



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-00745**

BY: **Ms. YOUNG (LONDON WEST)**

DATE: **OCTOBER 7, 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 Government of Canada is concerned that the illegal trade in some African wildlife species has increased exponentially. Poaching and illegal trade in wildlife including elephant ivory and rhino horn is threatening conservation efforts, socio-economic development and public safety of many nations. Canada is fully supportive of efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade in support of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) 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.

As a signatory to CITES, Canada upholds and strictly adheres to the terms of the Convention to ensure that international trade in wildlife species does not threaten their survival.

Over 180 countries are Party to CITES. All imports and exports of animal and plant species listed under CITES must be authorized through a permit system. 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.

The trade in elephants, tigers, and rhinoceroses among many other species is regulated internationally under CITES. Permits must be presented upon import. For elephants, tigers, and most rhinoceros, there are even stricter controls on trade. An importing country must additionally issue import permits to certify legality and sustainability of harvest.

CITES is applied in Canada under the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act. Environment and Climate Change Canada is responsible for administering CITES and its regulations in Canada.

The Government of Canada supports legal and sustainable trade in wildlife. Trophy hunting is carried out sustainably and legally in a number of countries. It can be an effective and important conservation tool as part of a well-managed and regulated conservation program. It 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 these benefits of trophy hunting. Well-managed trophy 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 collaborates under the CITES agreement to make decisions based on science and the conservation needs of species. CITES allows international trade in hunting trophies where legal and sustainable, and additionally ensures that rhino horn or elephant ivory contained in hunting trophies is regulated in all cases.

A ban on importation of all hunting trophies would be inconsistent with the CITES agreement and decision-making and would not necessarily benefit conservation in all cases. The Government of Canada remains committed to collaboration under CITES and to fighting wildlife crime while safeguarding the sustainable legal trade in wildlife.