WWF Position on Trophy Hunting June 2025

WWF opposes any hunting that threatens species survival, and WWF does not support the hunting of an animal solely as a trophy.

WWF respects and supports the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to choose how best to live alongside and use natural resources in ways that advance wildlife conservation and their own sustainable development.

As we strive for a future where people live in harmony with nature, we are committed to supporting communities, governments, and partners in exploring new and more sustainable ways to use natural resources in the interest of conserving our natural world and developing a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous society.

WWF opposes trophy hunting unless the following conditions are clearly met:

- 1. It provides benefits to the wildlife populations of affected species, their habitats and associated ecosystems;
- 2. It provides economic and other benefits to Indigenous Peoples and local communities that incentivise restoration and conservation of wildlife populations, including ensuring that wildlife conservation remains a preferred land use option;
- 3. It operates within a functioning legal framework;
- 4. It is culturally and religiously appropriate within the local context; and
- 5. It meets other minimum conservation standards in this policy.

In addition, WWF opposes trophy hunting when:

- 1. There are no reasonable prospects for moving a trophy hunting program towards meeting the minimum conservation standards of this policy as enumerated below;
- 2. It is conducted illegally;
- 3. The revenue does not demonstrably generate benefits for conservation and Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
- 4. No effort is made to ensure adherence to commonly accepted ethical norms;
- 5. Wildlife populations are genetically manipulated for trophy size or colour variants;
- 6. Non-indigenous or exotic species are introduced for the specific purpose of trophy hunting;
- 7. Animals are nutritionally supplemented with the intent of enhancing trophy size and quality;
- 8. Animals are moved to a site for the specific purpose of trophy hunting, to supplement unsustainable harvesting levels of resident populations ("put-and-take" practices); or
- 9. It is culturally and religiously inappropriate within local contexts.

Lastly, WWF opposes "canned" hunting or the hunting of captive-bred animals, which we believe is unethical and has no conservation benefit.