



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-00886**

BY: **MR. DONNELLY (PORT MOODY-COQUITLAM)**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE CATHERINE MCKENNA**

Response by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Hunting

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international convention to ensure species survival is not threatened by trade. Over 180 countries are Party to CITES. Many African wildlife species are listed on CITES, including elephants, lions and rhinoceros. CITES permits are required for international trade, including trade in hunting trophies. The permitting system requires the exporting country to ensure that the harvest was legal and that the harvest and export are not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. For some species, including many African wildlife species, an importing country must additionally issue import permits to certify legality and that harvest was not detrimental to the species. As a signatory to CITES, Canada upholds and strictly adheres to the terms of the Convention.

CITES and Canada's implementing legislation for CITES in Canada (Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations under the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act) are directed toward ensuring survival of species. They do not address ethical issues.

CITES supports trade that is based on sustainable use of wildlife. Within this context, the well-managed hunting programs that are carried out in many countries can be an effective and important conservation tool as part of conservation programs. Hunting can fund conservation work and benefit livelihoods of local people, thus providing an important incentive for individuals, communities and governments to protect and manage the species and its habitat.

World Wildlife Fund and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature also recognize the benefits of such hunting programs. Well-managed hunting in Canada benefits conservation of wildlife in Canada and Canadian citizens, including Indigenous peoples and people living in rural communities.

The CITES agreement recognizes that peoples and nations are and should be the best protectors of their own wildlife and that international cooperation is essential for protection of certain wildlife against over-exploitation through international trade. In this spirit, the Government of Canada participates in CITES decision-making to make decisions for trade of species that are based on science and the conservation needs of species. A broad ban on importation of all hunting trophies would be inconsistent with Canada's interest in providing economic and social development opportunities to indigenous and remote communities, the CITES agreement and decision-making of nations, and in some cases would impede conservation efforts.

The Government of Canada is concerned about recent and significant increases in illegal trade of African wildlife that pose significant threats to the survival of these species, in comparison to trophy hunting. Canada is fully supportive of efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade and joins other nations to respond to escalating poaching and illegal trade in wildlife. Canada supports the London Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade to mobilize funds and targeted actions and the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime to bring coordinated support to wildlife law enforcement agencies and networks that act in defense of natural resources. The Government of Canada remains committed to collaboration under CITES and to fighting wildlife crime while safeguarding the sustainable legal trade in wildlife. Canada provide effective support for this through its leadership of Interpol wildlife crime group and having provided to Kenya a Forensic genetic laboratory to help with enforcement efforts.