysis used to inform UK Government regulatory proposals (Regulatory Policy Committee, n.d.). We used the RPC's quality indicators to evaluate the impact assessment for the bill (DEFRA 2021), considering whether assumptions are reasonable and justified, the quality of analysis and evidence, and areas of the assessment that could be improved (Supp. Material 1). We applied this to all five sections of the impact assessment: policy rationale, costs and benefits, risks and unintended consequences, wider impacts, and post implementation review.

3. Results

3.1 International trade in hunting trophies of CITES-listed species, the role of the UK, and population status of imported species

Direct trade in hunting trophies of CITES-listed species in 2000-2021 (i.e., over 22 years) involved an estimated 594,335 trophies globally and an estimated 419,877 WOEs. The top exporters were Canada and South Africa (>130,000 trophies respectively) while the top importer was the US, importing >247,000 trophies (Supp. Material 2). The UK ranked 19/74 exporting countries, exporting an estimated 968 trophies (968 WOEs). Among importing countries, the UK ranked 25/183, importing an estimated 3494 trophies (2549 WOEs), <1% of the global trade in terms of number of trophies and WOEs.

In 2015-2021 (i.e., 7 years) trade globally involved an estimated 199,426 hunting trophies from CITES-listed species (106,005 WOEs). The top exporters were South Africa (53,304

trophies) and Mozambique (47,602) while the top importer was the US (74,107 trophies) (Supp. Material 2). The UK ranked 37/53 exporting countries, exporting only 17 trophies (17 WOEs), and 25/155 importing countries, importing an estimated 951 trophies (738 WOEs), again less than 1% of global trade.

The UK imported hunting trophies from 73 CITES-listed species and subspecies in 2000-2021, mainly involving mammals (96%) (Supp. Material 2). The top 10 imported species account for 74% of this trade (2569/3494 trophies), which mainly involved wild specimens, and include African elephant, American black bear (*Ursus americanus*), and hippopotamus (Table 1). Overall, this trade involved an estimated 158.86 ± 66.53 (mean ± SD) trophies/year (115.83 ± 32.27 WOEs/year). For African elephant, the species with the highest number of trophy imports, this involved 24.45 ± 30.23 trophies/year, or 5.66 ± 5.08 WOEs/year. Most (88%) trade in the top 10 imported species came from just 6 countries: South Africa (29%), Canada (18%), Zimbabwe (13%), Namibia (13%), Botswana (8%), and Zambia (7%). For 63 species and subspecies (86%), a mean of <5 trophies were imported annually (Supp. Material 2). Of the 73 species and subspecies, 50 (69%) averaged imports of less than one trophy a year, and 17 (23%) had a single trophy imported over the 22-year period (Supp. Material 2).

Direct exports of hunting trophies in CITES-listed species from the UK in 2000-2021 involved 18 species, including 16 bird species and two (non-native) mammals (the hog deer [*Axis porcinus*] and swamp deer [*Rucervus duvaucelii*]) (Supp. Material 2). 4 bird species (pintail [*Anas acuta*], shoveler [*A. clypeata*], teal [*A. crecca*], and wigeon [*A. penelope*]), accounted for 98% of exports (945/968 trophies; 945 WOEs), which were sourced from the wild, and mainly imported by Malta (98%). This trade may not meet our definition of trophy

hunting, but we included it because CITES purpose code H was used, i.e., the specimens were traded as hunting trophies. These species are no longer listed under CITES.

In 2015-2021, the UK imported an estimated 951 hunting trophies (738 WOEs) from 44 CITES-listed species and subspecies, 95% involving mammals (Supp. Material 2). The top 10 species account for 78% of this trade, which mainly involved wild specimens, and include many of the same top species for 2000-2021 (Table 2). Changes comprise the absence of leopard and caracal from this list but the inclusion of giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) and vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*). Trade amounted to 135.85 ± 47.51 trophies/year (105.32 ± 40.58 WOEs/year). For the top 10 species this equates to between 5.57 ± 5.56 and 23.85 ± 16.67 trophies/year or 2.64 ± 1.27 and 15 ± 10.56 WOEs/year (Table 2). Lion imports mainly involved captive bred animals, which accounted for 83% (59 trophies). Trade in wild lion involved 1.71 ± 2.42 trophies/year (1.42 ± 1.71 WOEs/year). Of the 44 species and subspecies, 33 (75%), averaged <5 trophies imported annually, and 36 (82%) fewer than a mean of 5 WOEs a year. For 22 species and subspecies (50%) imports involved 5 or fewer trophies and for 25 species and subspecies (57%) less than 1 WOE a year (Supp. Material 2).

22 countries exported hunting trophies to the UK in 2015-2021 and, as for 2000-2021, most exports were from four countries. South Africa, Canada, Namibia, and Zimbabwe exported 94% of trophies in the top 10 species or 73% of all trophy imports to the UK. 79% of imports (753/951 trophies) were from countries where populations of the hunted species are stable, increasing, or abundant (Supp. Material 3). For example, the American black bear population in Canada is estimated at 450,000 individuals and is increasing (Garshelis *et al.* 2016). African elephant populations in Zimbabwe and South Africa number 82,000 and ~27,000 animals, respectively, both increasing (Selier *et al.* 2016, CITES 2022). Hartmann's Mountain

275 zebra (*Equus zebra hartmannae*) numbers ~44,000 individuals in Namibia and populations
276 are increasing, as in South Africa (Gosling *et al.* 2019). Populations of lion in South Africa
277 have increased in recent decades and may be at carrying capacity (Bauer *et al.* 2015, 2016).
278

279 ***3.2 UK hunting trophy imports in context***

280 For 2000-2021 the UK imported/exported 1929 CITES-listed animal species while species
281 imported/exported as hunting trophies comprised <5% (91/1929 species) (Fig. 1). Combined
282 imports to/exports from the UK in CITES-listed animal species in this period involved an
283 estimated 4.93 million WOEs. The 3494 hunting trophies imported to the UK, involving an
284 estimated 2549 WOEs, comprise <0.1% of UK trade in CITES-listed animal species. The
285 same applies to 2015-2021; hunting trophies involved <4% of the species traded to/from the
286 UK (44/1154 species) and <0.1% of UK trade in CITES-listed animal species. For
287 comparison, many more species were traded, and trade volumes were greater for commercial
288 purposes, involving 1211 CITES-listed animal species and an estimated 4.85 million WOEs.
289 Similarly, imports to/exports from the UK in animals as pets involved 568 species and an
290 estimated 7752 WOEs, though most of these animals were reportedly from non-wild sources.
291

292 ***3.3 Legal hunting for trophies as a contributor to species being of elevated conservation***
293 ***concern and as a benefit provider***

294 Of the species and subspecies imported to/exported from the UK as hunting trophies in 2000-
295 2021, which were, or are, included under CITES, 60% (56/93 species) are categorised as
296 Least Concern (LC) on the Red List, i.e., are not threatened with extinction (Supp. Material
297 4). We refer to 93 species because the Red List recognizes two distinct species of both urial
298 (*O. aries*) and African elephant (Supp. Material 4). 40% (37 species) can be considered to be
299 of elevated conservation concern (defined by IUCN as species assessed as Near Threatened,

Threatened or Extinct in the Wild). 14 species (15%) are categorised as Near Threatened, 13 species (14%) as Vulnerable (VU), 4 (4%) as Endangered (EN), and 5 (5%) as Critically Endangered (CR) (Supp. Material 4). One species, the scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*), is Extinct in The Wild (EW) and all trophies from this species originate from ranched populations in the US. Intentional hunting and/or harvesting of aquatic resources is a major or minor threat to 77% of these taxa (Supp. Material 4), which consists of poaching and/or hunting which is illegal or poorly, or not, regulated.

Legal hunting for trophies is not a major threat to any of the 93 species or subspecies imported/exported from the UK as hunting trophies in 2000-2021 (Supp. Material 4). However, it is likely a local threat (i.e., causing localized declines) to 4% of these taxa (4 species) (Fig. 1). For brown bear (*U. arctos*) evidence suggests that where the species exists in large, contiguous populations, hunting rates are likely unsustainable in the short term but contribute to population fluctuations rather than driving ongoing declines (McLellan *et al.* 2017). The Siberian ibex (*Capra sibirica*) is subject to regulated hunting for trophies in several countries, which targets only males in the highest age classes so direct impacts on population size are likely negligible (Reading *et al.* 2020a). If poorly regulated and managed, such hunting can have negative consequences, including on the sex and age composition of populations, but potential impacts are low if hunters only harvest a minor proportion of males (Michel and Rosen 2016, Reading *et al.* 2020a). For Gobi argali (*O. darwini*) evidence indicates that unsustainable legal hunting for trophies comprises a minor localized threat in Mongolia (Reading *et al.* 2020b). The bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus*) is reportedly threatened by demand for hunting trophies, especially where hunting is poorly regulated (IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group 2016a), but this occurs in a small portion of the species' range (Cameroon and Central African Republic) and comprises a local threat.

Our analysis indicates that legal hunting for trophies is possibly a local threat to some populations of 5 species (5% of the 93 taxa) (Fig. 1). For lion, this may have at times contributed to population declines in Botswana, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, and Zambia (Bauer *et al.* 2016). For leopard, where this hunting over-concentrates on a particular area and targets animals in their prime that are reproductively active it can be detrimental to populations (Stein *et al.* 2020). Legal hunting of American black bear for trophies is well controlled in North America in alignment with management plans, but this may contribute to population fluctuations (Garshelis *et al.* 2016). The puma (*Puma concolor*) is legally hunted for trophies in many western and midwestern US states, which potentially comprises a minor, local threat (Neilsen *et al.* 2015). The topi (*Damaliscus lunatus*) is hunted for trophies and there is no overt evidence in the Red List that this is a threat, but being precautionary we highlighted it as possibly causing local declines (IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group 2016b).

For 20 of the species imported to the UK as hunting trophies in 2000-2021, legal hunting for trophies provides, or has the potential to provide, significant benefits (Supp. Material 4). These include revenue generation for conservation, monetary and/or non-monetary benefits (e.g., meat and housing) to communities, employment, added value to wildlands that may be used for competing purposes such as agriculture, and enhanced population growth for threatened species. This includes species for which legal hunting for trophies is likely or possibly a localized threat. Legal hunting for lion trophies has a net positive impact in some areas and is an important tool for conserving wild habitat and providing financial resources to governments and local communities (Bauer *et al.* 2016). Regulation which reduces the profitability of such hunting could result in widespread negative impacts for wildlife-based

350 land use, anti-poaching, and tolerance of the species outside protected areas (Hunter *et al.*
351 2013 cited in Bauer *et al*. 2016). Legal hunting of blesbok (*Damaliscus pygargus*) generates
352 revenue and provides meat for local people, including subsistence hunters (Dalton *et al.*
353 2019). For white and black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*), selective hunting of older males can
354 increase population growth rates and provide resources for protecting the species (Emslie
355 2020a, b, 't Sas-Rolfes *et al.* 2022). For bongo, well-regulated hunting for trophies has the
356 potential to provide economic justification for preserving large areas of habitat in remote
357 areas of Central Africa where possibilities for commercially successful tourism are limited
358 (IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group 2016a). For Siberian ibex it is explicitly recognized
359 that banning legal hunting for trophies and associated trade risks removing incentives to
360 prevent poaching, which may increase human-caused mortality of the species (see Reading *et*
361 *al.* 2020a).
362
363 ***3.4 Evaluating the UK Government's impact assessment of the bill***
364 We rated all five sections of the impact assessment weak because inappropriate assumptions
365 are made, the quality of key analyses is poor, and/or there are areas that could be improved
366 substantially to understand the likely impact of the bill. We discuss major areas of concern
367 here, summarize key issues in Table 3 and the full evaluation is in Supp. Material 5.
368
369 The impact assessment considers costs to UK individuals and businesses, but a major
370 limitation is that it fails to adequately consider the costs and potential benefits to people (e.g.,
371 Indigenous people and local communities) in countries where legal hunting for trophies takes
372 place and helps sustain livelihoods (Table 3, Supp. Material 5). This is despite the implication
373 in the assessment that most of the costs will likely be incurred by people who live in
374 countries where legal hunting for trophies takes place. The impact assessment would be

markedly improved by explicit consideration of these costs, which would enable a more comprehensive characterization of the UK's role in international hunting trophy trade and a better understanding of the likely impacts of the proposed policy.

The impact assessment assumes that the proposed legislation will disincentivize legal hunting for trophies of the species included by people wanting to import trophies to the UK. This may or may not be the case but is weakly analyzed. There is little exposition of the actual impact that the proposed policy may have on hunter behavior and little supporting evidence is provided. The assessment would be much improved by robust analysis of the likely impacts of the bill on hunter behavior and whether it would plausibly disincentivize hunting, or not.

Additionally, the impact assessment assumes that the proposed policy will result in enhanced protection of species with positive knock-on effects for biodiversity and ecosystem services. This may or may not be the case and cannot reasonably be assumed without a full analysis and supporting evidence. The policy may contribute to positive or negative outcomes for hunted species, related to social, economic, and/or governance factors in areas where hunting occurs (Table 3). Assuming species will be better protected presumes that the institutional arrangements are appropriate where hunting would be impacted and the resources and revenue streams needed are available, when they may not be, and evidence is not provided.

4. Discussion

The rationale for the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill was to ensure that imports of hunting trophies to the UK are not placing additional pressure on species of conservation concern, by prohibiting such imports from a reported ~7000 species (UK Government 2021a). Our analyses indicate that the UK plays a minor role in the global trade of hunting

trophies of CITES-listed species, and that hunting trophies comprise <0.1% of UK trade in all CITES-listed animal species. Although the UK imported hunting trophies from 73 CITES-listed species and subspecies in 2000-2021, this comprises just 1% of species included under the bill, and trade volumes were low. Based on the Red List, legal hunting for trophies is not a major threat contributing to any of these species being of elevated conservation concern. In 2015-2021, 79% of imports were from countries where populations of the hunted species are stable increasing, or abundant, including species for which legal hunting for trophies is a likely or possible local threat. Imports of American black bear, brown bear, Siberian ibex, and lion trophies were from countries with healthy populations. Lion imports involved <2 wild animals a year, mainly from countries for which evidence suggests populations are increasing. The leopard is perhaps an exception because although imports were low (<4 animals/year), all were from sub-Saharan Africa where populations are often declining, or their status is unknown (though quotas are typically set by government agencies using more detailed local information). Assuming past trade is indicative of future imports, the argument that the bill would reduce pressure on many threatened species subject to legal hunting for trophies is unfounded. Other threats, notably unregulated hunting, poaching, and/or retaliatory killing, are much greater for most species imported to the UK as hunting trophies. Legal hunting for trophies is likely or possibly a localized threat to 9 species, but there are likely more effective mitigation measures than the UK banning hunting trophy imports.

The bill could also undermine conservation efforts that are supported by legal hunting for trophies. More evidence is needed on the potential impacts of the bill, but it could reduce revenue for conservation areas that depend on such hunting to support management, including law enforcement and anti-poaching efforts, and thereby mitigate other threats to species and habitats. It could have a negative, even devastating, impact on Indigenous people

425 and local communities who rely on legal hunting for trophies for monetary and/or non-
426 monetary benefits (e.g., cash income, meat and employment) (IUCN 2016a, Angula *et al.*
427 2018, Parker *et al.* 2023). Benefits to local communities vary (e.g., 0-100% of revenue
428 generated) but are frequently very important to them (IUCN 2016a). As one example, in
429 Namibia conservation hunting generated USD 1.3 million and provided 326,000 kg of game
430 meat in 2021, which were distributed to local residents (MEFT/NACSO 2022). Ultimately,
431 the bill could influence the viability of conservation areas to conserve biodiversity (Lindsey
432 *et al.* 2007, IUCN 2016a, Strampelli *et al.* 2022). In this context, the bill may contravene
433 principles in the UK Environment Act (2021), specifically that UK policymaking should
434 prevent environmental harm because the bill could contribute to more harm than it prevents.
435 There is also a risk that the UK sets a precedent that other countries follow resulting in even
436 greater harm.
437
438 The rationale for the bill is also to respond to the UK Government's hunting trophies
439 consultation. 84% of respondents to the consultation indicated a preference to prohibit all
440 hunting trophies entering or leaving the UK; however, 67% of responses were linked to lobby
441 group campaigns (UK Government 2021b). Another poll found that fewer than half of
442 Britons wanted a ban if it would harm conservation or local communities (Survation 2021).
443 Many respondents to the consultation appear strongly opposed to legal hunting for trophies
444 likely because they consider it ethically unacceptable. This does not mean that prohibiting
445 imports of hunting trophies is the most appropriate policy. In democratic societies public
446 opinion should be considered in public policymaking, but critically, it should not be decisive
447 but interpreted with other evidence using appropriate analytical capacity (Howlett *et al.*
448 2020). A contemporary challenge for public policymaking is formulating proportionate
449 policies based on all relevant bodies of evidence, including public opinion shaped by moral

values. Regarding this particular bill, our analyses indicate that it is disproportionate and is an overreaction in policymaking terms (Howlett *et al*. 2020). It would also be unlikely to achieve its intended effects and risks negative impacts on wildlife and local communities.

5. Recommendations

Recognizing that legal hunting for trophies can benefit species but can have negative impacts if poorly regulated (Hare *et al.* 2023, IUCN 2012), what are alternative policy options to the proposed legislation? We suggest six options (see also Supp. Material 6), some not necessarily mutually exclusive, which we argue are more proportionate and targeted than prohibiting hunting trophy imports to the UK:

1. Do nothing differently. The UK could continue to implement the WTRs and EUWTRs (Northern Ireland), ensuring that imports and exports of hunting trophies are based on robust NDFs and legal acquisition findings.
2. Adopt negative opinions to suspend hunting trophy imports based on prevailing information about species, exporting countries, and potentially hunting operators, which could be updated periodically (UK Government 2023a).
3. Prohibit the import of hunting trophies from particular species and countries using the Suspensions Regulations (UK Government 2023b).
4. Remove the personal effects derogation for Annex B species traded as hunting trophies. This would require import permits for all hunting trophies imported to the UK using CITES purpose code H enabling further assessment of sustainability, for example, based on requirements in CITES Resolutions on hunting trophies (Res. Conf. 17.9) and NDFs (Res. Conf. 16.7 [Rev. CoP17]).

5. Apply stricter measures to the import of hunting trophies; stricter measures are currently used for rhinos (Rhinocerotidae spp.), bears (Ursidae spp.) and tiger (*Panthera tigris*) (UK Government 2023c).

6. Implement a 'Smart ban' (Webster *et al.* 2022), which would prohibit the import of hunting trophies from operators that fail to demonstrate an equitable sharing of hunting revenues with local communities, fail to establish and monitor sustainable hunting quotas, fail to invest in the conservation of wildlife and habitat, and/or fall short of established IUCN principles on legal hunting for trophies (IUCN 2012).

Public policy to address biodiversity loss requires context-specific solutions (Ostrom 2007, IPBES 2022). Our analyses suggest that a ban on imports of hunting trophies to the UK such as that proposed is disproportionate and may harm biodiversity, in part, because it does not differentiate between different types of legal hunting for trophies across social-ecological and governance contexts (Hare *et al.* 2023). Crucially, the UK Government's impact assessment failed to adequately consider the likely impacts of this policy on people outside of the UK who are expected to incur most of the costs. The UK Government may consider it disproportionate to evaluate such costs, but we argue that if politicians and the Government were serious about conserving biodiversity they would refrain from proposing oversimplistic policy solutions to complex biodiversity issues. We recommend that UK Government impact assessments concerning biodiversity internationally go beyond UK people and businesses and consider international impacts. This should involve consultation with relevant countries to examine the costs and benefits of policy options, which would help ensure that future policy is appropriately evidence-based (Sutherland 2020), and has the greatest likelihood of benefitting biodiversity, while avoiding environmental and socio-economic harm.

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Table 1. Top ten species imported to the UK as hunting trophies in 2000-2021, mean no. of trophies imported/year, WOEs imported, and mean WOEs imported/year. Source: CITES Trade Database (2023). WOEs=Whole organism equivalent. BW=Botswana, CA=Canada, CM=Cameroon, MW=Malawi, MZ=Mozambique, NA=Namibia, TZ=United Republic of Tanzania, UG=Uganda, US=United States of America, ZA=South Africa, ZM=Zambia, ZW=Zimbabwe. CITES Purpose codes: W=taken from the wild, F=animals born in captivity, C=animals bred in captivity, and R=ranched specimens.

Rank	Species	No. of trophies	Mean (±SD) no. trophies/year	WOE	Mean (±SD) WOE/year	Exporter(s)	Source(s)
1	African elephant *Loxodonta africana*	538	24.45 ± 30.23	125	5.66 ± 5.08	BW (166), ZW (162), ZA (114), TZ (56), MZ (23), NA (10), ZM (4), CM (3)	W (538)
2	American black bear *Ursus americanus*	485	22.04 ± 17.78	307	13.95 ± 8.32	CA (474), US (11)	W (485)
3	Common hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*	318	14.45 ± 16.56	91	4.12 ± 3.49	TZ (96), ZM (95), ZW (61), UG (31), ZA (30), MW (2), MZ (2), CM (1)	W (318)
4	Hartman's mountain zebra *Equus zebra hartmannae*	260	11.81 ± 6.52	253	11.5 ± 6.48	NA (219), ZA (41)	W (259), F (1)
5	Chacma baboon *Papio ursinus*	250	11.36 ± 9.62	244	11.09 ± 9.39	ZA (165), NA (48), ZW (34) BW (2), ZM (1)	W (250)
6	Lion* *Panthera leo*	173	7.86 ± 5.97	162	7.35 ± 5.60	ZA (100), TZ (28), ZW (17), NA (13), ZM (10), MZ (5)	W (89), C (83), F (1)
7	Caracal *Caracal caracal*	159	7.22 ± 5.39	159	7.22 ± 5.39	ZA (153), NA (6)	W (158), F (1)
8	Southern lechwe *Kobus leche*	148	6.72 ± 4.76	148	6.72 ± 4.76	ZA (81), ZM (36), BW (25), NA (6),	W (92), F (51), R (5)
9	Leopard *Panthera pardus*	122	5.45 ± 3.76	117	5.31 ± 3.49	ZW (36), NA (23), TZ (21), MZ (15), ZM (15), BW (7), ZA (5)	W (122), C (1), I (1)
10	Nile crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*	116	5.27 ± 5.34	102	4.63 ± 3.45	ZA (43), ZW (32), ZM (19), TZ (11), MZ (9), NA (2)	W (112), C (4)

*Imports from the wild involved 4.04 ± 6.03 trophies/year (3.54 ± 5.5 WOEs/year), imports from animals bred in captivity involved 8.42 ± 2.43 trophies/year (8.42 ± 2.43 WOEs/year) and imports from animals born in captivity involved 0.04 ± .021 trophies/year (0.04 ± .021 WOEs/year).

Table 2. Top ten species imported to the UK as hunting trophies in 2015-2021, mean no. of trophies imported/year, WOEs imported, and mean WOEs imported/year. Source: CITES Trade Database (2023). WOEs=Whole organism equivalent. BW=Botswana, CA=Canada, MZ=Mozambique, NA=Namibia, TZ=United Republic of Tanzania, ZA=South Africa, ZM=Zambia, ZW=Zimbabwe. CITES Purpose codes: W=taken from the wild, F=animals born in captivity, C=animals bred in captivity, and R=ranched specimens.

Rank	Species	No. of trophies	Mean (±SD) no. trophies/year	WOE	Mean (±SD) WOE/year	Exporter(s)	Source(s)
1	American black bear *Ursus americanus*	167	23.85 ± 16.67	71	10.14 ± 6.33	CA (167)	W (167)
2	Chacma baboon *Papio ursinus*	105	15 ± 10.56	105	15 ± 10.56	ZA (70), NA (20), ZW (14), ZM (1)	W (105)
3	African elephant *Loxodonta africana*	93	13.28 ± 12.28	34	4.82 ± 3.36	ZW (60), ZA (15), BW (5), MZ (5), NA (4), TZ (2), ZM (2)	W (93)
4	Hartman's mountain zebra *Equus zebra hartmannae*	82	11.71 ± 6.47	75	10.71 ± 6.23	NA (71), ZA (11)	W (82)
5	Lion* *Panthera leo*	71	10.14 ± 4.29	69	9.85 ± 3.71	ZA (61), NA (6), MZ (2), TZ (2)	W (12), C (59)
6	*Giraffe* *Giraffa camelopardalis*	50	7.14 ± 11.17	25	3.57 ± 5.34	ZA (43), ZW (5), NA (2)	W (50)
7	Southern lechwe *Kobus leche*	45	6.42 ± 5.41	45	6.42 ± 5.41	ZA (34), NA (6), ZM (5)	F (32), W (11), R (2)
8	Vervet monkey *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*	45	6.42 ± 3.55	45	6.42 ± 3.55	ZA (41), ZM (2), ZW (2)	W (43), R (2)
9	Nile crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*	44	6.28 ± 4.75	43	6.14 ± 4.37	ZA (33), ZW (5), MZ (2), NA (2), TZ (2)	W (43), C (1)
10	Common hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*	39	5.57 ± 5.56	19	2.64 ± 1.27	ZW (15), ZM (12), ZA (8), TZ (4)	W (39)

*Imports from the wild involved 1.71 ± 2.42 trophies/year (1.42 ± 1.71 WOEs/year) and imports from animals bred in captivity involved 8.42 ± 2.43 trophies/year (8.42 ± 2.43 WOEs/year).

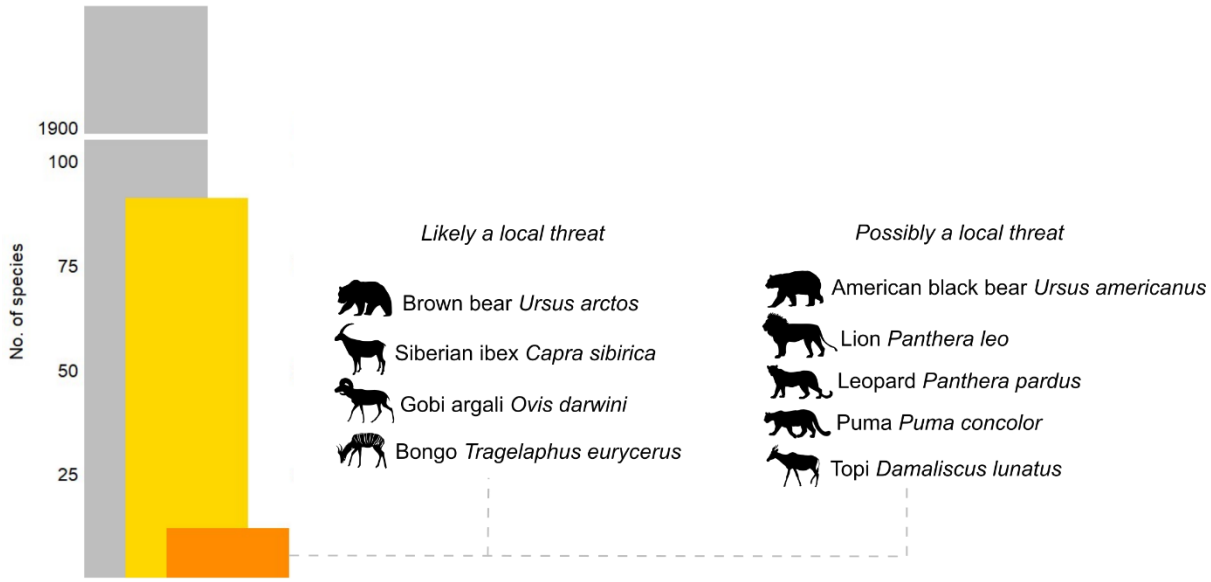

Fig. 1 | Number of CITES-listed animal species imported to/exported from the UK for all purposes (2000-2021) (grey), number of these species imported to/exported from the UK as hunting trophies in the same period (yellow), and number of these species for which trophy hunting is likely or possibly a local threat but does not contribute to them being of elevated conservation concern (orange). Source: CITES Trade Database (2023) and IUCN Red List (2023).

736 **Table 3. Summary of key issues and areas of improvement identified in the UK's government's impact assessment of the Hunting**
737 **Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill.** Some issues apply to more than one section of the impact assessment. See Supp. Material 5 for the full
738 evaluation.
739

Section	Quality	Summary of key issues identified and areas of improvement
1. Policy rationale	Weak	The rationale focuses on importer-reported data only to characterize the UK's role in the global trade in hunting trophies when exporter-reported quantities are often more complete, likely underestimating the UK's role in this trade The rationale assumes that the proposed legislation will disincentivize legal hunting for trophies of included species by people wishing to export hunting trophies to the UK, which may or may not be the case; empirical evidence referred to in Section 2 of the impact assessment suggests that this may not be the case and hunting may continue (though potentially at lower levels) The assessment would be improved by robust analysis of the likely impacts of the bill on hunter behavior (e.g., would hunters plausibly continue to hunt, or not, and under what conditions) The impact assessment focuses on the impacts of the proposed policy options on the UK but the analysis could be improved by considering impacts in countries where legal hunting for trophies takes place, especially as the impact assessment suggests that the highest costs would be expected to be borne by actors outside of the UK (e.g., local people and hunting operators) The impact assessment could be improved by robust analysis of the threats to species that are subject to legal hunting for trophies for import into the UK, including explicit consideration of the magnitude of threat (e.g., major vs. minor) and the scope, severity, and impact of any threat
2. Costs and benefits	Weak	It is suggested that most costs can likely be expected to be borne by actors outside of the UK (e.g., hunting operators in countries where hunting trophies are acquired for import) but potential costs to such businesses are mentioned only briefly and are not quantified or monetised, though reference is made to the costs of some hunts The environmental and societal impacts of the proposed policy options, in particular on countries and peoples beyond the UK, are considered vaguely. For example, "potential loss of income for communities that rely on trophy hunting" and "wildlife may lose part of its value due to no longer being economically competitive with other land uses, leading to negative conservation outcomes" It is assumed that benefits will result from a reduction in the acquisition of hunting trophies and subsequent import to the UK as the species involved receive greater protection, which is misleading and not necessarily the case The assumption that reducing legal hunting for trophies will result in enhanced protection of target species does not hold and presumes that the institutional settings are appropriate and necessary resources available for protecting such species where hunting takes place but no justification is provided For policy option #1 it is assumed that lost custom for hunting trips could be replaced by other forms of tourism, such as "eco-wildlife tourism" but this assumes that areas where species are legally hunted for trophies for import to the UK are suitable for these activities; prevailing evidence suggests that this is not the case for reasons including the remoteness of some areas where hunting takes place and lack of tourist infrastructure

3. Risks and unintended consequences	Weak	The impact assessment would be improved by evidence that major exporting countries have been consulted on the proposed legislation, including insights on the potential impacts of the bill in those countries
4. Wider impacts	Weak	It is suggested that a reduction in legal hunting for trophies could result in positive knock-on effects for species numbers, biodiversity, and ecosystem services but this cannot be assumed because outcomes of the proposed policies could be positive or negative for species based on a range of social (e.g., the attitudes of local people), economic (e.g., incentives for legal and/or illegal offtake), and governance factors (e.g., the legitimacy of local laws and bans/restrictions imposed by importing countries) in areas where this hunting takes place It is recognised in brief that banning the legal movement of hunting trophies could lead to increased illegal wildlife trade and reduce the amount of protein local communities receive as a by-product of legal hunting for trophies but does not present detail on remedial measures beyond suggesting other forms of tourism (e.g., photographic tourism) and "other alternative wildlife management strategies" will be needed The section uses outdated information (from 2004) to estimate the number of species threatened by overexploitation
5. Post-implementation review	Weak	It is not clear whether proposed engagement with stakeholders during monitoring and evaluation includes individuals, groups, and businesses internationally (e.g., local communities and hunting operators in areas where hunting takes place), which would be expected to bear most of the costs of the proposed legislation, or just those in the UK

Supplementary Material

Evaluating key evidence and formulating regulatory alternatives regarding the UK's Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill

Supplementary Material 1 – Methods

Analyzing international trade in CITES-listed species

Number of hunting trophies from CITES-listed species and WOEs traded globally

We downloaded a comparative tabulation report for 2000-2021 including all exporting and importing countries, all sources, for the purpose of "hunting trophy" (purpose code H), and all trade terms and taxa. We analyzed direct trade only because it comprised the vast majority of the trade by volume. In estimating the number of hunting trophies and WOEs traded we excluded trade using the term "live". We subsequently ranked importers and exporters based on reported trade volumes using the number of trophies. We then calculated the whole organism equivalents (WOEs) for this trade adapting the approach by Harfoot *et al.* (2018). This entailed converting products in trade to WOEs, for example 5 bodies represent 5 WOEs and 4 feet represent 1 mammal WOE (Table S1). To estimate WOEs we used the terms in Table S1 with unit =blank, number of specimens, belly skins, and hornback skins. To estimate the number of trophies and WOEs traded in 2015-2021, we summarized data for this period.

The UK's role in the international trade of hunting trophies in CITES-listed species

We downloaded a comparative tabulation report for the period 2000-2021 for all exporting countries with the UK as the importing country, including all sources, for the purpose of "hunting trophy" (purpose code H), and all trade terms and all taxa. To estimate the number of hunting trophies in trade we used all trade terms (except "live") and units =blank and number of specimens but not other units (gm and kg). We visually inspected the data and added small volumes of trade reported by importers to our summaries where such trade was evidently not reported by exporters being careful to avoid double counting (CITES

Table S1. Conversion factors used to estimate WOEs for hunting trophies. Adapted from Harfoot *et al.* (2018).

Class	Term	Description	Factor to equate to WOE
Aves	BOD	Bodies	1
	SKE	Skeleton	1
	SKI	Skins	1
	SKU	Skulls	1
	TAI	Tails	1
	TRO	Trophies	1
Mammalia	BOD	Bodies	1
	FOO	Feet	0.25
	HOR	Horns	1
	SKE	Skeleton	1
	SKI	Skins	1
	SKU	Skulls	1
	TAI	Tail	1
	TEE	Teeth – *Hippopotamus amphibius* only	0.083
	TRO	Trophies	1
	TUS	Tusks – *Loxodonta africana* only	0.532
Reptilia	BOD	Bodies	1
	CAR	Carapace	1
	FOO	Feet	0.25
	SKE	Skeleton	1
	SKI	Skins	1
	SKU	Skulls	1
	TRO	Trophies	1

Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC 2022). As above, we estimated the number of WOEs in trade as hunting trophies adapting the approach by Harfoot *et al.* (2018). To estimate WOEs we used only those terms included in Table S1 with unit=blank and number of specimens. We repeated this process for exports of hunting trophies from the UK, downloading data using the same terms as above but with the UK as the exporting country and all other countries as importers. We did so recognizing that the UK may export hunting trophies as well as being an importer. We also repeated the process to estimate WOEs for UK exports. To estimate the number of trophies and WOEs traded in 2015-2021, we summarized data for this period.

UK trade in CITES-listed animal species overall, for commercial purposes, and as pets

To contextualize the number of CITES-listed species imported to/exported from the UK as hunting trophies among CITES-listed animal species traded overall and for commercial

purposes and as pets, including associated trade volumes, we downloaded two comparative tabulation reports. The first comprised data on all exporting countries with the UK as the importing country, including all sources, purposes, trade terms, and taxa for the period 2000-2021. The second included the same terms but with the UK as the exporter and all other countries as importers. We calculated the number of species imported to/exported from the UK for the periods 2000-2021 and 2015-2021. To estimate trade volumes we calculated the number of WOEs imported to and exported from the UK overall and then for both commercial purposes (purpose code T) and as pets (purpose codes P and B; see below) using the terms in Table S2 and units=blank and number of specimens and totaled imports and exports. To estimate WOEs for trade in pets, we used purpose codes P (personal) and B (breeding in captivity), the terms live, eggs, and eggs-live, and units=blank and number of specimens.

826 **Table S2. Conversion factors used to estimate WOEs adapted from Harfoot *et al.* (2018).**

Class	Term	Description	Factor to equate to WOE
Actinopteri	BOD	Bodies	1
	FIG	Fingerlings	1
	LIV	Live	1
	SKE	Skeleton	1
	SKI	Skins	1
Amphibia	BOD	Bodies	1
	LIV	Live	1
	SKI	Skins	1
Anthozoa	LIV	Live	1
	COR	Raw Corals	1
Arachnida	LIV	Live	1
Aves	BOD	Bodies	1
	LIV	Live	1
	SKI	Skins	1
	SKU	Skulls	1
	TRO	Trophies	1
Bivalvia	BOD	Bodies	1
	LIV	Live	1
	SHE	Shells	1
Cephalopod	SHE	Shells	1
Dipneusti	BOD	Bodies	1
	LIV	Live	1
Elasmobranchii	BOD	Bodies	1
	FIN	Fins	1
	LIV	Live	1
	SKE	Skeleton	1
	SKI	Skins	1
	SKU	Skulls	1
Hirudinoidea	LIV	Live	1
Hydrozoa	LIV	Live	1
	COR	Raw corals	1
Insecta	LIV	Live	1
Mammalia	BOD	Bodies	1
	FOO	Feet	0.25
	HOR	Horns	1
	LIV	Live	1
	SKE	Skeleton	1
	SKI	Skins	1
	SKU	Skulls	1
	TAI	Tail	1
	TEE	Teeth – *Hippopotamus amphibius* only	0.083
	TRO	Trophies	1
	TUS	Tusks – Elephantidae spp.*	0.532
Reptilia	BOD	Bodies	1
	CAR	Carapace	1
	FOO	Feet	0.25
	HEA	Head	1
	LIV	Live	1
	SKE	Skeleton	1
	SKI	Skins	1
	SKU	Skulls	1
	TRO	Trophies	1

827 *This includes records for Elephantidae spp., *Elephas maximus,* and *Loxodonta africana.*

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Legal hunting for trophies as a contributor to species being of elevated conservation concern

Species database

Our MS Excel database includes data from IUCN Red List assessments (using Red List version 2022-2) and Species+ (UNEP 2023) for species directly imported to/exported from the UK as hunting trophies in the period 2000-2021[1]. The database contains the following fields: class, common name, scientific name, CITES Appendix, date of last assessment, Red List Category, population size, population trend, and whether intentional hunting of the species is a current threat (yes/no) based on the following threat codes: 5.1.1. (Hunting & collecting terrestrial animals → Intentional use (species being assessed is the target)), 5.4.1. (Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources → Intentional use: subsistence/small scale (species being assessed is the target)), and/or 5.4.2. (Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources → Intentional use: large scale (species being assessed is the target)). We included a field for which of these threat codes had been applied to species (e.g., 5.1.1.) and the timing of those threats (e.g., past or ongoing). For more information on how the Red List generally defines major threats see IUCN (2023). We included a field that contained the narrative text from the threats field and justification field from Red List assessments. We also included a field containing relevant information from the Use and Trade section of each assessment (where information was available). The Use and Trade Classification Scheme includes a specific category ("Sport hunting/specimen collecting") that provided a helpful countercheck, noting that there is no direct relation between the use and trade scheme and the threat scheme (i.e., the Use and Trade classification scheme is intended to document use at any level whether a

[1]This excludes the Javan langur (*Trachypithecus auratus*) (2 live animals exported to South Africa in 2002) and the tiger (*Panthera tigris*) (1 pre-Convention [source code O] skin exported to Mexico in 2019).

threat or not). The classification of species was undertaken by one author and the results were discussed with and/or checked by three other authors.

Recognizing that legal hunting for trophies can provide benefits to species and local people, we also recorded in our database whether Red List assessments for species referred to such benefits, either actual or potential. To do so we also read the Conservation Actions section of assessments and considered species to benefit (actually or potentially) where this was stated in the selected sections of assessments reviewed.

Species examples

The giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) was categorised as not having legal hunting for trophies as a major threat contributing to the species being listed as Vulnerable. This is because, while intentional use is a major threat, there is no evidence that this is driven by legal hunting for trophies. Indeed, the Red List account makes it clear that the threat is illegal hunting. The Gobi argali (*Ovis darwini*) was categorised as legal hunting for trophies *likely* comprises a local threat (but does not contribute to elevated conservation concern) because this is stated in the threats narrative in the assessment for this taxon. The lion (*Panthera leo*) was categorised as legal hunting for trophies *possibly* comprises a local threat. This is because the narrative text in the assessment states that this hunting "may have at times" contributed to population declines.

Limitations to using IUCN Red List data

Further to the main text, we acknowledge that our assessment of the degree to which legal hunting for trophies is a major threat or not is based on a direct interpretation of information contained in the IUCN Red List which may not be current or complete. As such we cannot,

and do not, purport to definitively state that legal hunting for trophies is not a major threat to any species; instead we note that, based on the best available data in the Red List, this does not currently appear to be the case. We also note that for the 93 species in our dataset only one Red List account (Collared peccary *Pecari tajacu*) is outdated (i.e., older than 10 years) though 12 assessments were conducted in 2014 and 8 in 2015.

Evaluating the UK Government's impact assessment of the bill

Regulatory proposals in the UK are accompanied by impact assessments, which evaluate the likely associated risks, costs, and benefits of proposed regulation, and impacts on businesses, charities and voluntary organisations, the public sector, and individuals (Regulatory Policy Committee, n.d.). Assessments are based on the ROAMEF policy cycle (Rationale, Objectives, Appraisal, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Feedback) and use cost-benefit analyses (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2020). Guidance is provided to government departments on conducting impact assessments through the Better Regulation Framework (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2020) and HM Treasury's Green Book - Central Government Guidance on Appraisal and Evaluation (hereafter "Green Book"; UK Government 2022).

Impact assessments should clearly explain the issue the government is trying to tackle, how they intend to tackle it, and what the effects of proposals will be (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2020). The Better Regulation Framework and Green Book detail how to appraise potential policy options, including associated justification, and how to make the case for preferred policy options. Key considerations include that policy development should be based on objective evidence; assumptions, where needed, are reasonable and justified by transparent reference to the research on which they are based; that

risks associated with the regulation are understood; and, that policy development should consider the impact of proposed regulation on specific groups in society, places, or businesses, including unintended consequences. Where effects of regulation are significant for particular groups, analysis identifying gaining and losing groups and estimates of the effects should be undertaken. The Green Book also states that impacts on natural capital should be considered, including explicit consideration of wildlife and the provision of ecosystem services. The principal focus of risk assessments is impacts in the UK but the Green Book states that it is sometimes reasonable to consider the costs and benefits to people living outside the UK, and where appraisal of Official Development Assistance (ODA) is concerned, this should include the costs and benefits to the recipient countries.

Based on the estimated equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) different types of impact assessment are required (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2020). If the proposed regulation involves EANDCB of £±5 million, full impact assessments are required, adhering to the aforementioned guidance, and scrutiny by the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) is required. In circumstances where the EANDCB of proposed regulation is <£5 million, only a proportionate analysis is required (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2020). The RPC is an independent regulatory body for the UK Government, which assesses the quality of evidence and analysis used to inform qualifying government regulatory proposals based on the aforementioned guidance but does not provide opinions on policies themselves (Regulatory Policy Committee, n.d.). On evaluating impact assessments, the RPC formally rates them as green (=fit for purpose) or red (=not fit for purpose). Fit for purpose impact assessments are those where there are no significant concerns over the quality of the assessment or there are minor issues that could be improved. Impact assessments that are not fit for purpose are those where there are major

concerns over the quality of the evidence and analysis and the overall quality of the assessment. The RPC recently introduced quality indicators, ranging from *very weak* to *good*, based on a range of criteria, and covering key areas of impact assessments (e.g., "rationale and options") but which are not formally rated (Regulatory Policy Committee 2021).

For proportionate analysis of regulatory impact assessments, guidance indicates that the level of analysis should be proportionate to the problem the regulation is addressing and reflect the scale or impact of the measure(s) (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2020). This includes proportionate cost-benefit analysis to inform decision-making. For proportional analyses, scrutiny of impact assessments by the RPC is optional.

Using the RPC's quality indicators (Table S3), we evaluated the UK Government's regulatory impact assessment of the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill. The impact assessment for this bill did not qualify for, and was not, scrutinized by the RPC. Guidance on conducting impact assessments states that assessments should focus on the UK but may at times focus on costs and benefits outside of the country. As such we evaluated the impact assessment considering costs and benefits both within and outside of the UK, recognizing the international nature of trade in hunting trophies of CITES-listed species. This decision was informed by an initial read of the impact assessment prior to analysis, which indicated that such impacts had, at least, been acknowledged. We evaluated each section of the impact assessment by reading it carefully and noting both positive and negative aspects with reference to the criteria (Table S3). We did not provide an overall rating for the assessment.

Finally, recognizing calls for researchers to reflect on their position in research (Blair, 2016), we recognize that as an author group, we have engaged in research and policy formulation

952 relating to wildlife conservation and management, including research and monitoring of legal
953 hunting of wildlife for trophies specifically, for periods of up to several decades each and
954 therefore have familiarity with the subject area.

955 **Table S3. Quality indicators used to evaluate the impact assessment for the Hunting**
956 **Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill. Source: Regulatory Policy Committee (2021).**
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Quality indicator	Criteria
Good	Addresses the issue well. The analysis is sufficiently robust and addresses the issue properly. The analysis is based on good to high-quality, proportionate evidence and uses appropriate assumptions. It could be improved only in minor areas (if at all) and provides good support for decision-making on these aspects of the assessment.
Satisfactory	Addresses the issue adequately. The analysis is considered satisfactory. The analysis is based on adequate, proportionate evidence and uses appropriate assumptions. Some improvements could be made, but it provides sufficient support for decision-making on these aspects of the assessment.
Weak	Weak analysis of the issue. The analysis is not sufficiently robust to address the issue. Improvements are required in one or a number of areas. It provides inadequate support for decision-making on these aspects of the assessment.
Very weak	Very weak analysis of the issue. The analysis is poor and has significant flaws. Significant improvements are required in one or a number of areas. It provides inadequate support for decision-making on these aspects of the assessment.

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968 **Supplementary Material 2 – Results – International trade in hunting trophies**

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970 **Table S4. Top 20 exporters of hunting trophies from CITES-listed species (2000-2021)**
971 **based on number of trophies.**

Rank	Exporter	Estimated number of hunting trophies
1	Canada	140,954
2	South Africa	132,341
3	Mozambique	82,568
4	Namibia	45,715
5	Zimbabwe	35,321
6	Bulgaria	33,155
7	Zambia	29,109
8	United Republic of Tanzania	21,092
9	Botswana	19,190
10	Russian Federation	13,696
11	Mexico	10,789
12	Argentina	7921
13	United States	3972
14	Cameroon	2795
15	Kyrgyzstan	2595
16	Romania	2330
17	Central African Republic	1737
18	Mongolia	1550
19	United Kingdom	968
20	Pakistan	801

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984 **Table S5. Top 20 importers of hunting trophies from CITES-listed species (2000-2021)**
985 **based on number of trophies.**

Rank	Importer	Estimated number of hunting trophies
1	United States	247,353
2	China	41,303
3	Italy	32,646
4	South Africa	32,371
5	Spain	25,771
6	Germany	24,624
7	Singapore	19,829
8	France	18,885
9	Denmark	9349
10	Greece	9085
11	Zimbabwe	8714
12	Mexico	8638
13	Japan	8616
14	Austria	8368
15	Norway	8171
16	Slovakia	8145
17	Russian Federation	7366
18	Canada	6949
19	Sweden	5633
20	Republic of Korea	5530

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Table S6. Top 20 exporters of hunting trophies from CITES-listed species (2015-2021) based on number of trophies.

Rank	Exporter	Estimated number of hunting trophies
1	South Africa	53,304
2	Mozambique	47,602
3	Canada	36,530
4	Namibia	16,433
5	Zambia	14,380
6	Zimbabwe	11,924
7	Mexico	4682
8	United Republic of Tanzania	2884
9	Argentina	2554
10	Kyrgyzstan	2073
11	Russian Federation	1857
12	United States	1458
13	Türkiye	590
14	Botswana	457
15	Mongolia	414
16	Pakistan	381
17	Cameroon	315
18	Ethiopia	222
19	North Macedonia	123
20	Tajikistan	120

1016 **Table S7. Top 20 importers of hunting trophies from CITES-listed species (2015-2021)**
1017 **based on number of trophies.**

Rank	Importer	Estimated number of hunting trophies
1	United States	74,107
2	China	39,791
3	South Africa	10,524
4	Slovakia	6794
5	Germany	6501
6	Kyrgyzstan	5391
7	Singapore	5188
8	Japan	4632
9	Spain	4092
10	France	3111
11	Denmark	2991
12	Canada	2987
13	Russian Federation	2943
14	Italy	2737
15	Sweden	2464
16	Austria	2421
17	Mexico	2316
18	Norway	2066
19	Hungary	1922
20	Zimbabwe	1764

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1032 **Table S8. Species and subspecies (n=73) imported to the UK as hunting trophies (2000-2021), estimated number of trophies, mean (± SD)**
1033 **number of trophies traded/year, WOEs traded in this period, and mean (± SD) WOEs traded in this period/year, ranked by number of**
1034 **trophies.**

Rank	Common name	Scientific name	Estimated trophies	Mean ± SD	WOE	WOE (mean ± SD)
1	African elephant	*Loxodonta africana*	538	24.45 ± 30.23	125	5.66 ± 5.08
2	American black bear	*Ursus americanus*	485	22.04 ± 17.78	307	13.95 ± 8.32
3	Common hippopotamus	*Hippopotamus amphibius*	318	14.45 ± 16.56	91	4.12 ± 3.49
4	Hartmann's mountain zebra	*Equus zebra hartmannae*	260	11.81 ± 6.52	253	11.5 ± 6.48
5	Chacma baboon	*Papio ursinus*	250	11.36 ± 9.62	244	11.09 ± 9.39
6	Lion*	*Panthera leo*	173	7.86 ± 5.97	162	7.35 ± 5.60
7	Caracal	*Caracal caracal*	159	7.22 ± 5.39	159	7.22 ± 5.39
8	Southern lechwe	*Kobus leche*	148	6.72 ± 4.76	148	6.72 ± 4.76
9	Leopard	*Panthera pardus*	122	5.45 ± 3.76	117	5.31 ± 3.49
10	Nile crocodile	*Crocodylus niloticus*	116	5.27 ± 5.34	102	4.63 ± 3.45
11	Grey wolf	*Canis lupus*	100	4.54 ± 9.74	52	2.36 ± 2.17
12	Brown bear	*Ursus arctos*	99	4.5 ± 3.71	99	4.5 ± 3.71
13	Vervet monkey	*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*	79	3.59 ± 3.94	79	3.59 ± 3.94
14	Hamadryas baboon	*Papio hamadryas*	75	3.4 ± 4.99	74	3.36 ± 4.94
15	Giraffe	*Giraffa camelopardalis*	50	2.27 ± 6.87	25	1.13 ± 3.32
16	Topi	*Damaliscus lunatus*	43	1.95 ± 3.52	43	1.95 ± 3.52
17	Grivet monkey	*Chlorocebus aethiops*	42	1.9 ± 3.08	42	1.9 ± 3.08
18	Bontebok	*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*	41	1.86 ± 2.18	41	1.86 ± 2.18
19	Afro-Asiatic wildcat	*Felis silvestris*	38	1.72 ± 2.76	38	1.72 ± 2.76
20	Blackbuck	*Antilope cervicapra*	28	1.27 ± 1.57	28	1.27 ± 1.57
21	Yellow baboon	*Papio cynocephalus*	25	1.13 ± 1.95	25	1.13 ± 1.95
22	Southern white rhino	*Ceratotherium simum simum*	22	1 ± 1.66	16	0.72 ± 1.12
23	African civet	*Civettictis civetta*	22	1 ± 1.15	22	1 ± 1.15
24	Puma	*Puma concolor*	21	0.95 ± 1.29	21	0.95 ± 1.29
25	Serval	*Leptailurus serval*	20	0.9 ± 1.06	20	0.9 ± 1.06

26	Siberian ibex	*Capra sibirica*	19	0.86 ± 2	19	0.86 ± 2
27	Blue duiker	*Philantomba monticola*	17	0.77 ± 1.34	16	0.72 ± 1.24
28	Maxwell's duiker	*Philantomba maxwellii*	16	0.72 ± 1.3	16	0.72 ± 1.3
29	Egyptian goose	*Alopochen aegyptiaca*	15	0.68 ± 1.32	15	0.68 ± 1.32
30	Scimitar-horned oryx	*Oryx dammah*	13	0.59 ± 1	13	0.59 ± 1
31	Polar bear	*Ursus maritimus*	12	0.54 ± 0.96	11	0.5 ± 0.85
32	Aoudad	*Ammotragus lervia*	12	0.54 ± 0 .73	12	0.54 ± 0 .73
33	Olive baboon	*Papio anubis*	11	0.5 ± 0.8	11	0.5 ± 0.8
34	Spur-winged goose	*Plectropterus gambensis*	10	0.45 ± 0.85	10	0.45 ± 0.85
35	Cheetah	*Acinonyx jubatus*	8	0.36 ± 0.72	7	0.36 ± 0.56
36	Honey badger	*Mellivora capensis*	8	0.36 ± 0.65	8	0.36 ± 0.65
37	Markhor	*Capra falconeri*	8	0.36 ± 0.58	8	0.36 ± 0.58
38	Wild goat	*Capra hircus aegagrus*	7	0.31 ± 0.71	7	0.31 ± 0.71
39	Bighorn sheep	*Ovis canadensis*	5	0.22 ± 0.52	5	0.22 ± 0.52
40	American alligator	*Alligator mississippiensis*	4	0.18 ± 0.5	4	0.18 ± 0.5
41	Argali	*Ovis ammon*	4	0.18 ± 0.39	4	0.18 ± 0.39
42	Canada lynx	*Lynx canadensis*	3	0.13 ± 0.46	3	0.13 ± 0.46
43	Blesbok	*Damaliscus pygargus*	3	0.13 ± 0.46	3	0.13 ± 0.46
44	Gobi argali	*Ovis darwini*	3	0.13 ± 0.46	3	0.13 ± 0.46
45	Urial†	*Ovis aries*	3	0.13 ± 0.35	3	0.13 ± 0.35
46	Sitatunga	*Tragelaphus spekii*	2	0.09 ± 0.42	2	0.09 ± 0.42
47	Bay duiker	*Cephalophus dorsalis*	2	0.09 ± 0.42	2	0.09 ± 0.42
48	Blue sheep	*Pseudois nayaur*	2	0.09 ± 0.42	2	0.09 ± 0.42
49	Eurasian lynx	*Lynx lynx*	2	0.09 ± 0.29	2	0.09 ± 0.29
50	Bobcat	*Lynx rufus*	2	0.09 ± 0.29	2	0.09 ± 0.29
51	Walrus	*Odobenus rosmarus*	2	0.09 ± 0.29	1	0.04 ± 0.21
52	Western tur	*Capra caucasica*	2	0.09 ± 0.29	2	0.09 ± 0.29
53	Bongo	*Tragelaphus eurycerus*	2	0.09 ± 0.29	2	0.09 ± 0.29
54	Cape mountain zebra	*Equus zebra zebra*	2	0.09 ± 0.29	2	0.09 ± 0.29
55	Central African rock python	*Python sebae*	2	0.09 ± 0.29	2	0.09 ± 0.29
56	White-faced whistling duck	*Dendrocygna viduata*	2	0.09 ± 0.29	2	0.09 ± 0.29

57	Common jackal	*Canis aureus*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
58	Striped hyena	*Hyaena hyaena*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
59	North American river otter	*Lontra canadensis*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
60	Aardwolf	*Proteles cristata*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
61	Addax	*Addax nasomaculatus*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
62	Hog deer	*Axis porcinus*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
63	Wood bison	*Bison bison athabascae*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
64	Nilgai	*Boselaphus tragocamelus*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
65	Dama gazelle	*Nanger dama*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
66	Arabian oryx	*Oryx leucoryx*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
67	Collared peccary	*Pecari tajacu*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
68	Blue monkey	*Cercopithecus mitis*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
69	Guereza	*Colobus guereza*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
70	Gelada baboon	*Theropithecus gelada*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
71	Black rhino	*Diceros bicornis*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
72	Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
73	Maro Polo argali	*Ovis polii*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21

*For lion, trophies sourced from the wild totaled 89 (4.04 ± 6.03 trophies/year; 3.54 ± 5.5 WOEs/year), trophies sourced from animals bred in captivity totaled 59 (8.42 ± 2.43 trophies/year; 8.42 ± 2.43 WOEs/year) and trophies sourced from animals born in captivity totaled 1 (0.04 ± .021 trophies/year; 0.04 ± .021 WOEs/year).
†We include *Ovis aries* in this table but in table S12 refer to two species: mouflon (*O. gmelini*) and urial (*O. vignei*) following taxonomic updates on the IUCN Red List.

Table S9. Species exported (n=18) from the UK as hunting trophies (2000-2021), estimated number of trophies, mean (± SD) number of trophies traded/year, WOEs traded in this period, and mean (± SD) WOEs traded in this period/year, ranked by number of trophies.

Class	Rank	Common name	Scientific name	Estimated trophies	Mean ± SD	WOE	WOE (mean ± SD)
Aves	1	Comon teal	*Anas crecca*	287	13.04 ± 45.66	287	13.04 ± 45.66
	2	Eurasian wigeon	*Anas penelope*	238	10.81 ± 42.99	239	10.81 ± 42.99
	3	Northern shoveler	*Anas clypeata*	213	9.68 ± 43.41	213	9.68 ± 43.41
	4	Northern pintail	*Anas acuta*	207	9.4 ± 42.80	207	9.4 ± 42.80
	5	Black stork	*Ciconia nigra*	2	0.09 ± 0.42	2	0.09 ± 0.42
	5	Common pigeon/rock dove	*Columba livia*	2	0.09 ± 0.42	2	0.09 ± 0.42
	6	White-chested emerald	*Amazilia brevirostris*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
	6	Garganey	*Anas querquedula*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
	6	Buzzard	*Buteo buteo*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
	6	Black-eared fairy	*Heliothryx auritus*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
	6	Red-tailed comet	*Sappho sparganura*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
	6	Kakapo	*Strigops habroptila*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
	6	Barred owl	*Strix varia*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
	6	Fork-tailed woodnymph	*Thalurania furcata*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
	6	Peruvian sheartail	*Thaumastura cora*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
	6	Crimson topaz	*Topaza pella*	1	0.04 ± 0.21	1	0.04 ± 0.21
Mammals*	1	Hog deer	*Axis porcinus*	5	0.22 ± 0.52	5	0.22 ± 0.52
	1	Swamp deer	*Rucervus duvaucelii*	4	0.18 ± 0.5	4	0.18 ± 0.5

*Excludes 2 live Javan langurs (*Trachypithecus auratus*) exported to South Africa in 2002 and 1 pre-Convention (source code O) tiger (*Panthera tigris*) skin exported to Mexico in 2019.

N.B. Exports of hunting trophies from the UK involved only 17 trophies in 2015-2021. They have not been tabulated but included the following: 5 *A. porcinus* trophies (as per Table S9), 4 of which were from captive sources (source code C) and 1 was a previously seized trophy (source code I); 3 *R. duvaucelli* trophies all from captive sources (source code C), 2 trophies from *C. nigra* (source code W) and single trophies from *A. brevirostris*, *H. auratus*, *S. sparganura*, *S. habroptila*, *T. cora, T. furcate*, and *T. pella* (source code O, pre-Convention) as per Table S9.

1055 **Table S10. Species and subspecies imported (n=44) to the UK as hunting trophies (2015-2021), estimated number of trophies, mean (±**
1056 **SD) number of trophies traded/year, WOEs traded in this period, and mean (± SD) WOEs traded in this period/year, ranked by number**
1057 **of trophies.**

Rank	Common name	Scientific name	Estimated trophies	Mean ± SD	WOE	WOE (mean ± SD)
1	American black bear	*Ursus americanus*	167	23.85 ± 16.67	71	10.14 ± 6.33
2	Chacma baboon	*Papio ursinus*	105	15 ± 10.56	105	15 ± 10.56
3	African elephant	*Loxodonta africana*	93	13.28 ± 12.28	34	4.82 ± 3.36
4	Hartmann's mountain zebra	*Equus zebra hartmannae*	82	11.71 ± 6.47	75	10.71 ± 6.23
5	Lion*	*Panthera leo*	71	10.14 ± 4.29	69	9.85 ± 3.71
6	Giraffe	*Giraffa camelopardalis*	50	7.14 ± 11.17	25	3.57 ± 5.34
7	Southern lechwe	*Kobus leche*	45	6.42 ± 5.41	45	6.42 ± 5.41
8	Vervet monkey	*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*	45	6.42 ± 3.55	45	6.42 ± 3.55
9	Nile crocodile	*Crocodylus niloticus*	44	6.28 ± 4.75	43	6.14 ± 4.37
10	Common hippopotamus	*Hippopotamus amphibius*	39	5.57 ± 5.56	19	2.64 ± 1.27
11	Caracal	*Caracal caracal*	36	5.14 ± 4.45	36	5.14 ± 4.45
12	Leopard	*Panthera pardus*	26	3.71 ± 2.21	26	3.71 ± 2.21
13	Brown bear	*Ursus arctos*	20	2.85 ± 2.54	20	2.85 ± 2.54
14	Siberian ibex	*Capra sibirica*	19	2.71 ± 2.87	19	2.71 ± 2.87
15	Blackbuck	*Antilope cervicapra*	15	2.14 ± 2.19	15	2.14 ± 2.19
16	Serval	*Leptailurus serval*	10	1.42 ± 1.39	10	1.42 ± 1.39
17	Bontebok	*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*	9	1.28 ± 1.7	9	1.28 ± 1.7
18	Aoudad	*Ammotragus lervia*	7	1 ± 0.81	7	1 ± 0.81
19	Wild goat	*Capra hircus aegagrus*	7	1 ± 1	7	1 ± 1
20	Olive baboon	*Papio anubis*	6	0.85 ± 1.21	6	0.85 ± 1.21
21	Yellow baboon	*Papio cynocephalus*	6	0.85 ± 0.89	6	0.85 ± 0.89
22	Grey wolf	*Canis lupus*	5	0.71 ± 1.25	3	0.42 ± 0.78
23	Bighorn sheep	*Ovis canadensis*	4	0.57 ± 0.78	4	0.57 ± 0.78
24	Southern white rhino	*Ceratotherium simum simum*	3	0.42 ± 0.53	3	0.42 ± 0.53
25	African civet	*Civettictis civetta*	3	0.42 ± 0.53	3	0.42 ± 0.53

26	Blesbok	*Damaliscus pygargus*	3	0.42 ± 0.78	3	0.42 ± 0.78
27	Scimitar-horned oryx	*Oryx dammah*	3	0.42 ± 0.78	3	0.42 ± 0.78
28	Blue duiker	*Philantomba monticola*	3	0.42 ± 0.78	3	0.42 ± 0.78
29	American alligator	*Alligator mississippiensis*	3	0.42 ± 0.78	3	0.42 ± 0.78
30	Argali	*Ovis ammon*	3	0.42 ± 0.53	3	0.42 ± 0.53
31	Western tur	*Capra caucasica*	2	0.28 ± 0.48	2	0.28 ± 0.48
32	Bay duiker	*Cephalophus dorsalis*	2	0.28 ± 0.75	2	0.28 ± 0.75
33	Blue sheep	*Pseudois nayaur*	2	0.28 ± 0.75	2	0.28 ± 0.75
34	Polar bear	*Ursus maritimus*	2	0.28 ± 0.75	2	0.28 ± 0.75
35	Honey badger	*Mellivora capensis*	2	0.28 ± 0.48	2	0.28 ± 0.48
36	Hog deer	*Axis porcinus*	1	0.14 ± 0.37	1	0.14 ± 0.37
37	Nilgai	*Boselaphus tragocamelus*	1	0.14 ± 0.37	1	0.14 ± 0.37
38	Cape mountain zebra	*Equus zebra zebra*	1	0.14 ± 0.37	1	0.14 ± 0.37
39	Afro-Asiatic wildcat	*Felis silvestris*	1	0.14 ± 0.37	1	0.14 ± 0.37
40	Striped hyena	*Hyaena hyaena*	1	0.14 ± 0.37	1	0.14 ± 0.37
41	Eurasian lynx	*Lynx lynx*	1	0.14 ± 0.37	1	0.14 ± 0.37
42	Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	1	0.14 ± 0.37	1	0.14 ± 0.37
43	Marco Polo argali	*Ovis polii*	1	0.14 ± 0.37	1	0.14 ± 0.37
44	Walrus	*Odobenus rosmarus*	1	0.14 ± 0.37	0	0 ± 0

*For lion, trophies sourced from the wild totaled 12 (1.71 ± 2.42 trophies/year; 1.42 ± 1.71 WOE/year) and trophies from animals bred in captivity totaled 59 (8.42 ± 2.43 trophies/year; 8.42 ± 2.43 WOEs/year).

Supplementary Material 3 – Results – Population status

Table S11. Population status of species and subspecies exported to the UK as hunting trophies in 2015-2021 in countries granting the export(s). Species ranked by number of trophies. AR=Argentina, AU=Australia, AZ=Azerbaijan, BJ=Benin, BW=Botswana, CM=Cameroon, CA=Canada, CG=Congo, KG=Kyrgyzstan, MX=Mexico, MZ=Mozambique, NA=Namibia, NP=Nepal, PK=Pakistan, RU=Russian Federation, TR=Türkiye, TZ=United Republic of Tanzania, UG=Uganda, US=United States of America, ZA=South Africa, ZM=Zambia, ZW=Zimbabwe. Except for CITES (2019, 2022) and Mech & Boitani (2004) all sources are global or regional Red List assessments.

Common name	Scientific name	Exporter	No. of trophies	Population status (e.g., increasing, decreasing, stable or similar)	Is population stable, increasing or similar?	Source
American black bear	*Ursus americanus*	CA	167	Increasing (estimated at 450,000 individuals)	Yes	Garshelis *et al.* 2016
Chacma baboon	*Papio ursinus*	ZA	70	Population declining globally but common and widespread	Yes	Sithaldeen 2019
		NA	20	Population declining globally but common and widespread	Yes	Sithaldeen 2019
		ZW	14	Population declining globally but common and widespread	Yes	Sithaldeen 2019
		ZM	1	Population declining globally but common and widespread	Yes	Sithaldeen 2019
African elephant	*Loxodonta africana*	ZW	60	Abundant, population estimated at 82,630 individuals	Yes	CITES 2022
		ZA	15	Abundant, population estimated at 26,864 individuals and increasing	Yes	Selier *et al.* 2016
		BW	5	Abundant, population estimated at 131,626 individuals	Yes	CITES 2022
		MZ	5	Unknown	Unknown	
		NA	4	Abundant, population estimated at 22,754 individuals	Yes	CITES 2022
		TZ	2	Unknown	Unknown	
		ZM	2	Stable, population estimated at 7,000 individuals	Yes	CITES 2019
Hartmann's Mountain zebra	*Equus zebra hartmannae*	NA	71	Increasing	Yes	Gosling *et al.* 2019
		ZA	11	Increasing	Yes	Gosling *et al.* 2019
Lion	*Panthera leo*	ZA	61	Increasing	Yes	Bauer *et al.* 2016

		NA	6	Increasing†	Yes	Bauer *et al.* 2016
		MZ	2	Unknown	Unknown	Bauer *et al.* 2016
		TZ	2	Declining	No	Bauer *et al.* 2016
Giraffe	*Giraffa camelopardalis**	ZA	43	Population increased in recent decades, now numbers 37,000 individuals	Yes	Muller *et al.* 2018
		ZW	5	Population increased in recent decades, now numbers 37,000 individuals	Yes	Muller *et al.* 2018
		NA	2	Population increased in recent decades, now numbers 37,000 individuals	Yes	Muller *et al.* 2018
Southern lechwe	*Kobus leche*	ZA	34	Extra-limital population	Extra-limital	IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group 2017a
		NA	6	Some subspecies populations increasing, other declining	Unknown	IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group 2017a
		ZM	5	Some subspecies populations increasing, other declining	Unknown	IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group 2017a
Vervet monkey	*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*	ZA	41	Global population declining but locally abundant	Unknown	Butynski *et al.* 2022
		ZM	2	Global population declining but locally abundant	Unknown	Butynski *et al.* 2022
		ZW	2	Global population declining but locally abundant	Unknown	Butynski *et al.* 2022
Nile crocodile	*Crocodylus niloticus*	ZA	33	Stable	Yes	Turner *et al.* 2017
		ZW	5	Increasing in places, declining in others	No	Isberg *et al.* 2019
		MZ	2	Unknown	Unknown	Isberg *et al.* 2019
		NA	2	Increasing in places, unknown in others	Unknown	Isberg *et al.* 2019
		TZ	2	Unknown	Unknown	Isberg *et al.* 2019
Common hippopotamus	*Hippopotamus amphibius*	ZW	15	Stable	Yes	Lewison & Pluháček 2017
		ZM	12	Stable	Yes	Lewison & Pluháček 2017
		ZA	8	Stable in southern Africa and most subpopulations in South Africa have increased in the last decade	Yes	Eksteen *et al.* 2016
		TZ	4	Unknown	Unknown	Lewison & Pluháček 2017
Caracal	*Caracal caracal*	ZA	34	Common and expanding into new areas	Yes	Avgan *et al.* 2016
		NA	2	Common and expanding into new areas	Yes	Avgan *et al.* 2016
Leopard	*Panthera pardus*	MZ	4	Declining	No	Stein *et al.* 2020
		NA	8	Unknown	No	Stein *et al.* 2020

		TZ	7	Unknown	No	Stein *et al.* 2020
		ZA	1	Declining	No	Stein *et al.* 2020, Swanepoel *et al.* 2016a
		ZM	2	Declining	No	Stein *et al.* 2020
		ZW	4	Declining	No	Stein *et al.* 2020
Brown bear	*Ursus arctos*	RU	16	Abundant, population estimated at 100,000 individuals	Yes	McLellan *et al.* 2017
		US	4	Abundant, population estimated at 33,000 individuals	Yes	McLellan *et al.* 2017
Siberian ibex	*Capra sibirica*	PK	1	Locally abundant in the north of the country	Unknown	Reading *et al.* 2020a
		KG	18	Abundant, population estimated at 70,000 individuals (includes Tajikistan)	Yes	Reading *et al.* 2020a
Blackbuck	*Antilope cervicapra*	AR	14	Extra-limital population	Extra-limital	IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group 2017b
		US	1	Extra-limital population	Extra-limital	IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group 2017b
Serval	*Leptailurus serval*	TZ	2	Unknown	Unknown	Thiel 2019
		ZA	8	Stable	Yes	Ramesh *et al.* 2016
Bontebok	*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*	ZA	9	Stable (some subpopulations increasing)	Yes	Radloff *et al.* 2016, 2017
Aoudad	*Ammotragus lervia*	US	2	Extra-limital population	Extra-limital	Cassinello *et al.* 2022
		ZA	5	Extra-limital population	Extra-limital	Cassinello *et al.* 2022
Wild goat	*Capra hircus aegagrus*	TR	7	Declining (though might have stabilised)	No	Weinberg & Ambarli 2020
Olive baboon	*Papio anubis*	BJ	1	Global population stable, widespread and locally common	Yes	Wallis 2020a
		CM	2	Global population stable, widespread and locally common	Yes	Wallis 2020a
		TZ	2	Global population stable, widespread and locally common	Yes	Wallis 2020a
		UG	1	Global population stable, widespread and locally common	Yes	Wallis 2020a
Yellow baboon	*Papio cynocephalus*	TZ	1	Global population stable, widespread and locally common	Yes	Wallis 2020b
		ZM	5	Global population stable, widespread and locally common	Yes	Wallis 2020b
Grey wolf	*Canis lupus*	CA	5	Stable (population estimated at c.40,000 individuals)	Yes	Boitani *et al.* 2018, Mech & Boitani 2004

Bighorn sheep	*Ovis canadensis*	MX	4	Population estimated at 12,655-14,000 individuals and is increasing in many areas	Yes	Festa-Bianchet 2020
Southern white rhino	*Ceratotherium simum simum*	ZA	3	Population declining globally but an estimated 18,064 individuals in South Africa	Yes	Emslie 2020a
African civet	*Civettictis civetta*	ZA	2	Population estimates suggest healthy populations	Yes	Swanepoel *et al.* 2016b
		ZW	1	Unknown	Unknown	-
Blesbok	*Damaliscus pygargus*	ZA	3	Increasing	Yes	Dalton *et al.* 2019
Scimitar-horned oryx	*Oryx dammah*	ZA	3	Extra-limital population	Extra-limital	IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group 2016c
Blue duiker	*Philantomba monticola*	ZA	3	Declining	No	Venter *et al.* 2016
American alligator	*Alligator mississippiensis*	US	3	Increasing	Yes	Elsey *et al.* 2019
Argali	*Ovis ammon*	KG	3	Population estimated at 16,669 individuals but abundance varies greatly in country	Unknown	Reading *et al.* 2020b
Western tur	*Capra caucasica*	AZ	1	Unknown	Unknown	-
		RU	1	Unknown	Unknown	-
Bay duiker	*Cephalophus dorsalis*	CG	2	Declining (though stable in places)	No	IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group 2020
Blue sheep	*Pseudois nayaur*	NP	2	Population in Nepal possibly 1947-10,000 individuals but this is uncertain	No	Harris 2014
Polar bear	*Ursus maritimus*	CA	2	Unknown	Unknown	Wiig *et al.* 2015
Honey badger	*Mellivora capensis*	ZA	2	Stable or increasing	Yes	Begg *et al.* 2016
Hog deer	*Axis porcinus*	AU	1	Trophies were from captive animals	Extra-limital	-
Nilgai	*Boselaphus tragocamelus*	US	1	Trophies were from captive animals	Extra-limital	-
Cape Mountain zebra	*Equus zebra zebra*	ZA	1	Increasing	Yes	Hrabar *et al.* 2019
Afro-Asiatic wildcat	*Felis silvestris*	ZA	1	Stable (but possibly declining)	Yes	Herbst *et al.* 2016
Striped hyena	*Hyaena hyaena*	TZ	1	Unknown	No	AbiSaid and Dloniak 2015
Eurasian lynx	*Lynx lynx*	RU	1	Stable in places, declining in others	No	Breitenmoser *et al.* 2015
Walrus	*Odobenus rosmarus*	CA	1	Global population likely >225,000 but Canadian population unknown	Unknown	Lowry 2016
Marco Polo argali	*Ovis polii*	KG	1	Population estimated at 4013 individuals but abundance varies greatly in country	Unknown	Reading *et al.* 2020b
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	CA	1	Increasing	Yes	BirdLife International 2016

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1082 **Supplementary Material 4 – Results – Legal hunting for trophies as a contributor to species being of elevated conservation concern**

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1084 **Table S12. Species and subspecies imported to/exported from the UK as hunting trophies (2000-2021), CITES Appendix, IUCN Red List**
1085 **Threat Category, population size, population trend, and information on intentional hunting/harvesting threats, including whether legal**
1086 **hunting for trophies poses a threat to species at different levels, or not.** This table includes 93 species because the Red List treats the urial
1087 (*Ovis aries*) as mouflon (*O. gmelini*) and urial (*O. vignei*), and African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) as the African Savanna Elephant (*L.*
1088 *africana*) and African Forest Elephant (*L. cyclotis*) following taxonomic updates. LHfT=Legal hunting for trophies.

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Common name	Scientific name*	CITES Appendix	IUCN Red List Category	Population size	Population trend	Intentional hunting or harvesting threat	Threat code(s) (timing)	Is LHfT a major contributor to elevated conservation concern?	Is LHfT likely or possibly causing localized declines?
Siberian ibex	*Capra sibirica*	III	NT	170,000-250,000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	L
Gobi argali	*Ovis darwini (Ovis ammon darwini)*	II	NT	10,000-14,800 (China and Mongolia)	Unknown	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	L
Bongo	*Tragelaphus eurycerus*	NC	NT	28,000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	L
Brown bear	*Ursus arctos*	I/II	LC	>200,000	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	L
Topi	*Damaliscus lunatus*	III	LC	Unknown‡	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	P
Lion	*Panthera leo*	I/II	VU	23,000-39,000†	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	P
Leopard	*Panthera pardus*	I	VU	Unknown‡	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	P
Puma	*Puma concolor*	I/II	LC	Unknown‡	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	P
American black bear	*Ursus americanus*	II	LC	850,000-950,000	Increasing	Y	5.1.1.	N	P
Cheetah	*Acinonyx jubatus*	I	VU	7100	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Addax	*Addax nasomaculatus*	I	CR	<100	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
American alligator	*Alligator mississippiensis*	II	LC	3,000,000-4,000,000	Increasing	N		N	N
Egyptian goose	*Alopochen aegyptiaca*	NC	LC	Unknown	Decreasing	Y		N	N
White-chested Emerald	*Amazilia brevirostris (Chrysuronia brevirostris)*	II	LC	Unknown (but common)	Stable	N		N	N

Aoudads	*Ammotragus lervia*	II	VU	5000-10,000†	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Northern pintail	*Anas acuta*	NC	LC	7,100,000-7,200,000	Decreasing	Y		N	N
Northern shoveler	*Anas clypeata (Spatula clypeata)*	NC	LC	6,500,000-7,000,000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Eurasian teal	*Anas crecca*	NC	LC	2,800,000†	Unknown	N		N	N
Eurasian wigeon	*Anas penelope*	NC	LC	2,800,000-3,300,000	Decreasing	Y		N	N
Garganey	*Anas querquedula (Spatula querquedula)*	NC	LC	2,600,000-2,800,000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Blackbuck	*Antilope cervicapra*	III	LC	35,200	Unknown	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Hog deer	*Axis porcinus*	III	EN	Unknown	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Hog deer	*Axis porcinus*	I	EN	Unknown	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Wood bison	*Bison bison athabascae*	NC	NT (*Bison bison*)	11,000	Stable	N		N	N
Nilgai	*Boselaphus tragocamelus*	III	LC	100,000	Stable	Y		N	N
Buzzard	*Buteo buteo*	II	LC	2,038,000-3,463,000	Increasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Common jackal	*Canis aureus*	III	LC	150,000††	Increasing	N		N	N
Grey wolf	*Canis lupus*	I/II	LC	~130,000**	Stable	N		N	N
Western tur	*Capra caucasica*	II	EN	4000-5000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Markhor	*Capra falconeri*	I	NT	9700††	Increasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Wild goat	*Capra hircus aegagrus (Capra aegagrus)*	III	NT	224,400††	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Caracal	*Caracal caracal*	I/II	LC	Unknown	Unknown	N		N	N
Bay duiker	*Cephalophus dorsalis*	II	NT	725,000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Southern white rhinoceros	*Ceratotherium simum simum*	I/II	NT	18,064	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Blue monkey	*Cercopithecus mitis*	II	LC	Unknown	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Grivet monkey	*Chlorocebus aethiops*	II	LC	Unknown	Decreasing	N		N	N
Vervet monkey	*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*	II	LC	Unknown (locally abundant)	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Black stork	*Ciconia nigra*	II	LC	24,000-44,000	Unknown	Y		N	N
African civet	*Civettictis civetta*	III	LC	Unknown (generally common)	Unknown	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Guereza	*Colobus guereza*	II	LC	Unknown (but widespread and locally abundant)	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N

Rock dove/Pigeon	*Columba livia*	NC	LC	Unknown	Decreasing	N		N	N
Nile crocodile	*Crocodylus niloticus*	I/II	LC	50,000-70,000†	Stable	Y	5.4.1., 5.4.2.	N	N
Blesbok	*Damaliscus pygargus*	II***	LC	77,751	Increasing	N		N	N
Bontebok	*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*	II	VU	515-1618†	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
White-faced whistling duck	*Dendrocygna viduata*	NC	LC	1,700,000-2,800,000	Increasing (some decreasing)	Y		N	N
Black rhinoceros	*Diceros bicornis*	I/II	CR	5,630	Increasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Hartmann's mountain zebra	*Equus zebra hartmannae*	II	VU	33,265	Increasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Cape mountain zebra	*Equus zebra zebra*	II	LC	3,247	Increasing	Y	5.1.1. (past)	N	N
Afro-Asiatic wildcat	*Felis lybica*	II	LC	Unknown	Unknown (some stable/declining)	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Giraffe	*Giraffa camelopardalis*	II	VU	95,762	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	II	LC	Unknown	Increasing	N		N	N
Black-eared fairy	*Heliothryx auritus*	II	LC	Unknown (but uncommon)	Decreasing	N		N	N
Common hippopotamus	*Hippopotamus amphibius*	II	VU	115,000-130,000	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Striped hyena	*Hyaena hyaena*	III	NT	5000-14,000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Lechwe	*Kobus leche*	II	NT	212,000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Serval	*Leptailurus serval*	II	LC	Unknown	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
North American River Otter	*Lontra canadensis*	II	LC	Unknown	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
African Savanna elephant	*Loxodonta africana*	I/II	EN	415,428‡‡	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
African Forest elephant	*Loxoonda cyclotis*	I/II	CR	415,428‡‡	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Canada lynx	*Lynx canadensis*	II	LC	Unknown	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Eurasian lynx	*Lynx lynx*	II	LC	68,720-69,760††	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Bobcat	*Lynx rufus*	II	LC	2,352,276-3,571,681	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Honey badger	*Mellivora capensis*	III	LC	Unknown	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Dama gazelle	*Nanger dama*	I	CR	<100-250	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Walrus	*Odobenus rosmarus*	III	VU	>225,000	Unknown	Y	5.4.1. (ongoing), 5.4.2. (past)	N	N

Scimitar-horned Oryx	*Oryx dammah*	I	EW	Intensively managed populations remain only	Unspecified	N		N	N
Arabian oryx	*Oryx leucoryx*	I	VU	1220	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Argali	*Ovis ammon*	II	NT	<107,000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Bighorn sheep	*Ovis canadensis*	II	LC	70,000	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Mouflon	*Ovis gmelini*	I (Cyprus)	NT	26,500	Unknown	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Marco Polo argali	*Ovis polii*	II	NT	4000-7000	Unknown	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Urial	*Ovis vignei*	I	VU	18000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Olive baboon	*Papio anubis*	II	LC	Unknown (widespread and locally common)	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Yellow baboon	*Papio cynocephalus*	II	LC	Unknown (widespread and locally common)	Stable	N		N	N
Hamadryas Baboon	*Papio hamadryas*	II	LC	2000	Increasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Chacma baboon	*Papio ursinus*	II	LC	Unknown (common and widespread)	Decreasing	N		N	N
Collared pecary	*Pecari tajacu*	II	LC	Unknown	Stable	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Maxwell's duiker	*Philantomba maxwellii*	II	LC	2,137,000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Blue duiker	*Philantomba monticola*	II	LC	7,000,000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Spur-winged goose	*Plectropterus gambensis*	NC	LC	Unknown	Increasing	Y		N	N
Aardwolf	*Proteles cristata*	III	LC	Unknown	Stable	Y		N	N
Blue sheep	*Pseudois nayaur*	III	LC	47,000-414,000	Unknown	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Central African rock python	*Python sebae*	II	NT	Unknown	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Swamp deer	*Rucervus duvaucelii*	I	VU	Unknown‡	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Red-tailed comet	*Sappho sparganura*	II	LC	Unknown (but fairly common)	Stable	N		N	N
Kakapo	*Strigops habroptila*	I	CR	116	Increasing	N		N	N
Barred owl	*Strix varia*	II	LC	Unknown	Increasing	N		N	N
Fork-tailed woodnymph	*Thalurania furcata*	II	LC	Unknown (but common)	Unknown	N		N	N
Peruvian sheartail	*Thaumastura cora*	II	LC	Unknown (but fairly common)	Stable	N		N	N
Gelada	*Theropithecus gelada*	II	LC	~4300	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (past)	N	N
Crimson topaz	*Topaza pella*	II	LC	Unknown (but uncommon)	Decreasing	N		N	N

Sitatunga	*Tragelaphus spekii*	NC	LC	170,000	Decreasing	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N
Polar bear	*Ursus maritimus*	II	VU	26,000	Unknown	Y	5.1.1. (ongoing)	N	N

*Species in brackets are synonyms on the IUCN Red List.
†Number of mature individuals rather than population size.
‡Some estimates (e.g., by region) are presented in the assessment.
**Based on Mech & Boitani (2004).
††Based on sub-regional estimates in the assessment.
‡‡Estimate for continental Africa rather than individual species.
***Subspecies *pygargus* in Appendix II.

Table S13. Species and subspecies for which legal hunting for trophies provides, or has the potential to provide, benefits based on information in the threats, use and trade, and conservation actions section of Red List assessments.

Common name	Scientific name
Aoudad	*Ammotragus lervia*
Markhor	*Capra falconeri*
Siberian ibex	*Capra sibirica*
White rhino	*Ceratotherium simum*
Blesbok	*Damaliscus pygargus*
Bontebok	*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*
Black rhino	*Diceros bicornis*
Hartmann's Mountain zebra	*Equus zebra hartmannae*
Cape Mountain zebra	*Equus zebra zebra*
Southern lechwe	*Kobus leche*
Argali	*Ovis ammon*
Bighorn sheep`	*Ovis canadensis*
Gobi argali	*Ovis darwini*
Marco Polo argali	*Ovis polii*
Lion	*Panthera leo*
Leopard	*Panthera pardus*
Blue sheep	*Pseudois nayaur*
Bongo	*Tragelaphus eurycerus*
Sitatunga	*Tragelaphus spekii*
American black bear	*Ursus americanus*

1119 **Supp. Material 5 – Results – Evaluating the UK Government's impact assessment of the bill**

1120 **Table S14. Assigned quality indicator and associated comments for the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill impact assessment**

Section	Quality	Assessment comments
1. Policy rationale	Weak	The rationale is informed by a recent consultation and call for evidence on "trophy hunting", relevant literature, and other pertinent policy documents, as well as the Conservative and Unionist Party Manifesto 2019. Discussion of the policy options identified also refers to potential unintended consequences of these policies in a cursory manner. There are several inappropriate assumptions related to understanding the potential impacts of the proposed legislation. The rationale focuses on imports of hunting trophies to the UK only to characterize the country's role in this trade, but not exports destined for the UK from other countries (exported-reported quantities in the CITES trade database). Exporter-reported data are often more complete, and this ostensibly underestimates the role of the UK as an importer of hunting trophies involving CITES-listed species. Consideration of CITES trade data reported by exporters would have enabled a more comprehensive and accurate characterization of the international trade in hunting trophies to the UK because it captures permits issued for exports to the UK. The rationale assumes that the proposed legislation will disincentivize legal hunting for trophies of in-scope species by people wishing to export hunting trophies to the UK. This may or may not be the case. Empirical evidence referred to in Section 2 suggests that this may not actually be the case and that hunting may continue (though potentially at lower levels). The assessment would be improved by robust analysis of the likely impacts of the bill on hunter behavior. A major limitation of the impact assessment is that it focuses on the impacts of the proposed policy options on the UK only, not internationally. There is tangential mention of potential costs to actors abroad in later sections. The analysis could be improved by consideration of such impacts recognising that the impact assessment suggests that the highest costs associated with the proposed legislation can be expected to be borne by actors outside of the UK (e.g., local people and hunting operators in countries where legal hunting for trophies takes place). The Impact assessment could be improved by robust analysis of the threats to species that are subject to legal hunting for trophies for import into the UK, including explicit consideration of the magnitude of threat (e.g., major vs. minor) and the scope, severity, and impact of the threats. The impact assessment would be improved by evidence that major exporting countries have been consulted on the proposed legislation, including insights on the potential impacts of the bill in those countries.
2. Costs and benefits	Weak	This section considers the likely impact of the proposed bill on UK businesses, making reference to the number of businesses likely to be affected and potential, additional obligations that they may need to meet under different policy options. The impact on UK businesses in terms of exports is also considered as are one-off familiarisation costs, including monetary costs. Monetary costs to individuals trading in hunting trophies (e.g., importing them) as a result of the proposed policy options are also evaluated. Potential impacts on the UK's domestic hunting industry are also considered, including the potential to reduce the viability of trophy hunts in the UK.

		The potential for hunters to shift their attention to out of scope species (a potential unintended consequence) is also explicitly addressed under Option 2a. This section suggests that most costs can likely be expected to be borne by actors outside of the UK (e.g., hunting operators in countries where hunting trophies are acquired for import) but potential costs to such businesses are mentioned only briefly and are not quantified or monetised, though reference is made to the costs of some hunts. The environmental and societal impacts of the proposed policy options, in particular on countries and peoples beyond the UK, are considered only vaguely. For example, "potential loss of income for communities that rely on trophy hunting" and "wildlife may lose part of its value due to no longer being economically competitive with other land uses, leading to negative conservation outcomes". This section inherently assumes that benefits will result from a reduction in the acquisition of hunting trophies and subsequent import to the UK as the species involved receive greater protection. This is misleading in a number of ways and is not necessarily the case. This assumes that the UK is importing significant numbers of hunting trophies, which our analyses indicate is not the case (and is also explicitly referred to in the impact assessment). The assumption that reducing legal hunting for trophies will result in enhanced protection of target species also does not hold. This in itself makes large assumptions about the institutional settings and resources available for protecting these species where legal hunting for trophies for import to the UK currently takes place and presumes that alternative revenue streams are readily available to ensure that no harm is done against a baseline of the status quo for which no justification is provided. Under Option 1 this section assumes that some lost custom for hunting trips and trophies could be replaced by other forms of tourism, such as "eco-wildlife tourism" but this makes assumptions that do not necessarily hold. This assumes that areas where species are legally hunted for trophies for import to the UK are suitable for such alternative tourism enterprises, when prevailing evidence suggests that this is not the case for reasons including the remoteness of some areas where this hunting takes place and lack of tourist infrastructure in these areas. The rationale in Section 1 assumes that the proposed legislation will disincentivize legal hunting for trophies of in-scope species by people wishing to export hunting trophies to the UK, which may or may not be the case. An exception is reference in Section 2 to ongoing hunting involving cheetah and African elephant by US citizens, despite restrictions on importing cheetah and elephant ivory from Zimbabwe to the US (note that cheetah is now no longer hunted in Zimbabwe), suggesting that the proposed regulation may have some, but limited, effect. As in Section 1, this section relies only on import data to characterise the UK's role in international trade in hunting trophies of CITES-listed species. Consideration of exporter-reported quantities would have enabled a more comprehensive and accurate characterisation of the international trade in hunting trophies into the UK. This section could be much improved by analysis of the international impacts of the proposed bill especially as it recognises that the highest costs will likely be expected to be borne by businesses (e.g., hunting operators) and peoples outside of the UK (e.g., loss of monetary and non-monetary benefits to local communities where trophy hunting occurs). The impact assessment would also be improved by evidence that major exporting countries have been consulted on the proposed legislation, including insights on the potential impacts of the bill in those countries.
3. Risks and unintended consequences	Weak	This section suggests that the proposed policies may disincentivise legal hunting for trophies of certain species because hunters find it more difficult to import trophies to the UK. This assumption does not necessarily hold. As referred to in the

		assessment of Section 2, empirical evidence suggests that this may not actually be the case and that hunting may continue though potentially at lower levels. The section does explicitly recognise the potential for other countries to implement similar restrictions, which may lead to an increased effect on global hunting activities. The impact assessment would be improved by evidence that major exporting countries have been consulted on the proposed regulation, including insights on the potential impacts of the bill in these countries.
4. Wider impacts	Weak	This section does consider, though only in brief, conservation concerns about potential impacts on land use change as a result of restricting the import/export of hunting trophies. It also considers human-wildlife conflict and the need for alternative conservation strategies in the absence of, or restrictions on, legal hunting for trophies. It also recognises that there are questions around whether alternatives such as wildlife tourism can effectively replace legal hunting for trophies (seemingly undermining arguments made in previous sections). The section further recognises, but again in brief, that banning the legal movement of hunting trophies could lead to increased illegal wildlife trade and reduce the amount of protein local communities receive as a by-product of legal hunting for trophies (e.g., in Botswana) but doesn't present detail on actual or potential remedial measures beyond suggesting other forms of tourism (e.g., photographic tourism) and "other alternative wildlife management strategies" will be needed. The section considers, in brief, the major arguments for legal hunting for trophies (e.g., it provides financial benefits to local communities and without this hunting these benefits could be lost). However, the section makes assumptions about the potential benefits of the policy options. It assumes that the policy(ies) will disincentivise legal hunting for trophies, which as referred to in Section 2 of the assessment, this may or may not be the case. It also assumes that were this to be the case that there could be knock-on effects on species numbers, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. This cannot be assumed because outcomes of the policies could be positive or negative for species subject to legal hunting for trophies related to a range of social (e.g., the attitudes of local people), economic (e.g., incentives for legal and/or illegal offtake), and governance factors (e.g., the legitimacy of local laws and bans/restrictions imposed by importing countries) in areas where this hunting takes place. The proposed benefits are also not quantified or monetised. Relatedly, the section makes assumptions about the actors involved in legal hunting for trophies and their willingness to adapt. For example, suggesting that restrictions on legal hunting for trophies may heighten incentives to find revenues from other "potentially more sustainable" forms of tourism, such as from photographic wildlife tourism and alternative wildlife management strategies. This is misleading because this may or may not be the case and in this context restrictions on legal hunting for trophies could result in positive or negative outcomes for species that are subject to it. No evidence is provided on the ability to, or willingness of, such actors to adapt. The section uses outdated information (from 2004) to estimate the number of species threatened by overexploitation (but not legal hunting for trophies in particular)
5. Post-implementation review	Weak	It is unclear whether the proposed engagement with stakeholders during monitoring and evaluation includes individuals, groups, and businesses internationally (e.g., local communities and hunting operators abroad), which the impact assessment suggests will bear most of the costs of the proposed legislation, or just those in the UK.

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1122 **Supplementary Material 6 – Discussion**

1123 **Table S15. Non-exhaustive pros and cons of alternative regulatory options**

Policy option	Details	Pros	Cons
Do nothing differently.	The UK could continue to implement the WTRs and EUWTRs (Northern Ireland), ensuring that imports and exports of hunting trophies are based on robust NDFs and legal acquisition findings.	No amendments to implementing legislation in the UK would be required. Compared to the proposed import ban there is a lower risk of negatively impacting wildlife and/or local communities or Indigenous peoples who live in areas where legal hunting for trophies takes place.	No additional test of sustainability or conservation benefit beyond NDFs.
Negative opinions.	The UK could adopt negative opinions and therefore suspend hunting trophy imports based on prevailing information about species, exporting countries, and potentially hunting operators, which could be updated periodically.	No amendments to implementing legislation in the UK would be required. The UK already implements this measure for a range of species and countries (e.g., corals from Queensland fisheries in Australia and *Bulnesia sarmentoi* from Paraguay) (UK Government 2023a). This option would provide ongoing flexibility to managing imports of hunting trophies compared to the proposed legislation and could be updated periodically based on prevailing information about species, exporting countries and potentially hunting operators. Compared to the proposed import ban there is a lower risk of negatively impacting wildlife and/or local communities or Indigenous peoples who live in areas where legal hunting for trophies takes place.	
Suspensions regulations.	The UK could prohibit the import of hunting trophies from particular species and countries using the Suspensions Regulations (UK Government 2023b).	The UK would not need to implement new legislation. The UK already implements this measure for a range of species and countries. Compared to the proposed import ban there is a lower risk of negatively impacting wildlife and/or local communities or Indigenous peoples who live in areas where legal hunting for trophies takes place.	
Remove the personal effects derogation for Annex B species traded as hunting trophies.	This would require import permits for all hunting trophies imported to the UK using CITES purpose code H enabling further assessment of sustainability, for example, based on requirements in CITES Resolutions on hunting trophies (Res. Conf. 17.9) and NDFs (Res. Conf. 16.7 [Rev. CoP17]). Under this option the UK would only allow imports of hunting trophies where i) it can be demonstrated that this hunting contributes significant and tangible conservation benefits for species, and ii) hunting provides benefits to, and is in co-	This could be achieved by amending the new legislation implementing CITES in the UK. This would enable further assessment of sustainability, conservation benefit, and the contribution to human livelihoods regarding hunting trophy imports. This option does not risk negatively impacting wildlife and/or local communities or Indigenous peoples who live in areas where legal hunting for trophies takes place.	Additional administrative burden on CITES Management and Scientific Authorities. Increased permit costs for hunters who would require both import and export permits, which could disincentivize hunting trips and therefore affect financial flows to areas where hunting takes place.

	operation with, any local communities and/or Indigenous peoples who share the area with the species concerned.		
Apply stricter measures to the import of hunting trophies.	Apply stricter measures to the import of hunting trophies; stricter measures are currently used for rhinos (Rhinocerotidae spp.), bears (Ursidae spp.) and tiger (*Panthera tigris*).	The UK would not need to implement ne*w* legislation. The UK already implements this measure for a range of species and countries. Compared to the proposed import ban there is a lower risk of negatively impacting wildlife and/or local communities or Indigenous peoples who live in areas where legal hunting for trophies takes place.	
Implement a Smart ban.	This would prohibit the import of hunting trophies from operators that fail to demonstrate an equitable sharing of hunting revenues with local communities, fail to establish and monitor sustainable hunting quotas, fail to invest in the conservation of wildlife and habitat, and/or fall short of established IUCN principles on legal hunting for trophies (IUCN 2012).	This option would incentivize improved management and transparency of hunting operations and encourage reform of bad practice (e.g., canned hunting). It would not risk negatively impacting wildlife and/or local communities or Indigenous peoples that live in areas where legal hunting for trophies takes place.	An assessment or certification system would be required for operators, which would likely be time-consuming to establish and develop at scale.

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