



PRESENTATION BY AMIN TURK ON JUNE 11, 2023
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SUSTAINABLE HUNTING IN ZIMBABWE (AFRICA)

Zimbabwe, a landlocked country in Southern Africa. A land of vast beauty and incredible landscape. Home to one of the wonders of the world the mighty Victoria Falls. Surrounded by Zambia to the north and separated by the mighty Zambezi River, Mozambique to the east, South Africa to the south and Botswana to the west. A land home to the big five and various other wildlife game species. A land richly diverse in animals, habits and habitat, a land rich in biodiversity and full of spectacular flora and fauna.

A land that offers and welcomes tourists with immense opportunities, filled with lifetime and memorable experiences.

Amin Turk a licensed professional hunter and guide and a proud member of Zimbabwe Professional Guides Association explains the ins and outs of hunting/guiding in Zimbabwe and the various opportunities it has to offer. Most of Zimbabwe's hunting areas are made up of government, Parks and wildlife safari areas and rural communal land. These are huge and vast blocks of land hundreds and thousands of hectares in expanse, that are unfit for human habitation or agricultural purposes because of low rainfall and harsh terrain, but are best suited and set aside as a haven for wildlife and animals that can survive these harsh conditions. Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Au-



thority, are the custodians over all wildlife in the country. All specie quotas throughout the country are set by the department of Wildlife Authority. However quota setting is a very strict process and many stake holders in the wildlife industry private and governmental come together through workshops

and deliberating before each animal specie is given a quota for hunting. This strict quota setting process even engages top ecologists and scientific research teams to come up with a sustainable hunting management/off take/quota system. If one does not read or understand the above merits, one can never fathom the phrase "hunting through conservation"

I am often asked how does hunting through conservation work? Well, let me try and explain. With the above understanding of how sustainable hunting quotas are set, wildlife is now given a monetary value. The value of wildlife is now marketed through the hunting world by Safari Operators and marketing agents alike, thus hunters/clients throughout the world are lured in. All hunting quotas and revenue/money that is generated there from are channelled through their respective local authorities. The hunters/clients that come in and spend huge amounts of money play a part in the vital role of animal conservation. In reality, the small, sustainable hunting quotas provide revenue and income for the survival of all animal species in their respective areas. It is the hunters dollars that provide employment to pay game scouts to look after and police the areas. It is the hunters dollars that provide funds to sink boreholes that provide water for humans and animal

livestock and wildlife in rural areas and communities. It is the same hunters dollars that pay for the building of schools that provide education, in rural communities. Again the same hunters dollars that provide revenue to build clinics in rural communities, which in turn provide healthcare. The same hunters dollars that provide funding for the maintenance and surveying of roads, that service the hunting areas and provide service of transportation into rural communities. The same roads that provide a mobile service of transportation for anti poaching units for the very survival of all animal species. Further more most animal species that are harvested during the hunt are given to the local authority who in turn distribute the meat to the rural communities that provide protein/meat/food for people.

In conclusion, sustainable hunting can have numerous benefits for both the environment and local communities. When hunting is managed responsibly, it can help conserve wildlife populations, provide economic benefits, contribute to food security, and promote a deeper connection with nature. As such, it is important to promote and support sustainable hunting practices. It is important at this stage to bring up and mention the Zimbabwe Professional Guides Association, of which I am a proud member of (Z.P.G.A.)



Z.P.G.A. Objective

To promote and assist in the preservation of the flora and fauna of Zimbabwe, and to maintain the highest standard of professionalism in safari hunting and guiding.

Z.P.G.A. Mission

To ensure the conservation of wildlife through public engagement, education and advocacy for wellregulated wildlife operations and sustainable use.

Z.P.G.A. Vision

A society that values wildlife, engages in its conservation and understands and supports the role of well-regulated operations in the sustainable use of wildlife and wildlife spaces.

The law in Zimbabwe dictates a foreign hunter or client must engage the services of a locally registered professional hunter

in order to conduct a hunting/guiding safari. The local professional, hunter/guide of Zimbabwe goes through a few years of vigorous training in order to obtain a full professional hunters/guides license to conduct a Safari for reward. This prestigious license is only awarded to candidates after thorough examination.

One has the option of becoming a member of the Zimbabwe professional Guides Association. Zimbabwe professional hunters/guides are trained with a high standard of professionalism, morals, ethics, fair-chase and sportsmanship. Zimbabwe is truly a great destination to harvest some of Africas best trophies. As Zimbabweans we pride ourselves in fair chase and "free roaming hunting". Hunting areas without fences!

