



## The impact of trophy hunting bans on CITES and multilateralism



Dr Francis Vorhies, Director, African Wildlife Economy Institute

## SDG Target 17.14 **Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development**

*Also note:*

30. States are strongly urged to **refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral** economic, financial or **trade measures** not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries.

**TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD:**



**THE 2030 AGENDA FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

## Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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**B I L L**

TO

Make provision prohibiting the import of hunting trophies into Great Britain.

*Presented by David Reed*

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be  
Printed, 21st October 2024.

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Elephant products

# The illiberal nature of the UK's proposed import ban

The bill is not so much protectionist as it is illiberal – aimed not at protecting the UK's domestic hunting industry but rather reacting to a perceived national dislike to hunting foreign animals

The bill puts in place **illiberal measures** that are at odds with the UK's position UK as a member of WTO and a Party to CITES and the CBD and to its commitment to GBF



WORLD TRADE  
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Convention on  
Biological Diversity



Kunming - Montreal

**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**



# UK Government on trade barriers & trade with Africa

Trade and investment are key to delivering economic growth, the number one mission of this Government ... Alongside bolstering exports, attracting investments, and **removing trade barriers**, the government is also resuming trade talks with FTA partners

Press release 28 Jan 2025

The UK is seeking to deepen trade and investment across the continent and drive mutually beneficial growth in both the UK and Africa, including by making progress on **removing barriers to trade**

Press release 30 Jan 2025



Department for  
Business & Trade



# An import ban undermines the role of export countries in CITES

An export permit shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

- (a) a Scientific Authority of **the State of export** has advised that such export will not be detrimental...
- (b) a Management Authority of **the State of export** is satisfied that the specimen was not obtained in contravention of the laws of that State...

RECOGNIZING that well-managed and sustainable trophy hunting is consistent with and contributes to species conservation, as it provides both livelihood opportunities for rural communities and incentives for habitat conservation, and generates benefits which can be invested for conservation purposes...

**AGREES that the export of hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II should be conditional upon issuance of an export permit in accordance with Articles III or IV of the Convention...**

CITES Conf. 17.9 Trade in hunting trophies



A unilateral trophy import ban undermines the UK's position in CITES as well as the WTO

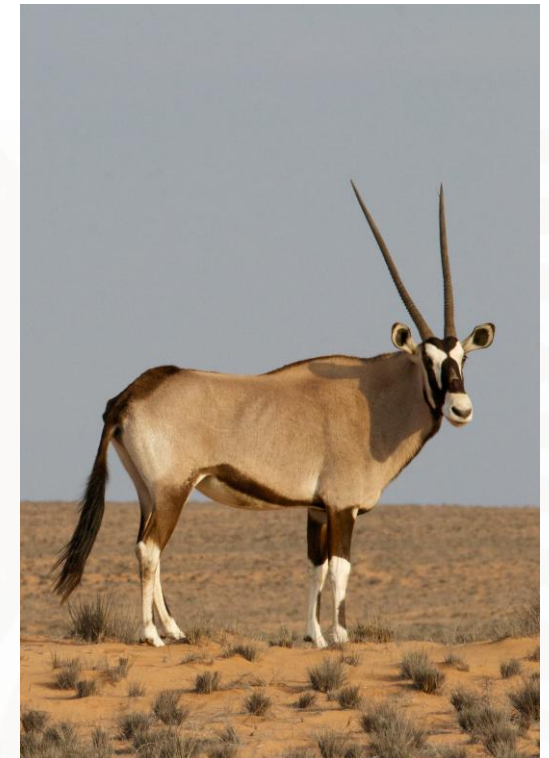
# CBD mandate to mainstream the use of wild species

Recognizing that the legal and sustainable use of biodiversity... continues to be relevant for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework...

Requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and... other relevant stakeholders and right holders...

To collaborate with all relevant actors and stakeholders in order to Promote the **mainstreaming of the sustainable use** of biodiversity, in particular that **of wild species, into all relevant sectors**

CBD/COP/DEC/15/23 Sustainable Wildlife Management





# GBF mandate to manage, use, harvest, and trade wild species

GOAL B Prosper with Nature

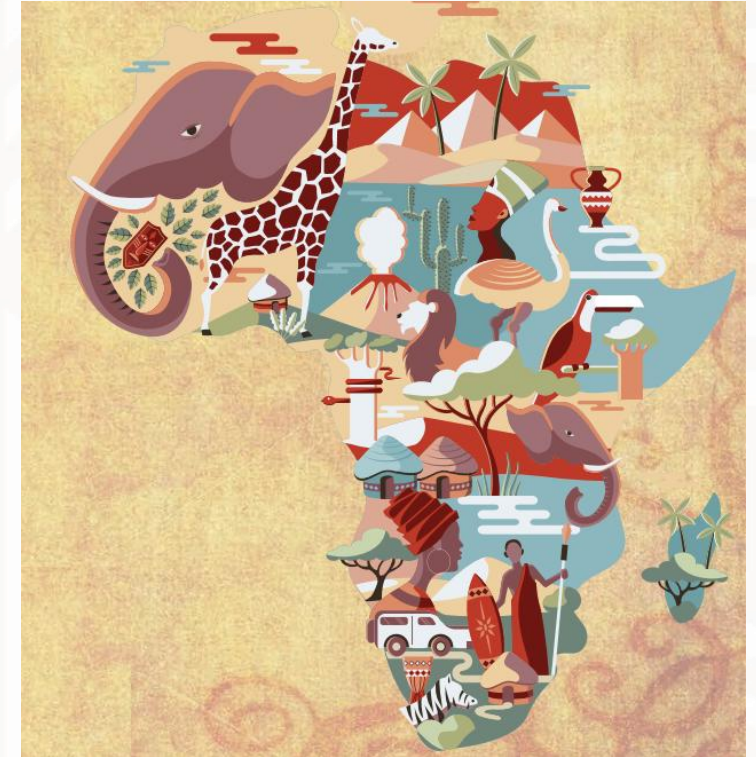
...nature's contributions to people... are valued, maintained and enhanced...

## Target 5

**Ensure that the use, harvesting, and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal...**

## Target 9

Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people...



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## Hunting trophy import ban

- **An illiberal trade measure** – undermines multilateral commitments to trade liberalisation and to ensuring that wildlife trade is sustainable and legal (WTO and CITES)
- **An anti-conservation measure** – undermines multilateral commitments to mainstreaming the sustainable use and trade of wild species (CBD & GBF)



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